



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

**April 29, 2019**  
**Preliminary Finding of No Significant Impact**  
**To All Interested Citizens, Organizations, and Government Agencies**

**Village of Spencerville - Allen County**  
**Replacement and New Well Construction**  
**FS390877-0005**

The attached Environmental Assessment (EA) is for a new well and waterline project in Spencerville, which the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency intends to finance through its Ohio Water Supply Revolving Loan Account (WSRLA) below-market interest rate revolving loan program, which will include a portion of loan principal forgiveness. The EA describes the project, its costs, and expected environmental benefits. We would appreciate receiving any comments you may have on the project. Making available this EA and seeking your comments fulfills Ohio EPA's environmental review and public notice requirements for this loan program, as stated in the Ohio Administrative Code (OAC) 3745-150-06.

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. More information can be obtained by contacting the person named at the end of the attached EA.

Any comments on our preliminary determination should be sent to me at the letterhead address. We will not act on this project for 30 calendar days from the date of this notice. In the absence of substantive comments during this period, our preliminary decision will become final. After that, Spencerville can then proceed with its application for the WSRLA loan.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jerry Rouch". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Jerry Rouch, Chief  
Division of Environmental & Financial Assistance

Attachment

# ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

## **Project Identification**

Project: Spencerville – Replacement and New Well Construction

Applicant: John Johnson, Mayor  
Village of Spencerville  
116 S. Broadway Street  
Spencerville, OH 45887

Loan Number: FS390877-0005

## **Project Summary**

The Village of Spencerville (Village) has requested \$535,027 from the Ohio Water Supply Revolving Loan Account (WSRLA) for the installation of two new production wells (Well #4 and Well #5) and updated waterlines. The new wells will be constructed in the existing well field, located in the Village, at Acadia Park. The updated waterlines will extend south from Acadia Park to the water treatment plant, along Stone Road. See Figure 1 and Figure 2 for site and project work location.

The Village will receive principal forgiveness (principal that does not need to be repaid) from the WSRLA for a portion of the loan, in the amount of \$263,950.

Figure 1 – Site Location

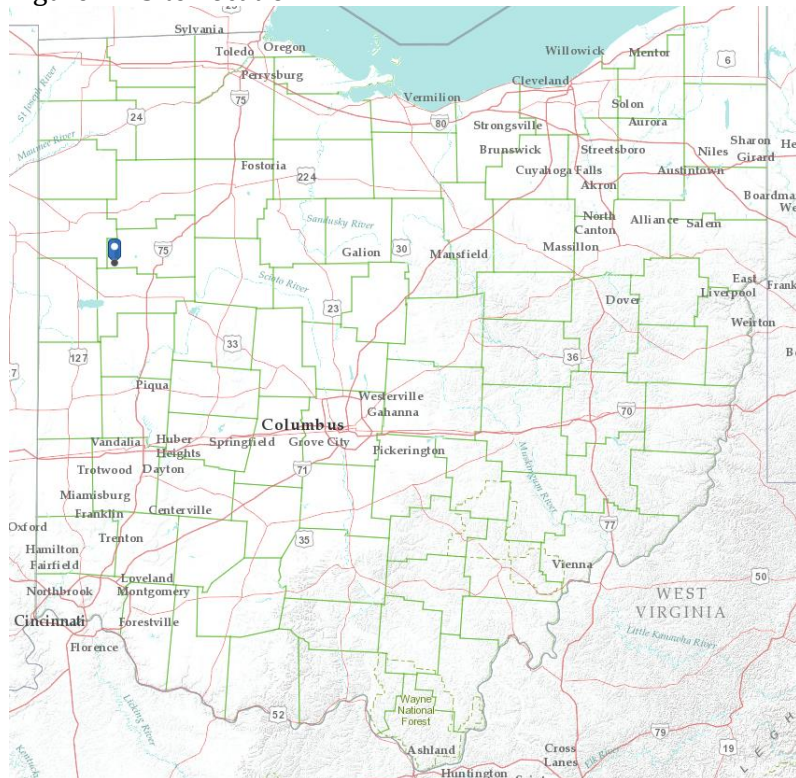
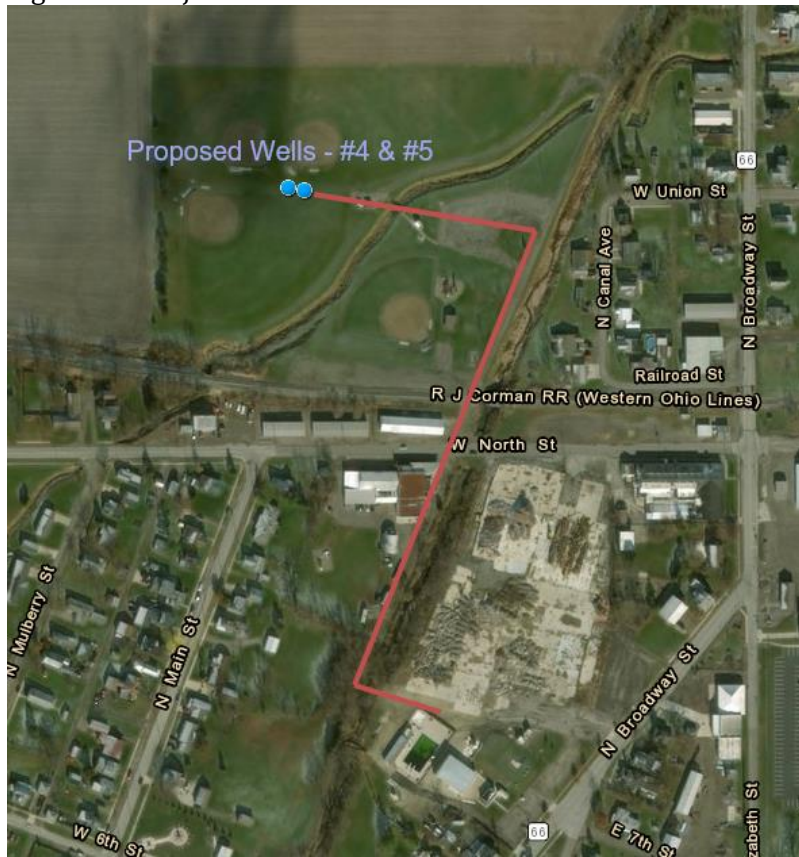


