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

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT AND FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

CITY OF HUNTINGTON
Fiber Optic Cable Installation
PER Addendum #2
SRF PROJECT WW 11 15 35 03

DATE: February 24, 2014

TARGET PROJECT APPROVAL DATE: March 27, 2014

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 projects described in the accompanying 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 Clean Water Program 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 target approval 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:

April Douglas
Senior Environmental Manager
State Revolving Fund
100 N. Senate Ave. IGCN 1275
Indianapolis, IN 46204
317-234-7294; adouglas at ifa.in.gov

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

I. Project Identification

Project Name and Address:	**Fiber Optic Cable Installation** **Preliminary Engineering Report (PER) Addendum #2** City of Huntington 300 Cherry Street Huntington, IN 47371
SRF Project Number:	WW 11 15 35 03
Authorized Representative:	Brooks Fetters, Mayor

II. Project Location

The project is located in Huntington County, Huntington Township on the Andrews USGS 1:24K Quadrangle in Township 28N, Range 9E, Section 21.

III. Project Need and Purpose

The proposed project includes an extension of the fiber optic conduit that is currently planned along a proposed interceptor sewer route along Frederick Street to the Publicly Owned Treatment Works (POTW); the installation of the conduit will require a river crossing. The fiber optic network will then be able to tie in to the fiber optic network that is being installed at the POTW. The fiber optic cable system will provide reliable communications between the POTW and the flow monitoring equipment at CSO 005 and CSO 007.

IV. Project Description

The proposed work includes providing underground fiber optic cables in conduit crossing underneath the Little River by directional drilling, beginning near the existing diversion structure on William Street and ending at the POTW property. An in-ground vault will be added at the POTW end of the river crossing for the splicing and distribution hub panels. See Figure 1.

V. Estimated Project Costs, Affordability and Funding

The estimated cost of the project is $41,000. Huntington will use funds from its existing SRF loan to pay for the projects. Monthly user rates will not have to be adjusted.

VI. Description of Evaluated Alternatives

The **"No Action"** alternative would result in a lack of connection between the new fiber optic network being installed along the Frederick Street Interceptor Project and the fiber optic network that has been installed at the POTW. This would result in the inability to provide communications between the POTW and the flow monitoring equipment at CSO 005 and CSO 007. Therefore, this alternative is not recommended.

Fiber Optic Cable Installation: This is the selected alternative to allow reliable communications between the POTW and the flow monitoring equipment at CSO 005 and CSO 007.

VII. Environmental Impacts of the Feasible Alternatives

A. Direct Impacts of Construction and Operation

Disturbed/Undisturbed Land (Figure 2): An approximate 45-foot long extension of the fiber optic conduit will be installed by open cut in green space adjacent to the existing diversion structure on William Street. This conduit will extend from the cable vault on the south side of the river to the point where directional drilling underneath the river will begin. This area was previously disturbed by the installation of the 72-inch sanitary sewer that currently crosses underneath the Little River to the POTW. The cable vault on the north side of the river will be constructed on land that has been previously disturbed for construction at the POTW. It is not anticipated that borrow areas will be required.

The remainder of the fiber optic cable conduit will be installed underneath the Little River by directional drilling.

Structural Resources: The proposed project will not affect historic sites or districts, including sites on or eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places, according to the Huntington County Interim Report and the historic sites information on the website of the Indiana Department of Natural Resources Division of Historic Preservation and Archaeology. The SRF's finding pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act is: "*no historic properties affected.*" See Figure 2.

Surface Waters: The Little River is listed on the Indiana Natural Resources Commission Information Bulletin #4 (Second Amendment) as an Outstanding River. This project will not adversely affect outstanding state resource waters listed in 327 IAC2-1.3-3(d) and 327 IAC 2-1.5-19(b), exceptional use streams listed in 327 IAC 2-1-11, or Natural, Scenic and Recreational Rivers and Streams listed in 312 IAC 7-2.

Wetlands (Figure 3): The Little River is a riverine wetland, but directional drilling will not affect it.

Floodplain: The project will not impact the floodplain.

Groundwater: Groundwater will not be impacted by the construction or operation of the proposed project.

Plants and Animals: Huntington's Frederick Street PER Addendum #2 states: *The construction and operation of the proposed PER Addendum No. 2 project items will not negatively impact state or federal-listed threatened or endangered species or their habitat. It is not believed that the removal of trees will be required.*

The proposed PER Addendum No. 2 project items will be implemented to minimize impact to non- endangered species and their habitat. Mitigation measures cited in comment letters from the Indiana Department of Natural Resources and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will be implemented.

