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Earl Ray Tomblin, Governor
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FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT
FNSI-WV-312

DATE: October 28, 2016

To All Interested Parties:

In accordance with the State regulations found in Title 47, Series 31, "State Water Pollution Control Revolving Fund," the West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection (WVDEP) has performed an Environmental Review on the proposed project, as described below, and on the attached Environmental Assessment:

Jefferson County PSD
Wastewater Improvements Project
SRF No. C-544546

(Official Project Name and Number)

Susanne Lawton, General Manager
Jefferson County Public Service District
340 Edmond Road, Suite A
Kearneysville, WV 25430

(Project Applicant)

In and around the cities of Ranson and Charles Town
Jefferson County, West Virginia

(Project Location, City, County, State)

\$ 3,344,984

(Estimated State Revolving Fund Financial Share)

\$ 6,738,984/\$ 6,132,449

(Estimated Total Project Cost/Estimated Eligible Cost)

Promoting a healthy environment.

SRF No. C-544546

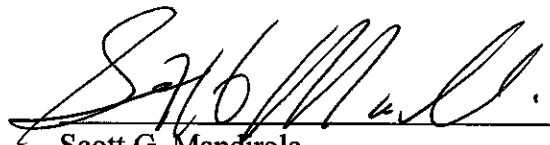
The review process indicated that either significant environmental impacts would not result from the proposed action or significant adverse impacts have been eliminated by making changes in the project. Consequently, a preliminary decision not to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement has been made.

This action is taken on the basis of a careful review of the Environmental Information Document, and other supporting data. These documents are on file in the WVDEP office and are available for public review upon request. Additional copies of the Environmental Assessment will be made available, at cost, upon request.

Comments supporting or disagreeing with this preliminary decision may be submitted for consideration to DEP. After evaluating the comments received, the Agency will make a final decision no sooner than thirty (30) calendar days from the date of this Finding of No Significant Impact. No administrative action will be taken with respect to this proposal during this time frame.

Comments should be submitted to:

Katheryn Emery, P.E.
West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection
Division of Water and Waste Management
State Revolving Fund Program
601 57th Street, SE
Charleston, WV 25304



Scott G. Mandirola
Director
Division of Water and Waste Management

**ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT
FOR THE
JEFFERSON COUNTY PUBLIC SERVICE DISTRICT
WASTEWATER IMPROVEMENT PROJECT
SRF NO. C-544546**

I. Proposed Project

The Jefferson County Public Service District (JCPSD) owns and operates a wastewater collection system, serving approximately 2,562 customers in Jefferson County, West Virginia, as shown on the Project Location Map in Exhibit 1(attached). The District provides service to customers in and around the municipalities of Charles Town and Ranson, WV. Ranson and Charles Town also provide collection services to customers in the area, and Charles Town is the regional wastewater treatment provider. Ranson and the District's wastewater is conveyed to the Evitts Run Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP), which is owned and operated by Charles Town Utility Board (CTUB). CTUB also has the ability to direct a portion of this flow to its Tuscowilla WWTP by way of a transfer pump station.

The District's existing collection system is made up of approximately 45 miles of gravity lines ranging from 4 inches to 21 inches in diameter, 15 miles of force mains ranging from 1.5 inches to 10 inches in diameter, 1,007 manholes, and 28 lift stations. The collection system consists of the following three legs:

1. The Northern Route 9 system (NR9), which conveys flow from the Burr/Bardane Industrial Park along Rt. 115 through Ranson to Charles Town's Evitts Run WWTP. Most of this system was installed over thirty years ago. Pump stations 1-10, 1-11, 1-12, 1-12A, and 1-157 are located in this system and included in the proposed project.
2. The Flowing Springs Basin system (FSB), which collects sewage from Briar Run, Breckenridge, and Beallair subdivisions, and conveys flow from the Breckenridge Pump Station to Ranson's Flowing Springs Pump Station (RFSPS). From there, the combined flow from Ranson and District customers is divided up and conveyed to Charles Town's Evitts Run WWTP by way of either the Evitts Run gravity interceptor sewer or the District's pump stations 3-6 and 4-2. Much of this system was installed in 1999. Pump stations 3-6, 3-7 (Breckenridge), 3-13 (Beallair), and 4-2 are located in this system and included in the proposed project.
3. The Southern Route 9 system (SR9), which conveys flow from the southern side of Rt. 340, including various areas around Rt. 9, to Charles Town's Evitts Run WWTP by way of the District's Pump Station 4-5. This system was installed in the late 1980s. The proposed project does not include upgrades or improvements to this system.

