



State Revolving Fund Loan Programs

Drinking Water, Wastewater, Nonpoint Source

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT AND FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

NEWPORT CHEMICAL DEPOT REUSE AUTHORITY SEWER AND WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT STATE REVOLVING FUND PROJECT # WW14 14 83 01

DATE: May 20, 2014

TARGET PROJECT APPROVAL DATE: June 19, 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 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.

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 target project approval date. 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
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State Revolving Fund -- IGCN 1275
100 N. Senate Ave.
Indianapolis, IN 46204
317-232-8623
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ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

I. PROJECT IDENTIFICATION

Project Name and Address: **Newport Chemical Depot Reuse Authority
Sewer and WWTP Improvements**
259 Vine Street
Clinton, IN 47842

SRF Project Number: WW14 14 83 01

Authorized Representative: William Laubernds, Executive Director

II. PROJECT LOCATION

The repurposed Newport Chemical Depot is located in Vermillion County, Vermillion Township, two miles southwest of the town of Newport. The project to make improvements at the wastewater treatment plant (WWTP) and in the sewer system will occur in the Dana USGS 7.5' quadrangle, Township 16 North, Range 9 West, west ½ of Section 9.

III. PROJECT NEED AND PURPOSE

The collection system is a 100-percent sanitary sewer system with one permitted bypass point (Outfall 005) at the end of the chlorine contact tank. The sewer system consists of the west branch and north branch main trunk lines, which were installed in 1942; only the north branch is active. A 1990 sewer study resulted in a 15-year replacement and lining program. A 2013 sewer study identified more line segments and manholes to be repaired, replaced or rehabilitated. The sewer system has a significant amount of infiltration/inflow, resulting in weak influent strength at the WWTP.

The WWTP is an activated sludge treatment facility that was constructed in 1942 and expanded in 1970. It has an average design capacity of 194,000 gallons per day (gpd) and a peak flow of 540,000 gpd. The WWTP consists of a bar screen, a comminutor, primary settling tank, three aeration tanks, secondary settling tank, sludge digester, and chlorination/dechlorination disinfection.

WWTP control modifications were completed in 1994 and consisted of an autodialer and an annunciator panel mounted in the blower building; replacement of the manual actuators with electrical actuators for the secondary clarifier telescopic valves; and an automated system for the chlorination/dechlorination process.

Only three users send flows to the WWTP. A fourth user, the Vermillion County Jail, whose wastewater disposal system also serves the highway administration building, will connect to the Newport Chemical Reuse Depot system in the near future.

Currently the WWTP receives an average daily flow of approximately of 30,000 gpd, but experiences flows from 50,000 gpd to 100,000 gpd during storms. The proposed sewer project will reduce wet weather flows by rehabilitating or replacing defective sewers, cleanouts and manholes.

At the WWTP, the bar screen, comminutor, and a number of process valves and pumps are inoperable. Electrical equipment is outdated and needs replacement.

IV. PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The proposed manhole and sewer rehabilitation project includes: replacing approximately 768 feet of 8-inch sanitary sewer; replacing approximately 95 feet of 12-inch sanitary sewer; repairing approximately 26 manholes; performing approximately 12 sanitary sewer point repairs; and repairing approximately two cleanouts. See Figure 1.

The proposed WWTP improvements include: replacing the bar screen in-kind; replacing the comminutor in-kind; replacing the process valves, replacing pumps in-kind, and replacing the electrical equipment (i.e., panels, motor control centers, and disconnects). See Figure 2.

V. ESTIMATED PROJECT COSTS, AFFORDABILITY AND FUNDING

A. Selected Plan Estimated Cost Summary

<u>Construction Components</u>	<u>Cost</u>
Sewer System Improvements	\$ 271,400
Bar Screen & Comminutor Replacement	50,000
Process Valve Replacement	25,000
Valve and Pump Repairs	75,000
Electrical Equipment Replacement	<u>150,000</u>
Total Construction Costs	\$ 571,400
Contingency	<u>63,140</u>
	\$ 634,540
 <u>Non-Construction Costs</u>	
Sanitary Sewer Study	\$ 54,200
Design and Construction Engineering	<u>138,200</u>
	\$ 192,400
 Total Project Costs	 \$ 826,940

B. The Newport Chemical Depot Reuse Authority will borrow approximately \$1,793,440 from the State Revolving Fund (SRF) Loan Program for a 20-year term at a fixed interest rate to be determined at loan closing. This loan amount also includes the \$966,500 Vermillion County Jail project; that project's Preliminary Engineering Report was approved on May 7, 2014.

