**October 1, 2026**

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

**City of Coshocton – Coshocton County**
**Digester Improvements**
**Loan number: CS390286-0012**

The attached Limited Environmental Review (LER) is for a wastewater treatment plant digester improvements project in Coshocton which the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (Ohio EPA) intends to finance through its Water Pollution Control Loan Fund (WPCLF) below-market interest rate revolving loan program. The LER describes the project, costs, and expected environmental benefits. Making available this LER fulfills the 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 program review and approval process. We have concluded that the proposed project should not result in significant adverse environmental impacts. In accordance with Ohio Administrative Code 3745-150-05, this project meets the criteria for an LER rather than the more comprehensive Environmental Assessment. More information can be obtained by contacting the person named at the end of the attached LER.

Upon issuance of this Final 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

Kathleen Courtright, Assistant Chief
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**LIMITED ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW**

## Project Identification

Project: Digester Improvements

Applicant: City of Coshocton
760 Chestnut Street
Coshocton, Ohio 43812

Loan Number: CS390286-0012

**Figure 1. Coshocton County**

## Project Summary

The City of Coshocton in Coshocton County (Figure 1) requested $2,392,500 from the Water Pollution Control Loan Fund (WPCLF) for improvements to the anaerobic digester and dewatering equipment at the Coshocton Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP). Construction will take place within the confines of the existing plant and is not expected to cause adverse environmental impacts.

## History and Existing Conditions

Coshocton owns and operates a WWTP with a design flow of 4.4 million gallons per day (MGD) and an average daily flow of 1.7 MGD. Treated wastewater is discharged to the Muskingum River.

The WWTP employs three anaerobic digesters that process settled sludge. All of the digester equipment and tanks are over 30 years old and are either at or past their expected useful life. The digesters are not performing to design standards due to a malfunctioning mixing system and years of accumulated grit in the digester tanks. Equipment designed to capture biogas from the digesters is also over 30 years old and is no longer performing adequately.

Additionally, the sludge dewatering equipment, a belt filter press system, is an important part of the wastewater treatment and is in need of replacement due to age. The equipment is becoming increasingly difficult to service. The city uses the product created by the belt filter press for beneficial reuse as Class B Biosolids in surrounding agricultural applications. Having a functioning solids press is critical for the plant to continue to beneficially reuse their biosolids.

## Project Description

Coshocton proposes to replace and upgrade the existing sludge digester equipment at the WWTP. While the majority of digester equipment will be replaced in-kind, all three digester tank covers will be replaced with floating covers to provide biogas storage. The sludge belt filter press will be removed from service and replaced with a rotary fan press dewatering system which is easier to clean and

operate. Advantages of a rotary fan press include low water use, a relatively small footprint, minimal maintenance, and no operator oversight required. The system is also enclosed so it produces less odors.

The proposed floating gasholder steel covers will allow all three digesters to store biogas. Each 50-foot floating cover will provide approximately 30,000 cubic feet of gas storage, which will be enough for the digester sludge heaters to maintain the treatment process.

Construction will remain within the previously disturbed footprint of the existing WWTP, thereby minimizing effects on environmental resources. The contractor is responsible for best management practices to control erosion and sedimentation, minimize the creation of dust, and maintain safety during construction.

See Figure 2 below for a map of the project location.

