



State Revolving Fund Loan Programs

Drinking Water, Clean Water, Nonpoint Source

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT AND FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

CITIZENS ENERGY GROUP

PROJECT B – EAGLES NEST BOOSTER STATION AND STORAGE TANK

SRF PROJECT DW 24 70 06 05

DATE: June 26, 2025

PUBLIC COMMENTS DUE BY: July 26, 2025

I. INTRODUCTION

The above entity has applied to the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (SRF) Loan Program for a loan to finance all or part of the Drinking Water project described in the accompanying Environmental Assessment (EA). 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 in color at <http://www.in.gov/ifa/srf/>.

II. PRELIMINARY FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT (FONSI)

The SRF Wastewater 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 5-1.2-3, 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/FONSI. Comments must be received at the address below by the target approval date above. Significant comments may prompt a reevaluation of the preliminary FONSI; if appropriate, a new FONSI 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 FONSI as appropriate. Comments regarding this document should be sent within 30 days to:

Jenni Curry
Environmental Section Manager
State Revolving Fund
100 N. Senate Ave. IGCN 1275
Indianapolis, IN 46204
463-261-6943
jecurry@ifa.in.gov

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

I. PROJECT IDENTIFICATION

Project Name and Address: Project B – Northwest Booster Station and Storage Tank
Citizens Energy Group
2020 North Meridan Street
Indianapolis, IN 46202

SRF Project Number: DW 24 70 06 05

Authorized Representative: Jeffrey Harrison, President and CEO

II. PROJECT LOCATION

The proposed project is located in Boone County, Eagle Township, Zionsville 24k USGS Quadrangle, Township 17N, Range 2E and Section 7.

III. PROJECT NEED AND PURPOSE

In concert with Lebanon Utilities (LU), an engineering plan has been developed for Citizens Water to provide an additional water supply of up to 25 million gallons per day (MGD) to Lebanon Utilities to support the regional growth of the City of Lebanon (Lebanon). The Citizens-Lebanon Water Supply (CLWS) program consists of new water mains, booster stations, tanks, and treatment plant upgrades. Regarding sources, Citizens Water’s robust regional water system is composed of 10 water treatment plants along with natural water resources including the White River, Fall Creek, four water supply reservoirs (Eagle Creek, Geist, Citizens, and Morse), and groundwater wells. Citizens annually reviews and updates strategic water resource plans for providing water to Central Indiana, considering normal and drought conditions, up to 50 years into the future. This process includes collaborating with surrounding communities to examine regional water needs. This proposal is an extension of that process. Citizens Water already serves eight other communities wholesale water in a similar manner and Lebanon would simply become the ninth wholesale water customer of Citizens Water.

IV. PROJECT DESCRIPTION

CLWS Project B will construct a new Northwest Booster Station and Storage facility, located southeast of the intersection of E CR 750 S and N CR 600 E, northwest of the Eagles Nest subdivision. The station will have a firm pumping capacity of 15.3 MGD and will be placed on a reinforced concrete foundation constructed on the project site. Two new 1.5 MG elevated storage tank will also be constructed. The project site will include a driveway, fences, pads for emergency generator and transformer, and detention areas.

V. ESTIMATED PROJECT COSTS, AFFORDABILITY AND FUNDING

Total cost of this project is estimated to be approximately \$29,189,000. The Citizens Energy Group will finance the project with a loan from the Drinking Water SRF Loan Program for a term and annual fixed interest rate to be determined at loan closing.

VI. DESCRIPTION OF EVALUATED ALTERNATIVES

The “**No Action**” alternative includes continuing current operations under existing conditions. The risk posed by not taking action is the inability to provide adequate water supply as required for the Citizens Lebanon Water Supply program.

Alternative 1 - Construction of 15.3 MGD Booster Station & Two 1.5 MG Storage Tanks Southeast of the Intersection of E CR 750 S and N CR 600 E: This alternative includes construction of a new booster pumping station, which will have a firm pumping capacity of 15.3 MGD. Two new 1.5 MG elevated storage tanks would also be constructed in this alternative. Water will be fed to the booster station and storage tank via the existing 20-inch main along Indianapolis Road. Acquisition of a 4.3 acre parcel would be required for this alternative.

This alternative is recommended as it provides adequate space for construction and for potential future improvements, minimizes the additional water main required, and maximizes the hydraulic benefit to be provided by the booster station and storage tanks.

