



**September 24, 2025**

**Limited Environmental Review and Finding of No Significant Impact**

**Village of Bowerston – Harrison County  
Wastewater System Improvements  
Loan number: CS390182-0003**

The attached Limited Environmental Review (LER) is for a wastewater project in Bowerston 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,

Kathleen Courtright, Assistant Chief  
Division of Environmental and Financial Assistance

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## **LIMITED ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW**

### **Project Identification**

Project: Wastewater System Improvements

Applicant: Village of Bowerston  
205 Water Alley  
Bowerston, Ohio 44695

Loan Number: CS390182-0003

### **Project Summary**

The Village of Bowerston requested \$943,698 from the Water Pollution Control Loan Fund (WPCLF) for wastewater infrastructure improvements. The project is eligible for grant funding from other agencies for a total project cost of approximately \$6 million.

### **History & Existing Conditions**

The Village of Bowerston owns and operates the gravity wastewater collection system, installed in 1985, serving the area shown below in Figure 1. The system consists of approximately 17,500 linear feet (LF) of 8-inch diameter sewer pipe, 80 manholes, 4-inch diameter service laterals, and two major lift stations and grinder pump stations. The wastewater flows to an aerated lagoon wastewater treatment plant (WWTP), completed in 1987, that utilizes sand filters for disinfection. and has an average daily design capacity of 51,000 gallons per day (GPD). Treated wastewater discharges to Conotton Creek.

The WWTP requires a number of improvements to reduce operations and maintenance labor. Some of the equipment requires replacement to improve the efficiency of the system.

The collection system in some areas is vulnerable to ground water infiltration, which can result in higher flows sent to the WWTP during wet-weather events. Additionally, the manholes in many places have incorrect alignments and flow channels. Pump Station #1 is the main lift station to direct flows to the WWTP. The pump station has had challenges due to incorrect placement of pipes discharging to the station.



**Figure 1. Village of Bowerston wastewater collection system aerial photo**

### **Project Description**

This construction project will replace and repair sewer lines and manholes in the village's collection system, primarily with lining techniques. The village will line 9,500 LF of 8-inch diameter PVC gravity sewer pipe. A 2,900-foot section of 8-inch diameter pipe will be replaced.

Pump Station #1 will receive all new pumps and associated equipment. The other two pump stations in the village will also receive new pumps and associated equipment.

Improvements to the WWTP include:

- Replacement of influent bar screen with a new grinder vault and grinder.
- Draining and disposing sludge from the lagoon beds, followed by replacement of the blowers and airlines to the lagoons.
- Installation of surface sand filters for secondary treatment.
- Conversion of existing chlorine disinfection system to a UV disinfection system.
- Installation of a permanent emergency generator.

Figure 2 below provides an aerial view of the WWTP.



**Figure 2. Bowerston WWTP**

### **Implementation**

Bowerston expects to receive \$250,000 from the Appalachian Regional Commission, \$4.8 million from the Ohio Department of Development, and the balance of approximately \$1 million from the Ohio WPCLF. Through the WPCLF program, the village is eligible to receive a 0% hardship interest rate of 0% for a 30-year loan, compared to the market rate of 5.13%. Over the loan period, the village could save \$970,000.

The average annual residential wastewater bill in 2023 was \$784. The village began raising sewer rates in January 2023 and plans to raise by 3% in both 2026 and 2027.

Ohio EPA expects that the village will commence construction soon after loan award and complete work in about 16 months.

### **Public Participation**

This project has been discussed at village council meetings and future rate increases will be discussed in council meetings as well. Additionally, the rate increases will be published in the local newspaper and shared on the village 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 Bowerston to be made available according to their public notification

## **Conclusion**

The proposed project meets the criteria for an LER; namely, it is an action within an existing public wastewater collection and treatment system, which involves the functional replacement of and improvements to existing mechanical equipment and infrastructure. Furthermore, the project meets the other qualifying criteria for an LER; specifically, the proposed project:

**Will have no significant environmental effect and will require no specific impact mitigation** because the project is limited to prior disturbed areas in the village's collection system and at the WWTP site.

**Will have no effect on high-value environmental resources** because they are mainly absent from the project area.

**Is cost effective** because the village sought the advice of a different consultant, who suggested improvements that were significantly more cost effective than originally planned.

**Is not a controversial action** because the village has kept its residents informed of the project and its costs.

**Does not create a new, or relocate an existing discharge to surface or ground waters, 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, and will not provide capacity to serve a population substantially greater than the existing population** because the project will not impact discharges nor increase the capacity of the collection system or the WWTP.

Based upon Ohio EPA's review of the planning information and the materials presented in this Limited Environmental Review, 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.

The proposed project will result in improved wastewater collection and treatment in the

village. **Contact Information**

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