



GRETCHEN WHITMER
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF
ENVIRONMENT, GREAT LAKES, AND ENERGY
LANSING



LIESL EICHLER CLARK
DIRECTOR

December 21, 2021

TO: All Interested Citizens, Organizations, and Government Agencies

SUBJECT: FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT
City of Mackinac Island
Biddle Point Pump Station
Clean Water State Revolving Fund Project No. 5762-01

The purpose of this notice is to seek public input and comment on a preliminary decision by the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE) that an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is not required to implement recommendations discussed in the attached Environmental Assessment of a wastewater project plan submitted by the applicant mentioned above.

HOW WERE ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES CONSIDERED?

Part 53, Clean Water Assistance, of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act, 1994 PA 451, as amended, being Sections 324.5301 to 324.5316 of the Michigan Compiled Laws Annotated, requires EGLE to evaluate all environmental implications of a proposed wastewater project. EGLE has done this by incorporating a detailed analysis of the environmental effects of the proposed alternatives in its review and approval process. A project plan containing information on environmental impacts was prepared by the municipality and reviewed by the State. EGLE has prepared the attached Environmental Assessment and found that the proposed project does not require the preparation of an EIS.

WHY IS AN EIS NOT REQUIRED?

Our environmental review concluded that no significant environmental impacts would result from the proposed action. Any adverse impacts have either been eliminated by changes in the project plan or will be reduced by the implementation of the mitigative measures discussed in the attached Environmental Assessment.

HOW DO I GET MORE INFORMATION?

A map depicting the location of the proposed project is attached. This information is also available on our website at Michigan.gov/CWSRF under "Related Links." The Environmental Assessment presents additional information on the project, alternatives that were considered, impacts of the proposed action, and the basis for our decision. Further information can be obtained by calling or writing one of the contact people listed below.

HOW DO I SUBMIT COMMENTS?

Any comments supporting or disagreeing with this preliminary decision should be submitted to me at EGLE, Constitution Hall, P.O. Box 30457, Lansing, Michigan 48909-7957. We will not take any action on this project plan for 30 calendar days from the date of this notice in order to receive and consider any comments.

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

In the absence of substantive comments during this period, our preliminary decision will become final. The applicant will then be eligible to receive loan assistance from this Agency to construct the proposed project.

Any information you feel should be considered by EGLE should be brought to our attention. If you have any questions, please contact Ms. Valorie White, the project manager, at 517-599-5879, by email at WhiteV1@michigan.gov or you may contact me. Your interest in this process and the environment is appreciated.

Sincerely,



Kelly Green, Administrator
Water Infrastructure Financing Section
Finance Division
517-284-5433

Attachment

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT, GREAT LAKES, AND ENERGY
Clean Water State Revolving Fund
Environmental Assessment
City of Mackinac Island, Mackinac County
December 2021

PROJECT IDENTIFICATION

Applicant: City of Mackinac Island

Address: 7358 Market Street
P.O. Box 515
Mackinac Island, Michigan 49757

Authorized Representative: Mr. Allen Burt, Director of Public Works

Project Numbers 5762-01

PROJECT SUMMARY

The City of Mackinac Island (Mackinac Island) is applying for a 20-year low interest Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) loan administered by the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy for the replacement of Biddle Point Pump Station (BPPS).

The total estimated loan amount for the proposed project is \$3,360,000. As a result of this project, the typical residential customer will see a wastewater billing increase of up to \$8.33 per month.

Project construction is anticipated to begin in the fall of 2022 and be completed in the spring of 2024.

PROJECT BACKGROUND

Mackinac Island is located in the Straits of Mackinac in Mackinac County, between Lake Michigan and Lake Huron, separating the two peninsulas. Mackinac Island is a historic site, which creates unique challenges. From spring through fall Mackinac Island prohibits motorized vehicles in order to preserve the historic feel of the island for its many visitors. Mackinac Island has a population of approximately 412 year-long residents, with an additional 1,450 seasonal residents, along with tourists to reach up to 20,000 visitors to the island per day during the summer. Existing land use for Mackinac Island is not expected to change over the next twenty years.

PROPOSED PROJECT

A. Project Need/Justification

Most of the island's population is centered around the harbor and so is the majority of the wastewater collection system. The system is made up of 4.5 miles of force main and approximately four miles of gravity sanitary sewers, as well as roughly 100 manholes, and five pump stations. BPPS is nearly 50 years old and handles the flow for most of Mackinac Island's sanitary collection system. It sits on the shoreline at the edge of the downtown area (Figure 1). If this pump station were to fail, sewage would flow directly into the Straits of Mackinac. Additionally, septage would backup into residential and commercial properties all throughout downtown Mackinac Island.

