



September 30, 2025

Limited Environmental Review and Finding of No Significant Impact

**Village of Thornville - Perry County
I&I – Manhole and Pipelining Project
Loan number: CS390908-0009**

The attached Limited Environmental Review (LER) is for an inflow and infiltration reduction project in Thornville which the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (Ohio EPA) intends to finance through its Water Pollution Control Loan Fund (WPCLF) below-market interest rate revolving loan program. The LER describes the project, costs, and expected environmental benefits. Making available this LER fulfills the 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. In accordance with Ohio Administrative Code 3745-150-05, this project meets the criteria for an LER rather than the more comprehensive Environmental Assessment. More information can be obtained by contacting the person named at the end of the attached LER.

Upon issuance of this Final 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 cursive script, reading "Kathleen Courtright".

Kathleen Courtright, Assistant Chief
Division of Environmental and Financial Assistance

LIMITED ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

Project Identification

Project: I&I – Manhole and Pipelining Project

Applicant: Village of Thornville
3 South Main Street, PO Box 607
Thornville, Ohio 43076

Loan Number: CS390908-0009



Figure 1. Perry County

Project Summary

The Village of Thornville in Perry County (Figure 1) has requested approximately \$472,000 from the Water Pollution Control Loan Fund (WPCLF) for lining and repairing gravity sewer and manholes in the wastewater collection system to improve capacity at Thornville’s wastewater treatment plant (WWTP). This project will prevent stormwater from infiltrating the sanitary sewer system through leaky joints and cracks in pipes. As the project involves rehabilitating existing sewer lines alongside roadways and rights-of-way that have been previously disturbed, environmental impacts are expected to be limited.

History & Existing Conditions

The Village of Thornville WWTP currently serves Thornville and Northern Perry County as a regional sewage treatment provider and is currently operating at approximately 75% of its permitted flow of 0.40 million gallons per day (MGD). After treatment, effluent is released from the WWTP to Honey Creek, a tributary to Buckeye Lake. Last upgraded in 2001, the WWTP still meets existing permit limits, but aging infrastructure and expected increased flows, combined with the need for reduced operational costs and improvement of maintenance accessibility prompted an investigation of how to increase the WWTP’s longevity.

During the investigation, an issue with inflow and infiltration (I&I) was identified in Thornville’s separated sanitary and stormwater collection system. A survey was commissioned in 2011 to identify locations of I&I. Flow monitoring, closed-circuit television (CCTV), smoke testing, manhole testing, and dye testing identified breaks and cracks where replacement sewer pipe was needed. Manhole inspections found evidence of I&I coming through barrel joints and under castings.

Excessive I&I has increased the flow to the aging WWTP. This has reduced the effective treatment capacity of the WWTP and increased operation costs. It was determined that reducing the I&I in the collection system would extend the useful life of the WWTP.

Project Description

This project will focus on repairing sanitary sewers and manholes in areas identified in previous studies as needing the most significant repairs. Sanitary sewers will be repaired with cast-in-place pipe (CIPP) lining and the manholes will be lined as well. This will reduce the amount of stormwater that enters the system through leaks and cracks during wet-weather conditions. This will prevent additional stormwater being treated at Thornville's WWTP.

Construction for this project will largely remain within the footprint of the existing wastewater collection system in previously disturbed roadways and rights-of-way, thereby minimizing effects on environmental resources.

See Figure 2 below for a map of the project area.

