



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

January 3, 2019
Limited Environmental Review and Finding of No Significant Impact
Jacksonville 2019 Water Distribution System Replacement
Athens County
FS390473-0002

The attached Limited Environmental Review (LER) is for a waterline replacement project in your area 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 document.

Loan award will 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 blue ink that reads "Jerry Rouch". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Jerry Rouch, Assistant Chief
Division of Environmental and Financial Assistance
Office of Financial Assistance

Attachment

LIMITED ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

Project Identification

Name: Jacksonville – 2019 Water Distribution System Replacement

Applicant: Sam Smathers, Mayor
Village of Jacksonville
34 S. Sixth Street
Jacksonville, OH 45740

WSRLA Loan #: FS390473-0002

Project Summary

The Village of Jacksonville in Athens County has requested \$339,945 from the Water Supply Revolving Loan Account (WSRLA) for waterline replacement, upgrades, and restoration to the Village's original water distribution system.

History and Existing Conditions

Jacksonville owns and operates the distribution system and purchases water from the Burr Oak Regional Water District (BORWD). The water quality meets current standards and BORWD has capacity to continue serving Jacksonville for years to come. Jacksonville's original water distribution system was installed in the 1950s or earlier and is now considered undersized and deteriorating. Village crews have been dealing with costly and time-consuming frequent breaks in these deficient lines which create health and safety concerns of contamination. In addition, these breaks are contributing to a 30% loss of available water.

In the 1990s, Jacksonville installed a 130,000-gallon water tank and replaced many waterlines throughout the village.

One section of waterline on Red Dog Road operates continuously below minimum required pressures due to its high elevation. As a result, the village has issued a continuous boil advisory for this area.

Jacksonville's water distribution system serves approximately 260 customers, the majority of which are residential aside from the Trimble Local Elementary School and the Trimble Township Wastewater Treatment District plant. No significant population growth or water demand increase is expected in Jacksonville. The areas surrounding the village on all sides are served by other water providers, so water system expansion outside the corporation limits is not expected. It is anticipated that the demand will decrease upon completion of this project due to the reduction in water loss.

Project Description

Considering current amounts of water loss in the distribution system and costly upkeep and operation, replacing aged waterlines not replaced in the previous replacement project, along with valves and hydrants, was found to be the most effective solution. Approximately 8,000 linear feet of waterline will be replaced in this project and lines will range from 6-inch to 8-inch diameter to accommodate existing needs and adequate fire flow.

In addition, studies determined that installing a new line from the high-pressure zone in the Burr Oak Regional Water District to the line on Red Dog Road will be a feasible option to provide adequate pressure to customers in that area. This will require construction of a pressure reducing valve and will result in lower long-term maintenance costs than installation of a booster station for the existing piping.

Maps of the project location are provided in the exhibits below.

Implementation

Project Costs

Jacksonville plans to supplement \$339,945 from the WSRLA with \$250,000 from the Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) to finance this project. During the 30-year loan period, Jacksonville will save approximately \$218,760 by using WSRLA dollars at the Disadvantaged rate of 0%, compared to the market rate of 3.77%.

Local Economy

The current Jacksonville residential water bill is approximately \$561/year. Projected residential water bills with the implementation of this project are expected to increase to approximately \$609/year, which is approximately 1.4% of median household income (MHI) of Jacksonville, which is \$42,188. A water bill less than 1.8% of MHI is typically considered affordable. The Ohio average residential water bill of \$634 is 1.2% of state MHI (\$52,407). By combining WSRLA financing with the ARC grant for this project, Jacksonville has minimized the economic impact on customers.

Project Schedule

The anticipated loan award will occur in January 2019. Construction is expected to begin immediately and to be completed by January 2020.

Public Participation

The public is invited to participate in monthly Jacksonville Village Council meetings to discuss updates regarding this project. Other updates on the construction schedule are relayed to the public via their local cable channel and postings at the water office. Ohio EPA is unaware of any public opposition to the project.

Ohio EPA will make a copy of this document available to the public on its web page: <http://epa.ohio.gov/defa/ofa.aspx> (Under the “What’s New” tab, scroll to: “Documents Available for Review and Comment – WSRLA Documents for Review and Comment”) and will provide it upon request to interested parties. Information supporting this Limited Environmental Review (LER) is available from the project contact named below.