This project concerns the NR9 and FSB systems listed above. The District received notice from Ranson to address capacity concerns regarding Ranson's Mildred Street Interceptor sewer, which receives and conveys flow from the NR9 system to the Evitts Run WWTP. To alleviate Ranson's concerns and prevent a moratorium in Old Town Ranson, the project has proposed decommissioning pump stations 1-10, 1-11, 1-12, and 1-157, and reducing the flow at pump station 1-12A. The District has proposed installing new gravity lines to convey flow along Route

9 to the site of station 1-10, where a new 15-inch interceptor sewer will be built. This interceptor sewer will run from station 1-10 to the existing site of the Breckenridge Pump Station.

In the FSB system, the existing Breckenridge and Beallair pump stations, which will be removed and/or replaced in the proposed project, were constructed in 1999 and 2007, respectively. The Breckenridge pump station accepts flow from District customers in the FSB system, including flow from Beallair, and CTUB's flow from its Sanitary Associates Pump Station. This station has experienced sewage back-ups in the past, which have led to civil suits over flooded basements in the subdivision and associated repairs and maintenance. Currently, there is no interceptor sewer in the FSB system. Therefore, when the Beallair pump station was constructed, its flow was conveyed directly into the Breckenridge collection system at a point closest to the Beallair subdivision. The proposed project removes the Breckenridge and Beallair pump stations from the system, replacing them both with manholes, and installs a new 24-inch interceptor to convey flow from the FSB system and the proposed 15-inch interceptor to a new 0.26 million gallons per day (MGD) average daily flow (ADF) Halltown Pump Station, which will be installed adjacent to the existing Beallair Pump Station. Flow from the Halltown Pump Station will be conveyed through a new 12-inch force main to Breckenridge, where the new main will connect to an existing 8-inch force main. From there, flow will be transported to RFSPS.

The proposed project includes installing the 0.26 MGD ADF Halltown Pump Station, 755 linear feet (LF) of 8-inch SDR-35 PVC; 215 LF of 10-inch SDR-35 PVC; 10,510 LF of 15-inch SDR-35 PVC; 5,300 LF of 24-inch SDR-35 PVC; 5,490 LF of 12-inch force main; 500 LF of stream crossings; 640 LF of road bore; 75 LF of railroad bore; 2,300 LF of access road; 5,000 SY of pavement overlay; seventy-nine (79) 48-inch diameter manholes; thirty (30) 72-inch diameter manholes; five (5) air relief valves; twelve (12) cleanouts; two (2) 12-inch plug valves; one (1) force main connection; and all necessary appurtenances. The project proposes decommissioning pump stations 1-10, 1-11, 1-12, 1-157, 3-7, and 3-13, along with reducing flow at station 1-12A. Finally, this project seeks to upgrade the pumps, slide rails, controls at stations 3-6 and 4-2, with a re-lining planned at station 4-2 to address corrosion from hydrogen sulfide.

The anticipated project costs and proposed funding sources for the project are as follows:

Total Project Cost	\$ 6,738,984.00
Total Construction Cost	\$ 4,586,575.00
SRF Loan Amount (40 years at 0.5% interest)	\$ 2,844,984.00
Green Projects Reserve Principal Forgiveness	\$ 500,000.00
RUS Loan (38 years at 4% interest)	\$ 3,394,000.00
Annual O&M Cost	\$ 2,238,078.00
Average Monthly Rate (4,000 gal/month)	\$ 73.28

II. Purpose and Need

This project began once the District received the aforementioned notice to address capacity concerns in Ranson's Mildred Street Interceptor. The District began to work with Ranson to redirect its NR9 flows and ultimately convey these flows to RFSPS by way of the proposed 15-

inch and 24-inch interceptor sewers and a new 0.26 MGD Halltown Pump Station. In addition, the District has experienced flooded basements upstream from the Breckenridge Pump Station, and has reported recurring maintenance and repair costs being incurred because of the station's location, pipe inverts, and influent flowrates. The force main running from Beallair Pump Station was constructed to discharge into the Breckenridge system at a point nearest to Beallair, which may only exacerbate the situation at the Breckenridge Pump Station if new developments were to come on-line and discharge in similar ways. Finally, nearly 15-percent of the FSB system's flow is diverted through a series of gravity line and pump stations, including stations 3-6 and 4-2. Both of these stations are in need of upgraded pumps, controls, and slide rails, and station 4-2 needs to be re-lined due to corrosion from hydrogen sulfide.

