DRAFT FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE ACTION
REPLACE THE AGING WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT
WILLIAM H HARSHA LAKE FLOOD RISK MANAGEMENT PROJECT
BATAVIA, OHIO

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Louisville District (Corps) has conducted an environmental assessment in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended. The Environmental Assessment evaluates the alternatives to replace the aging and inadequate waste water treatment plant that serves the Corps facilities at the William H Harsha Lake Flood Risk Management Project (Harsha Lake), and identifies the Corps' preferred alternative.

The Corps is proposing to phase out the current waste water treatment system at Harsha Lake and construct a septic treatment system to replace the aging one with one that is more environmentally efficient, able to meet the current and increasing demands at Harsha Lake, and requires less expenditure of operational maintenance funds over the long term.

In addition to a "no action" alternative, six alternatives were evaluated. The alternatives included:

Alternative 1, Construct a New Waste Water Treatment System Adjacent to Existing Wastewater Treatment Facility (Preferred Alternative).
Alternative 2, Repair and Upgrade the Existing Waste Water Treatment Plant
Alternative 3, Construct a New Wastewater Treatment Facility at Existing Site
Alternative 4, Tie in to existing Municipality Waste Water Treatment Systems
Alternative 5, Construct a Leach Field system within the Saddle Dam
Alternative 6, Construct Multiple Composting Toilets

Five of the alternatives were evaluated and were rejected from further consideration because they were not determined to be reasonable and/or would not meet the purpose and need of the project. Alternative 1, *Construct a New Waste Water Treatment System Adjacent to Existing Wastewater Treatment Facility* is the preferred alternative.

For the alternatives carried through for further analysis (Alternative 1 and the No Action Alternative), the potential effects were evaluated, as appropriate. A summary assessment of the potential effects of the proposed action are listed in Table 1:

Table 1: Summary of Potential Effects of the Recommended Plan

	Insignificant effects	Insignificant effects as a result of mitigation*	Resource unaffected by action
Aesthetics and Visual	☒	☐	☐
Air quality	☒	☐	☒
Vegetation	☒	☐	☐
Fish and wildlife habitat	☒	☐	☐
Soils and Geology	☒	☐	☐
Water Resources	☒	☐	☐
Threatened/Endangered species/critical habitat	☐	☒	☐
Historic properties	☐	☐	☒
Other cultural resources	☐	☐	☒
Hazardous, toxic & radioactive waste	☐	☐	☒
Land use and recreation areas	☒	☐	☐
Noise levels	☒	☐	☐
Socio-economics	☐	☐	☒
Environmental justice	☐	☐	☒
Soils	☒	☐	☐
Climate change	☒	☐	☐

All practicable and appropriate means to avoid or minimize adverse environmental effects were analyzed and incorporated into the preferred alternative. Best management practices (BMPs) will be implemented in accordance with a stormwater pollution prevention plan and sediment and erosion control plan to minimize impacts during construction activities.

* To minimize the potential for impacts to resources, the selected contractor will be required to obtain all permits for the wastewater treatment plant replacement. These include at a minimum:

- Ohio EPA Permit-to-Install an onsite sewage treatment and dispersal system.
- Ohio EPA National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit to discharge stormwater from construction activities for construction activities that disturb more than one acre of land.
- Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan, Notice of Intent, and incorporation of best management practices for sediment and erosion control.

No compensatory mitigation is required from selection of the proposed action.

Public Notice of the Availability of the draft Finding of No Significant Impact and Environmental Assessment has been initiated on May 1, 2019, 2019 and sent to concerned agencies, organizations and the interested public in accordance with 40 CFR 1501.4(e)(1)). All comments received during the public review period will be responded to in the Final EA and FONSI.

OTHER ENVIRONMENTAL AND CULTURAL COMPLIANCE REQUIREMENTS:

ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT

Pursuant to section 7 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers determined that the recommended plan may affect but is not likely to adversely affect the following federally listed species or their designated critical habitat: Indiana bat and Northern Long-eared bat. To minimize the potential for impacts to summer habitat for bat species, tree removal activities will not occur between April 1 and September 30 (clearing between October 1 through March 31). The proposed action has been determined to have no effect on the Running Buffalo Clover. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has concurred with this determination on April 25, 2019.

NATIONAL HISTORIC PRESERVATION ACT

Pursuant to section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers determined that historic properties would not be adversely affected by the proposed action. The Ohio State Historic Preservation Office concurred with the determination on April 15, 2019.

All applicable laws, executive orders, regulations, and local government plans were considered in evaluation of alternatives. Based on this report, the reviews by other Federal, State and local agencies, Tribes, input of the public, and the review by my staff, it is my determination that the proposed action would not cause significant adverse effects on the quality of the human environment; therefore, preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement is not required.

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Date

Antoinette R. Gant
Colonel, U.S. Army
District Commander