

City of North Olmsted's WWTP & Collection System Improvements Project

March 9, 2009 Request for Public Participation and Input Comments Requested by April 9, 2009

Public Comment Period and Who to Contact for More Information

The City of North Olmsted appreciates your review of the following project fact sheet and is interested in hearing from you. If you have any questions, concerns, or comments on the information presented in this fact sheet, please list them on the form provided and return the form to Ms. Sharon Schlemmer, Wastewater Superintendent, City of North Olmsted, 23775 Mastick Road, North Olmsted, Ohio 44070 by April 9, 2009. A representative of the City will respond to your concerns. You may also fax your comments to the city's WWTP at 440-777-2888, or send an e-mail to Ms. Schlemmer at schlemmers@north-olmsted.com. Upon completion of the 30-day comment period on this fact sheet, the city will hold an open-house style public meeting to further inform residents about this project and address questions about its proposal to use funds from Ohio EPA to finance it. That meeting will be held at the North Olmsted Community Cabin on April 8, 2009 at 7:00 p.m.

All comments on this fact sheet will be responded to during the 30-day public comment period, and will become part of the public participation record sent to Ohio EPA's Division of Environmental and Financial Assistance. Recipients of this fact sheet may also receive a copy of Ohio EPA's environmental review document on this project and its proposal to finance this project through its Water Pollution Control Loan Fund (WPCLF) program.

Introduction

The City of North Olmsted, through its public service department, is proposing to make major improvements to its wastewater collection system and wastewater treatment plant (see Figure 1) with financial assistance from Ohio EPA. The proposal's objective is to address (1) bypasses in the existing collection system, and (2) an aging treatment plant with numerous maintenance and operating problems. More specifically, the project is expected to reduce or eliminate

occurrences of sewage backups into buildings or onto public streets or property due to inadequate capacity of sanitary sewers to carry flows during wet weather conditions. The city has indicated that eight wet weather overflows discharging to several small streams will be eliminated by adding additional storage during this project. North Olmsted also expects to continue to remove sources of extraneous clear water from its sanitary sewer system by working with city residents on this important activity.

Project Description

North Olmsted's WWTP was originally built in 1959, with upgrades made in 1984 and 1993. As a result of the time that has elapsed since the last improvements were made, many of the original components have exceeded their useful life and now need to be replaced. The city's main goal in initiating this project is to rebuild the existing WWTP into a more efficient facility with additional peak wet weather flow capacity and less odors. To accomplish this task, the city proposes

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twelve activities to upgrade its WWTP by (1) correcting general conditions, (2) completing preliminary site work and piping modifications, (3) eliminating the existing primary settling process and adding new preliminary treatment (screening and grit) components capable of handling up to 40 mgd under peak flow conditions, (4) modifying the existing aeration units and piping, (5) providing a secondary flow splitter and altering the existing settling tanks, (6) adding 13 to 20 mgd of secondary settling capacity for wet weather conditions and making improvements to the existing secondary settling tanks to maximize their capacity, (7) switching from the existing chlorination/dechlorination disinfection process to ultraviolet disinfection using the existing tankage, with minor modifications, (8) adding new sludge storage, stabilization, and dewatering tanks and equipment to stabilize sludge and possibly produce Class "A" sludge, (9) upgrading the WWTP's electrical service, (10) addressing internal electrical system needs at the WWTP and adding a

stand-by generator, (11) fully automating the city's WWTP after a complete SCADA process control system of hardware and software is integrated into the city's wastewater facilities, and (12) addressing plant support needs. Together, these dozen improvements will increase the WWTP's peak wet weather flow treatment capacity by 13 mgd to 35 mgd and ensure the WWTP's maximum "throughput" is maintained. Overall, the project will result in improved operation of the city's WWTP by reducing energy use, manpower requirements, and biosolids production.

