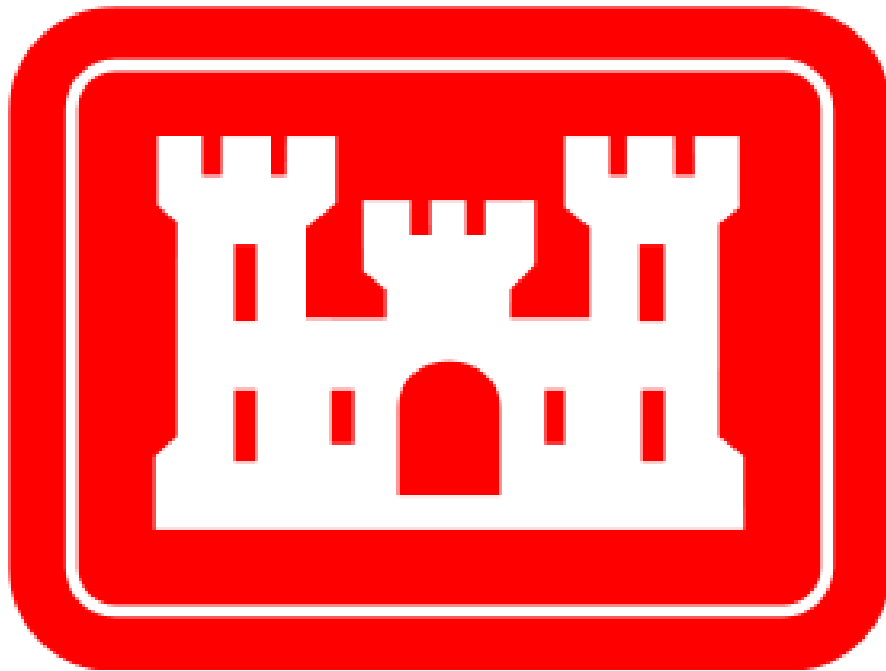


Environmental Assessment
Section 594 New Marshfield
Sewer Project
Athens County, Ohio



U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Huntington District
Huntington, West Virginia
April 2026
EAXX-202-00-H1P-1773656469



Environmental Assessment
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Executive Summary

The Athens County Board of Commissioners (Athens County Commissioners or non-Federal Sponsor) is proposing to upgrade its sanitary sewer system in New Marshfield, Athens County, Ohio. The project is Phase 2 of the larger Athens County Unsewered Areas Program, which seeks to eliminate failing household sewage treatment systems throughout rural communities.

The Proposed Action Alternative would consist of construction of a new sanitary sewer force main and associated lift station upgrades. This would include approximately 21,000 linear feet (LF) of 4-inch HDPE force main, 575 LF of 2-inch PVC force main, one (1) new lift station, associated air release valves, and existing lift station upgrades.

The proposed project is being conducted pursuant to a partnership agreement between the Athens County Commissioners and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps), established under the authority of Section 594 of the Water Resources and Development Act (WRDA) of 1999 (Public Law 106-109), as amended, which provides authority for the Corps to establish a program to provide environmental assistance to non-Federal entities in Ohio. This law authorizes design and construction assistance for water-related environmental infrastructure projects to non-Federal interests in Ohio. Funding, as established under Section 594, shall be shared 75% Federal and 25% non-Federal (State and Local).

This Environmental Assessment (EA) was prepared pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), (42 United States Code [USC] § 4321 et seq.), Department of Defense NEPA Implementing Procedures dated 30 June 2025, and the Fiscal Responsibility Act (42 USC § 4331 et seq.).



SECTION 594 NEW MARSHFIELD
SEWER PROJECT
ATHENS COUNTY, OHIO

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The majority of data collection and analysis in this document was performed by DLZ Ohio, Inc. with the Corps. In addition, this document is consistent with the Fiscal Responsibility Act (42 USC § 4336a(e)(2)) with the Environmental Assessment not exceeding 75 pages, not including citations or appendices.

1.0 PROJECT DESCRIPTION

1.1 Project Background

The community of New Marshfield (Community) is in Athens County, Ohio. The Community currently relies on failing household sewage treatment systems. The Athens County Health Department (Athens Public Health) has documented a high failure rate among these systems, with many residents unable to support replacements due to size and financial hardship. The project is Phase 2 of the larger Athens County Unsewered Areas Program. Phase 1 installed gravity sewers within the Community, and Phase 2 would construct the force main conveying flow from the New Marshfield collection system to the existing Plains wastewater treatment plant.

1.2 Purpose, Need, and Authorization

The purpose of the proposed upgrades is to provide adequate sewer service to residents in the Community. The proposed upgrades are needed to address documented failure of on-lot systems and resulting groundwater contamination, compliance obligations under Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (OEPA) regulations, and Athens County's plan for regional wastewater service and environmental improvement.

