



State Revolving Fund Loan Programs Drinking Water, Wastewater, Nonpoint Source

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT AND FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

TOWN OF SOUTH WHITLEY EEL RIVER BANK STABILIZATION PROJECT PRELIMINARY ENGINEERING REPORT ADDENDUM #2 STATE REVOLVING FUND PROJECT # WW11 16 92 01

DATE: February 20, 2013

TARGET PROJECT APPROVAL DATE: March 22, 2013

I. INTRODUCTION

The above entity has applied to the State Revolving Fund (SRF) Loan Program for a loan to finance all or part of the wastewater project described in the Environmental Assessment (EA) attached to this Finding of No Significant Impact (FNSI). As part of facilities planning requirements, an environmental review has been completed which addresses the project's impacts on the natural and human environment. This review is summarized in the attached EA, which can also be viewed at <http://www.in.gov/ifa/srf/>.

II. PRELIMINARY FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT (FNSI)

The SRF has evaluated all pertinent environmental information regarding the proposed project and determined that an Environmental Impact Statement is not necessary. Subject to responses received during the 30-day public comment period, and pursuant to Indiana Code 4-4-11, it is our preliminary finding that the construction and operation of the proposed facilities will result in no significant adverse environmental impact. In the absence of significant comments, the attached EA shall serve as the final environmental document.

III. COMMENTS

All interested parties may comment upon the EA/FNSI. Comments must be received at the address below by the deadline date above. Significant comments may prompt a reevaluation of the preliminary FNSI; if appropriate, a new FNSI will be issued for another 30-day public comment period. A final decision to proceed, or not to proceed, with the proposed project shall be effected by finalizing, or not finalizing, the FNSI as appropriate. Comments regarding this document should be sent within 30 days to:

**Max Henschen
Senior Environmental Manager
State Revolving Fund -- IGCN 1275
100 N. Senate Ave.
Indianapolis, IN 46204
317-232-8623; mhensche at ifa.in.gov**

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

I. PROJECT IDENTIFICATION

Project Name and Address:	Eel River Bank Stabilization Preliminary Engineering Report Addendum # 2 Town of South Whitley 118 E. Front Street South Whitley, IN 46787
SRF Project Number:	WW11 16 92 01
Authorized Representative:	Mr. Tony Starkey, Town Council President

II. PROJECT LOCATION

South Whitley is located in Whitley County. The town's Eel River bank project area is located along the west bank of the Eel River from the South State Bridge (State Roads 5 & 14) to the wastewater treatment plant (WWTP), approximately 1200 feet downstream. The project area is located in the South Whitley West USGS topographic quadrangle in Cleveland Township, T30N, R8E, section 4 (Figure 1).

III. PROJECT NEED AND PURPOSE

The town has two combined sewer overflows (CSOs): CSO 002 at the intersection of Wayne and State Streets and CSO 003 at 118 East Front Street; both CSOs discharge to the Eel River.

In an effort to reduce the volume and frequency the CSOs per an Agreed Order with the Indiana Department of Environmental Management, the town will replace a 12-inch interceptor with a new 24-inch interceptor to convey a peak flow of 4.4 million gallons per day. The SRF approved the replacement project on September 29, 2011; the Indiana Office of Community and Rural Affairs conducted the environmental review.

During installation of the new interceptor, the contractor became concerned about erosion of the west bank of the Eel River. The contractor fears that once the interceptor is installed, it could be exposed due to further erosion and likely damaged, with the potential for a catastrophic event.

The recommended alternative is to use bio-engineering to stabilize approximately 1,200 feet of the west bank of the Eel River.

IV. PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The proposed bioengineered bank stabilization will include riprap, live stakes, a custom native seed mix with erosion control blankets to hold soil, and shrubs to repopulate plant growth. The riprap will be keyed into the stream bed at its base and conform to the existing bank. Selected trees along the west embankment will be removed. Sections along the river embankment with steep slopes, embankment undercuts, and eroded shelves will be graded to reduce further erosion.

