



Mike DeWine, Governor  
Jon Husted, Lt. Governor  
Laurie A. Stevenson, Director

April 1, 2022

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

**City of Rittman – Wayne County  
Sterling Avenue Lead Service Line Replacement  
Loan number: FS390798-0007**

The attached Limited Environmental Review (LER) is for a water treatment project in Rittman 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 LER describes the project, its costs, and expected environmental benefits. Making available this LER 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. This project's relatively narrow scope and lack of environmental impacts qualifies it for the LER rather than a more comprehensive Environmental Assessment. More information can be obtained by calling or writing the person named at the end of the attached LER.

Upon issuance of this 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*

Kathleen Courtright, Assistant Chief  
Division of Environmental and Financial Assistance

Attachment

## LIMITED ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

### **Project Identification**

Project: Sterling Avenue Lead Service Line Replacement

Applicant: City of Rittman  
30 North Main Street  
Rittman, Ohio 44270

Loan Number: FS390798-0007



**Figure 1. Wayne County**

### **Project Summary**

The City of Rittman in Wayne County (Figure 1) has requested \$789,800 in funding from the Ohio Water Supply Revolving Loan Account (WSRLA) to finance the Sterling Avenue Lead Service Line Replacement project. The project is intended to update aged drinking water infrastructure, reduce water losses with the distribution system, and protect human health by eliminating lead service water lines. Due to the nature of the project, environmental impacts will be minimal.

### **History & Existing Conditions**

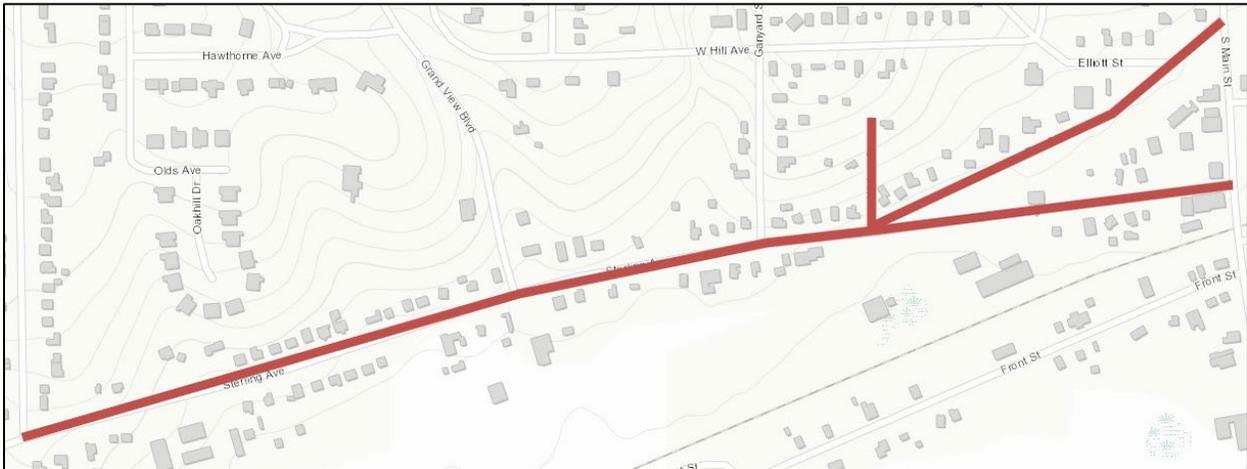
The City of Rittman owns and operates a sand filtration water treatment plant (WTP) that supplies on average 635,000 gallons of water per day to 6,506 customers. The water comes from a well field located approximately three miles outside of the city limits near Sterling. Constructed circa 1978, the plant has a rated capacity of 2.3 million gallons per day (MGD). Sand filters were added in 2006, and the granular media filter tanks were recently rehabilitated. The WTP currently does not show any obvious signs of needed capital improvements.