The proposed project is pursuant to a partnership agreement between the Athens County Commissioners and the Corps, established under the authority of Section 594 of the WRDA of 1999 (Public Law 106-109), as amended, which authorizes the Corps to establish a program to provide environmental assistance to non-Federal entities in Ohio. This law provides design and construction assistance for water-related environmental infrastructure projects to non-Federal interests in Ohio. Funding, as established under Section 594, shall be shared 75% Federal and 25% non-Federal (State and Local).

This EA was prepared pursuant to the NEPA, (USC § 4321 et seq.), Department of Defense NEPA Implementing Procedures dated 30 June 2025, and the Fiscal Responsibility Act (42 USC § 4331 et seq.).

2.0 PROPOSED ACTION AND ALTERNATIVES

2.1 Proposed Action Alternative (PAA)

The PAA would consist of construction of a new sanitary sewer force main and associated lift station upgrades. This would include approximately 21,000 LF of 4-inch HDPE force main, 575 LF of 2-inch PVC force main, one (1) new lift station, associated air release valves, and existing lift station upgrades.



2.2 No Action Alternative (NAA)

Under the NAA, the Corps would not provide funding for the project and the Athens County Commissioners would not upgrade its sanitary sewer system. As a result, the New Marshfield gravity system constructed under Phase 1 would remain inactive, and the sewer collection system would be unable to operate. In addition, untreated sewage would continue to pose a risk to public health and the environment. Although the NAA is not considered a viable alternative, the NAA is still included in the alternatives analysis to establish a baseline condition for existing human and natural environmental conditions, to allow comparison between the future without and with project actions, and to determine potential environmental effects of proposed with project alternatives.

3.0 ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING AND CONSEQUENCES

This section discusses the existing conditions by resource category and any potential environmental impacts associated with the NAA, as well as with implementation of the PAA.

The Corps took context and intensity into consideration in determining potential impact significance. The intensity of a potential impact is the impact's severity and includes consideration of beneficial and adverse effects, the level of controversy associated with a project's impacts on human health, whether the action establishes a precedent for future actions with significant effects, the level of uncertainty about project impacts and whether the action threatens to violate federal, state, or local laws established for the protection of the human and natural environment. The severity of an environmental impact is characterized as none/negligible, minor, moderate, or significant, and may be adverse or beneficial. The impact may also be short-term or long-term in nature.

- None/negligible – No measurable impacts are expected to occur.
- Minor – A measurable effect to a resource. A slight impact that may not be readily obvious and is within accepted levels for permitting, continued resource sustainability, or human use. Impacts should be avoided and minimized if possible but should not result in a mitigation requirement.
- Moderate – A measurable effect to a resource. An intermediate impact that may or may not be readily obvious but is within accepted levels for permitting, continued resource sustainability, or human use. Impacts may or may not result in the need for mitigation.
- Significant – A measurable effect to a resource. A major impact that is readily obvious and is not within accepted levels for permitting, continued resource sustainability, or human use. Impacts likely result in the need for mitigation.
- Adverse – A measurable and negative effect to a resource. May be minor to major, resulting in reduced conditions, sustainability, or viability of the resource.
- Beneficial – A measurable and positive effect to a resource. May be minor to major, resulting in improved conditions, sustainability, or viability of the resource.



- Short-Term – Temporary in nature and does not result in a permanent long-term beneficial or adverse effect to a resource. For example, temporary construction-related effects (such as an increase in dust, noise, traffic congestion) that no longer occur once construction is complete. May be minor, significant, adverse, or beneficial in nature.
- Long-Term – Permanent (or for most of the project life) beneficial or adverse effects to a resource. For example, permanent conversion of a wetland to a parking lot. May be minor, significant, adverse, or beneficial in nature.

The Corps used quantitative and qualitative analyses, as appropriate, to determine the level of potential impact from proposed alternatives. Based on the results of the analyses, this EA identifies whether a particular potential impact would be adverse or beneficial, and to what extent.

3.1 Project Location

The project area is located in the unincorporated community of New Marshfield in Waterloo Township, Athens County, Ohio and would primarily occur along Five Points Road and State Route (SR) 691. Figure 1 below shows the overall project location (See Appendix A for more maps).

