



GRETCHEN WHITMER
GOVERNOR

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



PHILLIP D. ROOS
DIRECTOR

November 9, 2023

TO: All Interested Citizens, Organizations, and Government Agencies

SUBJECT: FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT
City of Grand Ledge
Wastewater Treatment Plant and Collection System Improvements
CWSRF Fund Project No. 5825-01

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 "Additional Links." The Environmental Assessment Amendment presents additional information on the project, alternatives that were considered, impacts of the proposed action, and the basis for our decision. Further information or a copy of the original environmental assessment 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 Valorie White, the project manager, at 517-599-5879, or email at Whitev1@michigan.gov, or you may contact me. Your interest in this process and the environment is appreciated.

Sincerely,

Dan Beauchamp

Dan Beauchamp, Section Manager
Water Infrastructure Funding and Financing Section
Finance Division
517-388-3880

Attachment

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT, GREAT LAKES, AND ENERGY (EGLE)
Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF)
City of Grand Ledge, Eaton County and Clinton County
Wastewater Treatment Plant Improvements
Environmental Assessment Amendment
November 2023

PROJECT IDENTIFICATION

Applicant: City of Grand Ledge

Authorized Representative: Mr. Adam R. Smith, City Manager

Address: 310 Greenwood Street
Grand Ledge, Michigan 48837

Project No: 5825-01

RATIONALE FOR ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT AMENDMENT

This document amends the Environmental Assessment (EA), which was published by the Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE) for review and comment on April 24, 2023, for the above-referenced CWSRF project. A copy of that document is available if requested. The scope of work for this project includes improvements to the Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) and a new force main to correct sanitary sewer overflows (SSOs) to the Grand River. Upon receiving and opening bids, the city of Grand Ledge (Grand Ledge) found that the cost to construct the project was more than double the amount anticipated. This EA amendment covers the increased project cost, considering, the bid for construction that Grand Ledge received in June 2023 and takes a second look at the satellite WWTP alternative, and the new WWTP alternative since the selected alternative cost estimate increased significantly from the original estimate.

PROJECT DISCUSSION

In fiscal year (FY) 2023, Grand Ledge was allocated \$31,495,500 in CWSRF loan financing and \$3,499,500 in American Rescue Plan (ARP) Grant funding for improvements to the WWTP. This included a new retention basin located in Fitzgerald Park, and a force main connecting the West River PS with the retention basin. A new Vortex grit removal system will be built next to the headworks. A building for the new microscreens will be constructed, and the existing primary clarifiers will be modified to allow for additional aeration capacity and house membrane modules and pumping equipment. The existing final clarifiers will be decommissioned. The existing chlorine disinfection system will be replaced with ultraviolet disinfection and discharged through the existing outfall. Rotary drum thickeners and bulk lime storage and lime handling equipment will be added to improve the solids handling process.

Grand Ledge solicited bids from interested contractors in May and June of 2023. After receiving only one bid on the project, Grand Ledge discovered that the price to construct the project was more than double the anticipated cost. This exceeded the funding made available by the CWSRF loan and ARP Grant and forced Grand Ledge to defer the project to FY 2024.

SUMMARY DESCRIPTION OF ADDITIONAL PROPOSED ALTERNATIVES

In applying for financing in FY24, EGLE issued a condition that required Grand Ledge to reevaluate the satellite WWTP and new WWTP alternatives. Additionally, Grand Ledge was required to hold a second public meeting on October 9, 2023, to discuss the alternatives, as well as the updated costs.

The satellite WWTP alternative involves maintaining the capacity of the existing WWTP, while building in additional capacity through a remote WWTP located near the anticipated growth area within the industrial park. While this alternative would limit the upgrades required at the existing WWTP, it would include substantial sanitary sewer improvements to redirect flow to the remote WWTP. Furthermore, this remote capacity would be limited until the industrial park is built out, and then it would be highly dependent on a few users, which could cause operational difficulties. This facility would discharge to Whitney Drain, requiring effluent limits to be very restrictive, necessitating a high level of treatment, and requiring a new National Pollutant Discharge Elimination permit. In essence, Grand Ledge would be maintaining two separate WWTPs with all the operational, logistical, and costs associated with that, as well as the cost to initially construct the project. Therefore, this alternative was not considered further.

With the higher cost to complete repairs to the existing WWTP, the alternative for construction of a new WWTP was revisited. This alternative would build a new pump station and retention basin at the current WWTP, with some components repurposed, while other would be demolished. Grand Ledge wants the new WWTP to be built near the existing WWTP to minimize the piping required, however, land acquisition in or adjacent to Fitzgerald Park might not be feasible. Land acquisition would be required, and depending on where the new WWTP was located, either a new gravity outfall, or a new effluent pump station will be required to discharge to the Grand River. Grand Ledge determined that this alternative would require both the highest capital cost, as well as the highest operation and maintenance cost, and therefore was not considered further.