Alternative 2 - Construction of 15.3 MGD Booster Station & 3 MG Storage Tank along West Side of Indianapolis Road: This alternative includes the construction of a new booster pumping station, which will have a firm pumping capacity of 15.3 MGD. This alternative would have limited space for two tanks, therefore a new 3 MG elevated storage tank would be constructed. Water will be fed to the booster station and storage tank via the existing 20-inch main along Indianapolis Road. This alternative would require the acquisition of a 1.2 acre parcel, therefore, it was dismissed from further consideration.

Alternative 3 - Construction of 15.3 MGD Booster Station & Two 1.5 MG Storage Tanks along Southwest of the I-65 and I-865 Interchange: This alternative includes the construction of a new booster pumping station, which will have a firm pumping capacity of 15.3 MGD. Two new 1.5 MG elevated storage tanks would also be constructed in this alternative. Water will be fed to the booster station and storage tank via the existing 20-inch main along Indianapolis Road. Alternative 3 would require two INDOT Right of Way crossings for approximately 1,000 feet of additional 20-inch water main and approximately 1,500 feet of additional 30-inch water main to connect to the Citizens Lebanon Water Supply program. Alternative 3 would require acquisition of a 5.2 acre parcel. Due to these reasons, Alternative 3 was dismissed from further consideration.

Alternative 4 - Construction of 15.3 MGD Booster Station & Two 1.5 MG Storage Tanks along South Side of Wilson Road: This alternative includes the construction of a new booster pumping station, which will have a firm pumping capacity of 15.3 MGD. Two new 1.5 MG elevated storage tanks would also be constructed in this alternative. Water will be fed to the booster station and storage tanks via the proposed 30-inch main to be installed with adjacent Project F. This would require an additional connection between the existing 20-inch main along Indianapolis Road and Project F. Alternative 4 would also require acquisition of a 2.5 acre parcel. Due to these reasons, Alternative 4 has been dismissed from further consideration.

VII. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS OF THE FEASIBLE ALTERNATIVES

A. Direct Impacts of Construction and Operation

Disturbed/Undisturbed Land: Work related to the construction of the booster station and storage tank will occur in previously disturbed soils by previous construction activity.

Structural Resources: 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 Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act is: "*no historic properties affected.*"

Surface Waters: The project will not adversely affect outstanding state resource waters listed in 327 IAC 2-1.3-3(d), exceptional use streams listed in 327 IAC 2-1-11(b), Natural, Scenic and Recreational Rivers and Streams listed in 312 IAC 7-(2), or Salmonid Streams listed in (327 IAC 2-1.5-5(a)(3) or streams on the Outstanding River List for Indiana.

Wetlands: Wetlands will not be impacted by the construction of the proposed booster station and storage tanks. Mitigation measures to lessen and compensate for wetland impacts cited in comment letters about the project from the Indiana Department of Natural Resources and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will be implemented.

Floodplain: The project will not include dredge or fill in the floodway without a permit from IDNR Division of Water. No change in grade will occur within the floodplain.

Groundwater: The project will not impact a drinking water supply or sole source aquifer.

Plants and Animals: The proposed project items will be implemented to minimize impact to non-endangered species and their habitat. Mitigation measures cited in comment letters from the Department of Natural Resources and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will be implemented.

Prime Farmland: The project will not convert 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.

Lake Michigan Coastal Program: The project will not affect the Lake Michigan Coastal Zone.

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

B. Indirect Impacts

The Citizens Energy Group's Project B PER states: *It will be ensured, through local zoning laws, the authority of its council or planning commission, or other means, that future development and utility projects connecting to SRF-funded facilities will not adversely affect wetlands, wooded areas, steep slopes, archaeological/historical/structural resources, or other sensitive environmental resources. New development and utility projects will be required to be constructed within the guidelines of the USFWS, IDNR, IDEM, and other environmental review authorities.*

C. Comments from Environmental Review Authorities

In correspondence dated October 15, 2024, the Indiana Department of Natural Resources Division of Historic Preservation and Archaeology stated:

Pursuant to Indiana Code 5-1.2-10, Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (54 U.S.C. § 306108), 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 September 20, 2024, for the above indicated project in Eagle Township, Boone County, Indiana.

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

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, including but not limited to 36 C.F.R. 800.

In correspondence dated April 8, 2025, the United States Fish and Wildlife Service stated:

*The proposed project would occur in an approximately 20-mile² area in the area where Hendricks, Marion, Boone, and Hamilton counties intersect in Indiana. The project would require removing trees at 10 locations across the project area. At each location, the project proponent plans to remove between 0.2 and 1.6 acres of trees, totaling approximately 10 acres across the project area. You determined the trees provide suitable summer habitat for the federally endangered Indiana bat and northern long-eared bat, as well as the proposed endangered tricolored bat. The project proponent committed to remove trees between **October 1 and March 31**, which is the wintering season for all three bat species; therefore, we do not expect bats to be present at the project. Based on (1) implementing the project in the winter when bats are not present and (2) the small area of trees you plan to remove, the project will have insignificant effects on the three bat species; therefore, we agree the proposed project is not likely to adversely affect Indiana bats or northern long-eared bats, and will not jeopardize the proposed endangered tricolored bat.*

This precludes the need for further consultation on this project; however, should new information arise pertaining to project plans or a revised species list be published, it will be necessary for the Federal agency to reinstate consultation.

