



May 31, 2024

Limited Environmental Review and Finding of No Significant Impact

**Village of Silver Lake – Summit County
Lead Service Line Replacement
Loan number: FS390855-0007**

The attached Limited Environmental Review (LER) is for a lead service line replacement project in Silver Lake 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 LER describes the project, its costs, and expected environmental benefits. Making available this LER 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 WSRLA program review and approval process. We have concluded that the proposed project should not result in significant adverse environmental impacts. This project's relatively narrow scope and lack of environmental impacts qualifies it for the LER rather than a more comprehensive Environmental Assessment. More information can be obtained by calling or writing the person named at the end of the attached LER.

Upon issuance of this Finding of No Significant Impact (FNSI) determination, award of funds may proceed without further environmental review or public comment unless new information shows that environmental conditions of the proposed project have changed significantly.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kathleen Courtright".

Kathleen Courtright, Assistant Chief
Division of Environmental and Financial Assistance

Attachment

LIMITED ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

Project Identification

Project Name: Lead Service Line Replacement

Applicant: Village of Silver Lake
2961 Kent Road
Silver Lake, Ohio 44224

Loan Number: FS390855-0007

Project Summary

The Village of Silver Lake in Summit County has requested \$564,388 from the Ohio Water Supply Revolving Loan Account (WSRLA) for its Lead Service Line Replacement project to replace lead service lines (LSLs) in Silver Lakes's water distribution system. Due to the nature of the project, environmental impacts will be minimal. Construction is scheduled to begin in June 2024 and last approximately four months.

History & Existing Conditions

The Village of Silver Lake is a community of approximately 2,519 residents. The village purchases its water from the City of Cuyahoga Falls and maintains its own water and sewer systems. A portion of the distribution system has older public water lines that are comprised of lead. Lead in drinking water lines pose a potential risk to residents' health.

Project Description

The proposed project will replace approximately 80 lead service lines in Silver Lake's distribution system (see Figure 1). Line replacement will take place primarily on public service lines. One private line comprised of galvanized material will also be replaced.

Work for the project will be restricted to 7:00 am to 6:00 pm and include temporary traffic controls. The city will also arrange for traffic safety measures, erosion control measures, restoration of all areas, and spoil disposal. Water service to some areas will be temporarily shut off during pipe replacement.

Implementation

The total estimated loan amount is \$564,388, for which Silver Lake will receive a zero percent interest rate. During the standard 30-year loan period, Silver Lake will save up to \$430,000 by using a WSRLA zero percent loan, compared to borrowing the total project amount at the current market rate (May 2024) of 4.18 percent.

Debt for the project will be repaid from monthly water rates without rate increases for the specific areas served by the improvements. The local median household income (MHI) is \$124,286. Under

the water rates that are effective in 2024, the average annual residential water bill is \$492, as compared to the state average of \$477. This bill represents 0.4 percent of the MHI.

Construction is scheduled to begin in June and be completed by September.

Public Participation

The project has been discussed on the village website and Facebook page. Additionally, the mayor mentioned the project in her recent “State of the Village” address. The village will notify any impacted residents by letter prior to construction and again by going door-to-door during construction.

Ohio EPA is unaware of any controversy about or opposition to this project, and the Limited Environmental Review and Finding of No Significant Impact for the project will be posted on Village of Silver Lake and Ohio EPA Division of Environmental and Financial Assistance websites.

Conclusion

The proposed project is a water system infrastructure improvement (rehabilitation of existing facilities) that qualifies for a Limited Environmental Review (LER) and meets the following additional criteria for an LER:

Will have no significant environmental effect, does not require extensive specific impact mitigation, and will have no effect on high-value environmental resources. Construction will be done in the existing road right-of-way and in lawns in developed residential locations that lack important environmental resources. Due to the nature of the work to replace private lead service lines, any impacts will be minimal to non-existent. Little to no tree removal is expected to take place as part of this project. Temporary water service interruptions will be communicated to affected customers.

Is cost effective. There is no feasible alternative to replacing lead service lines.

Is not controversial. Silver Lake and Ohio EPA are unaware of controversy about or opposition to this project. This project will have no impact on residential water rates.

Does not create a new, or relocate an existing, discharge to surface or ground waters; does not create a new source of water withdrawals from either surface or ground waters, or significantly increase the amount of water withdrawn from an existing water source; and will not result in substantial increases in the volume of discharge or the loading of pollutants from an existing source or from new facilities to receiving waters. The project will merely improve existing infrastructure and eliminate a threat to public health and have no effect on water withdrawal, treatment, discharge, or water source.

Will not provide capacity to serve a population substantially greater than the existing population. The project involves replacing existing lead service lines in Silver Lake and does not impact capacity.

Due to the nature of the proposed improvements, and the limited, previously disturbed locations where lead service lines are typically sited, Ohio EPA has determined that these project activities should have no significant adverse effect on major land forms, terrestrial or aquatic habitat, threatened or endangered species, surface water, ground water, wetlands, floodplains, land use

patterns, agriculture, air quality, archaeological and historical resources, noise, traffic, aesthetics, energy resources, or the local economy.

The planning activities for the project have identified no potentially significant adverse impacts. The project is expected to have no significant short-term or long-term adverse impacts on the quality of the human environment or on sensitive resources. Applicable construction impact mitigation measures and practices will be followed, and the project will eliminate lead material from drinking water lines, which will reduce public health threats.

Contact information

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Figure 1. Project area (gray circles indicate LSLs)