VI. DESCRIPTION OF EVALUATED ALTERNATIVES

Sewer System Improvements: The Authority rejected the "No-action" alternative for the collection system and WWTP, since the documented problems would only get worse.

The rehabilitation of the manholes and sewers identified in the 2013 Sewer Study as being high and moderate priority was the selected alternative.

WWTP Improvements: The Authority rejected the “No Action” alternative since the deficient equipment would continue to create problems which would affect the treatment process and cause the WWTP to violate its National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permit effluent limits.

The replacement of the bar screen, comminutor, process valves, pumps, and electrical equipment at the WWTP was the selected alternative. The Authority will implement these improvements over a 3-year period.

VII. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS OF THE FEASIBLE ALTERNATIVES

A. Direct Impacts of Construction and Operation

Undisturbed/Disturbed Land: Construction will occur within existing structures at the WWTP and inside existing sewer trenches, pipes, manholes, and cleanouts.

Structural Resources: The project will not affect historic sites. The project will avoid affecting the Memorial Garden Cemetery on the far south of the project. 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 Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act is: *“no historic properties affected.”*

Plants and Animals: The sewer work between manholes S80 and S82 will require tree removal of up to 6000 ft² (0.14 acres) of trees and a 20-foot construction corridor.

Wetlands: The proposed project will not negatively affect wetlands.

100-Year Floodplain: The project will not affect nor be affected by the 100-year floodplain.

Surface Waters: The project will require a crossing of Little Raccoon Creek via open cut or trenchless technology. The Newport Chemical Depot Reuse Authority’s Preliminary Engineering Report (PER) states that if an open cut crossing is used, *one option to mitigate siltation is to create a dry work area by damming and diverting the creek flow. All water pumped from the work area can be filtered prior to being reintroduced downstream.*

Groundwater: There should be no effect on groundwater by the WWTP and sewer improvements projects.

Air Quality: Dust and noise will be a temporary impact during the projects’ implementation.

Open Space and Recreational Opportunities: The proposed projects’ construction and operation will neither create nor destroy open space or recreational opportunities.

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

B. Indirect Impacts

The PER states: *The Authority, through the authority of its council, planning commission or other means, will ensure that future development, as well as future wastewater infrastructure projects connecting to SRF-funded facilities, will not adversely affect wetlands, wooded areas, steep slopes,*

archaeological/historical/structural resources, or other sensitive environmental resources. The Authority 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

The sewer and WWTP improvements projects are exempt from the Farmland Protection Policy Act, since no direct or indirect conversion of prime farmland will occur as a result of the projects' implementation.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, in correspondence dated May 16, 2014, stated:

These comments are consistent with the intent of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, the Endangered Species Act of 1973, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Mitigation Policy.

The proposed project includes work to existing structures at the wastewater treatment plant and sewer rehabilitation and replacement. The proposed sewer work will require approximately 0.14 acres of tree removal and crossing of Little Raccoon Creek. At this time, it is undetermined as to whether the stream crossing will be via open cut or directional drilling. We recommend the following measures to minimize physical impacts on streams and aquatic habitat:

- 1. For stream crossings, use directional drilling wherever possible, rather than using an excavated crossing.*
- 2. If excavated crossings are necessary, avoid mussel beds and areas of high-quality aquatic habitats, such as gravel/rock riffles.*
- 3. Avoid disturbance within the stream channel during the fish spawning season (April I-June 30).*
- 4. Maintain a vegetated buffer between construction and streams, except at stream crossings. Ideally, the buffer should be at least 25 feet wide, but otherwise as wide as possible.*
- 5. Minimize erosion and cover or contain soil piles to prevent runoff to streams during construction. Restabilize disturbed stream banks as quickly as possible after construction is completed. Revegetate with native plant species in areas that are currently dominated by natural vegetation.*

Endangered Species

The proposed project is within the range of the federally endangered Indiana bat (Myotis sodalis) and the northern long-eared bat (M. septentrionalis).

Indiana bats hibernate in caves, then disperse to reproduce and forage in relatively undisturbed forested areas associated with water resources during spring and summer. Recent research has shown that they will inhabit fragmented landscapes with adequate forest for roosting and foraging. Young are raised in nursery colony roosts in trees, typically near drainageways in undeveloped areas. Like all other bat species in Indiana, the Indiana bat diet consists exclusively of insects.

