

DRAFT FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

Section 340 Richwood Wastewater Treatment Plant Replacement Project Nicholas 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 Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) dated May 2026, for the Section 340 Richwood Wastewater Treatment Plant Project addresses the existing wastewater treatment plant (WWTP) which causes unsanitary and unsafe conditions to residents in the City of Richwood, WV within Nicholas County, West Virginia. The need for improving the wastewater treatment plant is to provide residents with reliable and safe sewage treatment.

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

- Decommissioning the existing WWTP, building the proposed WWTP outside the base flood elevation, adding a new effluent line from the new proposed WWTP to the existing outfall, and horizontal directional drilling under the Cherry River to connect to the existing Green Street lift station. The Green Street lift station is proposed to be upgraded with the new connection to the WWTP by increasing the size of the forcemain from 8 inches to 14 inches. This will reduce the headloss significantly; therefore, allowing the Green Street lift station to operate more efficiently and maximizing the amount of flow to the WWTP and reducing the occurrence of Combined Sewer Overflows (CSO) discharges. The PAA will construct the proposed WWTP of similar size and shape as the existing WWTP. The proposed WWTP will be constructed in forested and previously disturbed areas near the existing WWTP. The project will provide sewage treatment service to approximately 793 customers.

Under the No Action Alternative (NAA), the Corps would not provide funding for the project, and the City of Richwood would not replace the WWTP. Raw sewage would continue to be discharged into the Cherry River and customers would temporarily lose sanitary service during flood events. 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 are listed in Table 1:

Table 1: Summary of Potential Effects of the Recommended Plan

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"/>
Prime and Unique Farmland	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Floodplains	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Cultural Resources	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" 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. 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 compost filter sock, silt fence and super silt fence, and rolled erosion control products to prevent runoff into adjacent surface waters.

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

Public review of the Draft EA and FONSI will be completed on 10 June 2026. A 30-day state and agency review of the Draft EA will be completed on 10 June 2026. All comments submitted during the review periods 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 following Federally listed species: northern long-eared bat, tricolored bat, Indiana bat, and candy darter. Additionally, the recommended plan may affect but is not likely to adversely affect Federally designated critical habitat for the candy darter. Coordination with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) is ongoing. Coordination with the USFWS is ongoing.

Pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, the Corps determined that the recommended plan would have no potential to affect historic properties and no potential to cause effect to cultural resources. Therefore, no Tribal consultation was necessary. The West Virginia State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) concurred with the determination on 30 March 2026.

All applicable environmental laws have been considered and coordination with appropriate agencies and officials will be completed. The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) indicated that the recommended plan is exempt from the Farmland Protection Policy Act on 17 December 2024.

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, 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.

Date

[REDACTED]

Commanding

DRAFT