If the tricolored bat is listed prior to completion of the action, an updated species list should be requested in IPaC and the federal agency must review the action to determine whether consultation is required at that time. Generally, consultation would be required if the action is not yet completed and if it may still result in effects to the species. At that time, the Service will review and confirm whether this concurrence is still appropriate. The development of significant new information or significant changes to the federal action that would alter the basis for our concurrence could warrant further coordination to ensure that appropriate steps are taken to conclude consultation.

In correspondence dated October 24, 2024, the Department of Natural Resources Environmental Unit stated:

The Indiana Department of Natural Resources has reviewed the above referenced project per your request. 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: Formal approval by the Department of Natural Resources under the regulatory programs administered by the Division of Water is not required for this project.

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) Revegetate all bare and disturbed areas with a mixture of turf grasses (including low-endophyte, friendly endophyte, and endophyte free tall fescue but excluding all other varieties of tall fescue) as soon as possible upon completion.*
- 2) Appropriately designed measures for controlling erosion and sediment must be implemented to prevent sediment from entering the waterbody or leaving the construction site; maintain these measures until construction is complete and all disturbed areas are stabilized.*
- 3) If erosion control blankets are used, they shall be heavy-duty, biodegradable, and net free or use loose-woven/Leno-woven netting to minimize the entrapment and snaring of small-bodied wildlife such as snakes and turtles (follow manufacture's recommendations for selection and installation); seed and apply mulch on all other disturbed areas.*

In correspondence dated December 15, 2024, the Natural Resources Conservation Service stated:

The proposed Project B, Eagles Nest Booster Station and Storage Tank Project, located at the Southeast corner of Wilson Road (E CR 750 S) and North CR 600 East, in Boone County, Indiana, as referred to in your letter received on September 6, 2024, will not cause a conversion of prime farmland.

VIII. MITIGATION MEASURES

Citizens Energy Group's Project B PER states:

Construction activities are expected to take place during standard working hours. Any night will be considered on a case-by-case basis. If night work occurs, mitigation measures will be put in place to limit light and noise impacts.

Adequate erosion control measures will be practiced on-site during all construction activities. Mitigation measures to be used at the site may include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Implement appropriate erosion control measures, such as sediment basins, inlet protection, rock check dams, rip-rap, seeding, mulching, and erosion control mats;*
- Restoring and stabilizing drainage systems and patterns as soon as possible;*
- Avoiding tracking construction debris and soil onto roadways;*
- Wetting areas of exposed soil as needed to control dust;*
- Keeping materials and equipment needed for spill cleanup readily available;*
- Locating on-site equipment fueling, repair, and maintenance areas away from drainage courses and stormwater structures;*
- Recycling wastes such as grease, used oil, used oil filters, antifreeze, cleaning solutions, automotive, batteries, and hydraulic/transmission fluids, and providing secondary containment/covers for these*

