



GRETCHEN WHITMER
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF
ENVIRONMENT, GREAT LAKES, AND ENERGY
FINANCE DIVISION



PHILLIP D. ROOS
DIRECTOR

February 21, 2025

TO: All Interested Citizens, Organizations, and Government Agencies

SUBJECT: FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT
City of Evart, Osceola County
Water Main and Lead Service Line Replacement
Drinking Water State Revolving Fund Project No. 7808-01

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 water supply project plan submitted by the applicant mentioned above.

HOW WERE ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES CONSIDERED?

Part 54, Safe Drinking Water Assistance, of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act, 1994 PA 451, as amended, being Sections 324.5401 to 324.5418 of the Michigan Compiled Laws Annotated, requires EGLE to evaluate all environmental implications of a proposed water supply project. EGLE has done this by incorporating a detailed analysis of the environmental impact of the proposed alternatives in its review and approval process. A project planning document was prepared by the applicant 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/SRF under "Environmental Project Reviews." 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, FD, 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.

February 21, 2025

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 Mr. Joel Felsk, the project manager, at 517-599-3016, by email FelskJ2@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
517-388-3380

Attachment

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT, GREAT LAKES, AND ENERGY
Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF)
City of Ewart, Osceola County
Environmental Assessment
February 2025

PROJECT IDENTIFICATION

Applicant: City of Ewart

Address: 200 S. Main Street
Ewart, MI 49631

Authorized Representative: Pepper Lockhart, City Manager

Project No. 7808-01

PROJECT SUMMARY

The City of Ewart (Ewart) is located in southern Osceola County approximately 80 miles north of the city of Grand Rapids. Ewart is located on U.S. 10 between the city of Reed City (Reed City) to the west and the city of Clare to the east. (See Figure 1). Ewart is seeking funding from the DWSRF loan program administered by the Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE) to finance a \$9,940,000 water main replacement and lead and galvanized service line replacement project. The DWSRF was able to offer Ewart a \$5,964,000 40-year loan at 1.0 percent interest along with a State Lead Service Line Replacement/Water Main (LSLR/WM) Grant up to \$3,976,000 to fund the project. It is estimated that the project will increase rates for the average residential user by approximately \$10.71 per month.

EXISTING SYSTEM AND NEED FOR THE PROJECT

The existing water distribution system dates to the early 1930's and consists of approximately 112,363 linear feet (Lft) of water main varying in size from 4-inches to 12-inches in diameter and includes approximately 177 hydrants and 341 valves. (See Figure 2) The distribution system is comprised of asbestos cement (AC), cast iron (CI), ductile iron (DI), and galvanized steel pipe. The aged and brittle AC pipe and undersized CI pipe have reliability issues and are prone to breaks and pose potential water quality problems. The system serves approximately 633 households with 1,742 residents and Ewarts users are comprised of residential, commercial, and industrial customers. Ewart has many water services that are constructed with lead or galvanized pipe previously connect to lead and need to be replaced as stipulated in Michigan's revised Lead and Copper Rule (LCR). Over the course of the next 20 years Ewart is projected to need multiple water projects to replace the existing CI water main and lead service lines (LSLs). The aging and undersized water main creates system vulnerability and low flow areas.

Ewarts water supply system currently consists of seven wells. These wells are operated automatically by radio controls and under normal circumstances, the water is not treated. Each well is equipped with chemical feed pumps suitable for injection of sodium hypochlorite solution and Ewart regularly tests the quality of its wells and water supply network per EGLE requirements. The yearly water quality tests report that there are no significant sources of contamination in the city's water supply.

Evart also has two elevated storage tanks. One tank is located near the westerly city limits and has a capacity of 500,000 gallons. The other tank is in the northeast corner of the city and has a capacity of 300,000 gallons.

ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED

No-Action Alternative

The no-action alternative is not feasible as replacement of LSLs are required by the LCR. If no action was taken on the water main segments in the distribution system, main breaks and problems associated with undersized mains would continue. Since the no-action alternative does not address the project needs, it was not considered further.

Regional Alternative

The regional alternative is not feasible financially for Evart. The closest community that has a public water system is approximately 11.5 miles west of Evart in Reed City. Even if Evart connected to the Reed City water distribution system, they would still need to replace LSLs and water main in the system. As a result, this alternative was not considered.