Prime Farmland: The project will not affect prime farmland.

Air Quality: Construction activities may generate some noise, fumes and dust, but should not significantly affect air quality.

Open Space and Recreational Opportunities: The project will neither create nor destroy open space or recreational opportunities.

National Natural Landmarks: Construction and operation of the proposed project will not affect National Natural Landmarks.

B. Indirect Impacts

The city's PER states: *The City, through the authority of its Council, planning commission, or other means will ensure that future development, as well as future wastewater treatment works projects connecting to SRF funded facilities, will not adversely impact archaeological/historical/structural resources, wetlands, wooded areas, or other sensitive environmental resources. The City will require new development and treatment works projects to be constructed within the guidelines of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, IDNR, IDEM, and other environmental review authorities.*

C. Comments from Environmental Review Authorities

In correspondence dated January 14, 2014, the Indiana Department of Natural Resources Division of Historic Preservation and Archaeology stated:

> *Pursuant to IC 13-18-21 and 327JAC 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 December 17, 2013, for the above indicated project in Huntington, Huntington County, Indiana.*
>
> *In regard to buildings and structures, we have identified the following properties within the probable area of potential effects, and we believe that they meet the criteria of eligibility for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places:*
>
> *Elmwood Park Pavilion, 1110 William Street (site #069-016-28140 per the Huntington County Interim Report)*
>
> *Russell Carey House, 1058 William Street (site #069-016-28141 per the Huntington County Interim Report)*

Additionally, we have identified the following property within the probable area of potential effects, and we believe that it meets the criteria of eligibility for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places due to their historical and architectural significance:

Drover Town Historic District, (Site #069-379-27001-27213) per the Huntington County Interim Report)

However, based on the information provided to our office, we do not believe that there will be any alterations to the characteristics of the above identified historic properties qualifying them for inclusion in or eligibility for the National Register (see 36 C.F.R § &00.16[i]).

In terms of archaeology, no currently known archaeological resources eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places have been recorded within the proposed project area. No archaeological investigations appear necessary provided that all project activities remain within areas disturbed by previous construction.

If any archaeological artifacts or human remains are uncovered during construction, demolition, or earthmoving activities, state law (Indiana Code 14-21-1-27 & 29) requires that the discovery must be reported to the Department of Natural Resources within two (2) business days.

In correspondence dated December 20, 2013, the United States Fish and Wildlife Service stated:

These comments have been prepared under the authority of the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act (l6 U.S.C. 661 et. seq.) and are consistent with the intent of the National Environmental Policy Act of l969, the Endangered Species Act of l973, and the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Mitigation Policy.

The proposed project will have no effect on wetlands or other significant habitat types. Project impacts are expected to be minor in nature. Based on a review of the information you provided, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has no objections to the project as currently proposed. This precludes the need for further consultation on this project as required under Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended. However, should new information arise pertaining to project plans or a revised list be published, it will be necessary for the Federal agency to reinitiate consultation.

In correspondence dated January 10, 2014, the Department of Natural Resources Environmental Unit stated:

Our agency offers the following comments for your information and in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969.

If our agency has regulatory jurisdiction over the project, the recommendations contained in this letter may become requirements of any permit issued. If we do not have permitting authority, all recommendations are voluntary.

Regulatory Assessment: This proposal will require the formal approval for construction in a floodway under the Flood Control Act, IC 14-28-1, unless it qualifies for a general license under Administrative Rule 3121AC 10-5 that applies to utility line crossings (see enclosure). Please include a copy of this letter with the permit application if the project does not meet the general license criteria. Natural Heritage Database: The Natural Heritage Program's data

have been checked. To date, no plant or animal species listed as state or federally threatened, endangered, or rare have been reported to occur in the project vicinity.

Fish & Wildlife Comments: Avoid and minimize impacts to fish, wildlife, and botanical resources to the greatest extent possible, and compensate for impacts. The following are recommendations that address potential impacts identified in the proposed project area:

1) Line Placement: The line along Williams Street is to be installed using the open cut method. There appears to be a narrow grass buffer between the roadway and forest edge. If possible, the line should be placed within the grass buffer or under the roadway to avoid impacts to the forested area.

2) Directional Boring: The locations of the drill pits for the use of the directional drill method under Little River were not provided. If possible, drill pits should be located in existing disturbed areas with no woody vegetation. Equip directional drilling pits with erosion controls such as silt fencing or other appropriate methods such that mud does not leave the immediate area of the pit or enter the river.