The BPPS is in poor condition. Currently, the ventilation system and dehumidifier are broken and have been disconnected. There are no odor control methods even though the station is located downtown in an area with a heavy tourist presence. Due to high ground water, all floor drains have been filled with concrete to prevent groundwater intrusion, and the current sump pump arrangements are not equipped to deal with flooding or a pipe break in the lower level. General lighting is inadequate and there is no emergency lighting at all. All major components are at the end of their useful life, and showing signs of deterioration, if not actively broken.

B. Alternatives Considered

No-action Alternative

The no action alternative would result in continued risk of sewage backups and the failure of the pump station. This alternative was not considered further.

Regional Alternative

Mackinac Island is a closed system, to join a regional system, flows would need to cross the Straits. Furthermore, the issue is with the physical pump station which would persist regardless of where the flow was treated. Therefore, this alternative was not considered further.

Optimization

Optimization of existing facilities without capital improvements will not restore service life to the BPPS. Therefore, it was not considered further.

Project Alternatives

Due to the age and conditions of the BPPS the only viable alternative is replacement. In reviewing the alternative, it was found that there is no space to construct a new pump station. This left working within the existing pump station property footprint as the only option. Due to the historic nature of the island, it was determined that replacing the interior components of the pump station as well as repairs to the structure itself, was a better alternative than replacing the entire pump station. This approach will minimize impacts to the surrounding area and remove the possibility of impacting the historic structures around it or the overall aesthetics of the island.

Selected Alternative

The interior components to the BPPS will be replaced. This includes new pumps and variable frequency drives, a new arrangement of the components inside the building, new controls, and replacement or sealing of access components as necessary. A new standby generator will be installed, with the existing underground fuel storage tank closed, and a new one installed in the building. New heating and ventilation systems will be added, as well as replacing structural features such as lighting, doors, and the roof.

C. Project Cost and Implementation

The total estimated loan amount for the proposed project is \$3,360,000. This includes design, construction, contingencies, financial, administrative, legal, and engineering services.

As a result of this project, the typical residential customer will see an increase in their wastewater costs of up to \$8.33 per month.

Project construction is anticipated to begin in the fall of 2022 and be completed in the beginning of the year 2024.

IMPACT OF PROJECT

A. Water Quality Impacts

Replacing the pump station components will protect surface and groundwater by preventing sewage overflows and remove sources of sewage backups while helping to protect the environment. This will allow the system to be able to adjust to the extremes of managing the flow of less than 500 people in the winter, to handling the volume of 20,000 in the summer.

B. Primary Impacts

Impacts of construction activities associated with the project are considered short-term disruptions that, for the most part, will not extend beyond the period of construction. Short-term adverse impacts associated with construction include noise, dust, exhaust fumes, removal of groundcover, and increased erosion potential.

Due to the unique nature of the island, construction work can only be completed during the off season when mechanical vehicles are allowed. This means that work will need to begin in the late fall and be done over the winter when there is limited to no access to the island.

All work will be completed within the BPPS structure. Therefore, this project is not expected to cause cultural or environmental impacts to the surrounding area. However, due to the fact that the entire island is classified as a historic site, this project will be coordinated with the State Historic Preservation Office to make sure no impact occurs.

C. Secondary Impacts

No significant secondary impacts are anticipated as a result of this project. The project was designed to address the need for a reliable safe sanitary pump station, as well as accommodate the expected 20-year needs. Improvements to the system are associated with the need to address deficiencies, public health threats, and increase the reliability of the system.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

A formal public hearing for the proposed project was held virtually on May 13, 2021, at a special Department of Public Works board meeting, after notice was given in the *St. Ignace News* newspaper on April 8, 2021. Presentations were made on the project plan, including alternatives considered, project impacts, and estimated costs. Questions and comments were addressed at the public hearing, and a disputed manhole was removed from the project plan. On May 19, 2021, the city council passed a resolution approving the project plan and agreeing to implement the selected alternative.

REASONS FOR CONCLUDING NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACTS

The proposed project will address broken and outdated equipment and structures in the pump station. The water quality benefits anticipated from the project are expected to outweigh the short-term adverse impacts. Preventing sewage backups, protecting the Straits, and providing safe continuous sanitary sewer flows will provide long-term beneficial impacts.

Questions regarding this Environmental Assessment should be directed to:

Ms. Valorie White, Project Manager
Water Infrastructure Financing Section
Finance Division
Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy
P.O. Box 30457
Lansing, Michigan 48909-4957
Telephone: 517-599-5879
E-Mail: Whitev1@michigan.gov



Figure 1: Location of the Biddle Street Pump Station.