



December 20, 2024

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

**Village of Spencerville – Allen County
East 4th Street Sanitary Extension
Loan Number: CS390877-0009**

The attached Environmental Assessment (EA) is for a sanitary sewer extension project in Spencerville 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 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.

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. 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 the email address of the contact named at the end of the EA. 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, the Village of Spencerville can then proceed with its application for the WPCLF loan.

Sincerely,

Steve Malone, for

Kathleen Courtright, Assistant Chief
Division of Environmental & Financial Assistance

Attachment

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

Project Identification

Project: East 4th Street Sanitary Extension

Applicant: Village of Spencerville
116 South Broadway Street
Spencerville, Ohio 45887

Loan Number: CS390877-0009

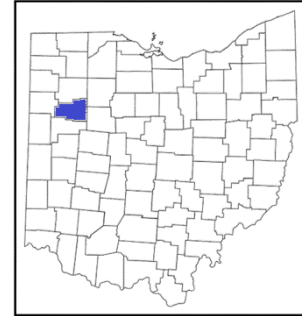


Figure 1. Allen County

Project Summary

The Village of Spencerville has requested funding from the Ohio Water Pollution Control Loan Fund (WPCLF) in order to finance their East 4th Street Sanitary Extension project. Work for this project includes the extension of existing sanitary sewer in order to serve properties that currently have failing household sewage treatment systems (HSTS).

History & Existing Conditions

The Village of Spencerville in Allen County (Figure 1) owns and operates their own wastewater treatment plant (WWTP) and sanitary sewer collection system. The Allen County Health Department has noted that there are failing HSTS in some areas of the village and has requested that sanitary sewer service be provided to affected residents. Due to small lot sizes, replacement of the failing HSTS is not feasible. Sewage has been observed in a ditch in the affected area, making this project a high priority for the village.

Population and Flow Projections

Spencerville currently has a population of 2,127 people, with no expectations of population growth in the area.

The projected flows for the project are based on 360 gallons per day per home, with about seven homes planned for connection. This comes out to about 2,520 gallons per day projected additional daily flows for the Spencerville WWTP. This WWTP currently receives an average daily flow of 0.376 million gallons per day (MGD) and is designed to handle up to 0.45 MGD, meaning that the WWTP has the capacity to handle the additional wastewater.

Alternatives

As this project is aimed at resolving a human health hazard, the village had minimal alternatives to examine. A do-nothing alternative was immediately eliminated as not feasible.

Selected Alternative

The project will consist of the installation of about 650 feet of 10-inch gravity sanitary sewer and the associated manholes along East Fourth Street, from Park Avenue to Wisher Drive. The deteriorating HSTS on each property will be abandoned or removed. See Figure 2 below for a map of the project area.



Figure 2. Map of project area

Implementation

The Village of Spencerville proposes to borrow approximately \$310,000 in WPCLF funding at an interest rate of 0%. Assuming a 20-year loan, borrowing this amount in WPCLF dollars could save Spencerville approximately \$137,000 over the life of the loan compared to the current market rate of 3.84%.

Sewer rates will not be raised in order to pay for this project. There will be no connection fees or fees for removing and/or abandoning old HSTS infrastructure for residents, as these costs will be covered by the village. The average annual sewer bill for residents served by Spencerville is \$657. This is 1.6% of the median household income (MHI: \$40,455) and is higher than the Ohio average annual sewer bill, \$490. Construction is scheduled to begin upon receiving the loan and will be completed in approximately four months.

Public Participation

On March 8, 2022, a flyer was sent out to residents that will be connected to the new sewer with information about the project and a point of contact for additional questions. Spencerville currently also has written waivers from all property owners granting them access to their private property. The village has not received any feedback from residents on the proposed project beyond requests for when the start date will be. Spencerville plans to notify residents of the start date and anticipated project timeline once the project has been awarded.

Ohio EPA is unaware of opposition to or controversy about this project. Ohio EPA will make a copy of this document available to the public on its web page: <https://epa.ohio.gov/divisions-and-offices/environmental-financial-assistance/announcements> and provide it upon request to interested parties.

Environmental Impacts

The project has the potential to affect the following features, but the effects will be reduced or mitigated to acceptable levels as explained below.

Air Quality

The project area in Allen County meets standards for the six regulated air pollutants (carbon monoxide, sulfur dioxide, nitrogen oxide, lead, particulate matter, and ozone). Neither construction nor operation of the proposed new sanitary sewer will add significant air pollutants. Contractors will ensure fugitive dust is minimized during construction by applying water or other environmentally benign dust suppressants. The local air pollution contribution by construction vehicles will be temporary and similar to that of vehicles regularly transiting the construction area. For these reasons, the project should have no significant adverse short-term or long-term impacts on local air quality.

Archaeological and Historical Resources

As all project work will be conducted in previously disturbed land within the road right-of-way and residential yards, the probability of finding archaeological or historical resources is very low. The State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) confirmed that no known historic properties are in the project area.

In the event of archaeological finds during construction, Ohio Revised Code Section 149.53 requires contractors and subcontractors to notify SHPO of any archaeological discoveries in the project area, and to cooperate with the Office in archaeological and historic surveys and salvage efforts when appropriate. Work will not resume until a survey of the find and a determination of its value and effect has been made, and Ohio EPA authorizes work to continue.

Endangered Species, Fish, and Wildlife

The project area is within the road right-of-way and residential properties, areas without any environmentally sensitive areas that might support endangered species. This project is within the range of endangered bats. No trees will be removed for this project, limiting the chances of impacting this species.

Noise, Traffic, Aesthetics, and Safety

Construction noise will be locally audible and similar to that of small machinery used in the local area. Construction will involve excavation in road rights-of-way and residential yard areas adjacent to streets. Temporary disruption to local traffic will be controlled by use of standard measures (barricades, detours, signs, barrels, flaggers) to ensure safety. Trenches will be covered or filled at the end of each workday to help protect public safety. After construction is complete and road surfaces replaced and lawns restored, aesthetics will be little changed from pre-construction conditions. For these reasons, this project will result in no significant adverse long-term impacts to noise, traffic, safety, or aesthetics.

Sole Source Aquifers and Ground Water

This project is within the Allen County Area Combined Sole Source Aquifer System. Spencerville has spill prevention practices that they will follow during construction. In addition, they will only be excavating up to 8 feet deep, limiting the chance that they will impact ground water.

Unaffected Features

Based on the project's scope, location, and prior disturbances, Spencerville's proposed project is not expected to affect aquatic habitat, coastal zones, energy consumption, floodplains, prime farmland, recreational land use, safe drinking water, surface water resources, terrestrial habitat, wetlands, or wild and scenic rivers. These environmental attributes are not within the project area.

Conclusion

Based upon Ohio EPA's review of the planning information and the materials presented in this Environmental Assessment, 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. This project will result in the elimination of seven failing HSTS within the Village of Spencerville.

Contact information

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