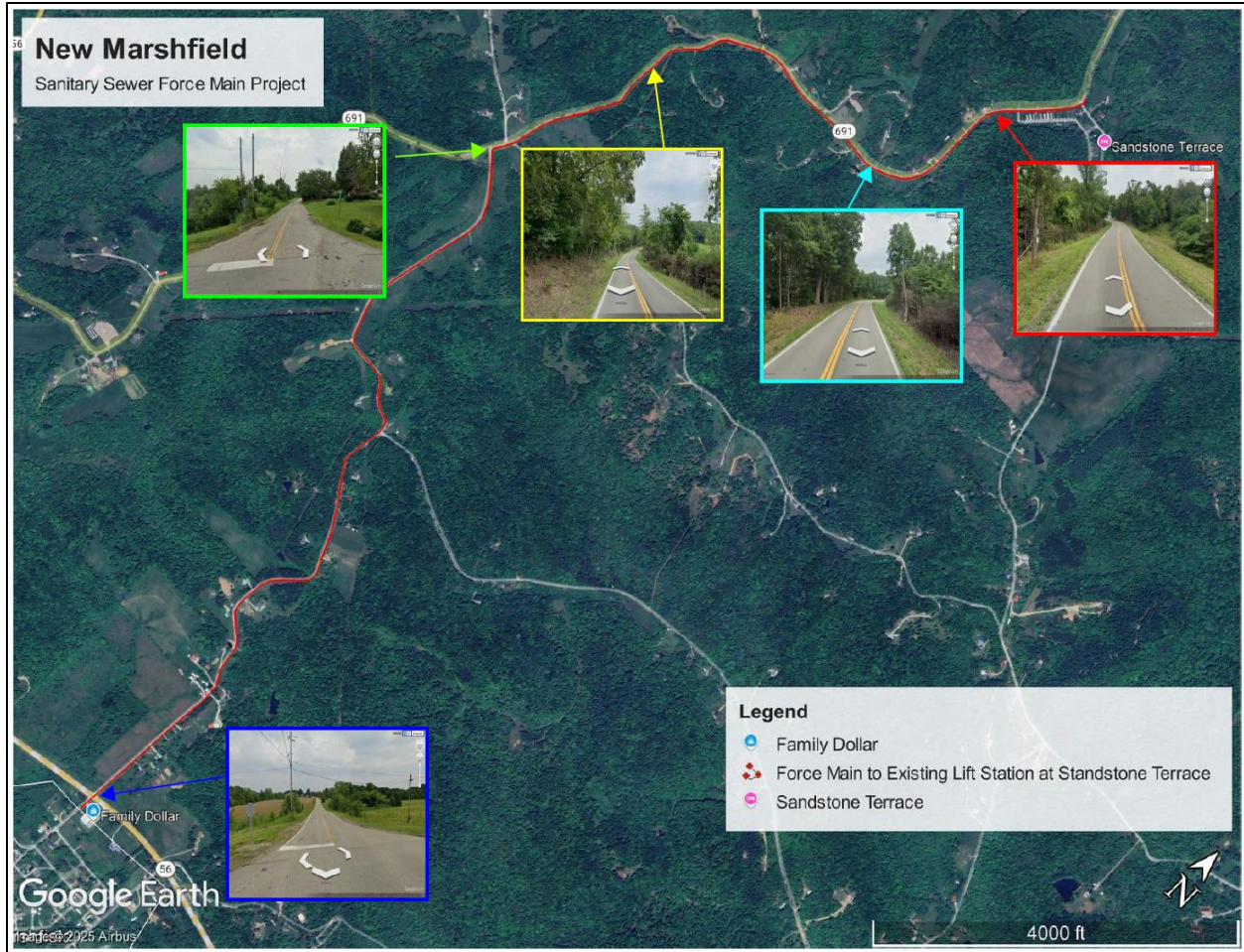


Figure 1: Project Location

3.2 Land Use

Land use primarily consists of existing road rights-of-way that are regularly maintained, forested areas that include roadside vegetation or scattered trees, and/or previously disturbed areas. The majority of the force main and associated upgrades would be installed within existing rights-of-way, and the remaining portion would be installed in a forested area.

In addition, the new lift station would be constructed within and adjacent to existing rights-of-way in an area that has been previously disturbed. Total disturbance from construction of the project would be approximately 1.2 acres, with no more than 0.25 acre of tree clearing. These areas would remain permanently cleared; therefore, impacts to land use would be minor in areas with tree removal. All other areas disturbed by construction activities would be restored to pre-existing conditions. Therefore, the PAA would have no significant impacts on land use.

As no construction activities would occur there would be no impacts to land use as a result of the NAA.



3.3 Climate

The project area is located in Athens County, Ohio in the Hewett Fork watershed. The average annual high and low temperatures for the region are 84° F and 21° F, respectively, with July being the hottest and January being the coldest months. The annual precipitation for the area is 39 inches for rain and 17 inches for snow.

