



John R. Kasich, Governor  
Mary Taylor, Lt. Governor  
Craig W. Butler, Director

**February 12, 2016**

**Issuance of A Limited Environmental Review  
To All Interested Citizens, Organizations, and  
Government Agencies**

**Northwestern Water and Sewer District  
Wood County**

**Northern Service Area Water System DBP Improvements Project  
FS391432-0116**

The purpose of this notice is to advise the public that Ohio EPA has reviewed the referenced project and finds neither a Supplemental Study (SS) nor an Environmental Assessment (EA) is required to implement the project as discussed in the attached Limited Environmental Review (LER). Consequently, a Finding of No Significant Impact is being issued for this project.

The Water Supply Revolving Loan Fund program requires the inclusion of environmental factors in the decision-making process for project approval. Ohio EPA has done this by incorporating a detailed analysis of the environmental effects of the proposed action in its review and approval process. Environmental information was developed as part of the facilities plan, as well as through the facilities plan review process. A subsequent review by this Agency has found that the proposed action does not require the preparation of either an EA or an SS.

Our environmental review concluded that because the proposed project is limited in scope and meets all applicable criteria, an LER is warranted. Specifically:

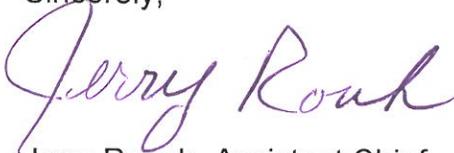
- The proposed project will have no significant adverse environmental effect, nor will it adversely affect any specific resource type.
- It will not require extensive general or specific direct impact mitigation.
- It will not affect current design flow value or the existing service area.
- It is clearly cost effective.

- It is not controversial.
- It will not result in an increase in the volume of discharge or loading of pollutants to receiving water or increase the withdrawal of additional water supplies.

The LER presents additional information on the proposed project, costs and the basis for our decision. Further information can be obtained by calling or writing the contact person listed on the back of the LER.

Upon issuance of this determination, loan award may proceed without being subject to further environmental review or public comment, unless information is provided which determines that environmental conditions on the proposed projects have changed significantly.

Sincerely,



Jerry Rouch, Assistant Chief  
Division of Environmental & Financial Assistance

Attachment

**LIMITED ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW  
For  
Northwestern Water and Sewer District  
Wood County**

**Northern Service Area Water System DBP Improvements Project  
FS391432-0116**

**Applicant: Jerry Greiner, President  
Northwestern Water and Sewer District  
12560 Middleton Pike  
Bowling Green, OH 43402**

## Existing Need

The Northwestern Water and Sewer District (NWWSD) owns and operates the water distribution system that serves large portions of Wood County, Ohio. NWWSD service areas in northern Wood County are provided water by the cities of Toledo and Oregon. The southern portions of the county are provided water by the City of Bowling Green. The project referenced in this Limited Environmental Review includes improvements to water infrastructure in Service Area 100, which draws its water supply from Toledo.

The portion of Service Area 100 that is the subject of this environmental document is known as the Northern Service Area. The Northern Service Area lies within the northern portion of Wood County, encompassing the areas of Rossford, parts of Northwood, Walbridge, Perrysburg Township, Lake Township and Troy Township. Water from Toledo's Collins Park water treatment plant, located at 3040 York Street, is supplied from two master-metered connection points to two clearwells. Both of these clearwells, a 1.5 million gallon (MG) clearwell on East Broadway Street, and a 1.0 MG clearwell on Wales Road, provide water to the Oregon Road/Chrysler water tower. It is primarily a suburban residential and light industrial area with a service population of 11,355.



Figure 1: NWWSD Northern Service Area's General Location

Since assuming control over the Wood County water distribution system in 2011, NWWSD has identified a number of common infrastructure problems throughout the county. Disinfection byproducts (DBP) occur in some areas in excess of the standards established in the Disinfection/Disinfectant Byproduct Rule (DDBR). DBP include classes of compounds known as trihalomethanes (TTHM) and haloacetic acids, which have connections to disease in humans. DBP are formed by the interaction of residual

chlorine used for disinfection with organic matter that remains in finished water. Longer exposure times of residual chlorine to the organic matter yield higher DBP levels. The DDBR requires finished water at all points in a distribution system to have DBP concentrations of no more than 0.080 micrograms per liter. In extensive distribution systems where water can have a long residence time in the pipes, DBP levels can exceed the standard at the fringes of the distribution system. DBP levels are controlled by further reducing organic matter during treatment and/or by installing aeration systems to remove DBP in the distribution system.