This project seeks to alleviate Ranson's initial capacity concerns in their Mildred Street Interceptor through Old Town and eliminate the problematic Breckenridge Pump Station from the District's FSB system. In addition, this project will provide the District with a better-developed plan for dealing with its existing and potential future flows in the NR9 and FSB systems. The location of the Halltown Pump Station is advantageous since it allows the District to serve its existing customers in Breckenridge and Beallair by gravity to one pump station instead of two. Also, the installation of the proposed interceptor sewers should prevent future developments from connecting to existing subdivisions' systems and potentially overwhelming existing infrastructure. Finally, the District's proposed improvements at pump stations 3-6 and 4-2 will allow for their continued use.

The proposed 0.26 ADF Halltown Pump Station is below the 0.288 MGD capacity allocated by the District's and Ranson's 2008 Transportation Agreement, but the District may be required to pay a transportation impact fee to Ranson for flows in excess of 0.144 MGD. Also, since planning of this project began, CTUB has designed a project which will remove its Sanitary Associates flow from the District's FSB system. The District has received service applications from multiple residential developments in the area, as well as a request from the Jefferson County Commission for increased capacity to allow for future expansion of Burr-Bardane Industrial Park. However, the currently designed ADF of the Halltown Pump Station of 0.26 MGD is based on existing flows in the NR9 system and at Breckenridge Pump Station, less the amount of CTUB's flow from Sanitary Associates, with a 20-percent reserve capacity.

The District operates under NPDES Permit No. WV0084361, issued on March 17, 2011, which contains effluent limitations related to the proposed 1.0 MGD WWTP that was being considered at that time. The proposed WWTP was never constructed and the district's flows are treated at CTUB's Evitts Run WWTP. In the future, CTUB may transfer portions of the District's and Ranson's combined flow to its Tuscawilla WWTP as well. On March 10, 2016, NPDES Permit No. WV0084361 was extended from March 16, 2016 to June 30, 2016. On June 13, 2016, the permit was extended from June 30, 2016, to September 30, 2016. On September 16, 2016, the permit was extended from September 30, 2016, to April 30, 2017, to allow for WVDEP permit application review. A new NPDES permit is expected to be issued at that time.

III. Future Environment without the Project

Without this project, sewage back-ups could continue happening in Breckenridge, with a potential for more civil suits to follow, and Ranson's capacity concerns in Old Town would not be addressed. Without an interceptor sewer or the more advantageous location provided by the Halltown Pump Station, the flow from future developments will be either conveyed into Breckenridge's existing system or through the NR9 system, depending on the developments' locations. These scenarios would only compound the District's existing concerns at the Breckenridge Pump Station and Ranson's existing capacity concerns in their Mildred Street Interceptor.

IV. Evaluation of Alternatives

The following alternatives were evaluated as part of this project:

1. No action.
2. Constructing a 15-inch interceptor from station 1-10 to Breckenridge, decommissioning pump stations along Route 9, and replacing Breckenridge Pump Station with a 0.26 MGD pump station adjacent to its existing location.
3. Constructing a 24-inch gravity interceptor from a decommissioned Breckenridge station to a new 0.26 MGD Halltown Pump Station adjacent to the existing Beallair Pump Station, and sharing the cost to increase Ranson's existing 8-inch and 10-inch sewers to 24-inch sewers.
4. Constructing 15-inch and 24-inch interceptor sewers, decommissioning pump stations along Route 9, installing a new 0.26 MGD Halltown Pump Station adjacent to the existing Beallair pump station, and upgrading stations 3-6 and 4-2.

After evaluating the alternatives, the District eliminated Alternative 1 due to their concerns of future issues for their existing customers and the potential for a moratorium on development within their service area. Alternative 2 was eliminated due to the District's concerns that construction would cost significantly more due to shoring concerns at the proposed station, the requirement for additional pump stations in the future for planned developments in the area, the Beallair pump station would not be removed from service, and the alternative was not consistent with Jefferson County's Comprehensive Plan. Alternative 3 was eliminated from consideration due to the selected alternative being more cost efficient. Although Alternative 2 cost approximately \$660,000 less and had a lower present worth than the selected alternative, the factors listed above led the District to choose Alternative 4.