The Hewett Fork watershed is part of the larger Ohio River Basin (ORB). Although the modeled climatic predictions vary across the ORB and are somewhat uncertain (especially in the latter portion of the 21st century), much of the basin appears likely to experience significantly higher high-flow events and in some cases lowered low-flow events, interspersed with periods of drought. It is anticipated that changing land use and energy development in conjunction with projected air temperature and flow changes deviating more than 25% from the current levels would impact the natural and human environment. Specifically, it is likely that fish and mussel populations, wetland complexes, reservoir fisheries, trans-boundary organisms such as migratory fish and water body-dependent birds, and human use and safety will also be noticeably impacted.

Institute for Water Resources climate modeling results indicate that climatic conditions in the ORB will remain largely within the mean ranges of precipitation and temperatures, except for a gradual warming that has been experienced between 1952 and 2001. Summer highs and winter lows between 2011 and 2040 are expected to remain generally within what has been observed over that historic period, but extreme fluctuations (record temperatures, rainfall, or drought) are expected to become more likely than before. After 2040, temperatures may rise at a rate of one degree per decade through 2099. Likewise, there may be significant changes in precipitation with associated increases or decreases in river flow on an annual mean basis and a seasonal maximum and minimum basis. During 2070-2099, the annual percent change in maximum streamflow increases substantially across Pennsylvania, West Virginia, Ohio, Indiana, and Illinois. It is anticipated there would be some increases between 2040 and 2070 in precipitation and river flow in the base period during the spring season; however, the fall season will bring significant rainfall and increased river flows by as much as 35% to 50% more during the base period.

Neither the NAA nor PAA would involve any activity that could significantly affect the environment in regard to climate. Therefore, no significant adverse impacts to climate would occur as a result of the PAA or NAA. However, under the NAA the Community would not be enhancing its resilience to future changes in conditions.

3.4 Terrestrial Habitat

Terrestrial habitat primarily consists of disturbed roadside vegetation, scattered trees, and mowed grassland. Approximately 1.2 acres of land would be disturbed from construction of the project with no more than 0.25 acres of permanent tree clearing. The majority of the project would occur within existing or adjacent to road rights-of-way and/or previously disturbed areas, and areas disturbed by construction activities would be restored to pre-existing conditions as applicable. A small portion of the force main would be installed within a forested area; therefore, there would be minor impacts to existing vegetation during construction for removal of trees. No significant long-term impacts to terrestrial habitat are anticipated as part of the PAA.



As selection of the NAA would entail no changes to the project area, there are no impacts to terrestrial habitat anticipated as part of the NAA.

3.5 Prime and Unique Farmland

The Farmland Protection Policy Act requires federal agencies to minimize the conversion of prime and unique farmland to non-agricultural uses. In the project area, all identified prime farmland, farmland of state importance, and farmland of local importance are along roads or within previously disturbed areas. Therefore, the Corps has determined that no impacts on prime or unique, statewide, or locally important farmland are expected to occur as part of the PAA. Furthermore, on 19 December 2025, the U.S. Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) confirmed that the PAA would not impact prime or other important farmland and is therefore not subject to the Farmland Policy Protection Act. See Appendix B for the Web Soil Survey Report and coordination with the NRCS.

As selection of the NAA would entail no changes to the project area, there are no impacts to Prime and Unique Farmland anticipated as part of the NAA.

3.6 Floodplains

Executive Order (E.O.) 11988 requires federal agencies to consider the potential effects of their proposed actions to floodplains. In addition, the Athens County Code of Ordinances, Title 25 for Flood Damage Prevention prohibits construction or other development activity including, but not limited to, filling; grading; construction; alteration, remodeling, or expanding any structure; or alteration of any watercourse wholly within, partially within or in contact with any identified special flood hazard area until a floodplain development permit is obtained from the floodplain administrator. In order to determine the PAA's potential floodplain impact, the Federal Emergency Management Agency Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRM) were reviewed for the proposed project (<https://www.fema.gov/floodplain-management/flood-zones>) (see Appendix A for the FIRM map).

The entirety of the project is located within Zone X, an area of minimal flood hazard. No construction activities would occur within the floodplain or regulatory floodway, and waste material would be deposited outside of the floodplain and regulatory floodway. Therefore, a floodplain development permit would not be required. The PAA meets the intent of E.O. 11988 and no significant impacts to floodplains are anticipated to occur from the PAA.

As no construction-related activities would be implemented, no additional impacts to floodplains are anticipated to occur from the NAA.

3.7 Aquatic Habitat/Water Quality

The proposed project area is located within the Hewett Fork watershed (HUC 050901010301) which is part of the greater ORB. Hewett Fork is on the 303(d) list for impaired waterbodies. Identified issues include *Escherichia coli* (*E. coli*), particle distribution (embeddedness), natural limits, and alteration in stream-side or littoral vegetative covers. According to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (USEPA) How's My Waterway tool, Hewett Fork was



included in the 2002 Total Maximum Daily Loads for the Upper Racoon Creek Final Report, and pH was identified as the major cause of impairment. Implementation of the PAA would not result in new discharge of pollutants.