The city also owns and operates a water supply system comprised of nearly 40 miles of water mains and three storage tanks with a combined capacity of approximately 1,100,000 gallons. One standpipe and two elevated towers are fed from a singular 16-inch diameter transmission main routed from the plant approximately three miles along Sterling Road. The aged water mains experience frequent breaks and supply quality decline.

The water lines being replaced are up to 100 years old in some places, which has resulted in poor water quality, main breaks, and water loss. Additionally, a number of the water service lines contain lead, which can threaten public health. This project is part of the ongoing efforts of the City of Rittman to replace aging water mains and lead service lines.

### **Project Description**

The City of Rittman will replace approximately 4,900 feet of 6-inch water main and all lead service lines connected to the water main. The replacement will occur on Sterling Avenue from Main Street to the city corporation line, and also on Erie Street from Sterling Avenue to Elliot Street. See Figure 2 below for project area. In addition, the city will receive some funding from the Ohio Public Works Commission (OPWC) to repave Sterling Avenue after construction.



**Figure 2. Aerial view of project area. Red line shows where the water lines will be replaced.**

### **Implementation**

Rittman is eligible to receive principal forgiveness funding equal to the cost of lead service line replacements (estimated at \$200,000). The balance of project costs, approximately \$589,800, will be financed from the Ohio WSRLA at the Small Community Interest Rate (currently 0.29%); interest rates are set monthly and may change for a later loan award. Any potential additional grant funding would decrease correspondingly the WSRLA loan amount. Assuming a 20-year loan, borrowing this amount could save Rittman approximately \$133,200 over the life of the loan compared to the current market rate of 1.83%.

The average annual water bill for residents served by Rittman in 2021 was \$575. This is 1.2% of the median household income (MHI: \$48,698) and compares favorably to the Ohio average annual water bill, \$639.

No water rate increases are scheduled as a result of this project. Construction is scheduled to begin in June 2022 and to be completed in four months.

### **Public Participation**

Besides project updates in regular city council meetings, a specific project notification will be posted on the city website to inform residents. Additionally, residents will receive a letter in the mail 45 days prior to having water shut off for project work.

Rittman has drafted a work agreement that authorizes them to perform lead service line replacement on private property. As the water main is replaced, lead service lines on private properties will be identified. The homeowners will then be contacted by mail and phone to gain permission for the contractor to access the private property for the line replacement.

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

## **Conclusion**

The proposed project meets the project type criteria for a Limited Environmental Review (LER); namely, it is an action within an existing water treatment system, which involves the replacement of a watermain and lead services. Furthermore, the project meets the other qualifying criteria for an LER; specifically, the proposed project:

**Will have no significant environmental effect, will have no effect on high-value environmental resources, and will require no specific impact mitigation.** Replacement of the water mains and lead service lines will take place primarily in paved roads, curb lawns, sidewalks, and lawns within developed residential areas that lack important environmental resources. No tree removal is anticipated for this project. Standard construction best management practices will minimize erosion, dust, noise, and traffic disruptions.

**Is cost effective, is not a controversial action, and will not provide capacity to serve a population substantially greater than the existing population.** There is no viable alternative to replacing lead service lines or an aging water main prone to breaks. Ohio EPA is unaware of controversy about or opposition to this project. As this project is purely replacement, service will not be extended in any way nor provide additional capacity.

**Does not create a new, or relocate an existing, discharge to surface or ground waters, does not create a new source of water withdrawals from either surface or ground waters, or significantly increase the amount of water withdrawn from an existing water source, or substantially increase the volume of discharge or loading of pollutants from an existing source or from new facilities to receiving waters.** This project merely involves the replacement of water mains and lead service lines that serve existing customers; thus, there will be no impact on water withdrawal, treatment, discharge, source, or treatment capacity.

## **Contact information**

Anna Johnson  
Ohio EPA – DEFA  
P.O. Box 1049  
Columbus, OH 43215

[Anna.Johnson@epa.ohio.gov](mailto:Anna.Johnson@epa.ohio.gov)