Figure 2 – Project Work Location



### **History & Existing Conditions**

The Village serves a population of approximately 2,200 residents and has a daily water demand of 0.19 million gallons per day (MGD).

The Village has three production wells (Well #1, Well #2, and Well #3). Well #1 was drilled circa 1929 and is currently in operation under the provisions of an approved variance, which was granted by the Ohio EPA on July 14, 2017. The Village had the well rehabilitated in 2016 and as a result, the well casing was compromised, which allowed sand to enter the well column. In order to prevent the sand from entering the well, the Village installed an inner casing and a shell packer. A variance was required because the annular space between the two casings did not meet the minimum requirement. Additionally, the variance requires that Well #1 is sealed when the grout fails.

Well #2 was drilled circa 1950 and is currently out of service due to testing positive for total coliform and one E. coli. This well has been out of service since August 2017. The Village suspects that the casing for Well #2 may have been damaged when Well #1 was rehabilitated. As a result of this, the Village now plans to have Well #2 sealed.

Well #3 was drilled in 1980 and is currently in operation with no restrictions. See Figure 3 for existing well locations.



Figure 3 – Existing Well Locations, Blue Dots



### **Population and Flow Projections**

Based on recent history regarding growth of the Village, it is estimated that the Village will see a slight increase in residential, commercial, and industrial growth, thus leading to increased water demand. Over the next twenty years, the Village anticipates an increased water demand of 15%.

### **Alternatives**

The Village analyzed the following alternatives for the proposed project:

**No Action:** The “do nothing” alternative is not feasible because it would continue the potential public health risk of compromised or failed wells and would ultimately lead to enforcement by Ohio EPA.

**Properly seal Well #2 and provide source water through Well #1 and Well #3:** The Village feels that Well #1 may be at the end of its useful life and is an unreliable source.

**Regionalization with another public water supplier:** This is not feasible because of distance, which makes it cost-prohibitive.

**Construct two new Wells and replace existing water lines:** This ensures that the Village will have an adequate raw water supply.

## **Selected Alternative**

The selected alternative involves sealing existing Well #2 and constructing proposed Well #4 and Well #5. The new, associated water line will follow the existing water line path to the water treatment facility (see Figure 2). Directional boring will occur beneath the canal, railroad tracks, and road. This alternative ensures an adequate supply of raw water and prepares for the eventual abandonment of Well #1.