Conclusion

The proposed project is a pump station replacement that qualifies for an LER and meets the following criteria:

- *It has no significant environmental effect, no effect on high value environmental resources, and does not require extensive specific impact mitigation.*
All project work will occur within the footprint of the existing waterlines in previously disturbed areas where existing gas lines and sanitary sewers are already in place. Standard construction best management practices are required to control dust, sediment runoff, noise, and maintain safety. Appropriate traffic controls will help minimize traffic disruption during work in and along roads. No tree clearing is required as the proposed construction follows established rights of way. Sunday Creek runs through Jacksonville on the south side, but the project will have no impact on this stream as all crossings will be via directional boring. Coordination with the local floodplain administrator was completed for construction approval.
- *It is cost effective and not controversial.*
The proposed project is cost-effective as it involves the installation of new waterline to allow for higher utilization of the village’s water purchases, more efficient operation, and less maintenance and upkeep than continued repairs to the existing water distribution system. DEFA is unaware of any specific opposition to or controversy about this project that will improve the safety and efficiency of water distribution to local residents and businesses.
- *This project does not create a new, or relocate an existing, discharge to surface or ground waters; will not create a new source of water withdrawals from either surface or ground waters; will not significantly increase the amount of water withdrawn from an existing water source; 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 involves the routine replacement and rehabilitation of waterlines and does not otherwise alter Jacksonville’s public water system (withdrawal, treatment, distribution, or usage of potable water). It has no effect on water or wastewater discharges, or on any other potential source of pollutants. The project will not increase the village’s present drinking water capacity, so it will not facilitate an expansion of water service.

Based upon the available planning information for this project and the materials presented within this LER, Ohio EPA concludes that the proposed project will not result in any significant adverse impacts to any environmental features. The project is expected to have no significant short-term or long-term adverse impacts on the quality of the human environment or on sensitive resources such as surface waters, coastal zones, riparian areas, floodplains, wetlands, state-designated scenic or recreational rivers, prime or unique agricultural lands, aquifer recharge zones, archaeologically or historically significant sites, or threatened or endangered species.

This project will address deficiencies in Jacksonville's water distribution system to alleviate health and safety concerns and eliminate water loss.

Contact

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Exhibit 1: Project Location Map



Exhibit 2: Project Location Map

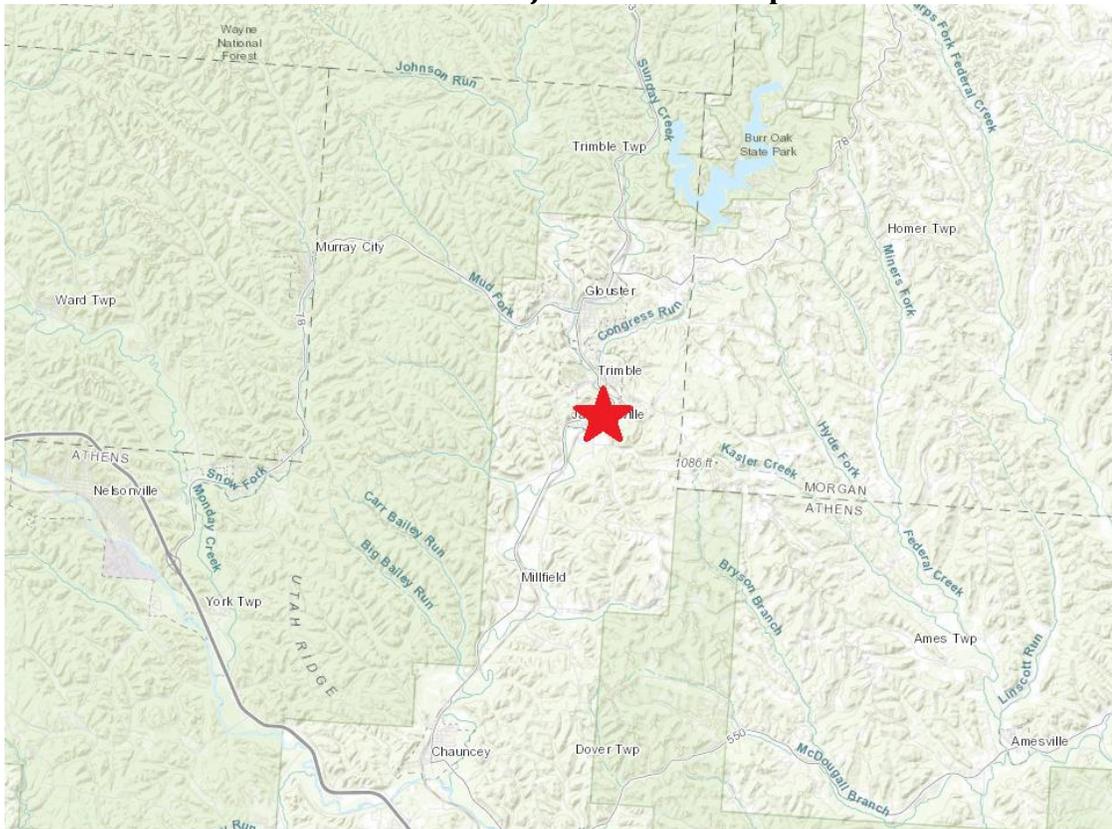


Exhibit 3: Project Location Map (as provided by applicant)

