



GRETCHEN WHITMER
GOVERNOR

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



Phillip Roos
DIRECTOR

April 23, 2025

TO: All Interested Citizens, Organizations, and Government Agencies

SUBJECT: FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT
City of St. Ignace, Mackinaw County
Water Treatment Plant and Distribution System Upgrades
Drinking Water State Revolving Fund Project No. 7544-01

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 via email to EGLE-WIFFS@Michigan.gov or to me at EGLE, FD, Constitution Hall, P.O. Box 30457, Lansing, Michigan 48909-7957. We will not take any action on this project planning document for 30 calendar days from the date of this notice in order to receive and consider all 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 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 St. Ignace, Mackinaw County
Environmental Assessment
April 2025

PROJECT IDENTIFICATION

Applicant: City of St. Ignace

Address: 396 N. State Street
St. Ignace, MI 49781

Authorized Representative: Darcy Long, City Manager

Project No. 7544-01

PROJECT SUMMARY

The city of St. Ignace (St. Ignace) is located in southern Mackinaw County. St. Ignace is situated on the Straits of Mackinac, north of Mackinac City connected by the Mackinac Bridge. St. Ignace is located where U.S. 2 and I-75 intersect (See Figure 1). St. Ignace is seeking financing from the DWSRF low interest loan program administered by the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE) for a \$9,500,000 water main (WM) replacement, lead service line replacement (LSLR), WM looping, storage tank, pressure reducing valve (PRV), pump station (PS) and water treatment plant (WTP) upgrades project. The DWSRF was able to offer St. Ignace a 40-year \$7,600,000 loan at 2.0 percent interest along with a State Lead and Infrastructure (LI) Grant up to \$1,900,000 to fund the project. It is estimated that the project will increase rates for the average residential user by approximately \$12.81 per month.

EXISTING SYSTEM

St. Ignace is the responsible entity for the municipal WTP serving the city and the adjacent areas of Moran Township (Moran) and St. Ignace Township (Twp). The entire service district lies within Mackinac County in Michigan's Upper Peninsula. The St. Ignace water distribution system supplies water to 1,024 residential users within the city and 252 other users, such as industry, churches, schools, government buildings, small commercial, and apartment buildings.

The system water source is Lake Huron near the Straits of Mackinac and raw water is drawn through a 24-inch diameter intake pipe constructed in 1953. The Shorewell PS provides water to the WTP to be treated and the plant normally produces water at a low service pumping rate of 600 gallons per minute (gpm) to 1,000 gpm to meet most current demand conditions. At higher production rates the 500,000-gallon (gal) treated water storage tank (TWST) fills and treatment must be suspended until room is created in the clearwell by high service pumping demands. Higher treatment rates may enable shorter production shifts, and treatment rates of 1,400 gpm are needed to meet 20-year future needs. St. Ignace has four high service (HS) pumps which draw suction from the clearwell/TWST and pump to the distribution system. Two wastewater lagoons are used for storage of backwash water.

The distribution system includes one 300,000-gal steel standpipe with booster pumping at Marley Street (Marley), a 100,000-gal elevated storage tank on Second Street, and a 100,000-gal elevated storage tank in Evergreen Shores (ES). These facilities and the distribution system are currently owned, operated, and maintained by the city. The distribution system consists of about 200,000 linear feet (lft) of 4-inch diameter to 16-inch diameter WM and includes hydrants, valves, and water service lines. WM is constructed with ductile iron (DI), cast iron (CI), and polyvinyl chloride pipe. A majority of the WM in the system is 6-inches to 16-inches in diameter constructed in the aging areas with CI pipe and in upgraded areas over the last 40 years with DI pipe. A number of locations exist with dead end 4-inch and 6-inch diameter CI pipe.

PROPOSED PROJECT

A. Project Need

The St. Ignace WTP has a history of excellent performance and consistent maintenance since major construction of water treatment and storage structures in 1981. Like any aging distribution system, deterioration from exposure, wear, and age requires periodic investment to maintain modern standards. Minor complaints have been brought forth from users, and operators have identified several areas with the opportunity for improvement. The priority improvements among these are as follows. The Shorewell PS gate valve has been unreliable in recent years and needs replacement. The PS requires brick fascia repair, and a floor drain upgrade. Variable frequency drives (VFDs) should be added to the low service (LS) pumps to increase efficiency and alleviate the need to manually throttle the discharge at the WTP meter manhole to control the rate of raw water pumping.