## **Implementation**

The Village has requested \$535,027 from the WSRLA and qualifies for \$263,950 in principal forgiveness. The remainder of the loan is eligible for a zero percent, 30-year loan. Borrowing at zero percent will save Spencerville approximately \$168,935 over the life of the loan compared to the market rate of 3.50%

Based on an anticipated loan award date in June 2019, the project is expected to be completed by December 2019.

## **Public Participation**

The proposed project has been discussed at the Village bi-monthly Council meetings and posted on their website.

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, “WSRLA Documents for Review and Comment”) and will provide it to interested parties upon request.

## **Environmental Impacts**

This project, which will install two new wells and new waterlines, is unlikely to directly impact important environmental features. The waterline extension will primarily occur in shallow trenches within or adjacent to road rights-of-way and is designed to serve existing customers in a limited area.

No state-designated scenic rivers or state-designated or federally-designated wildlife areas are present in or near the work sites. No farmland losses are expected because of this project because no farmland will be disturbed.

## **Surface Water and Ground Water**

Construction will not have significant adverse short or long-term impacts on surface water resources as there will be no in-water work and no withdrawals. Wetlands are not present in the project area and work will be performed in an area that is predominantly paved roads and mowed grass. Significant erosion and sedimentation impacts from construction are unlikely because contractors will use standard controls to minimize the potential for excavated soil to enter surface water or stormwater conveyances.

Long-term well service indicates the local ground water resource is adequate for Spencerville’s water supply. Well testing for the new wells showed no significant change to ground water levels.

### Terrestrial/Aquatic Habitat and Endangered/Threatened Species

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) indicates that the endangered **Indiana bat** and threatened species **northern long-eared bat** can be found in the project area. Because this project requires no tree clearing, no adverse impact to the bat species is anticipated. Also, there is no suitable habitat for the species of concern **bald eagle** (prefers large trees for nesting). Directional boring beneath streams will minimize potential impacts to aquatic habitats.

### Air Quality

This project involves no new, permanent air contaminant sources. Short-term increases in dust and exhaust emissions from heavy equipment operations and construction activities will be controlled with best management practices. For these reasons, the project should have no significant short or long-term adverse impacts on the local air quality.

### Noise, Odors, Safety and Traffic

Construction noise will be audible but insignificant compared to normal vehicle traffic and only during daytime hours. Traffic will be disrupted temporarily during the water main extension due to street excavation and will be controlled and minimized by standard traffic controls (signs, barricades, flaggers, etc.). Public safety will be ensured by proper traffic management in the construction area and by covering or filling trench excavations at the end of each work day. Local aesthetics will be unchanged after construction and restoration are complete; road surfaces will be repaved, and the off-road areas will be planted with grass.

### Archaeological and Historical Resources

Based on available information, Ohio EPA has determined that the project will not cause any significant adverse effect to archaeological or historical resources (properties listed or eligible for the listing in the National Register of Historic Places) within the project area. In the event of any archaeological find, Ohio Revised Code Section 149.53 requires contractors and subcontractors to notify the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) of any archaeological discoveries in the project area, and to cooperate with the SHPO on archaeological and historic surveys and in salvage efforts when appropriate.

### Local Economy

The annual water bill for Village residents is expected to be \$537 in 2020. This represents 1.4% of the median household income (MHI), which is \$37,557. Water bills less than 1.8% of MHI are considered affordable. By receiving principal forgiveness for almost 50% of the total project cost and receiving a 0% interest rate for the remaining loan, the Village has minimized the economic impact on residents.

### Conclusion

Ohio EPA concludes that no significant short-term or long-term adverse direct environmental impacts will result from the project as related to the environmental features discussed in this Environmental Assessment. This is because these features do not exist in the project area, the features exist but will not be adversely affected, or the impacts of construction will be temporary and mitigated.

This project equally serves the entire project area and no segment of the community will be faced with additional adverse impacts or be deprived of environmental benefits, compared to any other segment.

For these reasons, this project, alone or in combination with other projects, is not expected to result in any significant indirect or cumulative short-term or long-term adverse environmental impacts.

This project will seal Well #2, which is contaminated with total coliform and E. coli, and provide two new wells and associated new waterlines that will provide a safe, reliable source of public water to the Village's customers.

**Contact info**

For further information, please contact:

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