V. ESTIMATED PROJECT COSTS, AFFORDABILITY AND FUNDING

A. Selected Plan Estimated Cost Summary

<u>Construction Components</u>	<u>Costs</u>
General Conditions	\$ 14,000
Layout	4,025
Clearing	19,000
Stripping	2,300
Topsoil Redistribution	2,000
Excavation Hauled Off Site	98,000
Limestone Riprap, INDOT Class 1	392,000
Erosion Blanket	8,400
6-Inch Round Top Staples	4,480
Custom Seed Mix	1,438
Potted Shrubs, Installed	14,157
Live Stakes, Installed	<u>6,240</u>
Construction Subtotal	\$566,040
Contingencies	<u>56,560</u>
Total Estimated Construction Cost	\$622,600
<u>Non-Construction Costs</u>	
Engineering Design	\$ 15,000
Construction Inspection	<u>15,000</u>
Non-Construction Subtotal	\$ 30,000
Total Estimated Project Cost	\$652,600

B. South Whitley closed on a \$3,340,000 loan with the State Revolving Fund (SRF) Loan program on December 14, 2011. The town is currently seeking additional funding sources for the bank stabilization project, since the SRF loan did not anticipate this expense.

VI. DESCRIPTION OF EVALUATED ALTERNATIVES

A. Two alternatives were evaluated for the proposed bank stabilization project:

1. "No-Action": This alternative was rejected since the river bank will continue to erode causing siltation to accumulate in the Eel River.
2. Gabion Baskets: This alternative consists of welded steel mesh baskets filled with stone placed along the river embankment. This alternative was rejected due to high cost.

3. Bioengineered System: This alternative will stabilize the river bank from the South State Street Bridge (State Road 5/14) downstream to the WWTP. Based on reliability and cost, this was the selected alternative.

VII. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS OF THE FEASIBLE ALTERNATIVES

A. Direct Impacts of Construction and Operation

Disturbed and Undisturbed Areas: The proposed project will occur on previously disturbed land.

Structural Resources (Figure 2): Work will occur adjacent to the State Road 5/14, listed as a "Notable" structure in the Whitley County Interim Report, Indiana Historic Sites and Structures Inventory. Construction and operation of the project will not alter, demolish or remove historic properties. If any visual or audible impacts to historic properties occur, they will be temporary and will not alter the characteristics that qualify such properties for inclusion in or eligibility for the National Register of Historic Places. The SRF's finding pursuant to the Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, is: "no historic properties affected."

Plants and Animals: The proposed project will not impact state or federal-listed endangered species or their habitat. Some trees and shrubs will be removed.

Prime Farmland: The proposed project will not cause a conversion of prime farmland.

Wetlands: The Eel River is a riverine wetland. Impacts to the river during construction will be kept to a minimum.

100-Year Floodplain: The project will occur in the 100-year floodplain. A permit for construction will be required by the appropriate environmental agencies.

Surface Waters: The Eel River is on the Outstanding Rivers list, but construction impacts will be temporary.

Groundwater: There will be no significant impact to local wells or the water table. Dewatering will not be required and the work will have no significant impact on the water table.

Air Quality: Dust will be produced during construction activities.

Open Space and Recreational Opportunities: The proposed project's construction and operation will neither create nor destroy open space and recreational opportunities.

The construction and operation of the proposed project will not affect National Natural Landmarks.

B. Indirect Impacts

The town's Preliminary Engineering Report (PER) addendum states: *The riverbank stabilization project is being performed in order to protect the Eel River from degradation due to bank erosion and siltation. The riverbank stabilization will not lead to growth and development along the Eel*

River. Any new projects along the Eel River will be conducted within the guidelines of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife service, IDNR, IDEM, and other environmental authorities.

