

DRAFT FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT
Installation of Sanitary Sewer Infrastructure in the Fargo Run Service Area Project

PROJECT: The City of Peoria (City) is proposing to construct sanitary sewers to serve a developing area on the northwest side of the City, also known as Growth Cell #3. The City has previously invested significant funds in sewer infrastructure to encourage economic development in the general area. The City and the Greater Peoria Sanitary District (Sanitary District) have entered into inter-governmental agreements in order to develop mutually-beneficial growth management plans and development regulations for the purpose of stimulating economic development.

The environmental review conducted by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) described in this document indicates the proposed project will not result in significant adverse environmental impacts. The project plan includes mitigative measures which will help protect environmental resources.

FEDERAL GRANT: The estimated cost of the overall project is \$1,140,000. The U.S. EPA is proposing to issue a grant to assist this project. This funding was earmarked by Congress for these projects in U.S. EPA's Fiscal Year 2004 Budget for State and Tribal Assistance Grants. Because Federal grant funds will be utilized to assist in meeting the project's anticipated costs, the provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) apply, which require an analysis of the project's potential to result in significant environmental impacts. Additionally, the provisions of Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act apply to this project, which require an analysis of the project's potential to have an adverse effect upon cultural resources and/or historic properties.

ANALYSIS OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT POTENTIAL: The scope of work includes constructing approximately 4,200 ft. of 18" – 24" trunk sanitary sewer that will ultimately serve approximately 845 acres of a developing area located on the northwest side of Peoria. The project location is shown in Figure 1. The sewer alignment has been coordinated with the future extension of Pioneer Parkway to IL Route 91, reducing environmental impacts associated with sewer service interruption during highway construction. With the completion of transportation and utility infrastructure, approximately 1,500 acres may be developed into commercial, industrial, and residential uses. The proposed project encourages and facilitates compact and contiguous growth to maximize the efficiency of providing urban services in accordance with the City's comprehensive plan adopted in 2001. Upon completion, the sewer improvement project will provide service to a combined population of approximately 15,000.

The service area includes areas identified by the City of Peoria as Growth Cells 2 and 3. The service area is situated within a section of the Peoria metropolitan area which has been targeted for planned growth. The City, Peoria County (County), and the Sanitary District have entered into inter-governmental agreements in order to develop mutually-beneficial growth management plans and development regulations for the purpose of stimulating economic development.

City and County planning maps depict projected land use of undeveloped land anticipated for future growth. Three of these areas, designated as "growth cells," are within or adjacent to the project area. The three growth cells are shown in Figure 2. Growth Cell One was established in April 1995 and encompasses approximately 1,100 acres. Approximately 80 percent of the land

area in Growth Cell One is designated for residential development, and practically all of the available acreage in Cell One has been platted.

Cell Two was created in September 1997 due to the limited supply of land for industrial use in the area, encompassing approximately 1,500 acres. The northern and western boundary of Growth Cell Two is IL Route 6. Allen Road is the eastern boundary and Willow Knolls Road forms the southern boundary.

Growth Cell Three, designated primarily for commercial and residential uses, encompasses approximately 3,000 acres. The northern boundary is Alta Lane, Trigger Road on the west, IL Route 6 and Allen Road on the east, and US Route 150 on the south.

ALTERNATIVES ANALYSIS OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT POTENTIAL: The following alternatives were evaluated to determine a cost-effective, workable solution for the area's needs.

Alternatives to provide sewer service to Growth Cells 2 and 3 were described in the "Kickapoo Interceptor Extension Planning Study" (Study) prepared for the City, the County, and the Sanitary District in 2004. The Study analyzed three options for providing sanitary sewer service to the encompassing Growth Cells 2 and 3; the three options include a trunk sewer for this location. Under the No Action alternative, a new trunk sewer would not be constructed to service Growth Cells 2 and 3. The No Action alternative would require that any new construction use septic systems for waste disposal, limiting the types and densities of new development within this area. However, the No Action alternative is not consistent with the approved Comprehensive Plan.

The proposed alignment was selected based on the area's natural drainage way and a decision by OSF Healthcare Facility (OSF) to grant a utility easement across its property.

IMPLEMENTATION: The proposed project will extend an existing sanitary trunk sewer that currently serves an area northwest of the City to Cells 2 and 3 as shown on Figure 1. Construction is slated to begin September, 2008 and end during July, 2009. Final completion of the Fargo Run Sewer System, which will provide service to the entire area slated for growth, is expected by 2013. The Sanitary District will own, operate, and maintain the sanitary sewer.