FINANCIAL IMPACTS

The original cost estimate of \$34,995,000 has been revised and the new estimated project cost is approximately \$95,225,000. Grand Ledge would finance the project with a 30-year CWSRF loan at 2.75% interest. The financial impact of this project to the average residential customer in Grand Ledge would be a rate increase of up to \$102.70 per month. Grand Ledge is counting on more than one bidder for the project this year with the hope of getting a more competitive bid and reducing the cost impact of the project for the customers.

PRIMARY IMPACTS

Construction associated with the projects will occur in the road right-of ways, the existing WWTP site, and Fitzgerald Park. Construction contract provisions will be enforced for compliance with the Soil Erosion and Sedimentation Control Act to prevent damage to the surrounding areas from soil erosion, dust, and sedimentation.

The proposed project will involve work within the floodplain and require an EGLE Part 31 Floodplain permit. Additionally, work will impact Fitzgerald Park, and special consideration will need to be taken to minimize impacts to the sandstone ledges. This project will involve the loss of some of the park property near the base of the sledding hill to build the retention basin, requiring the permanent closure of the sledding hill. However, the intention is to design the

basin in such a way as to incorporate it into the park, potentially with community features such as bathrooms or other improvements added later.

This project is not expected to cause impacts on historical, archeological, religious, or culturally significant areas. Minimal tree removal is anticipated during this project, and no trees will be cut from April 1st through October 14th during the Indiana bat and Northern long eared bat roosting season.

REASONS FOR CONCLUDING NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

The proposed project remains the same; however, the requested loan amount has increased based on the bid for the project received in 2023. The proposed project will replace WWTP components at the end of its useful life, install a new retention basin, and install new sewer mains while extending the life of the system. The water quality benefits anticipated from the project are expected to outweigh the short-term adverse impacts. Preventing SSOs and surcharging will provide long-term beneficial impacts.

Questions regarding this Environmental Assessment Amendment should be directed to:

Ms. Valorie White, Project Manager
Water Infrastructure Funding and Financing Section
Finance Division
Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy
P.O. Box 30457
Lansing, Michigan 48909-8311
Telephone: 517-599-5879
E-Mail: WhiteV1@michigan.gov

Figure 1: Selected alternative for WWTP improvements.

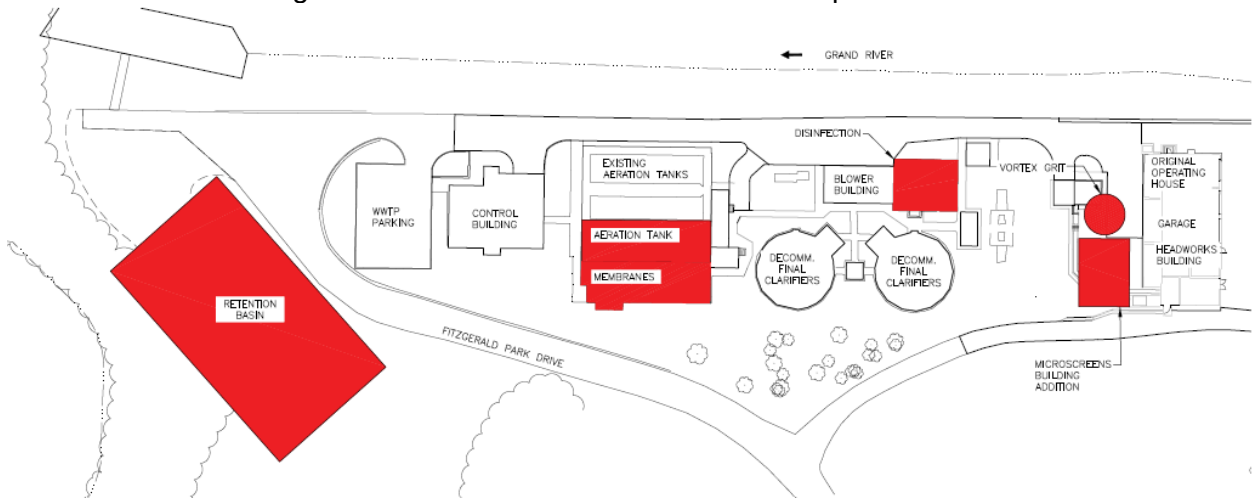


Figure 2: New force main construction under the selected alternative.

