



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

**March 28, 2016**  
**Preliminary Finding of No Significant Impact**  
**Perry County – Scioto Youth Camp Waterline Extensions**  
**FS390064-0012**

The attached Environmental Assessment (EA) is for a water supply 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 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 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 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 order to receive and consider comments. In the absence of substantive comments during this period, our preliminary decision will become final. After that, Perry County may proceed with its application for the WSRLA loan.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jerry Rouch".

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

JR/DH

attachment

## ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

### A. Project Identification

Name: Perry County – Scioto Youth Camp Waterline Extensions

Address: James O'Brien, President  
Board of Commissioners of Perry County  
121 West Brown Street, Suite C  
New Lexington, OH 43764

WSRLA #: FS390064-0012

### B. Proposed Project

#### 1. Summary

The Board of Commissioners of Perry County, on behalf of Northern Perry County Water (NPCW), has requested \$75,000 from the Ohio Water Supply Revolving Loan Account (WSRLA) to extend a water main to an area with contaminated wells.

Construction will be across residential lawn, mowed pasture, and gravel drives, areas lacking important habitat or other environmental features. Water rates will not change for this project.

#### 2. Project Background

A summer residential camp in Jackson Township, Perry County, has experienced bacterial contamination of its two wells that are regulated as a public water supply. Ohio EPA testing of water samples showed the water to be unsafe for human consumption, leaving the camp without an approved water supply. NPCW has agreed to extend a water main to serve the camp and immediate adjoining properties.

Immediate customers for the project are one church, one residence, and the camp, serving up to 300 individuals during summer months. NPCW, owned by Perry County, distributes approximately 43,500 gallons per day of water purchased from the Burr Oak Regional Water District (BORWD) to Jackson, Pike, Clayton, Reading, and Thorn townships. NPCW experiences an average annual demand increase of 1-2 percent.

#### 3. Discussion of Feasible Alternatives

The youth camp lacks a potable water supply. Doing nothing, the no-action alternative, would mean closing the camp for the summer 2016 season. Evaluation of the camp's water system suggested no permanent modification or fix would be cost-effective. Temporarily hauling water to a portable cistern could allow the camp to operate. However, connecting to an existing NPCW water main on a nearby county road would

provide a long-term, cost-effective public water supply and eliminate the direct and administrative costs of operating a public water supply. NPCW consultants evaluated the nearest water main locations and sizes and determined that a shorter (2,500 feet) cross-country route costing approximately \$75,000 was cost-effective for this need. This price compares favorably to the 6,100 feet (\$110,000) and 7,500 feet (\$135,000) alternatives.

#### 4. Selected Alternative

Perry County proposes constructing approximately 2,500 feet of 4" waterline on a new easement across sloping pasture (Figure 1), 3 service connections, and appurtenances. The youth camp will connect to the new water main and plug the contaminated wells.

#### 5. Project Implementation

The project will be entirely funded through the WSRLA program and tap fees. Perry County will borrow approximately \$75,000 from the WSRLA and qualifies for 50% principal forgiveness (up to \$37,500, 50% of the nominated amount of \$75,000 is loan principal that does not need to be repaid) with the remainder at 0% interest for 30 years. During the 30-year loan period, Perry County will save approximately \$73,000 by using WSRLA dollars at this rate, compared to the market rate of 3.25%.



Figure 1 – Project Location

### C. Environmental Impacts of the Proposed Project

The proposed water main will cross upland, open fields currently used for pasture or mowed, and is designed for current needs rather than for growth or anticipated development. This project will impact no important environmental resources. The project is not located within the jurisdictional boundaries of a state or federal designated wild, scenic or recreational river, and it is not near state or federal wildlife areas. Construction requires no tree removal or other impact to important terrestrial habitat, no impact to important aquatic habitat or (wetlands or streams) or floodplains, and no change to local topography or to the current passive agricultural land use.

This project will have no significant effect on ground water resources. Two water wells at the camp will be abandoned upon completion of this project. The BORWD supply is ground water from a highly productive well field. The well field and treatment plant have excess capacity that easily accommodate the present and anticipated future demand of PCNW.

Perry County meets standards for the six regulated air pollutants (carbon monoxide, sulfur dioxide, nitrogen oxide, lead, particulate matter, and ozone). This project adds no sources of air pollution or energy use. Construction vehicle sounds and exhaust like that from vehicles transiting nearby roads is unlikely to be significant locally because of the limited extent of construction. Fugitive dust during construction is likewise likely to be insignificant due to project scale and the contractual requirement to apply water or other benign dust suppressants during dry weather. For these reasons, the project should have no significant adverse short-term or long-term impacts on local air quality, noise, or energy use.

Limited impacts to traffic will occur during construction. Contractors will bore beneath Pen Road, with no excavation on the road. Besides avoiding road construction, all work will be distant from residences and unlikely to constitute an attractive nuisance. Public safety will be further ensured by closing or covering all trenches at the end of each work day. The local landscape will be unchanged after construction ends and the trench area is re-vegetated with no alteration of local aesthetics.

Coordination with the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) led to an archaeological survey of the project area which identified a significant pre-historic site on the proposed water main alignment. Perry County's consultant re-designed the alignment to avoid disturbing that cultural resource. With that change, the project will not cause a significant adverse effect to properties listed or eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. In the event of archaeological finds during construction, Ohio Revised Code Section 149.53 requires contractors and subcontractors to notify the OHPO of any archaeological discoveries in the project area, and to cooperate with the Office in archaeological and historic surveys and salvage efforts. 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.

The typical residential annual water bill for NPCW customers is \$624, which is approximately 1.5% of local median household income (MHI; \$41,446). Annual water bills less than 1.8% of MHI are generally considered affordable. The typical Ohio annual water bill is \$573. Water rates in rural areas are typically higher than for more densely populated areas, due to the cost of constructing and maintaining a distribution system over a larger area with fewer customers. By using the WSRLA low-interest financing, Perry County has minimized the project cost and effect on the local economy.

#### **D. Public Participation**

The Perry County Commissioners have discussed the project at public meetings as well as their regular public board meetings. A fact sheet with request for comments was posted on the county web page in March 2016; no comments were received. Ohio EPA will make a copy of this document available to the public on its web page <http://epa.ohio.gov/defa/ofa.aspx> (scroll down to and click on “WSRLA Documents for Review and Comment”) and distribute it to interested parties.

#### **E. Reasons for a Preliminary Finding of No Significant Impact**

Based on its review of this project’s general plans and other information, 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 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 Northern Perry County Water service area and no particular 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.

Ohio EPA expects the economic impact of the project on the average user to be insignificant because no rate increase is required and the project will be entirely funded through the favorable interest rate WSRLA program.

The project will replace an unapproved (contaminated) public water supply with water from a regional water supplier and allow unhindered operation of a summer youth camp.

For more information, please contact:

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