C. Comments from Environmental Review Authorities

The Indiana Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) Division of Historic Preservation and Archaeology, in correspondence dated February 19, 2013, stated:

Pursuant to IC 13-18-21 and 327 IAC 14 and Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (16 U.S.C. § 470f) and 36 C.F.R. Part 800, the Indiana State Historic Preservation Officer ("Indiana SHPO") is conducting an analysis of the materials dated and received by the Indiana SHPO on February 11, 2013, for the above indicated project in South Whitley, Whitley County, Indiana.

Based on our analysis, it has been determined that no historic properties will be altered, demolished, or removed by the proposed project. This identification is subject to the following condition:

- The project activities remain within areas disturbed by previous construction.*

If any archaeological artifacts, features, or human remains are uncovered during construction, state law (Indiana Code 14-21-1-27 & 29) requires that the discovery must be reported to the Department of Natural Resources within two business days.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, in email correspondence dated February 11, 2013, noted that it was familiar with the project through the wetland permitting consultative process with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers; the Service noted that the river bank *obviously needs stabilization. There isn't any Indiana bat or endangered mussel habitat in that area.*

The National Resources Conservation Service, in correspondence dated November 28, 2010, that the sewer project would not affect prime farmland.

We have not yet received comments from the IDNR Environmental Unit.

VIII. MITIGATION MEASURES

The town's PER addendum lists the following mitigation measures:

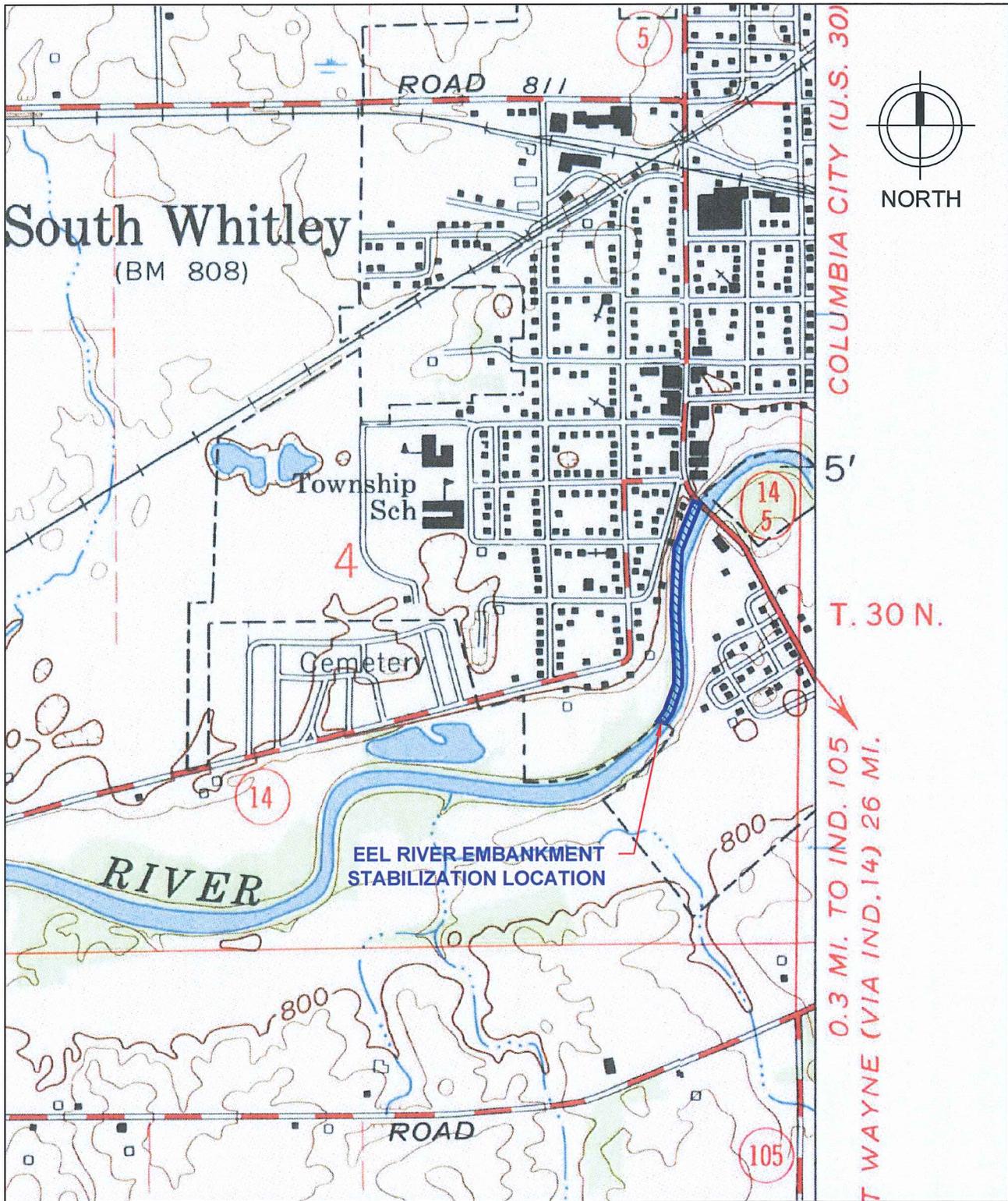
- A. Shrubs, live stakes, and native grass seed will be placed on the banks to minimize the impact on the wooded and scrub/shrub areas.*
- B. Erosion control geo-textile mats will be used.*
- C. The project will be designed and constructed per approved regulatory requirements and permits for stormwater, erosion, and sedimentation control; limiting the disturbance to the project area and preventing any impact to the adjacent historical structures and/or sites.*
- D. Mitigation measures cited in comment letters from the Indiana Department of Natural Resources and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will be implemented.*