3) Riparian Habitat: We recommend a mitigation plan be developed (and submitted with the permit application, if required) if habitat impacts will occur. The DNR's Floodway Habitat Mitigation guidelines (and plant lists) can be found online at: http://www.in.gov/legislative/iac/20i20801-IR-312120434NRA.xml.pdf.

Impacts that remove trees from a non-wetland, riparian area should be mitigated. Impacts to non-wetland forest over one (1) acre should be mitigated at a minimum 2:1 ratio. If less than one acre of non-wetland forest is removed in a rural setting, replacement should be at a 1:1 ratio based on area. Impacts to non-wetland forest under one (1) acre in an urban setting should be mitigated by planting five trees, at least 2 inches in diameter-at-breast height (dbh), for each tree which is removed that is 10" dbh or greater {5:1 mitigation based on the number of large trees).

A native riparian forest mitigation plan should use at least 5 canopy trees and 5 understory trees or shrubs selected from the Woody Riparian Vegetation list or an approved equal. A native riparian fore.st mitigation plan for impacts of less than one acre in an urban area may involve fewer numbers of species and sizes of trees, depending on the level of impact. Additionally, a native herbaceous seed mixture should be planted consisting of at least 10 species of grasses, sedges, and wildflowers selected from the Herbaceous Riparian Vegetation list or an approved equal.

4) Exposed Soil: All exposed soil areas should be stabilized with temporary or permanent vegetation by November 1. Between November 1 and April1, all exposed soils idle for longer than 7 days should be stabilized with erosion control blankets or with a bonded fiber matrix hydro-mulch. Sites should be protected from seasonal flooding by keeping traffic areas covered with stone and soil stockpiles seeded, stable and contained with silt fencing.

The additional measures listed below should be implemented to avoid, minimize, or compensate for impacts to fish, wildlife, and botanical resources:

1. 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.

2. Minimize and contain within the project limits inchannel disturbance and the clearing of trees and brush.

3. Do not work in the waterway from April 1through June 30 without the prior written approval of the Division of Fish and Wildlife.

4. Do not cut any trees suitable for Indiana bat roosting (greater than 3 inches dbh, living or dead, with loose hanging bark) from April 1 through September 30.

5. Do not excavate in the low flow area except for the placement of piers, foundations, and riprap, or removal of the old structure.

6. Use minimum average 6 inch graded riprap stone extended below the normal water level to provide habitat for aquatic organisms in the voids.

7. If the project involves removal of a woody riparian strip in the floodway in excess of 50 feet in width, it must be mitigated and/or replanted with woody vegetation native to the area.

8. Minimize the movement of resuspended bottom sediment from the immediate project area.

9. Appropriately designed measures for controlling erosion and sediment must be implemented to prevent sediment from entering the stream or leaving the construction site; maintain these measures until construction is complete and all disturbed areas are stabilized.

10. 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); seed and apply mulch on all other disturbed areas.

VIII. Mitigation Measures

City of Huntington's Frederick Street Addendum 2 states:

The following measures are recommended to mitigate potential adverse environmental impacts during the construction of the project:

- *Implement appropriate temporary erosion control measures (straw bale barriers, silt fencing, etc.) to prevent soil runoff leaving the construction site.*

- *Implement all applicable water pollution control measures specified in the Indiana State Highway Standard Specifications (latest version).*

- *Maintain all equipment to manufacturer's specifications to minimize construction noise, and where appropriate utilize temporary noise barriers to reduce noise levels.*

- *Minimize fugitive dust from construction activities by wetting the construction area periodically and constructing wind barriers or treating with chemical stabilizers if necessary.*

- *The open burning of debris (i.e., trees and shrubs) shall not be allowed unless a permit is obtained from the Indiana State Air Pollution Control Division for such activities.*

- *The contactor shall abide by the rules governing asbestos notification, handling, disposal and contractor licensing should such material be encountered.*

- *Construction waste shall be disposed of by the contractor at an acceptable waste disposal landfill. If contaminated soils (including PCB's) are discovered during the project, they may be subject to disposal as either special or hazardous waste.*

Air Quality Impacts

Construction operations for the proposed PER Addendum No. 2 project items are likely to result in dust and noise at various points during the installation of the proposed facilities. The project contract documents specify the use of dust control practices. Construction activities will also be limited to normal working hours to minimize disturbance to the surrounding neighborhoods. Sound barriers may be temporarily installed if noise pollution becomes a serious problem, but it is not expected that this condition will occur.

IX. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

The city placed a public notice in the Huntington Herald Press on February 2, 2014 describing the proposed projects.

