



April 30, 2026

Limited Environmental Review and Finding of No Significant Impact

**Village of Lowellville – Mahoning County
Sanitary Siphon Replacement
Loan number: CS390539-0017**

The attached Limited Environmental Review (LER) is for a sanitary sewer improvements project in Lowellville which the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (Ohio EPA) intends to finance through its Water Pollution Control Loan Fund (WPCLF) below-market interest rate revolving loan program. The LER describes the project, costs, and expected environmental benefits. Making available this LER fulfills the Ohio EPA's environmental review and public notice requirements for this loan program.

Ohio EPA analyzes environmental effects of proposed projects as part of its program review and approval process. We have concluded that the proposed project should not result in significant adverse environmental impacts. In accordance with Ohio Administrative Code 3745-150-05, this project meets the criteria for an LER rather than the more comprehensive Environmental Assessment. More information can be obtained by contacting the person named at the end of the attached LER.

Upon issuance of this Final Finding of No Significant Impact (FNSI) determination, award of funds may proceed without further environmental review or public comment unless new information shows that environmental conditions of the proposed project have changed significantly.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kathleen Courtright".

Kathleen Courtright, Assistant Chief
Division of Environmental and Financial Assistance

LIMITED ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

Project Identification

Project: Sanitary Siphon Replacement

Applicant: Village of Lowellville
140 East Liberty Street
Lowellville, Ohio 44436

Loan Number: CS390539-0017



Figure 1. Mahoning County

Project Summary

The Village of Lowellville has requested funding from the Ohio Water Pollution Control Loan Fund (WPCLF) to finance their Sanitary Siphon Replacement project. Work for this project will include replacing an aged sanitary sewer siphon with a new pump station and force main.

History & Existing Conditions

The Village of Lowellville is located in Mahoning County (Figure 1). The village owns and operates their own wastewater treatment plant (WWTP) and collection system. The village sanitary sewer system is divided into a north and south side by the Mahoning River, which flows east through town. Currently a 6-inch-diameter sanitary siphon is used to convey wastewater flows underneath the river from the south side of the river to the WWTP, which is located on the north bank of the river.

This siphon was installed in 1948 and is beyond its useful life, frequently becoming plugged and requiring emergency fixes. It is also undersized for modern wet-weather flows, necessitating replacement. After examining the sewer system, Lowellville decided to construct a new appropriately sized sanitary sewer force main to convey wastewater flows under the river parallel to the existing sewer siphon, which will also be replaced to serve as an emergency conveyance line. Having two pipes to convey flows across the river allows for redundancy in case one needs to be repaired.

Project Description

The project will consist of the construction of 187 linear feet (LF) of 8-inch diameter gravity sewer, 86 LF of 12-inch diameter gravity sewer, 826 LF of 8-inch diameter force main, two new manholes, and one submersible grinder pump station. The pump station will be installed on one side of the river and convey flow to the WWTP just on the other side of the river. Jack-and-bore will be used to construct the sewer mains underneath the river. See figures 2 and 3 at the end of this document for maps of the project area.

Implementation

The Village of Lowellville has requested approximately \$1.1 million from the Ohio WPCLF at the interest rate of 3.06%. Assuming a 30-year loan, borrowing this amount in WPCLF dollars could save Lowellville approximately \$410,000 over the life of the loan compared to the current market rate of 4.86%. WPCLF interest rates are set monthly, and the rate may change for a later loan award.

The average annual sewer bill for residents served by Lowellville is \$405. This is 0.7% of the median household income (MHI: \$56,429) and is lower than the Ohio average annual sewer bill, \$528. Lowellville is raising sewer rates by 20% in 2026 and 17% in 2027.

Construction is scheduled to begin June 2026 and to be completed in approximately four months.

Public Participation

This project and its associated rate increases have been discussed at village council meetings open to the public, as well as in the local newspaper. Rate increases will be posted on the village website. The village has not received any feedback from residents regarding the project or the rate increases.

Ohio EPA is unaware of any controversy about or opposition to this project. The Limited Environmental Review (LER) and Finding of No Significant Impact (FNSI) will be posted on the Ohio EPA Division of Environmental and Financial Assistance website. Additionally, the LER and FNSI have been provided to the Village of Lowellville to be made available according to their public notification procedures.

Conclusion

The proposed project meets the criteria for an LER; namely, it is an action within an existing public wastewater collection system, which involves the functional replacement of and improvements to existing infrastructure. Furthermore, the project meets the other qualifying criteria for an LER; specifically, the proposed project:

Will have no significant environmental effect, will require no specific impact mitigation, and will have no effect on high-value environmental resources because no environmentally sensitive resources are likely present in the prior-disturbed road rights-of-way and utility easements where the replacements will take place. The river will not be disturbed.

Is cost effective and is not a controversial action because replacing the aged and failing sewer siphon with a similar system did not provide sufficient capacity and was not the selected alternative. Ohio EPA is unaware of controversy about or opposition to this project.

Does not create a new or relocate an existing discharge to surface or ground waters and will not result in substantial increases in the volume of discharge or the loading of pollutants from an existing source or from new facilities to receiving waters and will not provide capacity to serve a

population substantially greater than the existing population because this project upgrades the collection system and will have no effect on discharges. Service will not be extended in any way.

Based upon Ohio EPA's review of the planning information and the materials presented in this LER, we have concluded that there will be no significant adverse impacts from the proposed project as it relates to environmental features. This is because these features do not exist in the project area, the features exist but will not be adversely affected, or the impacts will be temporary and mitigated. This project will result in more redundancy and a reliable conduit for wastewater across the river in Lowellville.

Contact Information

Anna Collard
Division of Environmental and Financial Assistance
Ohio Environmental Protection Agency
50 West Town Street, Suite 700
Columbus, Ohio 43215

Email: Anna.Collard@epa.ohio.gov
Phone: (614) 644-3642



Figure 2. Map indicating the project area