The northern long-eared bat (NLEB) is currently proposed for listing under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) (87 Stat. 884, as amended; 16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.). The final listing decision for the NLEB is expected in October 2014. At this time, no critical habitat has been proposed for the NLEB. Species proposed for listing are not afforded protection under the ESA; however as soon as a listing becomes effective, the prohibition against jeopardizing its continued existence and take applies regardless of an action's stage of completion. Additional information regarding NLEB and conference procedures can be found (<http://www.fws.gov/midwest/endangered/mammals/nlba/index.html>).

During the summer, NLEBs typically roost singly or in colonies in cavities, underneath bark, crevices, or hollows of both live and dead trees and/or snags (typically ≥ 3 inches dbh). Males and non-reproductive females may also roost in cooler places, like caves and mines. This bat seems opportunistic in selecting roosts, using tree species based on presence of cavities or crevices or presence of peeling bark. It has also been occasionally found roosting in structures like barns and sheds (particularly when suitable tree roosts are unavailable). They forage for insects in upland and lowland woodlots and tree lined corridors. During the winter, NLEBs predominately hibernate in caves and abandoned mine portals. Additional habitat types may be identified as new information is obtained.

Portions of the project, including the area where tree clearing is required, are within the established Indiana Bat Protection Zone (IBPZ). The intent of the IBPZ's was to designate areas where tree clearing cannot occur, unless authorized by the Service, and Indiana bat habitat is protected. Since the sewer line was in place prior to the establishment of the IBPZ and is near the edge of the wooded habitat, tree clearing may occur implementing the following minimization and mitigation measures:

- 1. The construction area should be staged in the open field to minimize impacts to the wooded area.*
- 2. Tree clearing shall be avoided during the period April 1- September 30 to avoid incidental take from removal of an occupied roost tree.*
- 3. Implement a forest restoration project, at a ratio of 10:1, to mitigate for lost forest habitat within the IBPZ.*

If these measures are implemented we concur that the proposed project is not likely to adversely affect these species.

This precludes the need for further consultation on this project as required under Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended. If, however, new information on endangered species at the site becomes available or if project plans are changed significantly, please contact our office for further consultation.

The Indiana Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) Division of Historic Preservation and Archaeology, in correspondence dated April 23, 2014, stated:

Pursuant to IC 13-18-21 and 327 LAC 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 March 28, 2014, for the above indicated project in Vermillion Township, Vermillion County, Indiana.

Based on our analysis, it has been determined that no historic properties will be altered, demolished, or removed by the proposed project.

Please be advised that the Memorial Chapel cemetery is located adjacent to the areas of the proposed project activities. Provisions of relevant state statutes regarding cemeteries (including IC 23-14 and IC 14-21-1) must be adhered to. This cemetery should be avoided by all staging, stockpiling, temporary land use, and ground disturbing activities.

If any prehistoric or historic archaeological artifacts or human remains are uncovered during construction, demolition, or earthmoving activities, state law (Indiana Code 14-21-1-27 and 29) requires that the discovery must be reported to the Department of Natural Resources within two (2) business days. In that event, please call (317) 232-1646. Be advised that adherence to Indiana Code 14-21-1-27 and 29 does not obviate the need to adhere to applicable federal statutes and regulations.

The IDNR Environmental Unit has not yet provided project review comments to the SRF.

VIII. MITIGATION MEASURES

The Authority's PER states:

Erosion will be kept to a minimum. A rule 5 permit will be obtained from the Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM) prior to construction. Applicable comments from IDEM or other authorized reviewing agencies will be implemented.

A storm water pollution prevention plan (SWPPP) will be developed.

Excavations will be limited to easements or rights-of-way.

Appropriate agronomic practices (seeding, mulching, etc.) will be implemented to control runoff.

Disturbed areas will be restored with natural vegetation when feasible.

Drainage systems will be restored to existing conditions as soon as possible.

Construction activities will be scheduled to avoid excessively wet conditions, if possible.

Excavated material will be kept to the upland side of the trench where possible. Excess material will be used elsewhere on the project.

The existing top soil will be reused during the restoration, if possible.

IX. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

The Authority held a properly noticed public hearing on April 17 in the Clinton Town Hall. Only one question was raised, regarding the capacity of the new lines for future growth. The Authority did not receive comments in the 5-day period following the hearing.

