



**May 3, 2024**

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

**Village of New London – Huron County  
Coleman Court/Clinton Street Lead Water Line Replacement  
Loan number: FS390668-0008**

The attached Limited Environmental Review (LER) is for a lead service line replacement project in New London 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,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kathleen Courtright".

Kathleen Courtright, Assistant Chief  
Division of Environmental and Financial Assistance

Attachment

## LIMITED ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

### **Project Identification**

Project: Coleman Court/Clinton Street Lead Water Line Replacement

Applicant: Village of New London  
115 East Main Street  
New London, Ohio 44851

Loan Number: FS390668-0008



**Figure 1. Huron County**

### **Project Summary**

The Village of New London has requested funding from the Ohio Water Supply Revolving Loan Account (WSRLA) to finance the Coleman Court/Clinton Street Lead Water Line Replacement project. Work for this project will include replacing lead service lines (LSLs) and looping dead end water lines. Due to the nature of the project, environmental impacts will be minimal. The project will protect human health by eliminating lead drinking water lines.

### **History & Existing Conditions**

The Village of New London is located in Huron County (Figure 1). New London owns, operates, and maintains a water treatment plant (WTP) that serves the Village of New London, Rural Lorain County Water Authority, and Northern Ohio Water. The New London WTP is a surface water treatment system that is sourced from Buck Creek, a tributary of the Vermillion River. The New London WTP, updated in 2019, consists of three pressure vessels which perform clarification, multi-media filtration, and organics adsorption/filter polishing.

The distribution system serves approximately 3,250 individuals through 1,351 service connections. The majority of the distribution system was constructed in 1920 using sand cast lines, made using lead goosenecks tapped at 90 degrees and then transitioning to galvanized service lines into the building. In some instances, a lead service line was carried from the main into the building.

As a result of a lead service line replacement project in process (being funded by WSRLA), New London identified two branch distribution main lines where lead goosenecks were used with a lead manifold to feed the branch main water lines serving 18 properties. The branch distribution main lines to be replaced are located along Coleman Court and Clinton Street with both being dead-end water lines, which New London intends to loop as part of the project in order to further improve water quality.

### **Project Description**

The project consists of replacing 890 linear feet of 6-inch lead water line with PVC pipe, along with 11 service laterals, replacement and reconnection of nine lead service laterals, six main line valves, and three fire hydrants. See Figure 2 below for a map of the project area.

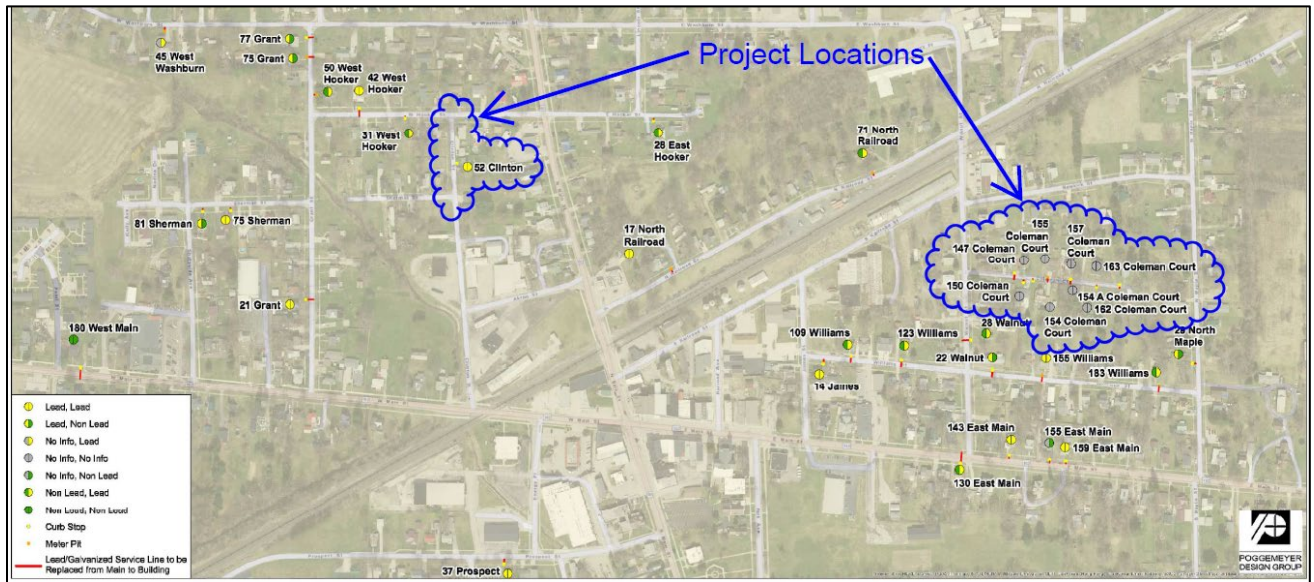


Figure 2. Map of the project areas

## **Implementation**

The Village of New London proposes to borrow approximately \$172,000 in WSRLA funding. New London may be eligible to receive a portion of the loan as principal forgiveness, which does not have to be repaid. New London will also be receiving \$248,000 from OPWC.

The Village of New London has a 5% water rate increase planned for 2024. The average annual water bill for residents served by New London is \$420. This is 1.1% of the median household income (MHI: \$38,158) and compares favorably to the Ohio average annual water bill, \$477. The project is scheduled to begin May 2024 and to be completed in approximately three months.

## **Public Participation**

Public participation for this project is critical due to the public health implications as well as the potential for work on private property. This project has been discussed during council meetings when these main line replacements were originally intended to be included as part of the current lead service line replacement project. Additional discussion of the project will occur at council meetings as the project progresses and public outreach will be provided throughout construction of the project.

Ohio EPA is unaware of opposition to or controversy about the project. Ohio EPA will make a copy of this document available to the public on its web page: <https://epa.ohio.gov/divisions-and-offices/environmental-financial-assistance/announcements> and will provide it upon request to interested parties.

## **Conclusion**

The proposed project meets the criteria for a Limited Environmental Review (LER); namely, it is an action within an existing water distribution system, which involves the functional replacement of existing water lines. Furthermore, the project meets the other qualifying criteria for an LER; specifically, the proposed project:

**Will have no significant environmental effect, will require no specific impact mitigation, and will have no effect on high-value environmental resources** because no environmentally significant resources are likely present in the prior-disturbed road rights-of-way where the water mains will be replaced, nor in residential properties where the water mains will be looped.

**Is cost effective and is not a controversial action** because there is no alternative to removing lead service lines. Ohio EPA is unaware of any controversy about or opposition to the project.

**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** because this project simply replaces existing water infrastructure that serves an existing population with no additional withdrawal or discharge to surface waters.

Based upon Ohio EPA's review of the planning information and the materials presented in this Limited Environmental Review, we have concluded that there will be no significant adverse impacts from the proposed project as it relates to the environmental features discussed previously. This is because these features do not exist in the project area, the features exist but will not be adversely affected, or the impacts will be temporary and mitigated. This project will result in reducing residents' exposure to lead and improve water quality.

## **Contact Information**

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