



July 18, 2023

Limited Environmental Review and Finding of No Significant Impact

**Village of Fayette – Fulton County
Lead Service Line Replacement – Phase 1
Loan number: FS390351-0013**

The attached Limited Environmental Review (LER) is for a drinking water distribution system project in Fayette which the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency intends to finance through its Water Supply Revolving Loan Account (WSRLA) below-market interest rate revolving loan program. The LER describes the project, its costs, and expected environmental benefits. Making available this LER fulfills 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 WSRLA program review and approval process. We have concluded that the proposed project should not result in significant adverse environmental impacts. This project's relatively narrow scope and lack of environmental impacts qualifies it for the LER rather than a more comprehensive Environmental Assessment. More information can be obtained by calling or writing the person named at the end of the attached LER.

Upon issuance of this 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

Attachment

LIMITED ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

Project Identification

Project: Lead Service Line Replacement – Phase 1

Applicant: Village of Fayette
125 West Main Street
P.O. Box 87
Fayette, Ohio 44847

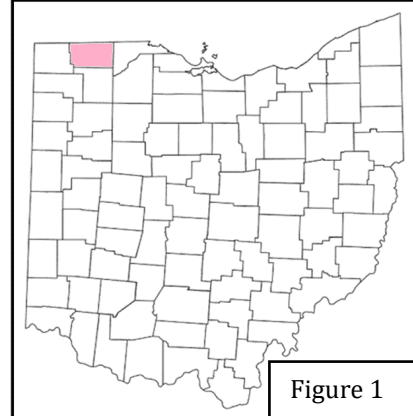
Loan Number: FS390351-0013

Project Summary

The Village of Fayette has requested \$236,000 from the Ohio Water Supply Revolving Loan Account (WSRLA) for the Lead Service Line Replacement – Phase 1 project. The village is replacing their entire distribution system and splitting it into two phases. Lead service lines (LSL) will be replaced as they are encountered during water line replacement. Due to the project area already being disturbed and the limited nature of the work, environmental impacts will be minimal.

History & Existing Conditions

Fayette is located in northwest Fulton County (see Figure 1) and operates its own water treatment plant and distribution system. The entire distribution system, which was originally constructed circa 1932, has far exceeded its useful life and needs replacement. The system is composed of approximately 50,000 linear feet (LF) of 4-inch through 12-inch water mains, valves, hydrants, and associated appurtenances. It suffers from repeated, catastrophic water line breaks with a high rate of failure and inoperable main valves that make it difficult to shut down water flow for necessary repairs. This situation created a total system failure on February 17, 2021, resulting in a 13-hour service interruption for customers.



Based on the village's testing to date, no lead service lines (LSL) have been found on either the public or private sides. However, because of the age of the distribution system, LSLs are expected to be present. The exact number is not known but is estimated to be 360.

Project Description

The proposed project will replace the Phase 1 portion (represented in Figure 2 below) of the village's entire distribution system, including water lines, valves, hydrants, and other appurtenances. Any LSLs identified will also be replaced on both the public and private sides. Certain lines will be re-sized to reflect current/future needs. As a result of construction, approximately 80 trees will be removed throughout the village.

