

## FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

### Section 571 St. Marys Water System Improvements Project Pleasants County, West Virginia

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Huntington District (Corps) has conducted an environmental analysis in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended. The Environmental Assessment (EA), dated March 2026, for the Section 571 St. Marys Water System Improvements Project, addresses the existing water system which does not provide adequate service for individuals in Pleasants County, West Virginia. The need for the water system improvements is to provide residents with reliable and safe water infrastructure.

The draft EA, incorporated herein by reference, evaluated various alternatives that would provide residents with reliable and safe water infrastructure in the study area. The recommended plan is the Proposed Action Alternative (PAA) and includes:

- Water system improvements at five (5) locations. Including the replacement of approximately 330 linear feet (LF) of water main along Barron Street (Site 1), 1,503 LF of waterline along Morgan Avenue (Site 2), and abandonment of the reservoir, vaults, and existing piping at the refinery tank (Site 2). At Site 2, the reservoir would be filled with soil and reseeded. In addition, the PAA would include relocation of the fire hydrant at the intersection of North Pleasants Highway (Route 2) and Wellington Drive (Site 3), installation of two (2) inserta-valves adjacent to Route 2 (Site 4), replacement of four (4) fire hydrants at Mound Manor Road (Site 4), and replacement of a 15-inch culvert along Harmony Heights Way, including the addition of two (2) new inlets (Site 5). This would require removal and replacement of the existing roadway at Site 5. A guardrail would be installed at the bottom of the slope due to the steep grade, and benching would be required for slope stabilization as the new roadway is constructed.

Under the No Action Alternative (NAA), the Corps would not provide funding for the project and the City of St. Marys would not improve its water system. Section 2.0 of the draft EA discusses the proposed action and alternatives.

#### SUMMARY OF POTENTIAL EFFECTS:

For all alternatives, the potential effects were evaluated, as appropriate. A summary assessment of the potential effects of the recommended plan is listed in Table 1:

**Table 1: Summary of Potential Effects of the Proposed Action**

Resource	Insignificant effects	Insignificant effects as a result of mitigation	No effects
Land Use	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Terrestrial Habitat	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Floodplains	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Prime and Unique Farmland	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Aquatic Habitat	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Water Quality	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Navigation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Wetlands	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Wild and Scenic Rivers	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Hazardous, Toxic, and Radioactive Waste	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Cultural Resources	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Tribal Trust Resources	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Threatened and Endangered Species	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Invasive Species	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Air Quality	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Noise	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Socioeconomics	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Aesthetics	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Transportation and Traffic	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

All practical means to avoid or minimize adverse environmental effects were analyzed and incorporated into the recommended plan. A Secretary of Interior Standards qualified archaeological monitor would be required during earth moving activities at Site 4. In addition, best management practices (BMPs), as detailed in the EA, will be implemented, if appropriate, to minimize impacts. BMPs that would be utilized during construction of the PAA would include silt fencing and straw wattles to prevent runoff.

No compensatory mitigation is required as part of the recommended plan.

A 30-day public, state, and agency review of the draft EA will be completed. All comments submitted during the public review period will be responded to in the Final EA and FONSI.

Pursuant to Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended, the Corps determined that the recommended plan may affect but is not likely to adversely affect the Indiana bat, northern long-eared bat, tricolored bat, clubshell, fanshell, longsolid, northern riffleshell, pink mucket (pearlymussel), purple cat's paw, round hickorynut, salamander mussel, sheepnose mussel, and snuffbox mussel. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service concurred with this determination on 5 August 2025 and 20 August 2025.

Pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, the Corps determined that the recommended plan will have no adverse effect on historic properties. The State Historic Preservation Office concurred with this determination on **DATE**. In addition, coordination with the Tribal nations occurred on **DATE**.

All applicable environmental laws have been considered and coordination with appropriate agencies and officials will be completed. The Natural Resources Conservation Service indicated that the recommended plan is not subject to the Farmland Policy Protection Act on 20 July 2025.

Technical, environmental, economic, and cost effectiveness criteria used in the formulation of alternative plans were those specified in the Water Resources Council's 1983 Economic and Environmental Principles and Guidelines for Water and Related Land Resources Implementation Studies. All applicable laws, executive orders, regulations, and local government plans were considered in evaluation of alternatives. Based on these reports, the reviews by other Federal, State, and local agencies, Tribes, input of the public, and the review by my staff, it is my determination that the recommended plan would not significantly affect the human environment; therefore, preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement is not required.

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Date

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[Redacted Signature]

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