

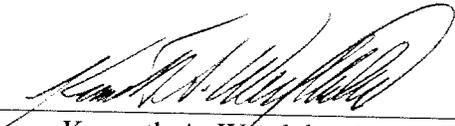


**UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION V
77 West Jackson Boulevard
Chicago, IL 60604**

**Environmental Assessment (EA) for the
Cottingham Estates Sewer Extension Project**

Town of Fishers, Indiana

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, as part of our National Environmental Policy Act and National Historic Preservation Act, Section 106 responsibilities, has independently evaluated the Workplan Review and supporting documentation for the project. This information forms the basis for the following EA. In preparing the EA, U.S. EPA and the Indiana Finance Authority relied in part on information prepared and submitted by the Town of Fishers and GRW, consultants for the Town of Fishers. This EA is now submitted for public review.

Signature  Date OCT 04 2010
Kenneth A. Westlake, Supervisor
NEPA Implementation
Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance



United States Environment Protection Agency
Region 5
77 West Jackson Blvd.
Chicago, IL 60604-3590

DRAFT FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

Cottingham Estates Sewer Extension **Town of Fishers, Indiana**

Project: Hamilton County is located in central Indiana. The subdivision of Cottingham Estates is currently served by septic systems, and faces the challenges of aging systems and soils rated severe for the proper operation of on-site sewage disposal systems. The proposed project will connect to the existing Hamilton Southeastern Utilities sanitary sewer system on both the north and south ends of Cottingham Estates. This project is located at E. 131st Street and Lantern Road. The proposed gravity sewers would be placed in the Town's right-of-way with laterals stubbed to the property lines for homeowners' connections. Each homeowner will be responsible for an estimated one-time fee of \$8,000 to connect to the main sewer.

Federal Grant: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) is proposing to issue a grant to assist in the implementation of the proposed Cottingham Estates Sewer Extension project. Because Federal grant funds will be utilized to assist in meeting the project's anticipated costs, the provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), which require an analysis of the project's potential to result in significant environmental impacts, are applicable to this project. The provisions of Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act are also applicable to this project, which require an analysis of the project's potential to have an adverse effect upon cultural resources and/or historic properties.

Analysis of Environmental Impact: The proposed improvements will not have direct impacts on environmental resources, with the exception of temporary disruption of the unnamed

headwater creek along 131st street. All lines will be placed beneath existing streets or in the disturbed areas immediately next to roads.

Letters of concurrence have been received from the Indiana Department of Natural Resources, the Indiana State Historic Preservation Officer, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. This correspondence affirms that wetlands or floodplains will not be permanently altered, significant tree impacts will not be realized, historic or archeological sites are not expected to be disturbed, and threatened or endangered species will not be affected.

Summary: The project is expected to result in negligible, long-term environmental impacts once construction and mitigation is completed. In addition, all applicable State and Local construction codes and best management practices designed to minimize harm as related to construction activities will be applied to this project and its implementation activities.

Grant Conditions / Required Mitigation: To limit project impacts, the following mitigation measures are recommended as conditions of the grant agreement:

- Revegetate all bare and disturbed areas with a mixture of grasses (excluding all varieties of tall fescue), legumes and native shrub and hardwood tree species as soon as possible upon completion.
- Implement appropriately designed measures for controlling erosion and sediment to prevent sediment from entering the stream or leaving the construction site. These measures will be maintained until construction is complete and all disturbed areas are stabilized.
- Seed and protect all disturbed streambanks and slopes that are 3:1 or steeper with erosion control blankets (follow manufacturer's recommendations for selection and installation) or use an appropriate structural armament; seed and apply mulch on all other disturbed areas.
- For any in-stream work that might occur within the headwater stream tributary, avoid disturbance within the stream channel during the fish spawning season (April 1 – June 30).

- For stream crossings, use directional drilling wherever possible, rather than using an excavated crossing.
- If any archeological artifacts, features, or human remains are uncovered during construction, report that discovery to the Department of Natural Resources, as required under state law (Indiana Code 14-21-1-27 & 29).
- Use best management practices to minimize traffic congestion, noise and dust pollution during construction.

Review/Comment Period: U.S. EPA is soliciting comments on the Cottingham Estates Sewer Extension project for a period of **thirty days (30)**, beginning October 12, 2010 on this draft Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI). The comment period ends on November 11, 2010 and comments postmarked after this date will not be accepted. Following completion of the 30-day draft FONSI review/comment period, U.S. EPA will evaluate any and all comments received on the project. If no comments are received that are sufficient to cause this Agency to change its position on the project and its anticipated environmental consequences, U.S. EPA will proceed with the remaining administrative actions on the grant application.

Submission of Comments: Comments on this project and its draft FONSI should be submitted in writing to the following address:

Amy Henninger
State Revolving Fund Loan Programs
Indiana Finance Authority
100 N Senate Ave, Rm 1275
Indianapolis, IN 46204

Point of Contact/Questions: Any questions on the project and this draft FONSI should be referred to Amy Henninger at (317) 232-6566.