E. If dust control is needed, it will be provided by the application of water and/or dust palliative during dry and dusty periods.

F. Construction activities will only be allowed during the Town of South Whitley's approved hours to limit the adverse effect of noise to the residents near the construction areas.

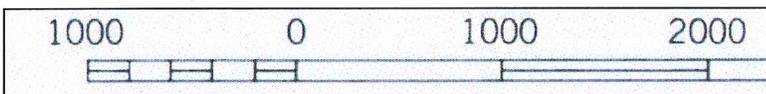
IX. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

A public hearing was held at the South Whitley Town Hall at 6:30 p.m. on January 22, 2013 to discuss the Preliminary Engineering Report addendum. The public raised questions relating to cost, route, and cause of the bank erosion. The town did not receive any written comments during the 5-day post-hearing comment period.



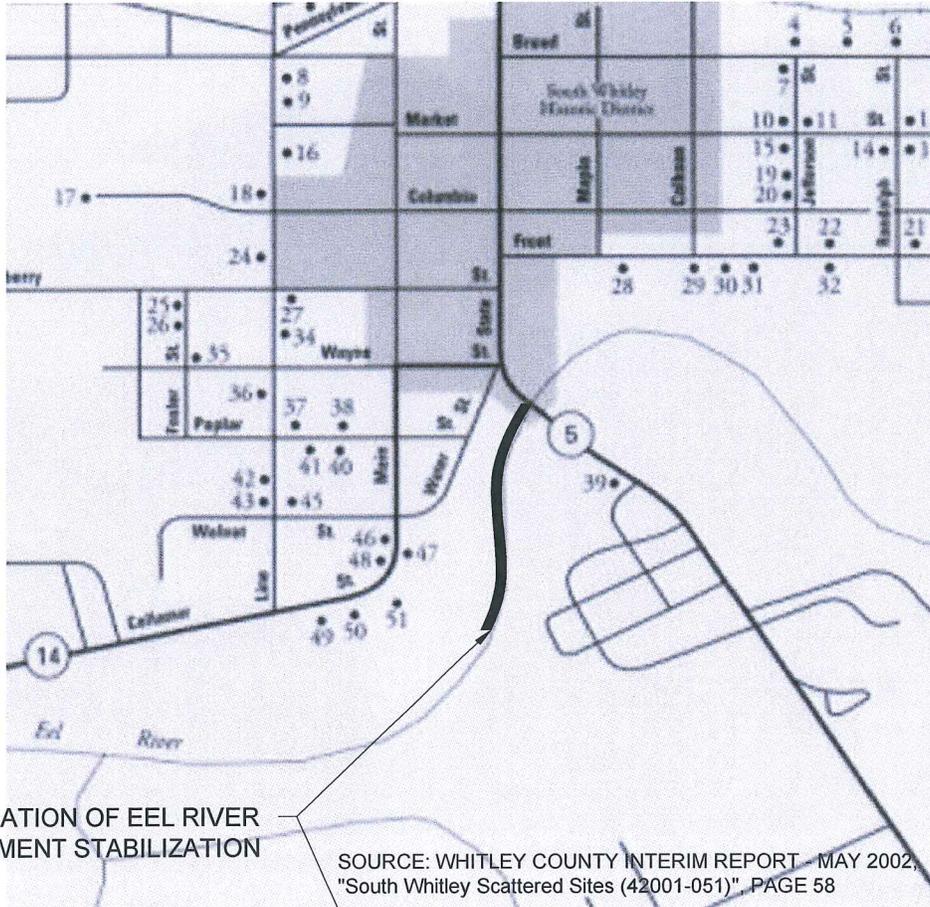
SOURCE: USGS - SOUTH WHITLEY, WEST

SCALE (FEET)



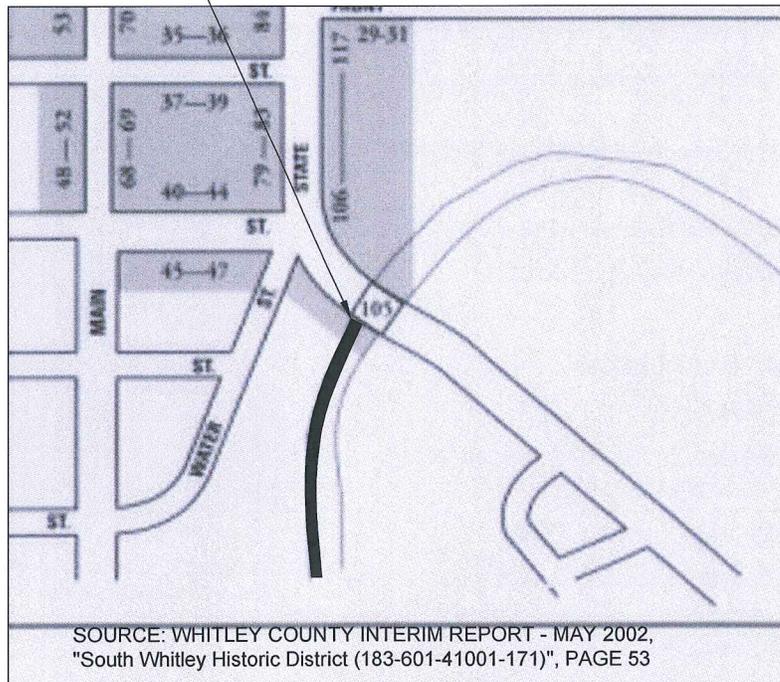
SOUTH WHITLEY
WHITLEY COUNTY, INDIANA

USGS MAP
FIGURE 1 - PER ADDENDUM #2



LOCATION OF EEL RIVER
EMBANKMENT STABILIZATION

SOURCE: WHITLEY COUNTY INTERIM REPORT - MAY 2002,
"South Whitley Scattered Sites (42001-051)", PAGE 58



SOURCE: WHITLEY COUNTY INTERIM REPORT - MAY 2002,
"South Whitley Historic District (183-601-41001-171)", PAGE 53



SOUTH WHITLEY
WHITLEY COUNTY, INDIANA

HISTORIC SITES & STRUCTURES

FIGURE 3 - PER ADDENDUM #2