There would be one (1) stream crossing over Hamley Run and no more than two (2) stream crossings over two (2) unnamed tributaries via horizontal directional drilling (HDD) methods. No in-water impacts are anticipated as HDD would be utilized for stream crossings. However, Best Management Practices (BMPs) such as silt fencing would be implemented during construction activities to reduce impacts to aquatic resources. Because stream crossings would be constructed via HDD, a permit from the Corps' Regulatory Branch would not be required. A Department of the Army permit pursuant to Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act, Section 404 permit, and associated Section 401 permit under the Clean Water Act would not be required prior to construction. If conditions change and it is determined that waters may be impacted, coordination with the Corps' Huntington District Regulatory Branch will be necessary, and all applicable permits shall be obtained by the non-Federal Sponsor.

A Permit-to-Install (PTI) was previously issued and has since been modified. The non-Federal Sponsor submitted the revised PTI package to the OEPA for approval, and no construction activities would occur until the PTI has been approved. In addition, a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permit for construction of the proposed action would be required due to the size of the construction area exceeding one (1) acre of disturbance, and an erosion and sediment control plan would be drafted and submitted by the non-Federal Sponsor to the OEPA prior to construction. Construction-related impacts would be short-term, minor, and mitigated through the use of BMPs, such as silt fencing, seeding, and mulching, that would be employed throughout the project areas to prevent runoff into adjacent surface waters.

Based on the above, implementation of the PAA would not result in significant adverse short- or long-term environmental impacts to aquatic habitat and water quality. The PAA is anticipated to have beneficial impacts to water quality by reducing risk for contamination that could negatively impact water resources.

Under the NAA, no aquatic impacts would occur and water quality in the project area would remain unchanged. However, without the proposed project, the system would continue to deteriorate and become unserviceable.

3.8 Wetlands

E.O. 11990 requires federal agencies to consider the potential effects of their proposed actions on wetlands. A review of the National Wetlands Inventory (NWI) indicated there are no wetlands within the project area (see Appendix A for NWI maps). Therefore, there would be no impacts to wetlands under the PAA or NAA.

3.9 Wild and Scenic Rivers

No designated State Wild or Scenic Rivers are present within the project Area. Therefore, no impacts to these resources are anticipated as part of the PAA or NAA.



3.10 Hazardous, Toxic, and Radioactive Waste (HTRW)

A Phase I Environmental Site Assessment (ESA) for the project was performed in order to identify environmental conditions and the potential presence of HTRW within the project area. No toxic, hazardous, or radioactive substances would be utilized by the project facilities nor is it anticipated that any would be encountered during construction.

After reviewing the Phase I ESA, Corps' HTRW staff determined that no further investigation or action is required. Therefore, no impacts to HTRW are anticipated with the PAA. A clearance memorandum was signed by Corps' HTRW staff on 17 March 2026 and is included in Appendix B.

The NAA would not result in ground disturbing activities. Therefore, no construction-related HTRW impacts would be associated with the NAA.

3.11 Cultural Resources

DLZ Ohio, Inc., on behalf of the non-Federal Sponsor, submitted the proposed project to the Ohio State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) for its review and consultation. On 11 September 2025, the SHPO stated that a determination of *No Historic Properties Affected* is appropriate for this undertaking.

The Corps Huntington District Archaeologist has reviewed the proposed upgrades and agrees with the SHPO's determination. In accordance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) of 1966, as amended (36 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 800), the Corps Huntington District has determined that the project would have no potential to affect historic properties. In addition, Tribal nations will be notified of the Corps' findings on 21 April 2026 during the public review period. Therefore, the District's obligations under Section 106 of NHPA have been met. See Appendix B for coordination with the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO).

If unanticipated archaeological deposits or human remains are discovered during construction, all work near the location of the discovery shall cease and the Project Manager and Huntington District Archaeologist shall be contacted immediately. The Ohio State Police, the Athens County Coroner, and SHPO must also be notified immediately if human remains are discovered.

Under the NAA, no construction related actions would be implemented, so no significant detrimental impacts to cultural resources would occur.

3.12 Threatened and Endangered Species

According to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) Information for Planning and Consultation (IPaC) tool, the project area is within the range of the Indiana bat (*Myotis sodalis*), northern long-eared bat (*Myotis septentrionalis*), American burying beetle (*Nicophorus americanus*), and monarch butterfly (*Danaus plexippus*; proposed threatened). There are no designated critical habitats within the project area.



The project area consists of existing road rights-of-way that are regularly maintained, forested areas, and/or previously disturbed areas. In a letter dated 15 September 2025, the Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) indicated that there are no records of state or federally listed plants or animals within one (1) mile of the specified project area.

