

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

CENTER WEST JOINT SEWER AUTHORITY PROPOSED WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT AND COLLECTION SYSTEM WASHINGTON COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA SECTION 313, WATER RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT ACT OF 1992

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Pittsburgh District, under the authority of Section 313 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1992 (WRDA), Public Law 102-580, as amended, is overseeing the design and construction of a sewage treatment plant and collection system within the communities of West Brownsville and Centerville Borough, Washington County, Pennsylvania. There is no existing public sewer system that serves the residents and businesses within the project area. This project is also receiving funding from the U.S. Department of Agriculture Rural Development's Utilities Programs.

The current sewage treatment facilities within the project area consists of a combination of wildcat sewers that discharge untreated sewage directly into streams and drainage ways tributary to the Monongahela River, or into septic systems – the majority of which are malfunctioning. The release of untreated sewage into the groundwater or directly to local streams is a public health hazard. The proposed system will help rectify untreated sewage discharges, which is not an uncommon problem within the mid Monongahela Valley.

Within Centerville Borough the project will consist of designing and constructing approximately 63,800 feet of six and eight inch diameter gravity sewers, 5,000 feet of sewage force main, 65 residential grinder pump systems, and a pumping station. In West Brownsville, the project will include constructing approximately 42,990 feet of eight and twelve inch gravity sewers and 7,500 feet of sewer force main. A new 350,000 gallon-per-day sewage treatment plant will also be constructed to treat the sewage collected by the new sewer system.

Under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the Department of Agriculture completed an Environmental Assessment (EA) and a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) in 2002 for the proposed sewage collection system and treatment plant. The project was coordinated with the U.S Environmental Protection Agency, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Pittsburgh District Corps of Engineers, Pennsylvania Historic and Museum Commission, Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection, Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission, and Washington County Planning Commission. On August 8, 9, and 11, 2002, the signed FONSI was published in the Uniontown Herald Standard, the local newspaper that covers the project area.

Because the Corps is also participating in this project under the Section 313 program, the District prepared this updated FONSI for public information. To meet the requirements of Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act, the local sponsor requested an updated letter from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service since the last one received was seven years old. In a letter dated September 19, 2008, the Service again stated that the project would not impact any endangered or threatened species or their habitat. To fulfill the requirements of Section 106 of the National

Historic Preservation Act, this project was coordinated with the Pennsylvania State Historic Preservation Officer who determined that the new sewage system would not impact any extant cultural resources.

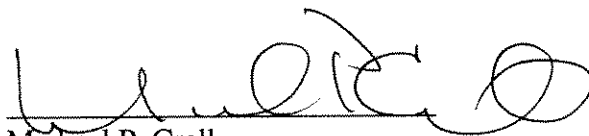
Alternatives including "No Action" were considered during the formulation of this project. The No-Action alternative would allow unabated discharges of raw or partially treated sewage into groundwater or streams, which potentially exposes the public to a litany of waterborne illnesses, such as cholera, typhoid, polio, and hepatitis A. Action alternatives considered the construction of various conveyance measures such as septic tank effluent pumping, sub area grinder pump stations, pumping sewage to different area sewage treatment plants, and constructing more than one sewage treatment plant for the new collection system. The recommended plan uses a gravity-based sewer system combined with force mains and the construction of one sewage treatment plant adjacent to the Monongahela River.

The proposed project would clearly enhance the quality of life for the residents of West Brownsville and Centerville Borough by alleviating the health and safety risks posed by discharges of raw sewage into area surface waters and groundwater. Potential impacts were addressed with regard to floodplains, vegetation, fish and wildlife habitat, regulated hazardous wastes, hydrology, water quality, wetlands, endangered species, cultural resources, scenic rivers, air quality, noise, and socio-economic resources. No significant environmental or cultural resources have been identified in the immediate vicinity of the proposed project.

I have reasonably determined that the construction of the sewage collection system and sewage treatment plant within West Brownsville and Centerville Borough would not constitute a major Federal action significantly affecting the quality of the human environment, as defined in the Council on Environmental Quality's current regulations implementing NEPA. Therefore, the preparation of an environmental impact statement for this action is not warranted. This determination precedes the Corps of Engineers' final decision concerning this proposed action. A copy of this FONSI will be placed at the Brownsville Free Public Library and on the District's website (<http://www.lrp.usace.army.mil>).

30 OCT 08

Date



Michael P. Crall
Colonel, Corps of Engineers
District Engineer