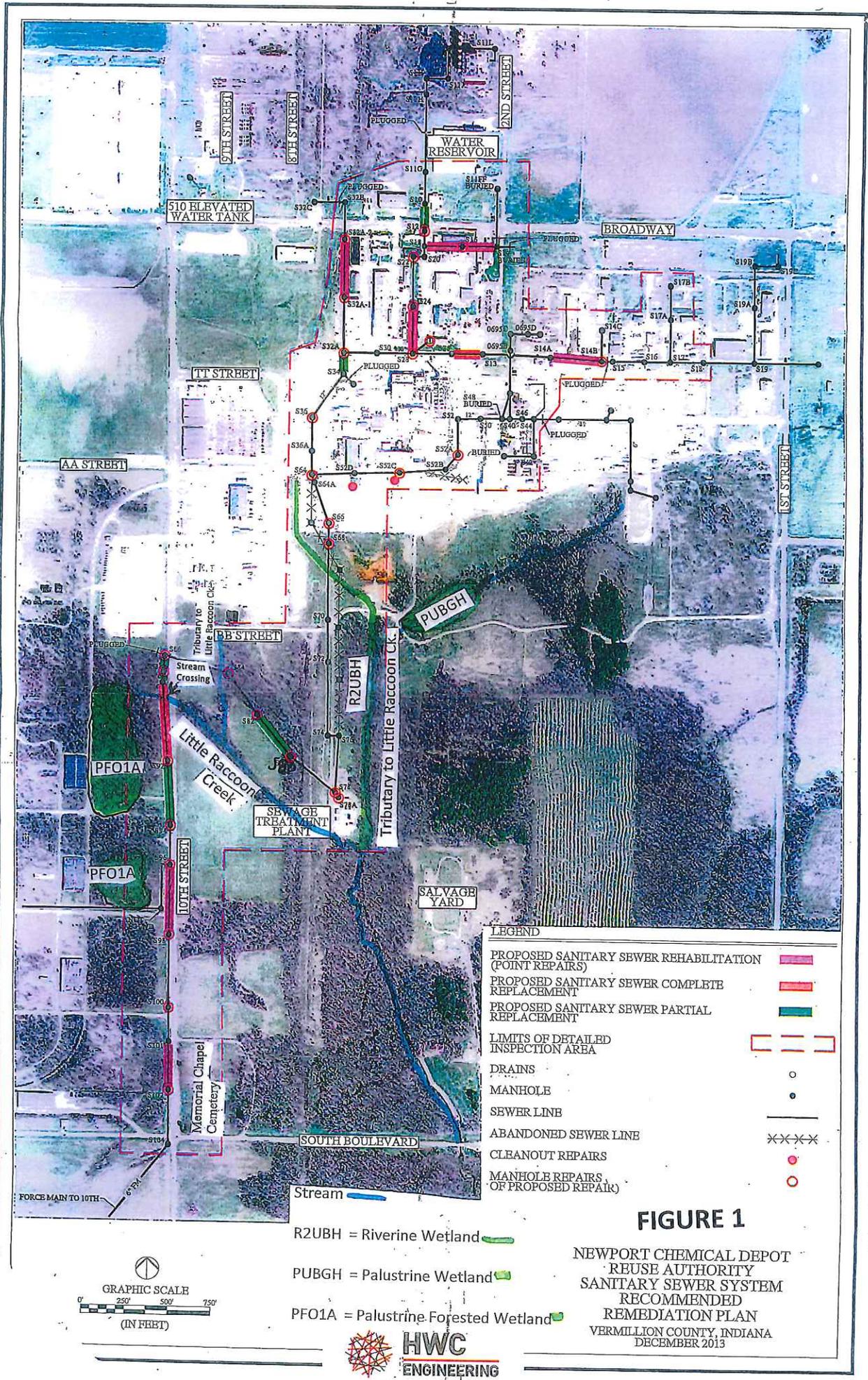


FIGURE 1

NEWPORT CHEMICAL DEPOT
 REUSE AUTHORITY
 SANITARY SEWER SYSTEM
 RECOMMENDED
 REMEDIATION PLAN
 VERMILLION COUNTY, INDIANA
 DECEMBER 2013

R2UBH = Riverine Wetland
 PUBGH = Palustrine Wetland
 PFO1A = Palustrine Forested Wetland





FIGURE 2
Vermillion Rise Mega Park
Wastewater System Upgrades
Proposed WWTP Site Plan



BAR SCREEN AND
COMMUNOTOR
REPLACEMENT

PRIMARY SETTLING
CHAMBER

PROCESS VALVE
REPLACEMENT

CHLORINE
CONTACT
CHAMBER

DIGESTER
CONTROL BUILDING

SECONDARY
AERATION
BASINS

VALVE/PUMP
REPAIR

EFFLUENT
SAMPLING
CHAMBER

ELECTRICAL EQUIPMENT UPGRADES WILL BE COMPLETED AT VARIOUS LOCATIONS AT THE WWTP.