



Mike DeWine, Governor  
Jon Husted, Lt. Governor  
Laurie A. Stevenson, Director

August 18, 2020

**Limited Environmental Review and Finding of No Significant Impact**

**City of Canal Winchester – Fairfield and Franklin Counties  
WRF Stand-By Generator Replacement  
Loan number: CS390222-0009**

The attached Limited Environmental Review (LER) is for a wastewater treatment project in Canal Winchester which the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency intends to finance through its Water Pollution Control Loan Fund (WPCLF) 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 WPCLF 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,

*Jonathan Bernstein*

Jonathan Bernstein, Assistant Chief  
Division of Environmental and Financial Assistance

Attachment

## LIMITED ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

### **Project Identification**

Project: WRF Stand-by Generator Replacement

Applicant: City of Canal Winchester  
36 S. High Street  
Canal Winchester, Ohio 43110

Loan Number: CS390222-0009

### **Project Summary**

The City of Canal Winchester, in Fairfield and Franklin counties, has requested a loan from the Ohio Water Pollution Control Loan Fund (WPCLF) to replace an aged and undersized emergency generator for the city's wastewater treatment plant (WWTP).

### **History & Existing Conditions**

The Canal Winchester WWTP is an extended aeration facility with average flow design capacity of 2.48 million gallons per day. The facility relies on an aged and undersized emergency generator to provide backup electricity when the electrical grid is down.

### **Project Description**

Canal Winchester will purchase and install a replacement 900kW diesel-powered generator and upgrade associated wiring and controls at the WWTP (Figure 1).

### **Implementation**

Canal Winchester will borrow \$50,000 from the WPCLF at the Small Community interest rate, now 0.83% for a 30-year loan to supplement local funds for this \$420,000 project. Interest rates are set monthly and may change before loan award. The city is eligible for the entire \$50,000 from the WPCLF special Principal Forgiveness Back-up Power discount for emergency generators. Principal forgiveness is loan principal that does not need to be repaid; it is "free" money. Canal Winchester will save approximately \$68,000 by using the WPCLF special discount, compared to the market rate of 2.13%.

The typical residential annual sewer bill in Canal Winchester is \$261, which is approximately 0.3% of local median household income (MHI; \$83,304). This compares favorably to the Ohio average annual residential sewer bill, \$715, which is 1.1% of state MHI. A sewer bill less than 1.8% of MHI is typically considered affordable.

Construction will start after loan award and be completed by June 2021.

## **Public Participation**

Ohio EPA is unaware of opposition to or controversy about this project that was discussed at regular City Council meetings.

Ohio EPA will make a copy of this document available to the public on its web page (<https://epa.ohio.gov/defa/ofa#169638769-wpclf-documents-for-review-and-comment>) and will provide it on request to interested parties.

## **Conclusion**

The proposed project meets the project type criteria (functional replacement of equipment) for a Limited Environmental Review (LER) and meets the other qualifying criteria for an LER. Specifically, the proposed project:

*Will have no effect on high-value environmental resources, no significant environmental effect, and will require no specific impact mitigation:* This project replaces an outdated and undersized emergency generator with one sized for the WWTP requirements in the same location in the WWTP that lacks important environmental features.

*Is cost-effective and not controversial:* Providing adequate emergency power is crucial to effective operation of the WWTP and the Back-up Power Discount reduces the project cost by 12%. 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:* This project merely replaces the emergency generator and has no other effect on the WWTP, sanitary flows, or discharge.

## **For more information, please contact:**

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**Figure 1 - Project Location**