

January 7, 2026

Limited Environmental Review and Finding of No Significant Impact

**City of Circleville – Pickaway County
Utility Improvements for Walnut Street
Loan number: FS390256-0018**

The attached Limited Environmental Review (LER) is for a water main replacement project in Circleville which the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (Ohio EPA) intends to finance through its Water Supply Revolving Loan Account (WSRLA) 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,



Kathleen Courtright, Assistant Chief
Division of Environmental and Financial Assistance

LIMITED ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

Project Identification

Project: Utility Improvements for Walnut Street

Applicant: City of Circleville
104 East Franklin Street
Circleville, Ohio 43113

Loan Number: FS390256-0018



Figure 1. Pickaway County

Project Summary

The City of Circleville in Pickaway County (Figure 1) is requesting \$1,280,051 in funding from the Ohio Water Supply Revolving Loan Account (WSRLA) to replace approximately 1,000 linear feet of water main. The project includes the installation of piping, valves, hydrants, water services, water service curb stops, and replacement of water meter pits and appurtenances. Lead and copper with lead solder services identified within the project area will also be eliminated. The existing water main is past its useful life as identified in the city's recent asset management plan.

History and Existing Conditions

The city of Circleville owns, operates, and maintains its own water treatment plant (WTP) and distribution system and supplies drinking water to residences, businesses, industries, and public institutions within the city and several surrounding townships. Originally constructed in 1962, the WTP and adjacent well field are located west of Circleville.

Water is sourced from four production wells each with an average depth of 130-feet that draw water from the Teays water aquifer. Water treatment consists of iron and manganese sand filters and chlorine disinfection.

The city owns the water lines up to the curb stop for each water customer. The remainder of each service line from the curb stop to the building is the responsibility of the property owner.

Age and materials have caused portions of the cast iron water lines to become deteriorated and prone to breaking. Furthermore, lead components are present within the distribution system and pose a threat to public health. Due to the general condition of water lines and presence of lead components, there is a need to replace these water lines in Circleville's distribution system.

Project Description

This project proposes replacing approximately 1,000 linear feet of existing 6-inch water main with new 8-inch ductile iron water main to 40 serviced areas located along Walnut Street (Figure 2). Installation

includes piping, valves, hydrants, water services, water service curb stops, replacement of water meter pits, and appurtenances. Lead and copper with lead solder services identified within the project will also be eliminated because of this project.

The intent of this project is to reduce the overall inventory of lead, galvanized, and unknown service lines and to assume the cost of private-side service line replacement within those project areas as a direct benefit to users.