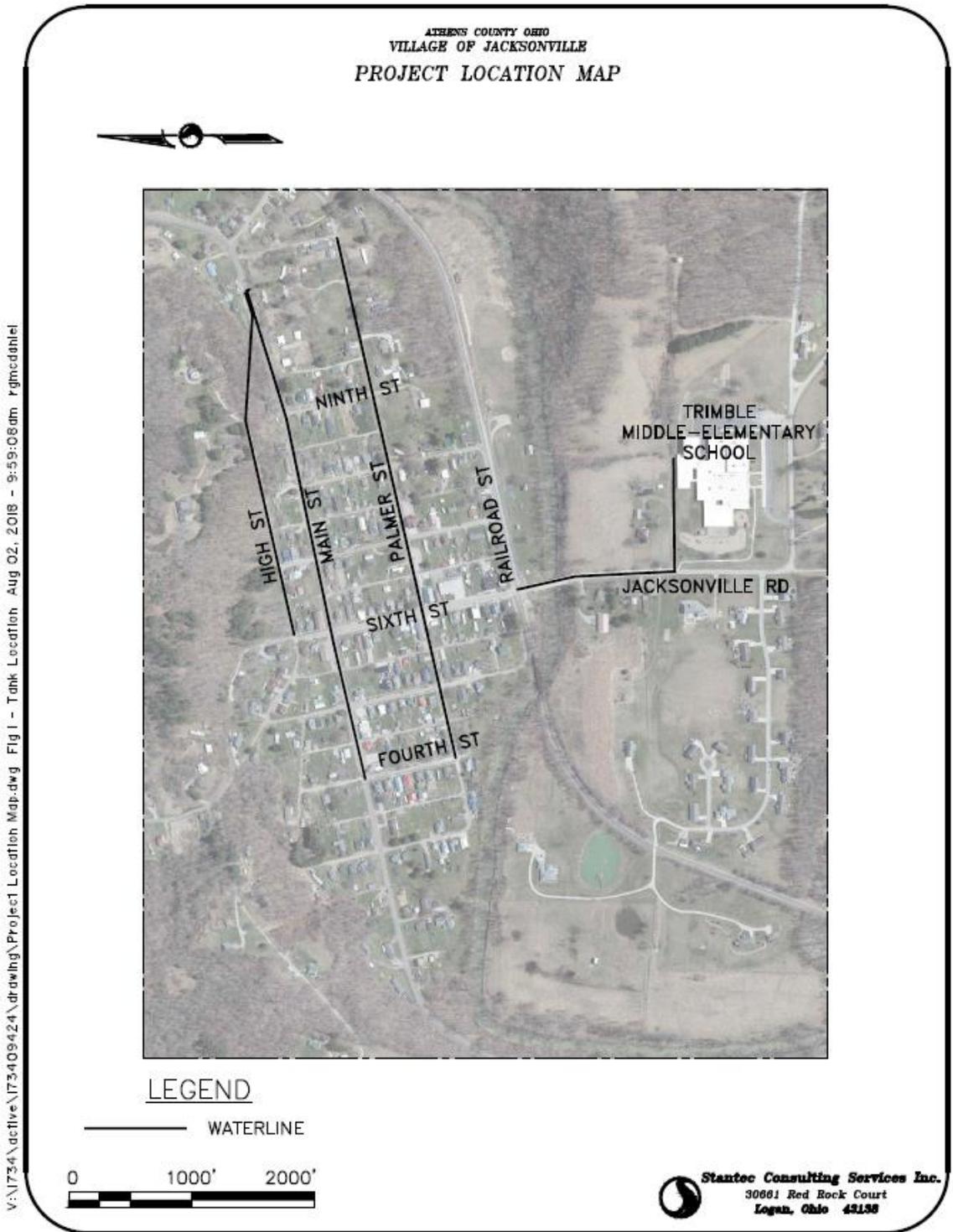


Exhibit 4: Topo map with section of Red Dog Road highlighted in red and location of water tower indicated in blue