### **Alternatives**

Alternative 1, a “no-action alternative,” is not feasible since it would continue to result in periodic DBP levels in excess of the standards, exposing residents to unsafe drinking water conditions.

Alternative 2 would involve alteration of the treatment processes at the Collins Park Water Treatment Plant. While these changes may reduce DBP in the water supplied to Service Area 100, the current water issues are primarily related to NWWSD’s distribution system and the distance the water travels. There is little if anything Toledo can do cost-effectively at the Collins Park WTP to correct DBP exceedances that originate in NWWSD’s distribution system.

Alternative 3 involves the installation of aeration and mixing equipment within Service Area 100’s existing clearwells and water tower. This equipment will bring DBP levels in Service Area 100 within the drinking water standards prior to further distribution throughout the system.

### **Selected Alternative**

Alternative 3 was selected to remedy NWWSD’s DBP exceedances. The Northern Service Area Water System DBP improvements will be installed within the internal confines of the three existing Service Area 100 drinking water storage structures, with paved areas of the facilities providing staging for supplies and equipment. The improvements falling under this project are listed below:

#### East Broadway and Wales Road Clearwells

- Installation of 2 floating aerators, 1 floating mixer, 1 submersible mixer and 2 air exchange units, and an aeration cone assembly;
- Electrical supply and SCADA compatibility and telemetry improvements;
- Tank roof modifications.

#### Oregon Road/Chrysler Water Tower

- Installation of mixing unit;
- SCADA improvements, with electrical supply, conduit and disconnects.

## **Implementation**

NWWSD proposes to borrow the entire cost for the project from Ohio EPA's Water Supply Revolving Loan Account (WSRLA). NWWSD will recover debt associated with the project from a general maintenance fund, which means that the water rate paid by Service Area 100 customers will not change to pay for the project. NWWSD qualifies for the WSRLA standard long-term construction interest rate, which in February 2016, the anticipated month of loan award, is 1.85 percent over 20 years. The WSRLA standard rate changes monthly and may be slightly different if the actual month of loan award is different. Under the water rates that are effective in 2016, the average residential water bill for Service Area 100 is \$56.05 per month, or \$672.60 per year, based on the average usage of 5,985 gallons per month. This is 1.4 percent of the median household income of \$48,029, which is considered affordable.

The total project cost based on bids is \$753,312. Borrowing this amount at 1.85 percent will save NWWSD approximately \$110,000 over the life of the loan compared to borrowing the same amount at the current market rate of 3.10 percent. Construction is expected to begin in March, 2016 and be completed in May, 2016.

## **Public Participation**

NWWSD will send the affected residents a letter explaining the projects. In addition, NWWSD has discussed the projects at board meetings that were open to the public. Given the limited potential environmental impact of the projects, the lack of a rate increase and the lack of property assessments, this is considered adequate public participation.

## **Conclusion**

The proposed project is of a general project type (equipment installation within existing infrastructure) that qualifies for a Limited Environmental Review. Specifically, it meets the following criteria:

*It will have no significant adverse environmental effect:* Construction will be limited to the internal confines of the three existing Service Area 100 drinking water storage structures, with paved areas of the facilities providing staging for supplies and equipment.

*It will not affect any special resource type:* No high quality resources will be affected by this project because none are present.

*It will not require specific impact mitigation:* The detail plans will include construction best management practices. Given the minimal scope of this project, this is considered adequate.

*It is clearly cost-effective.* The option of doing nothing would leave unacceptable risks in place. Improvements to the Collins Park WTP specifically to address NWWSD's DBP exceedances are unlikely to be cost-effective. The proposed improvements, carried out within NWWSD's distribution system, will ensure a water supply that meets Safe Drinking Water standards for DBP.

*It is not controversial.* It is affordable and, due to the project's limited scope, will have no adverse environmental impacts.

*It does not involve a new or relocated discharge to surface or ground water, involve any increase in volume of discharge or loading of pollutants from an existing source or new facilities, create a new source of water withdrawals from either surface or ground waters, or significantly increase the amount of water withdrawn from existing sources; or provide capacity to serve a design population substantially greater (thirty percent) than the current design population.* No discharge points or pollutant loading will be part of the project. The project does not require the expansion of Toledo's water treatment facility beyond its current capacity or require the addition of a supplementary water supplier, so it will not require a change in water withdrawal. Little population change is anticipated over the 20-year planning period.

