



**Mike DeWine**, Governor  
**Jon Husted**, Lt. Governor  
**Anne M. Vogel**, Director

**March 21, 2023**

**Limited Environmental Review and Finding of No Significant Impact**

**Village of DeGraff - Logan County  
Water Treatment Plant Rehabilitation  
Loan number: FS390306-0005**

The attached Limited Environmental Review (LER) is for a water treatment project in DeGraff which the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency intends to finance through its Water Supply Revolving Loan Account (WSRLA) below-market interest rate revolving loan program. The LER describes the project, its costs, and expected environmental benefits. Making available this LER fulfills Ohio EPA's environmental review and public notice requirements for this loan program.

Ohio EPA analyzes environmental effects of proposed projects as part of its WSRLA program review and approval process. We have concluded that the proposed project should not result in significant adverse environmental impacts. This project's relatively narrow scope and lack of environmental impacts qualifies it for the LER rather than a more comprehensive Environmental Assessment. More information can be obtained by calling or writing the person named at the end of the attached LER.

Upon issuance of this Finding of No Significant Impact (FNSI) determination, award of funds may proceed without further environmental review or public comment unless new information shows that environmental conditions of the proposed project have changed significantly.

Sincerely,

Kathleen Courtright, Assistant Chief  
Division of Environmental and Financial Assistance

Attachment

## LIMITED ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

### **Project Identification**

Project: Water Treatment Plant Rehabilitation

Applicant: Village of DeGraff  
P.O. Box 309  
DeGraff, Ohio 43318

Loan Number: FS390306-0005

### **Project Summary**

The Village of DeGraff in Logan County (Figure 1) has requested financial assistance from the Ohio Water Supply Revolving Loan Account (WSRLA) to construct a new well and upgrade the water treatment plant (WTP). All work will be at the village well field adjacent to the existing WTP and in and adjacent to the WTP, areas lacking important environmental features.

### **History & Existing Conditions**

DeGraff's public water system serves 1,200 residents and business and public buildings. Two wells near the WTP, each rated at 200 gallons per minutes (gpm) supply water for treatment by iron removal by aeration and filtration, stabilization with phosphate, and disinfection with sodium hypochlorite. The WTP design capacity is 244,000 gallons per day (gpd). One 250,000-gallon elevated storage tank supplies water to the distribution system for the 452 metered service connections. Well No. 1 and some WTP components are aged and deteriorated.

Local population projections suggest a stable population with no significant growth for the indefinite future. The existing WTP capacity exceeds the both the average daily and peak demands. The proposed upgrades will maintain the current water withdrawal and treatment capacities.

Planning for this project included evaluation of three local alternatives for supplying sufficient treated water and a regionalization alternative of connecting to and becoming customers of the City of Bellefontaine. These numbers are from a prospective planning exercise and do not reflect current actual cost estimates. The three local alternatives all include adding a new well to replace Well No. 1 (\$222,000) and replacement of the aeration/filtration iron removal treatment system (\$1,630,000). The second option also adds cation exchange softening (\$2,06,000); the third option includes membrane softening (\$2,220,000).

Connecting to Bellefontaine, requiring approximately 10 miles of new transmission main and a booster pump station, would cost \$4,200,000, significantly above the capital cost of the local alternatives and is not fiscally feasible.

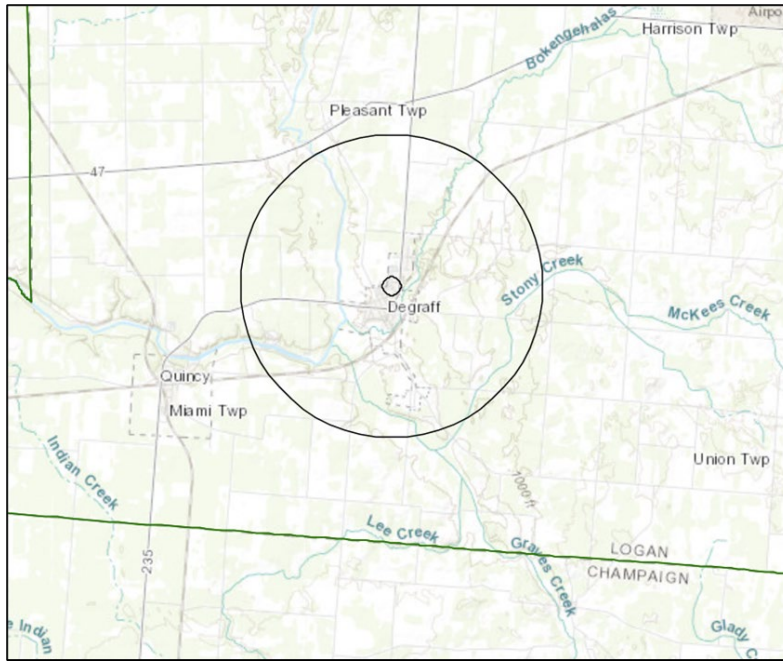


Figure 1 – DeGraff Location

**Project Description**

DeGraff proposes replacing Well No. 1 with a new Well No. 3 of similar depth and productivity and associated new valve and meter chamber; rehabilitating the WTP building; adding potassium phosphate feed to enhance iron removal and replacing the iron removal aeration equipment; replacing the five pressure filters; installing a new liquid chlorine disinfection system and phosphate feed; and constructing a new 30,000-gallon clearwell adjacent to the WTP (Figure 2).



Figure 2 – Project Location

## **Implementation**

DeGraff will borrow approximately \$1,376,000 from the WSRLA at the small-community interest rate (currently 2.25%; the rate is set monthly and may change before loan award). Compared to market-rate financing at 3.83%, DeGraff will save approximately \$490,000 over the 30-year life of the loan by using the WSRLA subsidized-rate loan.

The typical \$628 annual residential water bill is approximately 1.2% of median household income (\$50,272), roughly equivalent to the Ohio statewide average.

Construction will start after loan award and be completed in approximately 12 months.

## **Public Participation**

This project was developed, and its progress tracked, by regular action during Village Council meetings. Ohio EPA is unaware of controversy about or opposition to the project.

This document is available at <https://epa.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/epa/divisions-and-offices/environmental-financial-assistance/announcements> or upon request.

## **Conclusion**

The proposed new well and WTP upgrades meet the project type criteria for a Limited Environmental Review (LER) (minor upgrading ... of existing treatment works including, but not limited to, minor rehabilitation of existing facilities, functional replacement of existing mechanical equipment or structures, and construction of new ancillary facilities adjacent or appurtenant to existing facilities). Furthermore, the project meets the other qualifying criteria for an LER; specifically, the proposed project:

**Will have no significant environmental effect or affect high-value environmental resources and will require no specific impact mitigation** – All work will be on the existing WTP and well field site, areas lacking important habitat. A cultural resources survey of the project disturbance area found no important historical or archaeological resources.

**Is cost effective and not controversial** – The proposed WTP upgrade relies on re-use of most of the facility at lower cost than a completely new plant and adding a replacement well is necessary to ensure an adequate supply of raw water. No opposition to or controversy about the proposal is evident.

**Does not create a new, or relocate an existing, discharge to surface or ground waters; does not create a new source of water withdrawals from either surface or ground waters, or significantly increase the amount of water withdrawn from an existing water source, or substantially increase the volume of discharge or loading of pollutants from an existing source or from new facilities to receiving waters; and will not provide capacity to serve a population substantially greater than the existing population** – The project merely upgrades treatment at the existing WTP and constructs a replacement well in the existing well field and has no effect on the volume of water withdrawn or treated and likewise will not alter wastewater volumes or quality.

**Contact information**

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