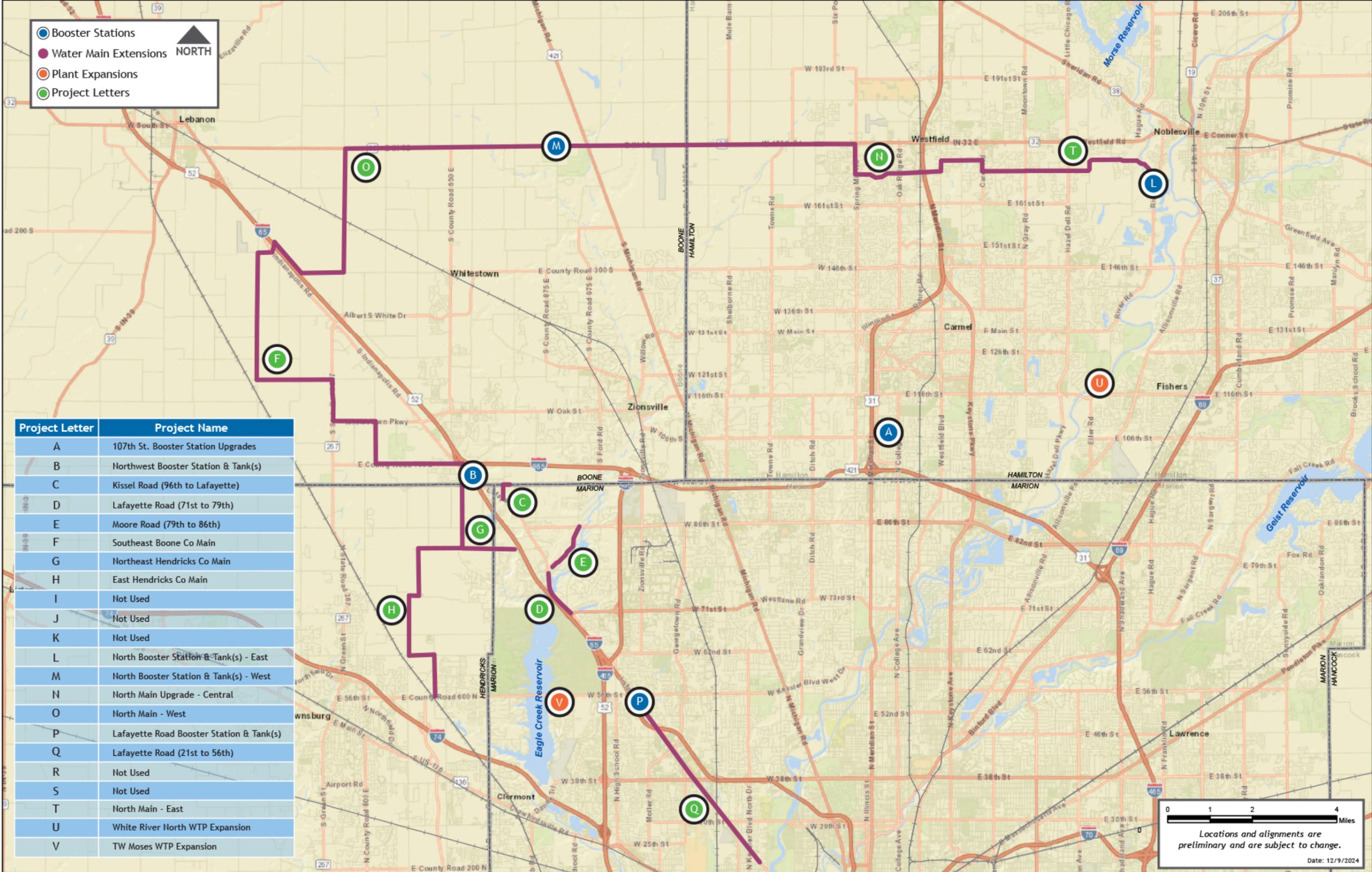
materials if stored on-site;

- *Properly disposing of used oils, fluids, and lubricants off-site;*
- *Using only watertight dumpsters for on-site debris collection and providing regular removal of accumulated waste;*
- *Collecting trash from the site often since erosion control devices tend to collect debris;*
- *Inspecting the erosion control devices at least one per week and after each storm event to ensure proper operation;*
- *Covering and storing paints and solvents in their appropriate containers on a previously disturbed or paved level site.*

IX. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

A properly noticed public hearing was held on September 25, 2024, at 8 am in the Citizens Energy Group Board Room located at 2150 Martin Luther King, Jr. Street, Indianapolis, IN 46202. Four members of the public expressed concerns during the hearing. Those comments were heard and recorded. Five written comments were received following the meeting. All comments were responded to in a timely manner.

Additionally a properly noticed public comment period was held from December 17, 2024, through January 6, 2025. No comments were received during this period



- Booster Stations
- Water Main Extensions
- Plant Expansions
- Project Letters

▲ NORTH

Project Letter	Project Name
A	107th St. Booster Station Upgrades
B	Northwest Booster Station & Tank(s)
C	Kissel Road (96th to Lafayette)
D	Lafayette Road (71st to 79th)
E	Moore Road (79th to 86th)
F	Southeast Boone Co Main
G	Northeast Hendricks Co Main
H	East Hendricks Co Main
I	Not Used
J	Not Used
K	Not Used
L	North Booster Station & Tank(s) - East
M	North Booster Station & Tank(s) - West
N	North Main Upgrade - Central
O	North Main - West
P	Lafayette Road Booster Station & Tank(s)
Q	Lafayette Road (21st to 56th)
R	Not Used
S	Not Used
T	North Main - East
U	White River North WTP Expansion
V	TW Moses WTP Expansion

0 1 2 4 Miles

Locations and alignments are preliminary and are subject to change.

Date: 12/9/2024