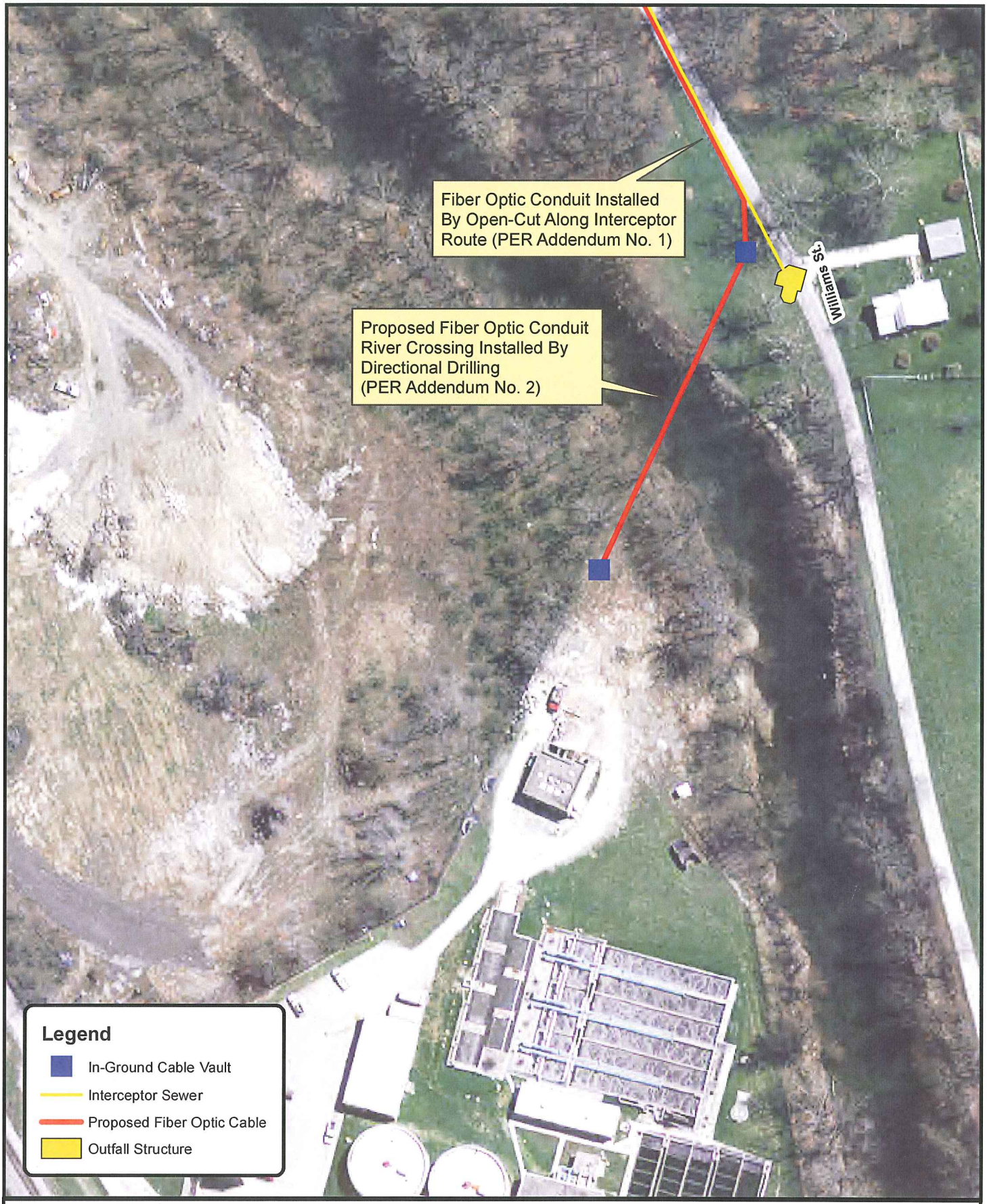
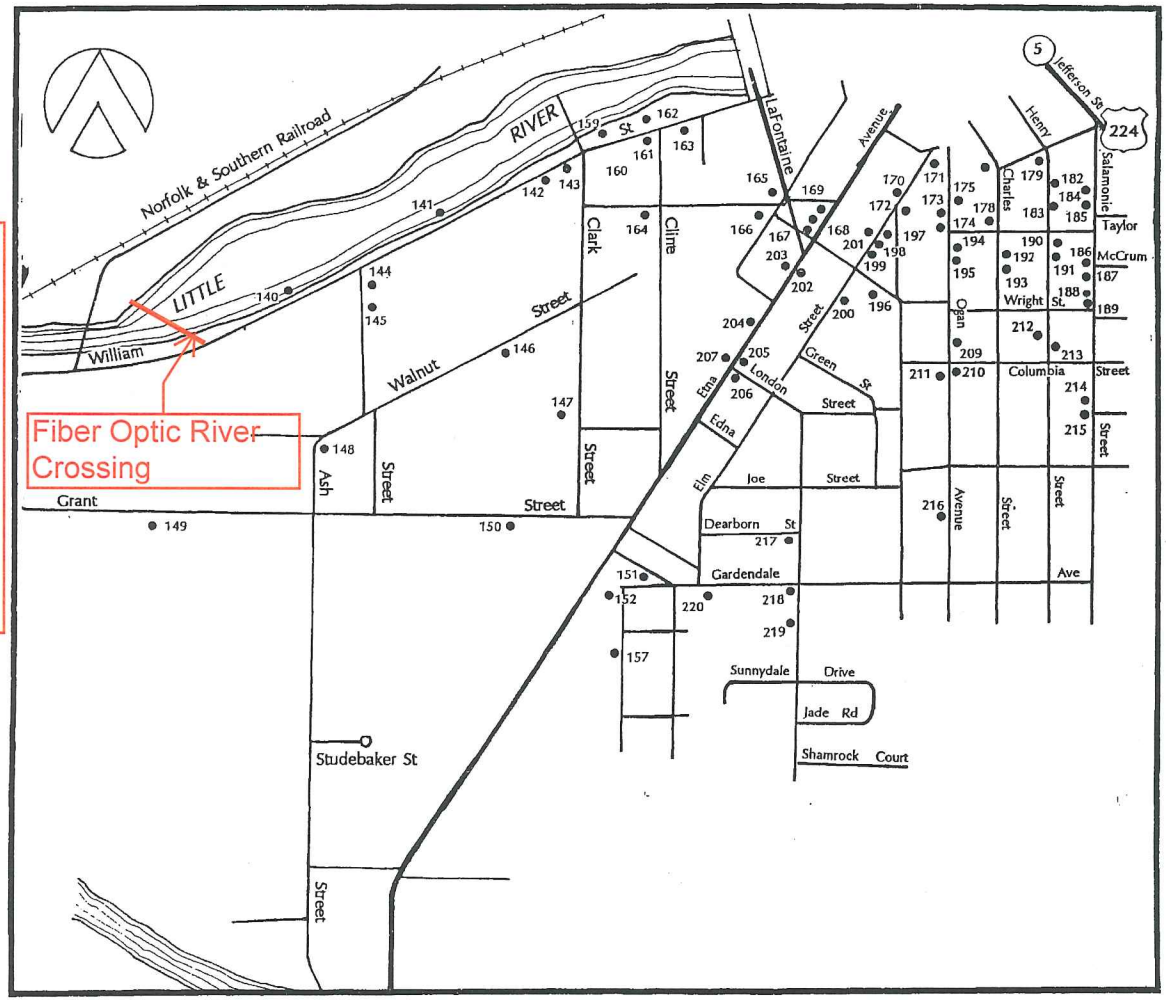