The planning activities for the proposed Northern Service Area Water System DBP Improvements project have identified no potentially significant short-term or long-term adverse impacts to the quality of the human environment or to sensitive resources (floodplains, wetlands, surface water, endangered species or their critical habitat, cultural properties, raw water supplies, scenic or recreational rivers, air quality, farmland, or state and federal wildlife areas. Impacts related to dust, noise and odors will be temporary and well controlled during construction.

For further information, please contact:

R. Eric Schultz  
Division of Environmental & Financial Assistance  
Ohio Environmental Protection Agency  
P.O. Box 1049  
Columbus, Ohio 43216-1049

Phone: (614) 644-3713

E-mail: [eric.schultz@epa.ohio.gov](mailto:eric.schultz@epa.ohio.gov)

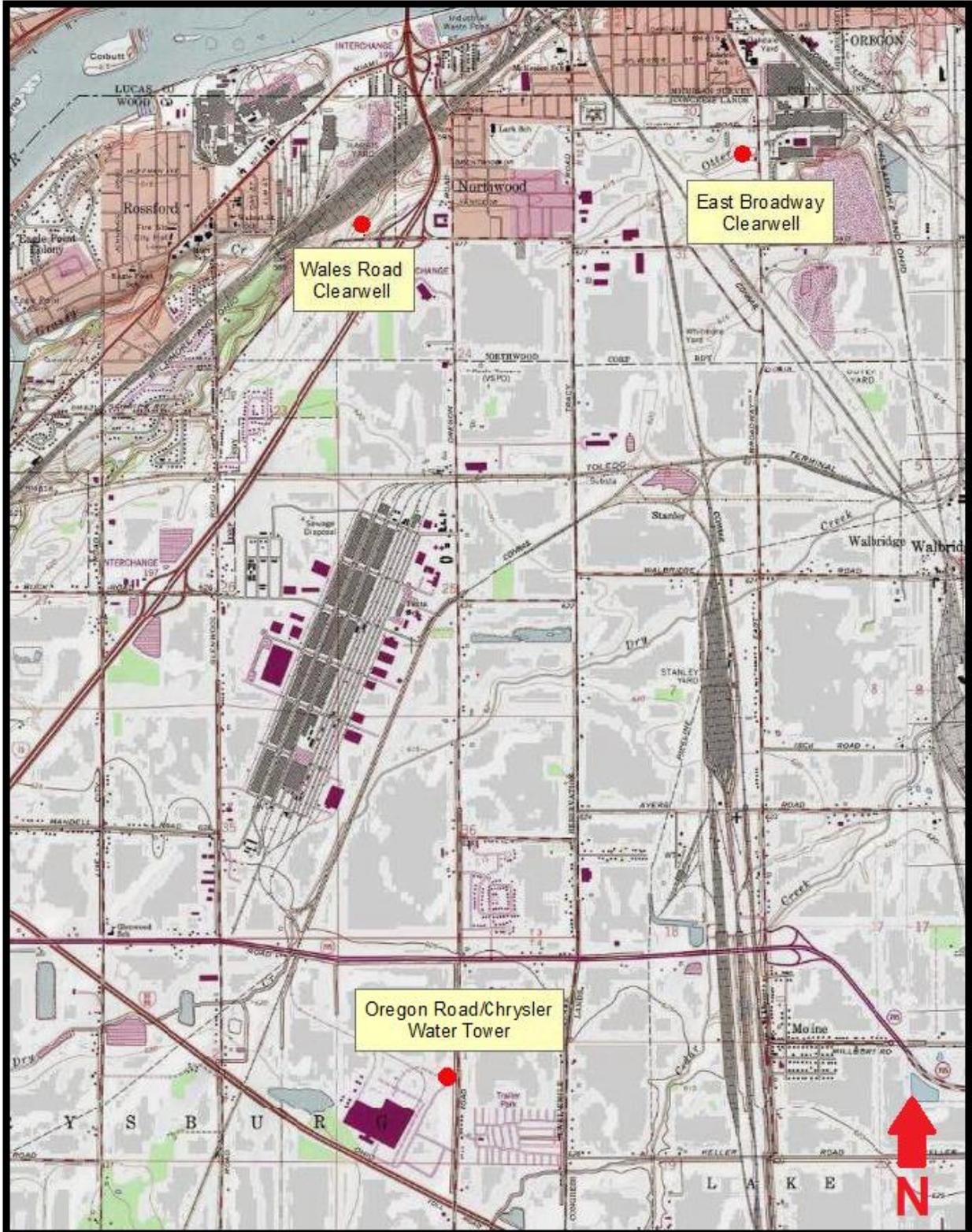


Figure 2: Northern Service Area Water System DBP Improvements project locations