In addition to these WWTP upgrade needs, the city expects to design and construct a minimum of 850,000 more gallons of collection system storage near North Olmsted's Le Bern and Dover pump stations during this proposed project. Information from Phase 2 of the city's Sanitary Sewer Plan of Study (August 2008) indicates that an additional 593,000 gallons of storage is required to handle the amount of flow generated during a 10-year, 1-hour

design-storm, on top of the existing 249,000 gallon detention basin found in Clague Park. The cost of this extra storage is estimated at between \$2.4 and \$3.8 million. In contrast, the cost of the 235,000 gallons of storage needed in the Dover Detention basin is estimated at between \$910,000 and \$1.5 million. Together, both storage projects carry a price of between \$3.3 and \$5.3 million. Figure 1 shows the alternative wastewater storage basin sites now under consideration.

Project Costs and Financial Effects

The City estimates that construction of this entire collection system and wastewater treatment plant improvements project will cost about \$27.75 million, including the construction services provided by its consultant. None of these costs are associated with planning and designing this project, which alone are estimated at \$1.35 million. Because of the city's prior planning loan and pending design loan, the City expects that Ohio EPA's WPCLF program will cover most of the project's total costs through a standard WPCLF interest rate loan. Currently, the terms of a standard loan are set at an

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interest rate of 4.14% and a loan repayment period of 20 years. Readers should note that Ohio EPA adjusts its standard interest rate on a quarterly basis to reflect market conditions. The city expects to receive a construction loan for this project in December 2010 and to roll all of its planning and design debt into this one loan.

Based on an analysis of its wastewater rates, North Olmsted has shown Ohio EPA that its current schedule of annual rate increases appears to be adequate to cover the annual operational, maintenance, and replacement (O,M&R) costs and annual debt service payments associated with this proposed project. Accordingly, city residents should expect to see their wastewater rates increase 44% between 2008 and 2011 (roughly 9.5% to 9.8% per year). By 2011, the last rate increase of 9.5% is expected to have been implemented, resulting in a quarterly rate of \$52.27 per 1000 cubic feet of water use. These five annual rate increases are the city's first since February 1996. They also reflect the city's minimal quarterly bill for residential

users who qualify for the State homestead property tax exemption and consume less than 1000 cubic feet of water per quarter.

Assuming a quarterly water usage of 2920 cubic feet and a resulting quarterly sewer bill of \$152.63, an average residential customer could expect to pay \$610.52 per year by 2011. This annual fee is equivalent to 1.16% of the city's 2000 median household income figure of \$52,542 and thus is considered to be generally affordable for an average residential wastewater customer of North Olmsted living in the city. People living outside the city should expect to pay a higher amount, based on the debt service surcharge levied by the city.

Implementation Schedule

Upon completion of the detail design review and project bidding process, the City expects this project will take 24 months to complete. Currently, the construction of these improvements is not expected to begin until January 2011.

Summary of Expected Construction Impacts

During this project, all of the proposed improvements to the City's wastewater collection system and WWTP will be installed within previously disturbed areas, as shown in Figure 1. The one exception is the one small wooded area adjacent to the WWTP, which needs to be cleared of pine trees, for the construction of the new WWTP components to proceed. Outside of this area, no significant, long-term, adverse environmental impacts from construction of this project are expected. Routine mitigative measures to control impacts to surface water, floodplains, terrestrial habitats, air quality, noise volumes, traffic levels, public safety, local aesthetics, energy use, and other important environmental attributes will be required in the contract documents for this project. Ohio EPA will review them to assure that these minimal criteria are met and to prevent any short-term impacts from becoming significant, long-term concerns. Upon completion of the construction activities, the contractor will be required to restore the project area to its original (or better) condition.

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Public Comment Sheet

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Based on the information presented in the project fact sheet above, do you have any concerns that the city should address? If so, please list them below. The city will respond to your verbal or written comments which will become part of the public record on this project. Please note that your comments must be received by April 9, 2009.

Name : _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Comments:

Return to: Ms. Sharon Schlemmer, Superintendent
City of North Olmsted, Wastewater Division
23775 Mastick Road
North Olmsted, OH 44070