Figure 1
PER Addendum #2
Huntington, Indiana

BERNARDIN LOCHMUELLER & ASSOCIATES, INC.
3502 Woodview Trace, Suite 150
Indianapolis, IN 46268
Phone: (317) 222-3880

HUNTINGTON SCATTERED SITES NO. ④
(28140 - 28221)

Figure 2
IR Map - PER Addendum #2



140 N ELMWOOD PARK PAVILION, 1110 William St.; Craftsman; c.1935; Architecture, Entertainment/Recreation, Social History (016)

141 N RUSSELL CAREY HOUSE, 1058 William St.; Spanish Colonial Revival; c.1930; Architecture (016)

142 C HOUSE, 963 William St.; Vernacular/I-House; c.1880; Exploration/Settlement, Vernacular/Construction (049)

143 C HOUSE, 919 William St.; Italianate; c.1880; Architecture (049)

144 C HOUSE, 405 Hasty St.; Eastlake Cottage; c.1900; Architecture (016)

145 C HOUSE, 425 Hasty St.; Craftsman; c.1920; Architecture (016)

146 C HOUSE, 1369 Walnut St.; Craftsman; c.1920; Architecture (016)

147 O FAHL FARM AND POLYGONAL BARN, 706 Clark St.; Queen Anne House/Polygonal Barn; c.1895/c.1910; Vernacular/ Construction (016)

From the Huntington County Interim Report Historic Sites and Structures Inventory