Approximately 1.2 acres of land would be disturbed with no more than 0.25 acres of tree clearing for the proposed upgrades. Trees would be cleared during the seasonal tree clearing window of 1 October to 31 March to limit impacts to bats. In addition, there are no mine portals, bridges, nor culverts that are suitable for roosting bats that would be directly impacted by the project. Therefore, the Corps' Huntington District has determined the project is not likely to adversely affect the Indiana bat and northern long-eared bat. The American burying beetle is considered a generalist in terms of the vegetation types where it is found. Ground disturbing activities would be limited to rights-of-way and/or previously disturbed areas, and areas disturbed by construction activities would be restored to pre-existing conditions as applicable. Therefore, the Corps' Huntington District has determined that the project is not likely to adversely affect the American burying beetle.

In addition, the Corps has reviewed the habitat descriptions and stressors provided by the USFWS for the monarch butterfly and has determined that the proposed action is not likely to jeopardize the continued existence of the proposed species. Based on the information provided and the habitat/stressors, the Corps has determined the project will not jeopardize the continued existence of the species; therefore, further consideration and/or conference under Section 7(a)(4) is not warranted at this time.

The USFWS concurred with the Corps' determination on 19 March 2026. No further coordination under Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act or the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act is required. See Appendix B for coordination with the USFWS.

The NAA would not result in additional ground disturbing activities or tree clearing. Therefore, there would be no effect to federally threatened and endangered species associated with the NAA.

3.13 Invasive Species

E.O. 13112, as amended, requires federal agencies to take steps to prevent the introduction and spread of invasive species, and to support efforts to eradicate and control invasive species that are established. Invasive species can spread easily into native plant communities and displace native vegetation. The proposed project site does not have an existing inventory of invasive species, and their presence is not well known; however, it is anticipated that invasive species will be abundant due to the disturbed roadside setting that much of the proposed project footprint falls in. Invasive species that could occur within the project area include but is not limited to yellow flag iris (*Iris pseudacorus*) and tree of heaven (*Ailanthus altissima*).

The PAA is anticipated to have no or negligible beneficial impacts on management of invasive species. The project area consists of existing road rights-of-way that are regularly maintained,



forested areas, and/or previously disturbed areas. Much of the project would be within the footprint of previously disturbed areas. The non-Federal Sponsor would revegetate areas disturbed by construction with native plant species to limit the spread of invasive species, which could provide negligible long term beneficial impacts.

As selection of the NAA would entail no changes to the project area, there are no impacts to invasive species anticipated as part of the NAA.

3.14 Air Quality

According to the USEPA, Athens County, Ohio is in attainment for all criteria air pollutants and therefore meets all of the USEPA's health-based National Ambient Air Quality Standards under the 1970 Clean Air Act.

During construction of the proposed project, temporary air emissions would be generated by the equipment used to construct the upgrades. Small amounts of dust may be generated during construction and would be held to a minimum by control measures. The proposed infrastructure is not expected to produce noticeable air emissions, nor is it projected to result in increased air emissions from its primary beneficiaries. Contractors would be required to operate all equipment in accordance with local, state, and federal regulations.

Greenhouse gases (GHGs) such as carbon dioxide (CO₂), methane (CH₄), and nitrous oxides (NO_x) are considered pollutants to air quality. The PAA would generate a variety of GHG emissions throughout its life cycle, spanning from construction to operations and maintenance of the project. The PAA includes the construction of various sanitary sewer system upgrades. It is anticipated that the majority of GHG emissions from the project would be generated during construction activities, and GHG emissions from the PAA would be minor and temporary in nature. Therefore, impacts to air quality would be temporary for the duration of construction.

The PAA is exempt through 40 CFR §93.153 from making a conformity determination, since estimated emissions from construction equipment would not be expected to exceed *de minimis* levels or have direct emissions of a criteria pollutant or its precursor. Any impacts would be short-term, localized and would occur during construction activities. Impacts to air quality under the PAA would be temporary during construction and would be considered minor.

No impacts to air quality are anticipated as part of the NAA.

3.15 Noise

Noise associated with the PAA would be limited to that generated during construction. The noise associated with construction would be short in duration and would only occur during daylight hours. Noise is measured as Day Night average noise levels (DNL) in “A-weighted” decibels that the human ear is most sensitive to (dBA). There are no federal standards for allowable noise levels. According to the Department of Housing and Urban Development Guidelines, DNLs below 65 dBA are normally acceptable levels of exterior noise in residential areas. The Federal Aviation Administration denotes a DNL above 65 dBA as the level of significant noise impact. Several other agencies, including the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, use a DNL



criterion of 55 dBA as the threshold for defining noise impacts in suburban and rural residential areas. According to Dr. Paul Schomer in his 2001 *A White Paper: Assessment of Noise Annoyance*, while there are numerous thresholds for acceptable noise in residential areas, research suggests an area's current noise environment, which has experienced noise in the past, may reasonably expect to tolerate a level of noise about 5 dBA higher than the general guidelines. The Corps Safety and Health Requirements Manual provides criteria for temporary permissible noise exposure levels (see Table 1 below), for consideration of hearing protection or the need to administer sound reduction controls. However, the durations and noise levels are for Occupational Safety and Health Administration standards for employees or personnel.