The WTP flocculators were installed in 1993 and have surpassed their design life. New, higher efficiency drives may improve settling performance. Flocculation mixers have exceeded their useful life and require replacement. A streaming current monitor would aid in determining coagulant dose, Filter No.2 needs rehabilitation and media replacement, and one new surface pump is needed. The three end-suction centrifugal sample pumps serving the raw water intake, filter influent, and filter effluent were installed in 1993 and are operating well beyond their design life. The laboratory requires some miscellaneous equipment, including a new eyewash/emergency shower and a benchtop turbidimeter.

System users have reported very short duration pressure reductions which have traced to stoppage of HS pumps. Upon shutdown, dynamic waves are generated which produce short low- and high-pressure fluctuations. Although current water control check valves help, it is recommended that HS pump VFDs would help further control low- and high-pressure waves and help match higher capacity pumps to normal daily demands. Although infrastructure has been well maintained and is performing well, the exposure to water and weather has deteriorated doors, fascia, brick, concrete, and other coatings are needs at the Service Building and LS Booster. Rust and corrosion have begun to interfere with operability in some areas. The climate control and air exchange systems are pieced together over the course of several additions and may not be entirely safe in areas like the chlorine room. Furnace, and thermostats are at the end of their design life, and lighting improvements are needed. The coordination of these necessary repairs and replacements will offer an opportunity for a more comprehensive, energy efficient design.

A tank inspection was performed at the ES Storage Tank on September 28, 2022, and the recommendations of the inspection included installing a painter's railing on the roof around the handrail and to make modifications to the overflow pipe discharge and install a pressure vacuum vent to bring it into compliance with current EGLE requirements. Reliable operation of the water distribution lines within the City's utility systems directly impacts the health and safety

of the City's citizens and visitors. Reliability and down-time during repairs of deficient WMs affects the ability to provide safe drinking water and poses maintenance issues. The pressure reducing valve (PRV) located on Airport Road (Airport) is not operable and beyond its useful life, causes water quality issues, and doesn't provide redundancy to the hospital. Locations on South Marley (S Marley) and South Boundary Road (S Boundary) have water services connected to the original aging 6-inch and 8-inch diameter WM. These locations have also recently had a parallel 12-inch diameter WM installed. St Ignace plans to abandon the aging existing 6-inch and 8-inch diameter WM and reconnect the water services to the newer existing 12-inch diameter WM. Many older WMs in the system have tuberculation to some degree which also adversely affects pressures in the system. The bulk of the systems WMs are over 70 years old. WM freezing during extended cold winters is a problem in St Ignace. Pipe and joint materials are not up to modern standards. Leaking joints, structural problems, breaks, and capacity issues require increasing operation, maintenance, and repair expenditures. A small number of water service lines in the system are constructed with lead and/or galvanized steel pipe and are required to be replaced by Michigan's Lead and Copper Rule (LCR). Corrections are made as failures occur which is not a financially responsible method of system asset management nor of operation and maintenance planning. WM pipe material, insufficient looping which causes stagnant water and water quality issues, and inadequate shut-off valves increase repair time and inconvenience the system users as well as diminish the water quality in St. Ignace.

B. Alternatives Considered

No-Action Alternative

The no-action alternative is not feasible as replacement of lead service lines (LSLs) are required by Michigan's LCR. If no action was taken on the WM segments in the distribution system, main breaks and problems associated with undersized mains would continue. The condition of equipment at the WTP, Shorewell PS, and ES Storage Tank would continue to deteriorate if this alternative was selected. Since the no-action alternative does not address the project needs, it was not considered further.

Regional Alternative

St. Ignace currently operates as the centralized facility for both, St. Ignace Twp and Moran. The WTP is currently serving these adjacent communities in the region. The cost to connect to another system exceeds the cost of the other alternatives therefore, regionalization will not be analyzed as a proposed alternative.

Optimum Performance of Existing Facilities

St. Ignace has been working toward optimizing its water system for many years. Water issues now facing St. Ignace will require repair and/or replacement of aging WM and LSLs. St. Ignace maintains detailed records of asset management, budget, and capital improvements, and has historically been able to reduce required man-hours at the WTP from three shifts to two. Optimization of existing facilities is an ongoing effort at the St. Ignace WTP but will not address the deficiencies at the plant. Based on evaluations of age, reliability, and treatment performance, St. Ignace is working as efficiently as possible with existing facilities, but optimization will not address the need upgrades. As a result, this alternative was not considered.

