November 6, 2026

Preliminary Finding of No Significant Impact
To All Interested Citizens, Organizations, and Government Agencies

Village of Barnesville – Belmont County
North Water Line Extension
Loan Number: FS390135-0014

The attached Environmental Assessment (EA) is for a water line extension project in Barnesville which the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency intends to finance through its Water Supply Revolving Loan Account (WSRLA) below-market interest rate revolving loan program. The EA describes the project, its costs, and expected environmental benefits. We would appreciate receiving any comments you may have on the project. Making available this EA and seeking your comments fulfills Ohio EPA's environmental review and public notice requirements for this loan program.

Ohio EPA analyzes environmental effects of proposed projects as part of its program review and approval process. We have concluded that the proposed project should not result in significant adverse environmental impacts. More information can be obtained by contacting the person named at the end of the attached EA.

Any comments on our preliminary determination should be sent to the email address of the contact named at the end of the EA. We will not act on this project for 30 calendar days from the date of this notice. In the absence of substantive comments during this period, our preliminary decision will become final. After that, the Village of Barnesville can then proceed with its application for the WSRLA loan.

Sincerely,

Kathleen Courtright

Kathleen Courtright, Assistant Chief
Division of Environmental & Financial Assistance

Attachment

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

Project Identification

Project: North Water Line Extension

Applicant: Village of Barnesville
132 North Arch Street
Barnesville, Ohio 43713

Loan Number: FS390135-0014



Figure 1. Belmont County

Project Summary

The Village of Barnesville, in Belmont County (Figure 1), requested funding from the Ohio Water Supply Revolving Loan Account (WSRLA) for the North Water Line Extension project. The project involves providing water service to homes and businesses in Hendrysburg, the Village of Fairview, and will complete a loop in the distribution system on Mount Olivett Road in Barnesville.

The project is eligible for full principal forgiveness, which will not need to be repaid. Due to the nature and location of construction, as well as proposed protection measures to be implemented, no significant adverse impacts are anticipated, as discussed in the Environmental Impacts section.

History & Existing Conditions

The Village of Barnesville public water system (PWS) has been in service since 1906 and has three surface water intakes that come from three reservoirs; Slope Creek Reservoir, Barnesville Reservoir 1, and Reservoir 2. The Barnesville water treatment plant (WTP) has a design flow of 2.5 million gallons per day (MGD). The average daily demand is 940,000 gallons per day (GPD). The system serves a total of 12,387 people, including the residents of Barnesville, and bulk water customers of nearby communities.

The residents and businesses in Fairview and Hendrysburg currently utilize groundwater wells for drinking water. The majority of residents have noted that their well water quality is in poor to fair condition, with low yield. The proposed project will extend public water service to 136 property owners and loop in the distribution system on Mount Olivett Road in Barnesville.

Population and Flow Projections

There are 136 properties (105 from Hendrysburg and 31 from Fairview) that could potentially connect to public water service. There are no anticipated population increases for Fairview and Hendrysburg.

The average single residency uses approximately 150 GPD; therefore, this will result in an increased demand of 20,400 GPD. The proposed water filling station in Fairview is estimated to provide 715 GPD

(about 5,000 gallons per week) for residential customers. With these extra flows, the Barnesville WTP could increase to an average daily usage of 961,115 GPD which is well below the design production of 2.5 MGD.

Alternatives

For all alternatives, the distribution system within Hendrysburg and Fairview will be the same cost and was not considered during the alternatives analysis. A total of three different alternatives were evaluated to provide water to the Hendrysburg and Fairview areas.

1. *Barnesville Water System Connection*
   This alternative proposes connection to the Barnesville water system near the intersection of Route 800 and Interstate 70 Exit 202. The alternative proposes installing 5,865 linear feet (LF) of water line, one booster pump station, four valves and fire hydrants, and related appurtenances. Barnesville is 0.44 miles from Hendrysburg and 3.98 miles from Fairview. The estimated construction cost is $621,575.

2. *Belmont County Sanitary Sewer District (SSD) #3 Water System Connection*
   This alternative proposes connection to the Belmont County SSD #3 water system along National Road and Mediterranean Drive near Interstate 70 Exit 204. The alternative proposes to install 12,950 LF of water line, one booster pump station, nine valves and fire hydrants, and related appurtenances. Belmont SSD #3 is 2.61 miles from Hendrysburg and 6.21 miles from Fairview. The estimated construction cost is $1,089,250.

3. *Quaker City Water System Connection*
   This alternative proposes connection to the Quaker City water system near the intersection of Batesville Road (County Route 513) and Willow Lane. The alternative proposes to install 51,310 LF of water line, one booster pump station, 34 valves and fire hydrants, and related appurtenances. Quaker City is 9.46 miles from Hendrysburg and 7.97 miles from Fairview. The estimated construction cost is $3,469,050.

Selected Alternative

Alternative #1, the Barnesville Water System Connection, was selected as the proposed alternative due to it being the most economical and environmentally beneficial approach to satisfy the needs of affected residents. The project consists of water line extensions, and a prefabricated booster station along State Route 800. The project will serve homes and businesses in Hendrysburg, the Village of Fairview, and complete a loop in the distribution system on Mount Olivett Road in Barnesville.