Table 1 – Permissible Non-Department of Defense Noise Exposure

Duration/day (hours)	Noise level (dBA)
8	90
6	92
4	95
3	97
2	100
1.5	102
1	105

New Marshfield and the larger Waterloo Township do not have a local noise ordinance, and there are no regulatory dBA thresholds or noise permits applicable to construction activities. However, construction activities would be limited to daytime working hours, Monday through Friday, with work only occurring on Saturday if schedule recovery is needed and lasts for one (1) year to reach completion.

Construction noise would be similar to that of farm equipment and other small machinery used in the local area. A backhoe, end loader, road grader, and/or vibratory roller are examples of equipment that is likely to be used during construction. Each emits noise levels around 85 dBA at 45 feet and 65 dBA at 450 feet. Sensitive noise receptors that could be impacted by construction activities include, but are not limited to, residential homes. Some of these structures are located as close as 10 feet from the construction work limits. It is anticipated that construction equipment would be within 450 feet of any given sensitive noise receptor throughout the entirety of construction, but noise impacts would move linearly with construction. Peak outdoor noise levels of approximately 78-98 dBA would occur during the time in which equipment is directly in front of or in proximity to homes or businesses (within 10-100 feet); therefore, a maximum noise exposure of 98 dBA could occur when equipment is within 10 feet of homes and businesses, and it is anticipated that equipment would be operating within a given home or business for no more than one (1) or two (2) days.

The noise projections do not account for screening objects, such as trees, outbuildings or other objects that muffle and reduce the noise being emitted. The outdoor construction noise would be further muffled while residents are inside their homes. In addition, the non-Federal Sponsor shall notify potentially affected homes and businesses within the project area prior to construction, maintain equipment mufflers, and limiting construction activities to daytime working hours.



Further, construction noise would be similar to typical neighborhood noise generated by gas powered lawnmowers in the local area, which could range from 90-95 dBA at three feet and 70-75 dBA at 100 feet.

Due to daytime construction and the short and limited duration of elevated noise levels associated with the PAA, impacts from the noise to local residences and businesses would be temporary and minor to moderate.

There would be no change in noise and thus no impact under the NAA.

3.16 Socioeconomics

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, the population estimate for New Marshfield, Ohio is 94 and does not contain significant minority populations. New Marshfield has a median household income of \$36,346 compared with the median household income of \$65,720 for the State of Ohio. Individuals residing in New Marshfield below the poverty level is 40.4% compared to 13.2% statewide. In addition, the entire population of New Marshfield is over 50 with 56% of individuals being between the ages of 60 and 69.

E.O. 13045, as amended, requires each federal agency “to identify and assess environmental health risks and safety risks that may disproportionately affect children” and “ensure that its policies, programs, activities, and standards address disproportionate risks to children that result from environmental health risks or safety risks.” This E.O. was prompted by the recognition that children, still undergoing physiological growth and development, are more sensitive to adverse environmental health and safety risks than adults. The potential for impacts on the health and safety of children is greater where projects are located near residential areas.

The proposed upgrades would benefit residents and businesses in the project area that rely on public sewer service, thereby improving the living environment for all residents. Only minor and temporary ground disturbing activities would occur during installation of sewer lines and necessary appurtenances to homes and buildings, and areas would be returned to pre-construction conditions, where applicable, upon completion of construction activities through soil grading and grass seeding. Therefore, no homes or buildings would be negatively impacted by the proposed project. Although there are no individuals residing in New Marshfield below the age of 18, the PAA meets the directive of E.O. 13045 by avoiding any disproportionately high adverse human health or environmental effects on children.

Under the NAA, residents would continue to experience unsanitary and unsafe conditions, perpetuating health and safety concerns.

3.17 Aesthetics

The project area is a rural community consisting primarily of residential and commercial properties along a disturbed roadside setting. Aesthetic impacts from this project are expected to be minimal. Temporary disturbance of the local aesthetics would be anticipated during construction of the PAA; however, after construction the excavated areas would be restored to



original conditions, as feasible. Therefore, there would be no significant adverse impacts to aesthetics under the PAA.

Neither the PAA nor NAA would significantly impact local aesthetics.

