



Mike DeWine, Governor  
Jon Husted, Lt. Governor  
Laurie A. Stevenson, Director

**September 11, 2020**

**Limited Environmental Review and Finding of No Significant Impact**

**Summit County  
Operations Fleet Maintenance Facility  
Loan number: CS390078-0100**

The attached Limited Environmental Review (LER) is for a wastewater project in Akron which the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency intends to finance through its Water Pollution Control Loan Fund (WPCLF) 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 WPCLF 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,

*Jonathan Bernstein*

Jonathan Bernstein, Assistant Chief  
Division of Environmental and Financial Assistance

Attachment

## LIMITED ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

### **Project Identification**

Project: Operations Fleet Maintenance Facility

Applicant: Summit County Department of Sanitary Sewer Services  
1180 South Main Street, Suite 201  
Akron, Ohio 44301

Loan Number: CS390078-0100

### **Project Summary**

Summit County, on behalf of its Department of Sanitary Sewer Services (DSSS), has requested a low-interest loan from the Ohio Water Pollution Control Loan Fund (WPCLF) to construct a new Operations Fleet Maintenance Facility in Akron to consolidate functions now at multiple locations. All work will be on a recently remediated industrial brownfield lacking important environmental or cultural features.

### **History & Existing Conditions**

The five DSSS field operations - Sewer Maintenance; Fleet Maintenance; Pump Stations; Plant Mechanics; and Electrical Group - are housed in multiple buildings at six sites around greater Akron. The primary and largest facility is leased from the City of Akron. Besides leasing the main facility, coordinating operations across the multiple sites causes administrative and operational inefficiencies.

### **Project Description**

This project involves construction of a 60,000-square-foot consolidated fleet and equipment maintenance facility on a recently remediated, 6-acre brownfield site in industrial southern Akron (Figures 1 and 2) for the activities and operations of the Sewer Maintenance, Vehicle Maintenance, and the Pump Stations sections. The new single-story, prefabricated metal building will be adjacent to the DSSS main administrative office.

### **Implementation**

Summit County will borrow approximately \$12,800,000 from the WPCLF at the standard interest rate (now 0.53% for a 20-year loan; the rate is set monthly and may change for a later loan award). Summit County will save approximately \$1,800,000 by using WPCLF funds at this rate, compared to the market rate of 1.78%.

The typical residential annual sewer bill for Summit County DSSS customers will be \$1,100 upon project completion, which is 2.0% of local median household income (MHI; \$53,291). Sewer bills less than 1.8% of MHI are considered affordable. By using the WPCLF low-interest financing, Summit County has minimized the project cost and impact to customers and the local economy.

Assuming construction starts after the requested October 2020 loan award, the project will be complete in late 2021.

### **Public Participation**

Summit County issued a project description with request for public comment in May 2020 and received no comments. The project has been discussed in regular County Council meetings. Ohio EPA is unaware of opposition to or controversy about this project.

Ohio EPA will make a copy of this document available to the public on its web page (<https://epa.ohio.gov/defa/ofa#169638769-wplcf-documents-for-review-and-comment>) and will provide it on request to interested parties.

### **Conclusion**

The proposed project meets the project type criteria for a Limited Environmental Review (LER); namely, it is an action within an existing public wastewater treatment system involving construction of new ancillary facilities adjacent or appurtenant to existing facilities. Furthermore, the project meets the other qualifying criteria for an LER; specifically, the proposed project:

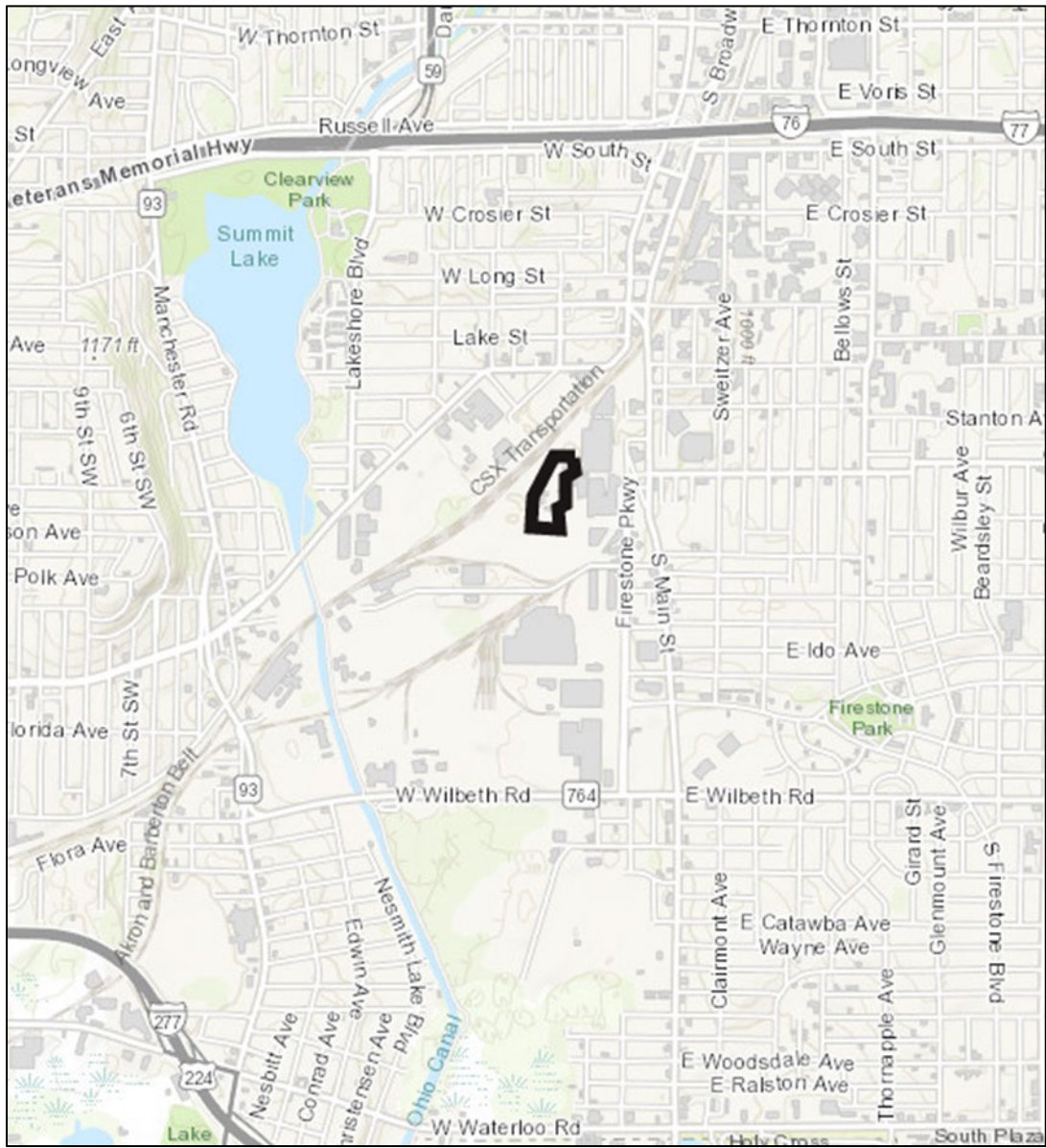
**Will have no significant environmental effect and no effect on high-value environmental resources and will require no specific impact mitigation** because all work will be on a recently-remediated industrial brownfield on which all current environmental contamination standards have been achieved. Contractors will implement standard construction best management practices for erosion and sediment control and dust control.

**Is cost-effective and not a controversial action** because the proposed consolidation of services in a single, new facility specifically designed for DSSS needs will increase operational efficiencies. Ohio EPA is unaware of any opposition to or controversy about this project that will help re-develop part of industrial southern Akron.

**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** because the proposed maintenance facility is not wastewater collection or treatment infrastructure and has no effect on wastewater flows or treatment.

### **Contact information**

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**Figure 1 - Project location**



**Figure 2 - Project footprint on brownfield**