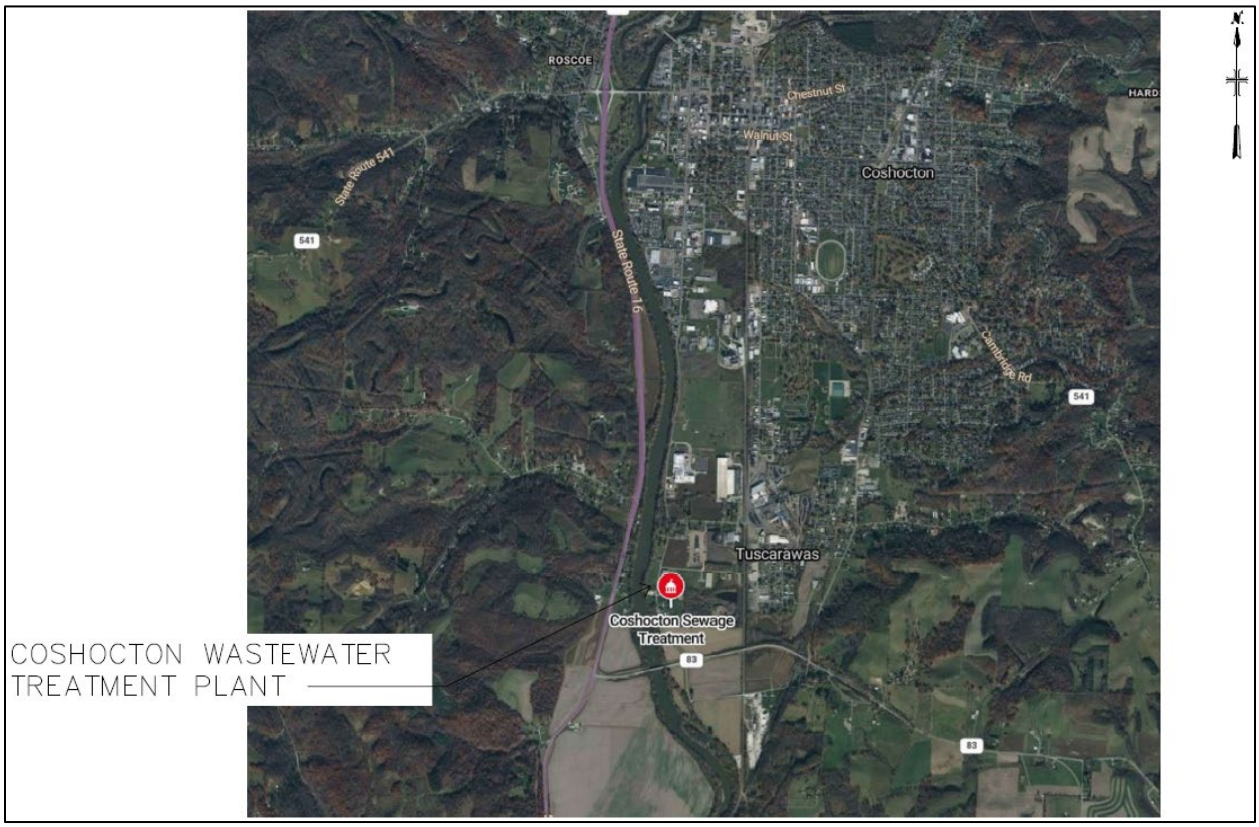


**Figure 2. Location of Coshocton WWTP**

## Implementation

The total project cost is $14,777,500. Coshocton Port Authority will fund $12,385,000 and Coshocton plans to borrow the remaining $2,392,500 from the WPCLF. During the 5-year loan period Coshocton will save approximately $87,000 by using WPCLF dollars at the standard rate of 3.47% compared to

the market rate of 4.72%. WPCLF interest rates are set monthly and may change for a later loan award date.

The current average annual Coshocton residential sewer bill is approximately $485. Projected annual residential sewer bills with the implementation of this and other associated wastewater infrastructure projects are expected to increase to approximately $566, or 1.2% of median household income of Coshocton, which is $48,819. By using WPCLF financing for this project, Coshocton has minimized the economic impact on customers.

The anticipated loan award will occur in October 2026, and construction is expected to be completed by August 2028.

## Public Participation

This project and sewer rate increases were discussed at Coshocton city council meetings which are open to the public. Sewer rate increases began in 2023. Future public participation is expected to be limited as the project involves improvements to equipment within the footprint of the existing Coshocton WWTP and will not impact the general public.

Ohio EPA is unaware of any controversy about or opposition to this project. The Limited Environmental Review (LER) and Finding of No Significant Impact (FNSI) will be posted on the Ohio EPA Division of Environmental and Financial Assistance website. Additionally, the LER and FNSI have been provided to the City of Coshocton to be made available according to their public notification procedures.

## Conclusion

The proposed project meets the criteria for an LER; namely, it is an action within an existing public wastewater treatment facility, which involves the functional replacement of and improvements to existing infrastructure. Furthermore, the project meets the other qualifying criteria for an LER; specifically, the proposed project:

**Will have no significant environmental effect, will have no effect on high value environmental resources, and does not require extensive specific impact mitigation.**
Standard construction best management practices will be required to control dust, sediment runoff, noise, and maintain safety. Although construction will occur within the floodplain, permits have been applied for from the county floodplain administrator.

**Is cost effective and not controversial.**
The proposed project is the best feasible alternative to address necessary replacements of existing equipment that is beyond its useful service life. Ohio EPA is unaware of any specific opposition to or controversy about this project.

**Does not create a new or relocate an existing discharge to surface or ground waters, will not result in substantial increases in the volume of discharge or the 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 will not impact wastewater discharges, nor provide capacity to serve a greater population. There will be no change in pollutant loading.

Based upon Ohio EPA's review of the planning information and the materials presented in this LER, we have concluded that there will be no significant adverse impacts from the proposed project as it relates to environmental features. 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 provide necessary improvements to equipment at Coshocton WWTP to allow for safe, efficient operation.

**Contact Information**

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