



John R. Kasich, Governor  
Mary Taylor, Lt. Governor  
Craig W. Butler, Director

**August 2, 2016**  
**Limited Environmental Review and Finding of No Significant Impact**  
**Mahoning Valley Sanitary District**  
**Distribution Valves and Main Replacements Phase III**  
**WSRLA # FS391400-0016**

The attached Limited Environmental Review (LER) is for a water supply project in your area 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 document.

Loan award will 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 blue ink that reads "Jerry Rouch".

Jerry Rouch, Assistant Chief  
Division of Environmental and Financial Assistance  
Office of Financial Assistance

JR/DH

attachment

## LIMITED ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

### A. Project Identification

Project Name: Mahoning Valley Sanitary District – Distribution Valves and Main Replacements Phase III

WSRLA #: FS391400-0016

Address: Anthony Vigorito, Chief Engineer  
Mahoning Valley Sanitary District  
P.O. Box 4119  
Youngstown, OH 44440

### B. History and Existing Conditions

The Mahoning Valley Sanitary District (MVSD) owns and operates a water treatment plant immediately downstream of its water source, Meander Reservoir. Treated water is pumped from the plant to Niles, Youngstown, and McDonald through MVSD distribution mains that include two 20-inch diameter lines and one 24-inch diameter line to Niles and two 36-inch diameter mains and a 48-inch diameter main to Youngstown.

The distribution mains are equipped with valves ranging from 12 inches to 48 inches in diameter to control the flow of water. In 2009, MVSD began a three-phase program to replace the original deteriorated valves. MVSD has requested financing from the Ohio Water Supply Revolving Loan Account (WSRLA) for the third of four phases of the valve replacement project.

### C. Project Description

This project will replace valves at seven locations in the Niles distribution system and six locations in the Youngstown distribution system, and will replace four spans of deteriorated water main, reconnecting to the existing pipe in the same locations (Figure 1):

#### Valve Replacement

Belmont Avenue (south of the Mahoning River)  
Belmont Avenue and Price Street  
Belmont Avenue and Horace Street  
State Route 46  
Main Street and 5<sup>th</sup> Street  
Main Street and 2<sup>nd</sup> Street

Eliza Avenue and 1<sup>st</sup> Street  
The Snake Pit  
Lanterman Road  
Belle Avenue  
Oakwood / Dunlap Avenue  
Salt Springs Road (North)  
Salt Springs Road (South)

#### Waterline Replacement

Four Mile Run Road (two locations)  
Youngstown Easterly and Westerly (two locations)

The valves are housed in concrete encasements and below-ground valve vaults. Work will generally involve excavating and removing the valve vaults or concrete casings, installing new components, backfilling, and restoring the sites to their original conditions. Where the vaults are in good condition, the valves will be replaced within the vaults. All the work sites are in roads or road shoulders in developed areas or within the public utility easement where the pipes go cross-country.

#### D. Estimated Project Costs

MVSD will borrow approximately \$6,050,000 from the WSRLA at the Economic Affordability interest rate (0.81% for the anticipated August 2016 loan; the rate is set monthly and may change for a later loan award). During the 20-year loan period, MVSD will save approximately \$2,117,000 by using WSRLA dollars at this rate, compared to the market rate of 2.56%.

MVSD will repay this loan with income from water sales to the member cities supported by a 2013 multi-year rate increase through 2016.

#### E. Project Schedule

Assuming loan award in mid-2016 and a prompt construction start, the project will be complete by April 2018.

#### F. Public Notification

No specific public participation was necessary for this system-wide project that involves multiple, dispersed small construction areas in pavement and road shoulders that will not directly affect residents or businesses except for occasional traffic routing around work areas. This Limited Environmental Review (LER) will be posted on MVSD's and Ohio EPA's websites. Information supporting the LER is available from the project contact named below.