ENVIRONMENTAL AND ECONOMIC IMPACTS OF THE PROPOSED PROJECT: A complete environmental review of the project was performed, and each environmental attribute is addressed below.

1. Land Use

Current land use in the areas identified as Growth Cells 2 and 3 is predominantly agricultural row crops. The western portion of the project area along Rt. 91 has experienced significant recent development, including construction of a large health care facility. The Future Land Use Map (2001) developed by the City shows future land use of light industrial, health care, and multiple family residential within the project area, which will likely result in the conversion of approximately 845 acres of land from agricultural use to developed uses. The proposed project is fully compatible with the City's approved comprehensive land use plan.

This area of future development does not include any potentially significant wildlife habitat, and no state or federally listed threatened or endangered species have been recorded for this area. Wetlands within this area are limited to narrow areas abutting intermittent tributaries to Fargo

Run Creek. These intermittent streams and their associated wetlands are protected by the City's Stream Buffer Ordinance; therefore, adverse impacts are not expected as a result of this project.

The project "site" includes a corridor of construction approximately 30' wide along the 4,200' length of the proposed project. The disturbed area within the corridor is approximately 10' wide along the length of the project. All disturbed areas will be returned to pre-existing contours and seeded with a native, weed-free seed mix following project installation. Therefore, significant adverse impacts to land forms are not expected as a result of construction of this project.

2. Surface and Ground Water

The majority of the City's drinking water is drawn from the Sankoty Aquifer; the Illinois River also serves a source for a minor amount of the City's drinking water. Correspondence from the Illinois State Water Survey indicates sufficient water supplies are available to absorb the growth potential from the proposed extension.

Sediment and erosion controls will be used throughout construction to minimize run-off from construction-related activities. The site will be stabilized and restored promptly following construction. Therefore, no significant adverse impacts to surface water should result from the project.

3. Terrestrial and Aquatic Habitat

A review of the project area was conducted by the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR), Impact Assessment Section. The IDNR indicated it has no concerns with the proposed project following analysis of potential impacts to two animal and three plant species shown on the Fish & Wildlife Service threatened and endangered list because no individuals were shown in the mapped area.

Project construction will consist of a linear excavation, placement of pipe in the trench, and backfilling the trench with removed soil and restoration. The proposed project will temporarily impact agricultural, lawn or prairie habitat and any species using these habitat types (e.g., songbirds, squirrels, mice, and voles). However, construction will begin in September, 2008, which will reduce impacts during breeding and nesting activities. Because disturbed areas will be returned to pre-existing contours and reseeded with a native seed mix, significant adverse impacts are not expected.

4. Surface Waters, Wetlands, and Floodplains

Surface waters in the project area include two small ponds created by impoundment of an unnamed tributary to Fargo Run Creek. Trenching for pipe installation will be conducted south of these impoundments and will not directly impact either pond. Areas of mapped hydric soils were reviewed in relation to the National Wetland Inventory maps. The NWI records the presence of the two small ponds, as well as wetlands constructed as mitigation for stream impacts from construction of an impoundment of the Fargo Run Creek as part of the recent OSF construction. None of these resources will be directly impacted by the proposed construction. Furthermore, sediment from construction will be controlled in accordance with the City's Erosion, Sediment, and Storm Water ordinance, and, therefore, no adverse water quality impacts are expected.

Portions of the proposed sewer are to be constructed within the 100-year floodplain. The proposed work is not expected to affect the 100-year floodplain limits or elevation because pre-existing contours and elevation will be restored. Furthermore, due to the underground nature of

the proposed project, the floodplain will not be impacted by above-ground structures that, if present, could potentially increase flood elevations or that could be impacted by flooding events. Therefore, no significant adverse impacts to floodplains are expected as a result of this project.

5. Archaeological and Historical Resources

Because historic properties are not located within the project area, a determination was made and submitted to the Illinois Historic Preservation Office (IHPO) that the proposed project would not affect historic properties listed or eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. Concurrence was received from the IHPO.

6. Air Quality

Peoria County is currently in attainment with all federal air quality pollutant standards. Pollutants monitored for air quality are: ozone, particulates, sulfur dioxide, nitrogen oxide, lead, and carbon monoxide.

The project will result in a temporary increase of dust and fumes from construction activities. However, the contractor will take appropriate measures (such as spraying exposed soil with water to control fugitive dust, and keeping equipment in good working order) during construction, so any such impacts should be short-term and insignificant.