3.18 Transportation and Traffic

The majority of the proposed project would be within existing rights-of-way and/or previously disturbed areas. Construction of the PAA in and along rights-of-way would involve some delays and potential detours in the normal traffic flow. If detours occur, they would be relatively minor and temporary in nature. Construction on or near road surfaces would be in compliance with standard traffic controls to minimize traffic disruptions and avoid public safety problems. No direct permanent increase or hindrance to traffic flows are expected to result from this project. Impacts anticipated to occur from the PAA would be minimal and temporary in nature.

No impacts to transportation and traffic are anticipated to occur from the NAA.

3.19 Health and Safety

The PAA has been designed to provide safe, reliable sewer infrastructure to the residents and businesses of the project area. The Community's current sanitary sewer system is failing. Providing safe and reliable public sewer service to residents and businesses in the area is necessary. Therefore, the PAA is anticipated to have a long-term, beneficial impact on health and safety for the residents in the project area.

Under the NAA, residents would continue to rely on failing septic systems, which could fail and pose health and safety concerns which could cause minor to potentially significant negative impacts to the community.

4.0 STATUS OF ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE

The PAA will be in full compliance with all local, state, and federal statutes as well as executive orders prior to issuance of a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI). Compliance is documented below in Table 2.

Table 2 – Environmental Compliance Status

Statute/Executive Order	Full	Partial	N/A
National Environmental Policy Act (considered partial until the FONSI is signed)		X	
Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act	X		
Endangered Species Act	X		
Clean Water Act	X		
Wild and Scenic Rivers Act			N/A
Clean Air Act	X		
National Historic Preservation Act	X		
Archeological Resources Protection Act			N/A



Comprehensive, Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act	X		
Resource Conservation and Recovery Act	X		
Toxic Substances Control Act	X		
Quiet Communities Act	X		
Farmland Protection Act	X		
Executive Order 11988 Floodplain Management	X		
Executive Order 11990 Protection of Wetlands	X		
Executive Order 13112 Invasive Species	X		
Executive Order 13045 Protection of Children	X		

5.0 REQUIRED COORDINATION

5.1 Agencies Contacted

Direct coordination with the Corps' Huntington District HTRW section, OEPA, ODNR, SHPO, USFWS, and NRCS were completed prior to publication of the EA. Coordination with the SHPO and Tribal nations is ongoing and will be completed prior to issuance of the FONSI. Agency correspondence is included in Appendix B.

5.2 Public Review and Comments

The draft EA and FONSI will be available for public review and comment for a period of 30 days, as required under NEPA. A Notice of Availability will be published in the local newspaper, Athens Messenger, advising the public of this document's availability for review and comment. A copy of the draft EA will also be placed in the Athens Public Library and made available on-line at <https://www.lrd.usace.army.mil/News/Project-Documents-Notices-Public-Review/>. The mailing list for the draft EA is located in Appendix C.

6.0 CONCLUSION

The Athens County Commission is proposing to upgrade its sanitary sewer system in New Marshfield, Ohio. The project is necessary to replace failing septic systems. By providing a safe and reliable sanitary sewer system, the proposed project is anticipated to have long-term beneficial impacts on health and safety for residents in the project area and surrounding area by providing safe, reliable sewer service. No significant, adverse impacts have been identified as a result of implementation of the proposed improvement project. The NAA is considered unacceptable due to health and safety hazards for the community in the proposed project area.

The project area consists of existing road rights-of-way that are regularly maintained, forested areas, and/or previously disturbed areas. Health and safety impacts would be realized immediately with project implementation. Effects associated with construction would be minor and temporary. BMPs would be implemented during construction to minimize impacts to residents and the environment. Therefore, the PAA would not be expected to have significant adverse impacts on the human or natural environment.



7.0 LIST OF INFORMATION PROVIDERS AND PREPARERS

The following agencies were involved in preparation of the EA.

DLZ Ohio, Inc.

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Huntington District

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

8.0 REFERENCES

DLZ Ohio, Inc. Environmental Assessment – New Marshfield Sanitary Sewer Project.

Federal Emergency Management Agency

2025 Floodplain Maps Website: <https://msc.fema.gov/portal/home>

Institute for Water Resources

2017 Ohio River Basin – Formulating Climate Change Mitigation/Adaptation Strategies through Regional Collaboration with the ORB Alliance

Schomer, Paul

2001 A White Paper: Assessment of Noise Annoyance. Schomer and Associates

Szyk, Bogna

2025 Distance Attenuation Calculator Website:

<https://www.omnicalculator.com/physics/distance-attenuation>

U.S. Census Bureau

2025 American FactFinder Website: <https://www.quickfacts.census.gov>

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

2025 How's My Waterway Waterbody Report website:

<https://mywaterway.epa.gov>

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

2025 National Wetlands Inventory website: <https://www.fws.gov/wetlands/data/mapper.html>

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

2025 Information for Planning and Conservation website: <https://www.fws.gov/ipac>