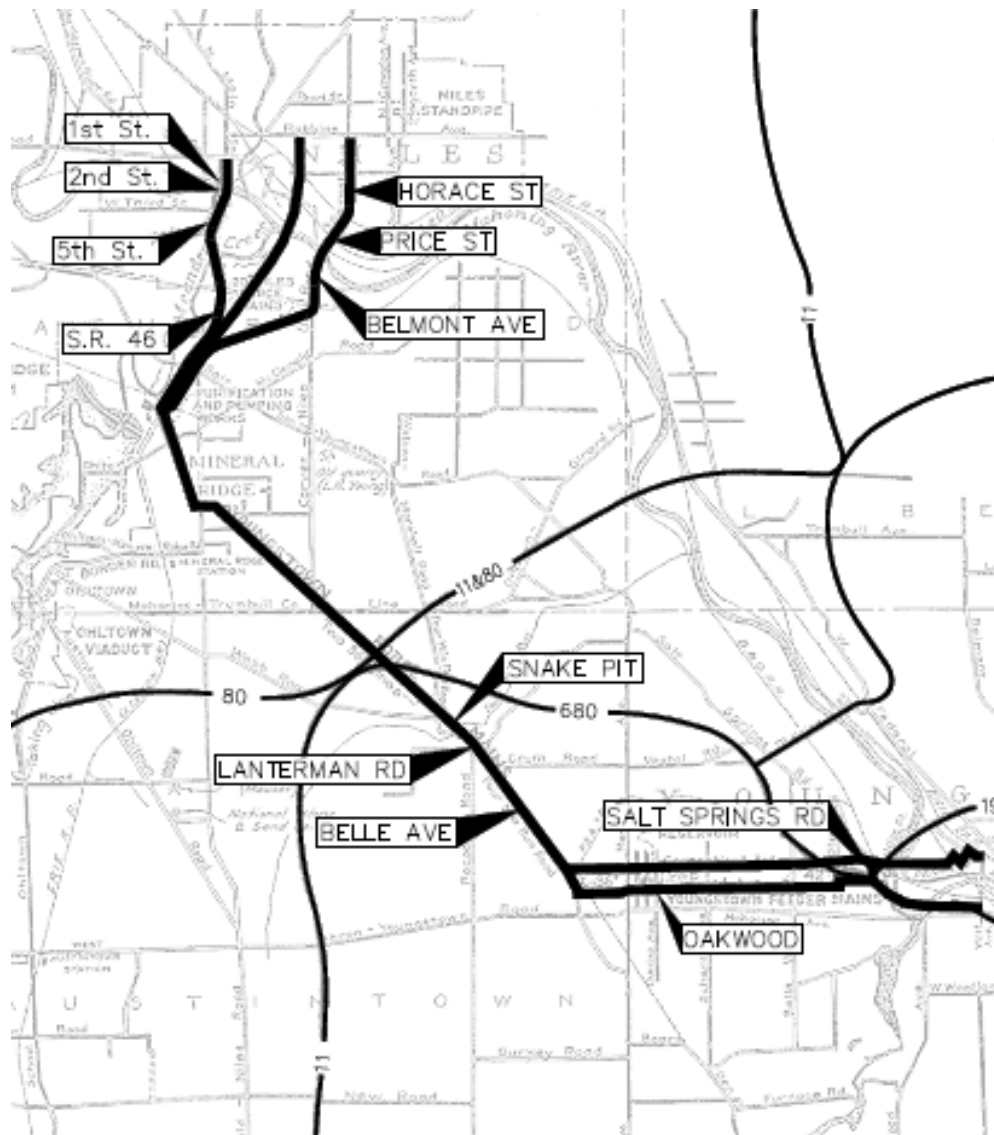


Figure 1 – Project Locations

## H. Conclusion

The proposed valve and water main replacements are “minor rehabilitation of existing facilities” that qualifies for a LER and meets the following additional criteria for a LER:

*They have no significant environmental effect, no effect on high value environmental resources, and do not require extensive specific impact mitigation – With the exception of limited tree removal at one water main replacement location, that will occur during*

cold weather to avoid direct impacts to endangered bat species, all work will be on or immediately adjacent to pavement or in maintained rights-of-way lacking important habitat. Standard construction best management practices will minimize or avoid significant noise, dust, traffic disruption, and storm water runoff impacts.

*They are cost-effective and not controversial* – Replacement or rehabilitation of aged and deteriorating components are typically more cost-effective than complete infrastructure replacement, and less costly than a catastrophic failure if the components were ignored. A typical residential annual water bill in Niles is \$361, which is 1.0% of local median household income, MHI (\$37,169), in Youngstown is \$731, which is 3.0% of MHI (\$24,454), and in McDonald is \$374, which is 0.8% of MHI (\$49,139). Each water bill includes the cost of water from MVSD and the local costs of constructing and maintaining each distribution system. The higher cost in Youngstown may reflect repairs and upgrades in the city's distribution system as well as the cost of bulk water from MVSD.

Ohio EPA is unaware of controversy about or opposition to this project that helps ensure reliable delivery of water.

*They do not create a new, or relocate an existing, discharge to surface or ground waters; they do 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; they 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 they will not provide capacity to serve a population substantially greater than the existing population* – These projects maintain the existing system for delivering potable water to customers and have no other effect on the water withdrawal, treatment, or delivery system.

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 (floodplains, wetlands, prime or unique agricultural lands, aquifer recharge zones, archaeologically or historically significant sites, or threatened or endangered species).

I. For more information, please contact:

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