To provide a distribution system, work includes the installation of 19,196 linear feet (LF) of 6-inch water line, 22,515 LF of 8-inch water line, 1,703 LF of 12-inch water line, and 14 manual air release valves. One prefabricated booster station with three pumps will be constructed alongside State Route 800.

A bulk water filling station is proposed on the north side of Fair Avenue in Fairview to provide potable water access to residential consumers in the area. An air gap separation device will be provided on the

water drop to provide backflow protection and prevent contamination from entering the public water system. Additionally, the existing bulk water filling station along SR 800 in Barnesville will be replaced.

Figures 2 and 3 display the proposed project area.

Implementation

The total estimated project cost is $7,302,622. The Village of Barnesville is eligible to receive up to 50% of the total project cost in principal forgiveness (does not need to be repaid) and expects $250,000 from the Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC), $1.2 million from the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program, and $1.9 million in H2Ohio state grant funding to supplement the rest of the project financing.

The debt associated with this project will be recovered from monthly water bills. The average annual residential water bill for new customers in Hendrysburg and in Fairview will be approximately $450.12 ($37.51 monthly), which is 1% of the median household income of Hendrysburg (MHI; $45,125) and 1.7% of the median household income of Fairview (MHI; $26,364). Both Hendrysburg and Fairview will have an annual water bill less than the Ohio average water bill of $528.

Construction for this project is expected to begin after loan award and will take approximately eight months to complete.

Public Participation

Public meetings were held in both communities. A meeting in Hendrysburg was held on June 14, 2023, and a meeting was held in Fairview on July 25, 2023. Additionally, a survey was provided to affected residents to determine interest in the project. Residents expressed that they would be interested in connecting to a public water source and indicated what maximum price they would be willing to pay for public water service.

Ohio EPA is unaware of any controversy about or opposition to this project. This Environmental Assessment (EA) and preliminary Finding of No Significant Impact (FNSI) will be posted on the Ohio EPA Division of Environmental and Financial Assistance website. Additionally, the EA and FNSI have been provided to the Village of Barnesville to be made available according to their public notification procedures.

Environmental Impacts

The project has the potential to affect the following features, but the effects will be reduced or mitigated to acceptable levels as explained below.

Local Economy

By using favorable financing, Barnesville has minimized the project cost and economic impact on connecting residents. If a temporary easement is provided to Barnesville by the property owner and connection to the system is made at the time of initial system construction, then the tap-in fee will be waived. The easement is needed to allow project financing to include the cost of the meter pit, water

meter, and service line from the street to within 3 feet of the structure. The property owner is responsible for the remaining 3 feet of line and connection to the structure.

If an easement is not provided at the time of construction or connection is not made at time of initial construction, the property owner will be responsible for the current tap-in fee of $3,300 to cover the cost of the meter pit and water meter. The service line from the street and connection to the home is not included in the tap-in fee and is an additional cost for the property owner. If a property owner connects to the system, they will be responsible for the cost to properly abandon their current auxiliary water source through Belmont County Health Department.

If the property owner chooses to keep an auxiliary water source active, an alteration permit from the Belmont County Health Department will be necessary. The installation and annual inspections of a backflow prevention device will also be required.

Noise, Air Quality, Traffic, Safety, and Aesthetics

Heavy machinery that can emit temporary daytime noise may be involved and some traffic interruptions may occur; however, all work will occur within the right-of-way. Temporary, insignificant increases in fugitive dust and local air pollution from construction vehicle exhaust, like that of vehicles regularly transiting the area, are expected. It will be the contractor's responsibility to implement construction best management practices to limit erosion, sediment, noise, dust, traffic disruptions, and like factors throughout the duration of the project. Disturbed surfaces will be restored upon construction completion.

Terrestrial Habitat, Fish and Wildlife, and Endangered Species

Barnesville will only remove trees during the regular clearing dates of October 1st to March 31st to protect federally listed endangered and threatened bat species. Some tree removal may occur within the right-of-way when installing the water lines.

Unaffected Features

The following resources are not present and therefore will not be impacted by this project: Archaeological and Historical Resources, Coastal Zones, Prime Farmland, Floodplains, Groundwater Resources including Sole Source Aquifers and Source Water Assessment and Protection areas, Aquatic Habitat, Surface Water Resources, Wetlands, and Wild and Scenic Rivers. Additionally, there will be no change in current Energy Use or Land Use as it pertains to public space, nor will there be any impacts to drinking water.

Conclusion

Based upon Ohio EPA's review of the planning information and the materials presented in this EA, we have concluded that there will be no significant adverse impacts from the proposed project as it relates to the environmental features discussed previously. This is because these features do not exist in the project area, the features exist but will not be adversely affected, or the impacts will be temporary and mitigated. Completion of this water extension project will provide a safe, reliable source of potable water and support long-term community stability and development.

Contact information

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Figure 2. Proposed water line extension (in red)



Figure 3. Proposed booster station (in yellow)