Optimum Performance Alternative

Evart has been trying to optimize the existing system to ensure system efficiency. The necessary improvements cannot be achieved through optimization. The existing water main is past its useful life and undersized. LSLR is required to comply with the LCR. As a result, this alternative was not considered.

Replacement Alternative

This alternative proposes to replace aging and unreliable CI and AC pipe that is undersized and prone to breaks. Any water service line constructed with lead or galvanized pipe served by these segments of water main will also be replaced with new copper pipe. By increasing the diameter of the water main in these areas, the hydraulic capacity of the system will be restored. In addition, water service lines constructed with lead and galvanized pipe throughout the service area will be replaced to comply with the LCR.

Selected Alternative

The selected alternative is the Replacement Alternative. Evart proposes to replace approximately 12,425 lft of water main and appurtenances on U.S. 10, Jefferson Street, Cedar Street, Recreation Avenue, 7th Street, 5th Street, 4th Street, and 3rd Street. This will also include new water services from the water main to any building or structure if the existing water service line is constructed with lead or galvanized steel previously connected to or downstream from lead. These types of pipes are non-compliant with the LCR. Replacement of some of the aged (as early as 1930's) and undersized water mains in the city will help mitigate any reliability problems associated with water main breaks, improve operational efficiency, and reduce the likelihood of water quality problems. The primary goal with water main replacements is to eliminate CI and AC pipe which is approaching the end of its useful life and has become unreliable resulting in water main breaks. Existing aged pipe inner diameters have been decreased due to corrosion, scaling, and tuberculation, which affects hydraulic capacity and would be addressed in this project since all the pipes being replaced are aged and undersized. The undersized 4-inch diameter CI pipe will be replaced with 6-inch diameter DI pipe and the 10-inch diameter AC water main will be replaced with 12-inch diameter DI pipe which will restore the hydraulic capacity of the system.

In addition, approximately 319 LSLs not associated with water main replacement portion of the project will be replaced with new copper pipe. Partial service line replacement in some areas of the system completed before the LCR was revised occurred from the water main to the curb stop leaving the private side section of the water service pipe constructed with lead or galvanized steel. Other water services have not been replaced at all since being installed in the system and may classify as an LSL from the water main to the structure. Whichever case exists, removal of lead from the system will occur improving water quality and protecting customer health. Replacements will occur from either the water main or curb stop to either the water meter or 18-inches into the house or structure.

PROJECT COST AND IMPLEMENTATION

The total estimated cost of the project is \$9,940,000. Evart will finance a portion of the project with a \$5,964,000 40-year DWSRF loan at 1.00 percent interest. Additionally, the project was awarded a State LSLR/WM Grant not to exceed \$3,976,000. The LSLR/WM Grant was made available as Evart qualifies financially as a significantly overburdened community. Evart has established legal, institutional, technical, financial and managerial resources to implement, maintain, and operate its water works system along with the improvements necessary to maintain EGLE compliance.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

There are no anticipated impacts to historic or cultural resources. The Evart project area has no historic properties listed under the National Register of Historic Places. According to a review of a United States Fish and Wildlife Service survey, several endangered and threatened species are found within Osceola. However, there are no critical habitats located within the project areas and therefore no species are expected to be within the proximity of the project sites which are in residential yards. No negative impact of endangered wildlife habitat is anticipated.

Short term construction impacts are expected to be minimal. Typical construction disturbances including noise, dust, and traffic changes will occur. All construction activities will take place within existing facilities or developed rights of ways. The contractor will control noise, dust, traffic, and surface restoration according to local ordinances and contract specifications. Soil erosion and sedimentation control measures will be followed to ensure waterways as well as nearby sewers and storm drains are not adversely impacted.

Construction will take place during normal hours of operation and the improvements are specific to existing drinking water system infrastructure. User's water service shall be maintained by the contractor throughout the construction process with only brief interruptions to water service customers while new water service lines are connected put into service. The environmental impacts of the proposed project are limited due to the locations of the water service infrastructure improvements. If it appears that cultural resources are being impacted, work will be immediately ceased, and the State will be contacted.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Evart published a public notice for a public meeting on the project planning document on May 4, 2023, on the city's website and social media page. Evart hosted the public hearing on May 15, 2023, to inform the public of the proposed project and potential funding sources. After the close of the public comment period, the proposed Alternative 4 was selected for implementation by the City Council. Evart was open to input from the community while planning for the water system improvements, however no comments were received. The Evart City Council passed a

resolution to adopt the project planning document and selected alternative following the public hearing.

