



June 16, 2026

Limited Environmental Review and Finding of No Significant Impact

**Summit County
Q-456: Pump Station #29 Replacement
Loan Number: CS390078-0114**

The attached Limited Environmental Review (LER) is for a wastewater project in Summit County 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,

Steve Malone, for

Kathleen Courtright, Assistant Chief
Division of Environmental and Financial Assistance

LIMITED ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

Project Identification

Project: Q-456: Pump Station #29 Replacement

Applicant: Summit County
1180 South Main Street, Suite 201
Akron, Ohio 44301

Loan Number: CS390078-0114



Figure 1. Summit County

Project Summary

Summit County (see Figure 1) requested funding from the Ohio Water Pollution Control Loan Fund (WPCLF) for the Q-456: Pump Station #29 Replacement project. The project involves replacement of Summit County's Pump Station #29 and an associated force main. No significant adverse impacts are anticipated based on the nature and location of construction, thoughtful design, and proposed protection measures to be implemented, as discussed in the conclusion.

History & Existing Conditions

Summit County operates and maintains a wastewater collection, transportation, and treatment system in unincorporated portions of the county and in certain municipalities. These areas comprise a district known as the Summit County Metropolitan Sewer District. Summit County is responsible for five wastewater treatment facilities, 115 wastewater pumping stations, and nearly 1,010 miles of sanitary sewers that convey wastewater to county-owned treatment plants and to those owned by Akron, Barberton, Twinsburg, the Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District, and Stark and Portage counties. Wastewater treatment facilities owned by Summit County include the Fishcreek and Springfield plants, which have operating capacities of 8 million gallons per day (MGD) and 4 MGD, respectively.

Summit County regularly reviews its infrastructure to determine what improvements, repairs, and upgrades are needed to maintain reliability of the system. One such area identified as needing attention is a pump station, Pump Station #29, and an associated force main located on North Dover Road in the Village of Silver Lake.

Pump Station #29 was constructed around 1970 to serve residents along North Dover Road. It currently serves 37 homes with no expected increase in users. It is a duplex suction lift pump station with two pumps and is rated for a single pump capacity of 75 gallons per minute (GPM). The station pumps sanitary flows via a 4-inch cast iron force main to a manhole along Leewood Drive within the

City of Stow. Sanitary flows are ultimately conveyed to the City of Akron Water Reclamation Facility for treatment and discharge to the Cuyahoga River.

Summit County determined that Pump Station #29 and its associated force main must be replaced due to its age and deteriorated condition. Summit County hired a consultant to inspect, evaluate, and provide recommendations on repair or replacement alternatives for the pump station and force main. Pump station alternatives included reusing the existing wet well or using precast concrete structures. All alternatives included the use of submersible pumps to match Summit County specifications and have a provision for vehicle parking. Several varying force main routes were also considered.

Project Description

Summit County will replace Pump Station #29 at its existing location. The site contains one large tree and roughly a dozen saplings that must be removed to prepare the site for construction of new infrastructure. The new site plan will eliminate a set of metal access steps and in their place feature a segmental retaining wall. The area encompassed by the wall will be filled, paved with asphalt to create a parking area for maintenance staff, and have guardrails around the edges not connected to North Dover Road.

A new submersible pump station featuring a wet well and valve vault will be installed within the area encompassed by the retaining wall. The station will have two submersible pumps each rated at 125 GPM. The pumps will be equipped with variable frequency drives, which will allow the pumps to operate at varying speeds. The wet well will have an effective volume of roughly 313 gallons.

The existing pump station wet well will be converted to a manhole, and an additional manhole will be installed on the southern side of the site. Each manhole will function to collect sanitary sewer flows from the service area, which will then be conveyed through new sections of gravity sewer to the new pump station wet well. An estimated 42 linear feet (LF) of 8-inch polyvinyl chloride pipe gravity sewer will be installed to connect the manholes to the wet well.

A new 1,433 LF long, 4-inch high-density polyethylene (HDPE) force main will be installed to connect the pump station to a receiving gravity sewer manhole. The force main will be installed via horizontal direction drilling, which requires excavation of launch and receiving pits at the start and end points, respectively. This process effectively avoids the need to excavate along the length of the force main and is beneficial for avoiding potentially adverse surface impacts. The force main will route northward along North Dover Road before turning east where it'll continue and then connect to the receiving manhole on Leewood Road.