Replacement and Rehabilitation Alternative

The needs at the WTP, ES Storage Tank and Shorewell PS can be addressed with relatively minor additions, modifications, and replacements. Replacement of 6,105 lft of CI WMs that are over 70 years old with new WM constructed with DI pipe were prioritized for this project. In addition, St Ignace proposes to loop three dead ends on Dock 3 Road (Dock 3), Keightley Road (Keightley) and Dickinson Street (Dickinson) with 3,340 lft of new 8-inch diameter DI WM to improve the water quality due to stagnant water in these areas. WM replacements will be sized from 8-inches to 12-inches in diameter to meet 10 State Standards and American Water Works Association requirements. Any LSLs or galvanized pipe water services found during construction will be replaced with copper pipe from the WM to the curb stop or from the WM to the first shutoff valve, or 18-inches within the house or structure depending on the existing material. The PRV will be replaced on Airport to improve water quality in the distribution system.

C. Selected Alternative

The Replacement and Rehabilitation Alternative is the selected alternative based on system need and cost effectiveness. (See Figure 2 for project locations) The proposed project includes:

- Upgrade LS pumps with VFD controllers.
- Installation of a Streaming Current Monitor.
- Rehabilitation of Filter Bed No. 2, including replacement of filter media.
- Rehabilitation of Flocculation mixers and drive replacement.
- HS, Washwater/Backwash, and Surface Supply Pump and Filter Valve replacements.
- Upgrade HS Pumps with VFD controllers.
- Sample Pump replacement.
- WTP Filter, Service Building, LS Booster improvements.
- Miscellaneous equipment improvements including furnace, lighting, thermostats, and lab improvements.
- General rehabilitation including climate control and air exchange systems.
- Replacement of the Shorewell isolation valve and PS improvements.
- Replacement of 6,105 lft of WM on North 2nd Street, Goudreau Street, North Marley Street, East Truckey Street, Spring Street, Fountain Street, and McCann Street.
- Replacement of 11 known LSLs.
- Looping of 3,340 lft of WM on Dock 3, Keightley, and Dickinson.
- Abandon 8-inch diameter WM on S Marley and 6-inch diameter WM on S Boundary and reconnect water services and Marley Standpipe to existing 12-inch diameter WM.
- PRV replacement on Airport.
- ES Elevated Storage Tank rehabilitation including new vent, and upgrades to the painter railing, overflow pipe, and vent hatch to meet compliance standards.

PROJECT COST AND IMPLEMENTATION

The total estimated cost of the project is \$9,500,000. St. Ignace will finance a portion of the project with a \$7,600,000 40-year DWSRF loan at 2.0 percent interest. Additionally, the project was awarded a State LI Grant up to \$1,900,000. The grant was made available as St. Ignace qualifies financially based on EGLE criteria as an overburdened community. St. Ignace has successfully implemented multiple water system improvement projects over the past 50 years and has shown it has the legal, institutional, technical, financial and managerial resources to accomplish implementation of the selected alternative. It is estimated that the project will increase rates for the average residential user by approximately \$12.81 per month.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

The construction and water system improvements are not anticipated to have any adverse effect on historical, archaeological, geological, or recreational areas. Excavation in previously unexcavated areas is very limited. As is standard with utility projects in St. Ignace, construction contracts will contain archaeological discovery procedures to be followed in the event of unanticipated discoveries. Significant historical and archaeological sites are common in St. Ignace, one of the oldest continuously inhabited sites by Native Americans in North America. The St. Ignace area has a long-standing commitment to historic preservation which is a major part of the area's tourism driven economy. The proposed construction will be within existing facilities and previously disturbed areas. It is expected that there will be no long-term impact as a result of the proposed projects. According to a review of a United States Fish and Wildlife Service survey, several endangered and threatened species are found within Mackinaw County. 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 existing buildings, road rights-of-way (ROW) and 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 ROWs. 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 and 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

St. Ignace published a public notice for a public meeting on the project planning document (PPD) on April 8, 2021, in the *St. Ignace News* 30 days prior to the meeting date. Copies of the draft PPD detailing the proposed project were available for review at the St. Ignace City Hall and the city website. An initial public meeting for the DWSRF PPD was held on June 7, 2021, at the Little Bear East Arena in St. Ignace to discuss the need for the project, principal alternatives, environmental impacts, description of the selected alternative, associated cost estimates and user charge, and a schedule of the proposed project timeline.

An additional public meeting was held on May 16, 2022, to incorporate an expanded scope of WM replacement that was added to the project. Any comments from the public received before, or during the public meeting were addressed as a part of the question-and-answer portion of the presentation. The official period for receiving comments ended at the close of the formal public meeting. After the close of the public comment period, the recommended alternative, Alternative #2, was recommended for implementation by the city council. The resolutions were adopted on June 7, 2021, and May 16, 2022, following the conclusion of the public meetings to move forward with the submit of the final PPD.

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



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