REASONS FOR CONCLUDING NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACTS

The proposed project will address aging infrastructure and present no significant long-term impacts associated with its construction or operation. The water quality and public health benefits anticipated from the proposed project are expected to outweigh the short-term construction related impacts.

Questions regarding this Environmental Assessment should be directed to:

Mr. Joel Felsk, Project Manager
Water Infrastructure Funding and Financing Section
Finance Division
Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy
Cadillac District Office
102 W. Chapin St.
Cadillac MI 49601
E-Mail: FelskJ2@Michigan.gov

Figure 1

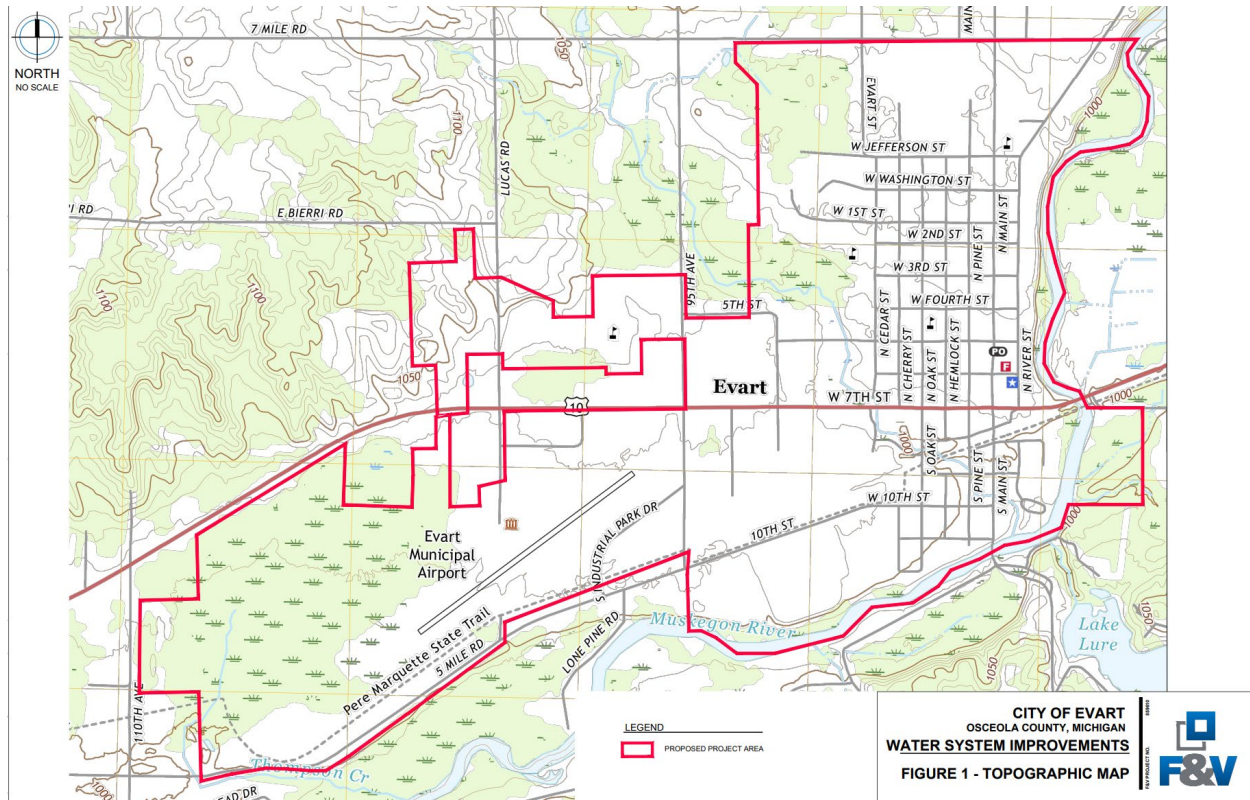


Figure 2