V. Environmental Consequences

The following factors were evaluated with respect to potential environmental impacts. The beneficial impacts of this project should far exceed any detrimental effects. A brief discussion of each factor is presented:

1. **Air Quality:** Possible short-term adverse impact associated with construction activities.
2. **Noise:** Possible short-term impact associated with construction activities.
3. **Endangered or Threatened Species:** No impact. US Fish and Wildlife clearance dated June 17, 2014. WVDNR clearance dated June 30, 2014.
4. **Fish and Wildlife Resources:** No impact. Construction will not adversely affect fish and wildlife resources. US Fish and Wildlife clearance dated June 17, 2014.
5. **Wetlands/Floodplains:** Possible impact. USACE correspondence, dated October 23, 2015, indicated that 0.0926 acres of wetlands may be impacted by the project. However, the letter states that the project's construction activities are covered by Nationwide Permit No. 12. A letter from the Jefferson County Floodplain Manager, dated January 4, 2015, states that the project does not require a permit and is in compliance with the County's floodplain ordinance.
6. **Surface/Groundwater Resources:** Possible short-term impact associated with construction activities. Any adverse impact should be mitigated by the contractor's compliance with an approved erosion and sediment control plan. Due to Karst topography in the area, there is a potential for adverse impacts to groundwater resources if planned developments in the area were to utilize septic tanks without proper maintenance. These potential adverse impacts can be reduced by the District providing service to the developments as they come online.
7. **Excessive Energy Consumption:** No impact. The decommissioned pump stations and the new energy-efficient pumps are expected to decrease the District's energy consumption.
8. **Sludge Disposal:** No impact.
9. **Loss of Prime Agricultural Land:** No impact. There is no prime agricultural land within the project area. USDA-NRCS clearance dated February 16, 2016.
10. **Visual Effects/Community Amenities:** Potential beneficial impact. The Breckenridge Pump Station will be removed from the subdivision, which will reduce the visual effects to that community. Although the new Halltown Pump Station will be constructed in the Beallair Subdivision, the report states that tree plantings are included in the cost to prevent adverse visual effects to that community.
11. **Socio-economic Considerations:** Potential adverse and beneficial impacts may result from this project. Adversely, the existing customers' rates will be increased to pay for this project. However, the proposed Halltown Pump Station and both interceptor sewers will allow the

District to better serve its existing customer base. These improvements will also prevent the current system from being overwhelmed by future developments when/if they are built. Although residential or commercial development may be spurred by improvements to the wastewater collection system, the District has reported that multiple subdivisions are already expected to be developed in the area. All future development will be controlled by the Jefferson County Commission and/or the municipalities of Ranson or Charles Town. As new customers come on-line in the FSB system, further upgrades to Halltown and RFSPS may be necessary. Additionally, approximately one (1) acre of land will be acquired for the site of the Halltown Pump Station.

12. Historical/Archaeological Sites: No impact. The WV Division of Culture and History requested a Phase I archaeological study to be performed in their October 19, 2015. After the results from the Phase I were reviewed, clearance was given to the project in correspondence dated May 16, 2016.

13. Wild and Scenic Rivers: No impact. No wild and scenic rivers are located in the project area.

14. Other Environmentally Sensitive Areas: No impact.

VI. Public Participation

A public meeting for the proposed project was conducted on February 1, 2016. The meeting was advertised in *The Journal* and the *Spirit of Jefferson* newspapers. The District has responded and continues to respond to public comments regarding the project. The project was submitted to the WV Public Service Commission (PSC) prematurely, and there have already been intervenors in the certificate case. Thrasher has been working with the District, its counsel, and the PSC to address concerns raised by the PSC staff and the intervenors in the certificate case.

VII. Conclusions

Based upon this Environmental Assessment, the Department of Environmental Protection has concluded that this project will not cause any significant environmental impacts. The Thrasher Group will be responsible for wetland delineation during the design phase of the project, as required in 33 CFR 238-239. Any delineated wetlands will be avoided in the design and construction phases of this project, except where construction is otherwise covered by Nationwide Permit No. 12. Utilization of proper erosion and sedimentation controls will prevent significant impacts as a result of this project. Stafford Consultants Inc. will be responsible for addressing any further concerns raised from WV Division of Culture & History regarding the location of the historical site within the project area.