All work will take place within Summit County utility easements, and no work agreements with property owners are anticipated. The contractor will be required to notify nearby property owners of impending work two weeks prior to the start date via written notice sent by mail.

See Figure 2 for locations of Pump Station #29 and the receiving manhole.

Implementation

Summit County requested \$1.2 million from the Ohio WPCLF at the standard rate currently set at 3.24% to finance the project. Interest rates are set monthly and may change for a later loan award. Borrowing this amount in WPCLF monies could save Summit County roughly \$191,000 over the 20-year loan term compared to the current market rate of 4.49%.

The debt associated with the project will be recovered from monthly user charges. The sewer charges for Summit County are driven by the total indebtedness of the system and annual operation and maintenance costs. Summit County last raised rates by 6.5% at the beginning of 2026, and they report that future rate increases between 2027 and 2031 will be inflationary based. Summit County charges customers based on metered water usage or by flat rate in the case of customers whose water consumption is not measured by meter readings. The average annual sewer bill for Summit County customers who have a metered water usage of 4,000 gallons is \$702. This represents 1.02% of Summit County's median household income of \$68,360 and is greater than the Ohio average annual sewer bill of \$528.

Construction is anticipated to begin following loan award and take one year to complete.

Public Participation

Summit County provides resources and information on proposed and ongoing wastewater projects to customers via the Summit County website and Summit County Department of Sanitary Sewer Services webpage. Summit County Council meets every other Monday at 4:30 in council chambers. These meetings are open to the public, and agendas and minutes for the meetings are available on the county's website. Summit County has discussed the Q-456: Pump Station #29 Replacement project at these meetings.

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 Summit County 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 the functional replacement of and 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, will require no specific impact mitigation, and will have no effect on high-value environmental resources. The project is located within the known ranges of several state and federally listed threatened and endangered bat species including the

Indiana bat, the northern long-eared bat, the tricolored bat, and the little brown bat. During spring and summer (April 1 through September 30), these species predominantly roost in trees behind loose and exfoliating bark, in crevices and cavities, and in leaf clusters. These species are also dependent on forest structure surrounding roost trees.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) recommends that removal of trees greater than or equal to 3-inches in diameter only occur between October 1 and March 31 for protection of these species. Summit County agreed to restrict clearing of trees meeting this criterion during the recommended timeframe. Summit County must coordinate with the USFWS and ODNR first for guidance should the need arise to conduct tree removal outside of the recommended period.

An intermittent stream tributary to Mud Brook is located to the west and south of the pump station site. The contractor will be required to implement a stormwater pollution prevention plan (SWPPP) per the construction specifications to ensure the stream is protected from potential adverse stormwater related effects such as the discharge of sediment laden stormwater and erosion. The SWPPP includes but is not limited to erosion and sediment control, spill prevention and control, site stabilization means, dewatering measures, and proper material stockpiling methods.

Traffic on North Dover Road and Leewood Road will likely be impacted during construction. The contractor is responsible for implementing all necessary means for the safe maintenance of traffic as required by the construction specifications. This includes the erection and maintenance of traffic control devices such as lights, signs, and barricades, as well as flaggers as necessary. Road closures are not permitted unless first approved by Summit County.

Is cost effective. Summit County considered several pump station and force main alternatives. All alternatives were considered viable and relatively similar in both nature and estimated cost. Ultimately, Summit County determined the project as proposed, and as recommended by their hired consultant, to be the most cost-effective alternative available.

Is not a controversial action. The project is such that there will be no significant adverse impacts on residents or the environment, and no controversy has been reported. User rates will not be impacted by the 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. The project is not intended to address, nor will it inadvertently affect, these listed features. Rather, the project is merely intended to restore reliability and improve operating efficiency of Pump Station #29 and the associated force main.

Based upon Ohio EPA's review of the planning information and the materials presented in this LER, 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.

Summit County designed the project to be effective and affordable, the results of which will ensure Pump Station #29 continues to provide safe, reliable wastewater handling for the service area.

Contact Information

Brody Betsch
Division of Environmental and Financial Assistance
Ohio Environmental Protection Agency
50 West Town Street, Suite 700
Columbus, Ohio 43215

Email: brody.betsch@epa.ohio.gov

Phone: 614.644.3710



Figure 2. Project locations