



October 2, 2026

Limited Environmental Review and Finding of No Significant Impact

**Village of Jefferson – Ashtabula County
WWTP Clarifier Improvements Phase 2
Loan number: CS390475-0010**

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Kathleen Courtright".

Kathleen Courtright, Assistant Chief
Division of Environmental and Financial Assistance

LIMITED ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

Project Identification

Project: WWTP Clarifier Improvements Phase 2

Applicant: Village of Jefferson
27 East Jefferson Street
Jefferson, Ohio 44047

Loan Number: CS390475-0010



Figure 1. Ashtabula County

Project Summary

The Village of Jefferson, in Ashtabula County (see Figure 1), intends to borrow \$622,500 from the Ohio Water Pollution Control Loan Fund (WPCLF) to fund the WWTP Clarifier Improvements Phase 2 project. This project will repair one of the village's existing clarifiers at the wastewater treatment plant (WWTP), including the replacement of critical components.

History and Existing Conditions

Jefferson owns and operates a sanitary sewer collection system and WWTP that serves a population of 3,120. The WWTP has an average daily design flow of 0.995 million gallons per day (MGD), and discharges treated effluent to Cemetery Creek per Jefferson's National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit. The WWTP has three clarifiers that are essential for maintaining water quality and compliance. Existing equipment for Clarifier #1 has reached the end of its useful life and needs to be repaired or replaced to maintain treatment operations at the plant.

Phase 1 of this project is currently under construction which involves rehabilitation work on Clarifier #3. Construction of the plants' second Equalization Basin (EQ Basin) is expected to begin soon, which will address the plant's limitations and ability to handle peak wet-weather flows. With expanded capacity from the second EQ Basin, rehabilitation of Clarifier #3, and rehabilitation of Clarifier #1, Jefferson will begin ensuring successful operations for the future. Design for rehabilitation of Clarifier #2 will be underway soon and will include concrete walkway replacement and repair for walkways surrounding Clarifiers #2 and #3.

Project Description

To address the aging Clarifier #1, the village considered two alternatives during initial planning stages of the project. These options included rehabilitation of existing clarifiers, or demolition and construction of new tanks for installation of new clarifier equipment. Ultimately, the village determined that rehabilitation of existing clarifiers was the best option as the clarifier tanks were found to be in good operating condition and not at risk of failure. Selecting this option also allowed

the design team more flexibility to repair components of the existing clarifier mechanism rather than performing complete replacement.

The project includes replacing or repairing the drive, gearbox, and inlet well. Other work includes necessary repairs to the scraper mechanism, scum baffle, weir, launders, and aluminum bridge. Concrete tank repairs and replacement of return-activated sludge (RAS) pumps and variable frequency drive (VFD) control panel are also included in the work to ensure the system's reliability and safety. The access hatch above the RAS pump room will also be replaced to prevent further damage to the electrical panels.



Figure 2. Location of Jefferson WWTP

Implementation

Jefferson requested \$622,500 from the Ohio WPCLF at the hardship rate of 1%. Borrowing this amount in WPCLF monies could save Jefferson \$280,304 over the 20-year loan term compared to the current market rate of 4.72%. WPCLF interest rates are set monthly and may change for a later loan award. The village also expects \$215,000 in grant funds from the Ohio Public Works Commission.

The debt associated with this project will be recovered from monthly user charges. In 2026, Jefferson raised rates by 3.5%. Jefferson's existing rate schedule includes an annual rate increase of 3.5%, and this increase is subject to review by village council and the village administrator each year. Based on a monthly water usage of 4,000 gallons, the current average annual sewer bill for residents of Jefferson is approximately \$469. This represents 0.87% of Jefferson's median household income (MHI: \$53,333) and is lower than the Ohio average annual sewer bill of \$528.

Public Participation

Jefferson intends to present this project at city council. The project will be included on a meeting agenda, and there will be an opportunity for public comment during the meeting. Council meeting minutes will be posted to the village's website.

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 Village of Jefferson 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 wastewater treatment facility, 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 effect on high-value environmental resources, will have no significant environmental effect, and will require no specific impact mitigation. All construction activities will take place on secure, maintained Jefferson WWTP property. These activities pose little to no likely threat to environmental resources and subsequently require no specific impact mitigation. The contractor will be responsible for implementing all necessary construction best management practices (BMPs) such as sediment and erosion controls, noise and dust minimization, proper handling and storage of materials, worker and public safety, site security, and legal disposal of waste and excess materials throughout the duration of construction to avoid or minimize all short-term impacts to the area.

Is cost effective. The selected project provides the best investment of capital dollars to take advantage of existing plant facilities that are still in good operating condition and do not require replacement.

Is not a controversial action. Due to the nature of the project, there will be no significant adverse impact on customers or the environment, and no controversy has been reported. User rates will not be impacted beyond regular annual increases, and customer sanitary sewer service will remain unchanged during construction.

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. The project does not impact discharges or loading of pollutants.

Will not provide capacity to serve a population substantially greater than the existing population. The project does not provide additional capacity to serve additional customers.

Based upon Ohio EPA's review of the planning information and the materials presented in this LER, we have concluded that there will be no significant adverse impacts from the proposed project 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.

Completion of the project will allow Jefferson to maintain compliance at the WWTP.

Contact Information

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