VIII. References

References utilized to complete this Environmental Assessment were:

1. Facilities Plan Checklist
2. Environmental Screening Checklist
3. Jefferson County PSD Wastewater Improvement Project Facilities Plan, prepared by The Thrasher Group, dated September 20, 2016
4. SRF Financial Information Worksheets, received October 6, 2016.

Attachments

- Exhibit 1-Project Location Map
- Exhibit 2-Site Plan Sheet

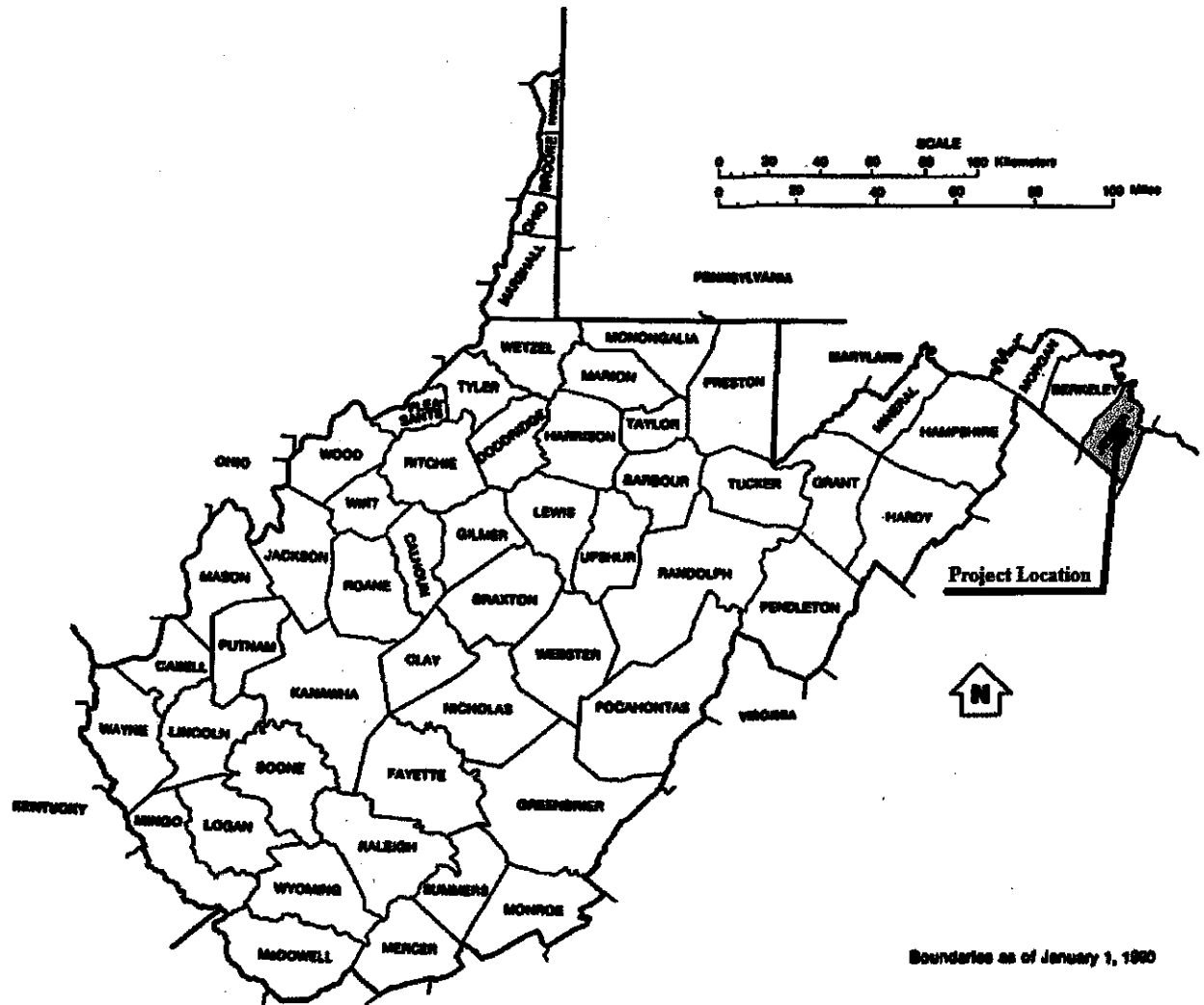


EXHIBIT 1
Project Location Map