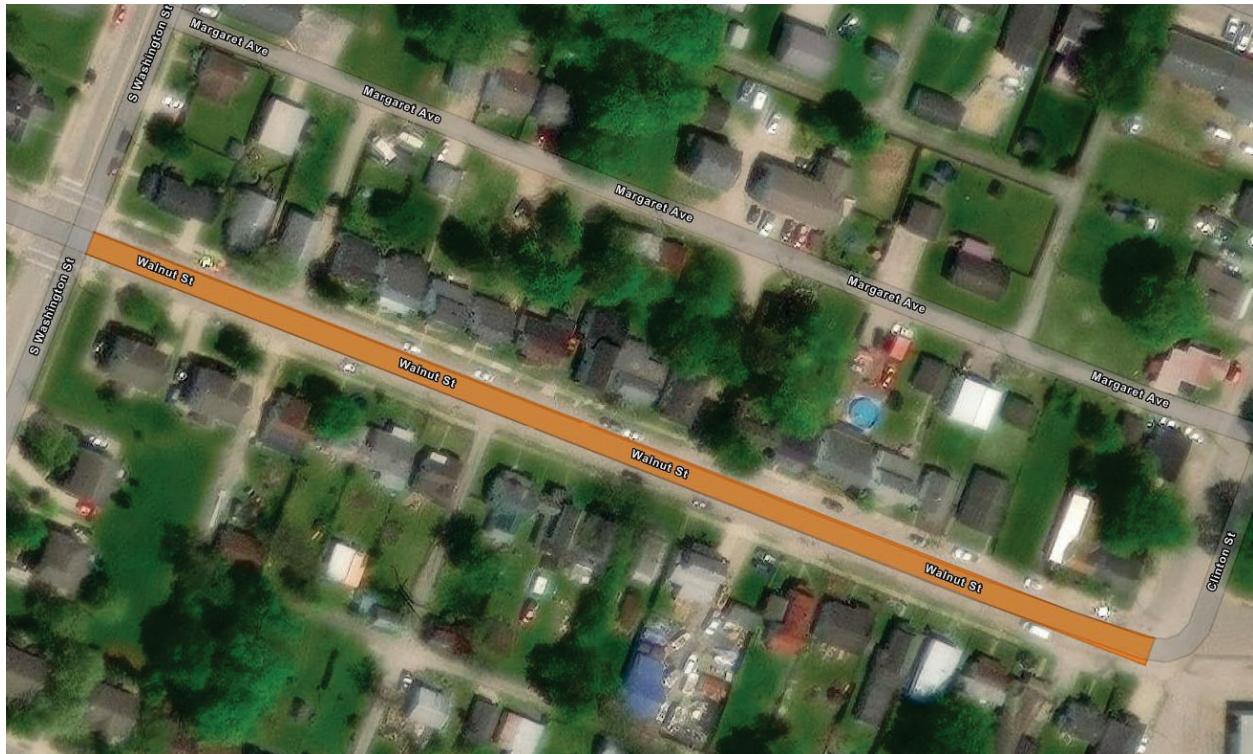


Figure 2. Project area location.

Implementation

The estimated cost for this project is \$1,733,000. The city expects to receive a community development block grant (CDBG) totaling \$470,000. Of the remaining balance, up to 53% of the lead service line (LSL) replacement costs are eligible as principal forgiveness, which will not require repayment. Additional LSL loan will receive 0% interest rate. The remaining costs will be borrowed from Ohio EPA's WSRLA at the standard interest rate of 3.41% over a 30-year loan repayment period. Utilizing WSRLA funding will save Circleville a substantial amount compared to the current market rate of 4.71%. Interest rates are set monthly and may change for a later loan award.

The debt associated with this construction project will be recovered from user charges. The current average monthly residential user bill (enacted in 2024) is \$28.59. This will increase to \$30.02 in 2027. The average annual water bill for Circleville residents is approximately \$343. Circleville has a median household income (MHI) of \$56,225. The annual water use bill is 0.6% of the MHI and is lower than the Ohio average annual water bill which is \$477.

Construction will start following loan award and is expected to take eight months to complete.

Public Participation

The city has regularly communicated with customers within the project area via public service committee meetings and direct mailings. They have secured letters of support from the Fire Chief, Pickaway County, and property owners within the project area, and as the construction nears will canvas the project area once more with direct mailings and a digital notice. Additionally, after consulting closely with the city law director, they intend to move forward with an annual ordinance for blanket temporary work easement for projects related to LSL replacement.

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 City of Circleville 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 water distribution 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 and will require no specific impact mitigation. Water line replacements will occur in previously disturbed areas. Temporary impacts to surface water and air quality typically associated with construction will be mitigated through the use of best management practices such as sediment controls (e.g., silt fence) and dust suppression.

Will have no effect on high-value environmental resources. This project is located in previously disturbed areas (e.g., roads and residential yards). There are no high-value environmental resources present in or adjacent to these areas where construction activities will occur.

Is cost effective. The deteriorated condition of water lines along Walnut Street makes the “do nothing” alternative a non-viable option. Additionally, there is no alternative to removing lead service lines.

Is not a controversial action. The city is unaware of any opposition to this project and has letters of support from various affected users for it. User rates will not be substantially increased to cover costs.

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. This project does not include the construction of new point source

outfalls, nor will it involve a substantial increase in water distribution or withdrawal since it is the functional replacement of an existing water distribution system.

Will not provide capacity to serve a population substantially greater than the existing population. This project involves the functional replacement of existing water distribution infrastructure and ancillary equipment. It does not include new water line extensions; therefore, it will not provide the capacity to serve a population greater than the existing one.

Based upon Ohio EPA's review of the planning information and the materials presented in this LER it is concluded that this project will have no significant adverse impacts 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, which involves the replacement of water lines and lead service lines, will improve system reliability and protect public health by removing lead components within a portion of Circleville's public water system.

Contact Information

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