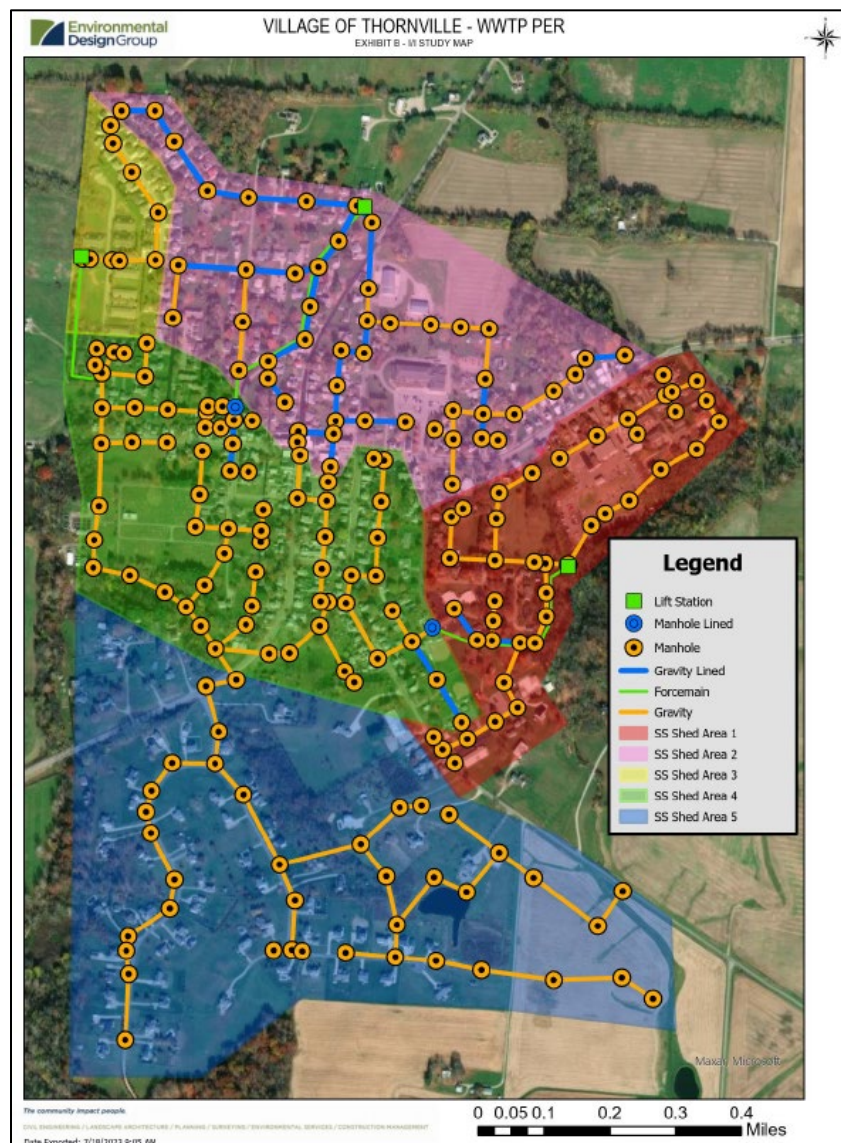


Figure 2. Project location map

Implementation

Thornville will receive \$472,000 from the WPCLF over a 20-year loan period at the small-community rate of 3.13%. When compared to the market rate of 4.88%, Thornville will save over \$105,000. Interest rates are set monthly and may change for a different loan award date. Thornville also anticipates using approximately \$409,000 in Ohio Public Works Commission funding, \$1,000,000 in State and Tribal Assistance Grants, and \$12,750 in local funds towards the cost of the project.

The current annual Thornville residential sewer rate is approximately \$1,013. Residential bills with the implementation of this and other associated wastewater projects are expected to increase to approximately \$1,165, or 1.3% of median household income (MHI) of Thornville, which is \$92,143. By using WPCLF financing for this project, Thornville has minimized the economic impact on customers.

The anticipated loan award will occur in October 2025; construction will begin following loan award and is expected to be completed by May 2026.

Public Participation

The Village of Thornville has discussed this project at village council meetings and project information will be posted to the website and app that the village utilizes to give residents notices about upcoming projects. Door hangers will be distributed to affected residents prior to construction.

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

Conclusion

The proposed project meets the criteria for an LER; namely, it is an action within an existing public wastewater collection system, which involves improvements to existing infrastructure. Furthermore, the project meets the other qualifying criteria for an LER; specifically, the proposed project:

Will have no significant environmental effect, no effect on high-value environmental resources, and does not require extensive specific impact mitigation.

Construction will take place within the existing wastewater collection system in previously disturbed roadways and rights-of-ways, which lack important environmental features. No tree clearing, stream crossings, or in-wetland work is scheduled to occur, and there will be no new construction within prime farmland or within the floodplain. The contractor is responsible for dust control, sedimentation and erosion control, and maintenance of traffic during construction.

Is cost effective and not controversial.

The proposed project is the best feasible alternative because rehabilitating existing sanitary sewers to control I&I is less expensive than upgrading the WWTP or replacing sewers. Taking no action would

allow stormwater to continue infiltrating the system, resulting in continued high sewer flow and high costs of wastewater treatment. DEFA is unaware of any specific opposition to or controversy about this project.

Does not create a new or relocate an existing discharge to surface or ground waters, 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, and will not provide capacity to serve a population substantially greater than the existing population.

This project involves rehabilitation of existing collection infrastructure and will not create new or increase wastewater discharges, nor provide capacity to serve a greater population. There will be no change in pollutant loading.

Based upon Ohio EPA's review of the planning information and the materials presented in this Limited Environmental Review, we have concluded that there will be no significant adverse impacts from the proposed project as it relates to environmental features. 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.

This project will reduce I&I throughout Thornville's sanitary sewer collection system, reducing extra flows to be treated to be treated at the village's WWTP, allowing for efficient treatment of wastewater.

Contact Information

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