7. Noise, Traffic, and Aesthetics

A temporary increase in noise levels may be noticeable in the area due to operation of equipment during construction; however, this is not expected to be significant due to the undeveloped nature of the project area. Construction will take place during normal operating hours to help minimize disturbance, and mufflers and other noise abatement devices will be used, where practical. Noise impacts will be short-term in duration, ending when construction is complete. Therefore, no significant adverse impacts with respect to noise will result from construction of the project. Similarly, significant impacts to traffic flow are not expected due to the undeveloped nature of the project area.

Four or five trees in the project area may need to be removed; any trees impacted will be replaced at a 1:1 ratio with native tree species and maintained by OSF. Adverse impacts to aesthetics are not expected because the area will be restored to its existing state and new trees will be planted to replace those impacted.

All applicable State and Local construction codes designed to minimize harm related to construction activities will be applied to these projects and implementation activities.

8. Overall Economy

Studies prepared by Bradley University (O'Brien and Scot, 2005) conclude that past Growth Cell development results from the attraction of new businesses and residents to the Peoria area, and not from outward migration of existing City residents or businesses. Therefore, the growth that would be made possible by the proposed sewer construction will not have adverse cumulative impacts on the overall economy of the City. O'Brien and Scott also conclude that development of Growth Cells 2 and 3 will have a significant net positive influence on other taxing districts, including affected school districts.

REASONS FOR A FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT: Based upon U.S. EPA's review of the planning information and the materials presented in the Environmental Assessment, there will be no significant adverse impacts from the proposed project as it relates to the features discussed in this document. Through avoidance of environmentally-sensitive areas and the use

of mitigative measures as outlined in this document, the impacts from construction should generally be short-term and insignificant.

Current land use in the areas identified as Growth Cells 2 and 3 is predominantly agricultural row crops. The City's 2001 Comprehensive Plan shows future land use of light industrial, health care, and multiple family residential within the project area, which will likely result in the conversion of approximately 845 acres of land from agricultural use to developed uses.

This area of future development does not include any potentially significant wildlife habitat. Wetlands within this area are limited to narrow areas abutting intermittent tributaries to Fargo Run Creek. These intermittent streams and their associated wetlands are protected by the City's Stream Buffer Ordinance; therefore, adverse impacts are not expected as a result of this project.

There are no enforcement orders in place that impact sewage collection and treatment in this area. The proposed work is part of a comprehensive sewage collection and treatment system owned, operated, and maintained by the Sanitary District. All applicable permits will be secured before construction commences; the existing National Pollution Discharge Elimination System permit covers the anticipated increase in sewage resulting from development of Growth Cells #2 and #3. The Sanitary District's facilities are adequate to handle the volume and composition of the sanitary waste anticipated from the proposed development area without the need for additional improvements to the Darst Street wastewater treatment facility. Correspondence from the Illinois State Water Survey indicates sufficient water supplies are available to absorb the growth potential from the proposed extension.

REVIEW/COMMENT PERIOD: The U.S. EPA will solicit comments on the Installation of Sanitary Sewer Infrastructure in the Fargo Run Service Area Project for a period of thirty days (30) starting January 30, 2008, through February 28, 2008. The 30-day period starts with the public action in the local newspaper of the location where the documentation will be available for review. Following completion of the 30-day FONSI review/comment period, the U.S. EPA will evaluate any and all comments received on the project. If no comments are received which are sufficient to cause the Agency to change its position on the project and its anticipated environmental consequences, the U.S. EPA will proceed with a positive administrative action on the project, and a Federal grant will then be made, when all other grant requirements have been satisfied.

SUBMISSION OF COMMENTS: Comments on this project and its FONSI can be submitted in writing to the following address:

Kathleen Kowal
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Attention: NEPA Implementation Section (B-19J)
77 West Jackson Boulevard
Chicago, Illinois 60604-3590

Phone: (312) 353-5206
Fax: (312) 353-5374
E-mail: kowal.kathleen@epa.gov

Timothy Leach
Greater Peoria Sanitary and Sewage
Disposal District
2322 South Darst Street
Peoria, Illinois 61607-2093

Phone: (309) 637-3511
Fax: (309) 637-6614
E-Mail: tleach@gpsd.org

DECISION: On the basis of the Environmental Assessment as summarized above, the U.S. EPA has concluded that the Installation of Sanitary Sewer Infrastructure in the Fargo Run Service Area Project will not result in significant adverse environmental impacts and that the development and distribution of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) will not be necessary on behalf of this project. The signatures below signify that the U.S. EPA has conducted a 30-day comment period for this project and that either no substantive comments on the project were received or that those comments were appropriately addressed in the project's EA and this FONSI.

Signature: _____ (PENDING) _____ Date: _____

Kenneth A. Westlake, Supervisor
NEPA Implementation
Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance
U.S. EPA