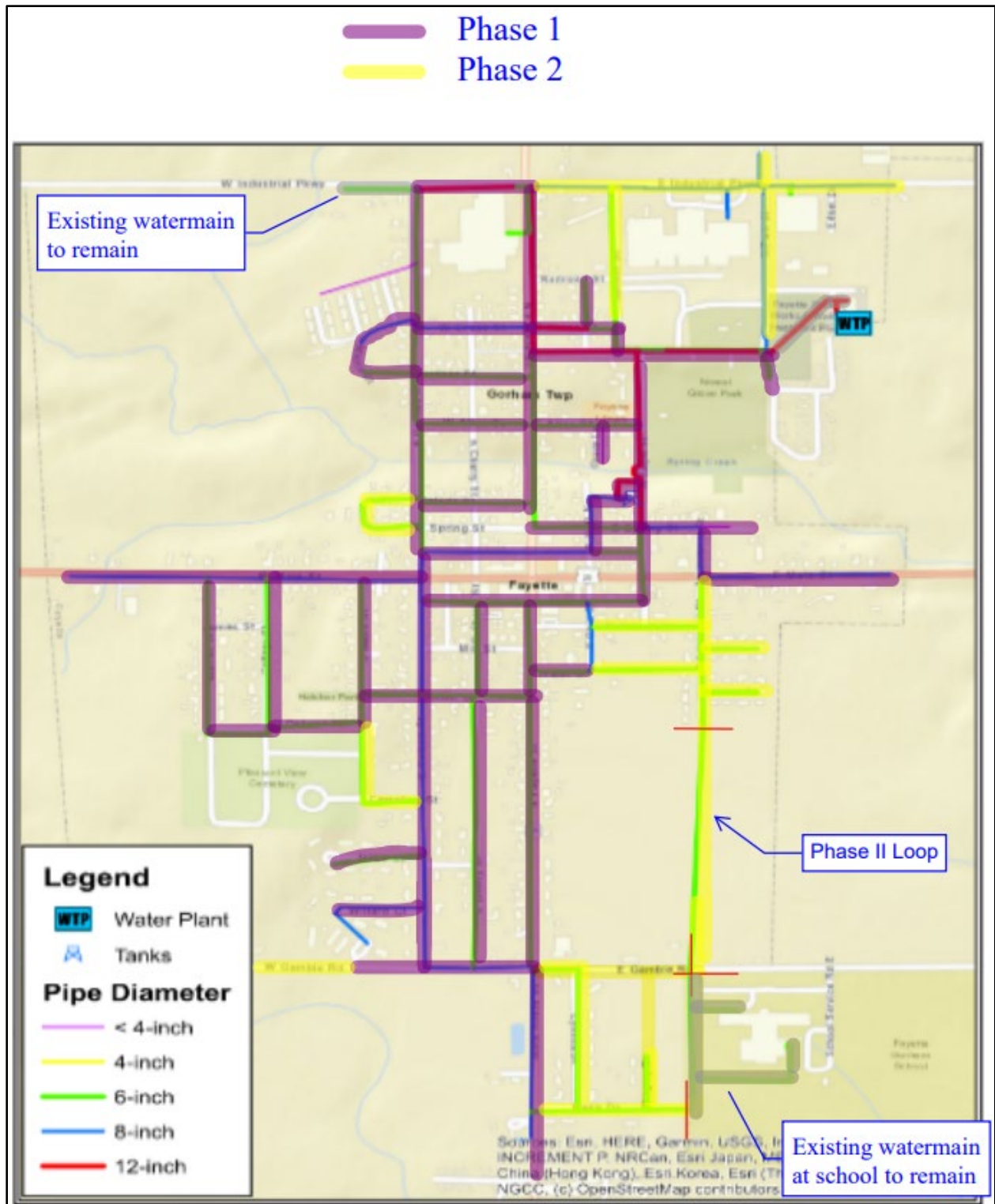


Figure 2. Map of the two phases in the village-wide distribution system replacement

Implementation

Fayette requested \$236,000 from the WSRLA for their Lead Service Line Replacement – Phase 1 project. The city is only seeking WSRLA funding to cover work related to LSL replacement and is eligible for a portion of the loan as principal forgiveness, which does not need to be repaid. Any remaining balance on the loan will receive the LSL rate of 0%. All work aside from that relating to LSL replacement is being separately funded by the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA).

Fayette residents pay on average \$640 annually for drinking water, which is approximately 1.5% of the village median household income (\$43,456). This compares favorably to the average annual Ohio water bill of \$697. The village recently increased water rates by 10% in January 2022 and has planned annual increases of 5% per year until the total project costs of Phases 1 & 2 have been determined. Construction is expected to begin soon after loan award and be completed in 2024, with Phase 2 immediately following.

Public Participation

The proposed project has been regularly discussed at village council meetings. Additionally, a public presentation about the ARPA funds received from the state of Ohio was held and attended by many village residents. Public meetings are being held as needed to inform residents of the project details, schedule, and what to expect during construction. Residents of the village have been made aware that approximately 80 trees will be removed to build the new water lines and made no comment.

Private property access agreements will be acquired in advance of any LSL replacements. The village will notify residents seven days in advance of work in the affected area, and the contractors will give an additional notice 48 hours prior.

Ohio EPA is unaware of any controversy about or opposition to this project and will make a copy of this document available at the webpage linked below. Copies can be provided upon request.

<https://epa.ohio.gov/divisions-and-offices/environmental-financial-assistance/announcements>

Conclusion

The proposed project meets the criteria for a Limited Environmental Review (LER); namely, it is an action within an existing water distribution system, which involves the functional replacement of and improvements to existing mechanical equipment. Furthermore, the project meets the other qualifying criteria for an LER; specifically, the proposed project:

Will have no significant environmental effect, require no specific impact mitigation, and have no effect on high-value environmental resources. Construction will be done in the existing right-of-way and in lawns of developed residential areas that lack important environmental resources. Any impacts will be minimal to non-existent. Tree removal will be restricted to the dates of October 1 through March 31 to avoid impacts to federally endangered bat species. No funding is available in this project phase to replace lost trees.

Is cost effective. There is no feasible alternative to replacing LSL or failing infrastructure.

Is not a controversial action. Fayette and Ohio EPA are unaware of controversy about or opposition to this project.

Does not create a new or relocate an existing discharge to surface or ground waters, does not create a new source of water withdrawals from either surface or ground waters, or significantly increase the amount of water withdrawn from an existing water source, or substantially increase the volume of discharge or loading of pollutants from an existing source or from new facilities to receiving waters. The project will merely improve existing infrastructure and eliminate a threat to public health and have no effect on water withdrawal, treatment, discharge, or water source.

Will not provide capacity to serve a population substantially greater than the existing population. The project involves replacing the village's existing distribution system, and this phase will not be adding any new customers.

Based upon Ohio EPA's review of the planning information and the materials presented in this Limited Environmental Review, we have concluded that there will be no significant adverse impacts from the proposed project as it relates to the environmental features discussed previously. 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.

As a result of this project phase, about half of the village of Fayette will have a more reliable drinking water distribution system and decreased risk of lead exposure.

Contact Information

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