



May 14, 2026

**Preliminary Finding of No Significant Impact
To All Interested Citizens, Organizations, and Government Agencies**

**Village of Buckeye Lake – Licking County
First Street Water Line Improvements
Loan Number: FS390204-0007**

The attached Environmental Assessment (EA) is for a water line extension project in Buckeye Lake 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 EA describes the project, its costs, and expected environmental benefits. We would appreciate receiving any comments you may have on the project. Making available this EA and seeking your comments 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 program review and approval process. We have concluded that the proposed project should not result in significant adverse environmental impacts. More information can be obtained by contacting the person named at the end of the attached EA.

Any comments on our preliminary determination should be sent to the email address of the contact named at the end of the EA. We will not act on this project for 30 calendar days from the date of this notice. In the absence of substantive comments during this period, our preliminary decision will become final. After that, the Village of Buckeye Lake can then proceed with its application for the WSRLA loan.

Sincerely,

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

Kathleen Courtright, Assistant Chief
Division of Environmental & Financial Assistance

Attachment

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

Project Identification

Project: First Street Water Line Improvements

Applicant: Village of Buckeye Lake
5192 Walnut Road
Buckeye Lake, Ohio 43008

Loan Number: FS390204-0007



Figure 1. Licking County

Project Summary

The Village of Buckeye Lake in Licking County (Figure 1) has requested \$333,442 from the Ohio Water Supply Revolving Loan Account (WSRLA) to extend water service to residents along First Street and create an additional loop in the village’s distribution system. As construction will occur within the previously disturbed right-of-way alongside existing utilities, environmental impacts are not expected.

History and Existing Conditions

The Village of Buckeye Lake purchases water from the Village of Millersport water treatment plant (WTP), which draws raw water from four wells. The treatment process includes iron and manganese filtration, ion exchange softening, and chlorination before transport to Buckeye Lake’s distribution system which serves a population of approximately 3,000.

In the village, the Lakeshore Court Mobile Home Park on First Street contains 33 lots. Currently, the park operates a small groundwater WTP and distribution system; both are in extreme disrepair and have Ohio EPA violations. Park management is not filling empty lots due to the need to reconfigure this infrastructure and reinstate the ability to provide safe, clean, and compliant water to residents.

Population and Flow Projections

Millersport’s WTP has a design flow of 1.0 million gallons daily (MGD). Of that, Buckeye Lake has a supply contract of up to 600,000 gallons per day (GPD). Buckeye Lake’s daily average demand has been 120,000 gallons per day (GPD) with a peak demand of 200,000 GPD.

While the current demand on the park’s WTP from the available lots in Lakeshore Court Mobile Home Park is low due to vacancies, the area has the ability to fill 33 lots with a population of about 100 residents. Buckeye Lake estimates approximately 5,000 GPD of additional water usage within the mobile home park, which is negligible.

Alternatives

- *No Action:* The “no-action” alternative would leave residents to use a private water system that is out of compliance with Ohio EPA regulations and in extreme disrepair. This leaves residents reliant on unsafe drinking water, which is not an option.
- *Repair/replacement of existing private water system:* Residents would be responsible for funding the cost of repairs or replacement of the existing private water system to bring it back into compliance, fully operational, and maintained. It was determined that this is not a cost-effective option when compared to other alternatives.
- *Extension of water line and regionalization with Buckeye Lake:* A water line can be extended to residents to provide tie-ins to Buckeye Lake’s existing water distribution system so residents will have a safe and reliable source of potable water.

Selected Alternative

Based on cost effectiveness, it was determined that regionalization was the best option for all parties involved. Buckeye Lake chose to move forward with a water line extension to connect the mobile home park residents on First Street. Approximately 830 linear feet of 6-inch water line will be installed, connecting the north end of the existing 6-inch water line on Cliff Street with the existing 6-inch water line on West First Street. Additionally, meter pit connections will be installed to tie existing residential housing into the system and allow connection from future mobile homes within the 33 total lots.

By extending this water line, two dead-end lines will be connected which will create an additional loop and eliminate a choke point in Buckeye Lake’s distribution system.

See figure 2 below for a map of the project area.

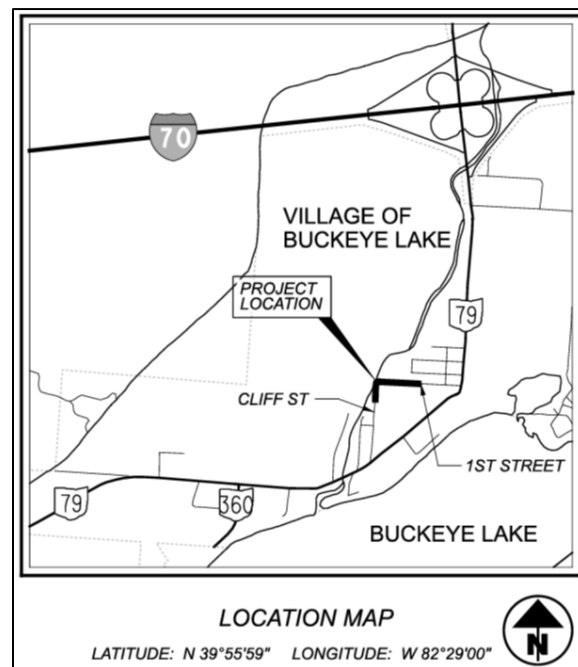


Figure 2. Project location

Implementation

Buckeye Lake plans to borrow \$333,442 from the WSRLA. The village is eligible for the regionalization discount of 0% interest; during the 20-year loan period Buckeye Lake will save approximately \$176,000 compared to the market rate of 4.50%.

Construction is expected to begin following loan award and is expected to be completed later this summer.

Public Participation

Property owners were involved in the initial stages of project design and agreed to connect to the Village of Buckeye Lake to receive drinking water as opposed to taking measures to bring their current WTP into compliance. All ordinances were discussed freely in open Public Service Committee meetings and regular council meetings leading up to the vote of approval. Property owners have been kept up to date on the project's progression. Once a contractor is awarded, the construction and water interruption schedule will be finalized, and residents will be formally notified.

Ohio EPA is unaware of any controversy about or opposition to this project. This Environmental Assessment (EA) and preliminary Finding of No Significant Impact (FNSI) will be posted on the Ohio EPA Division of Environmental and Financial Assistance website. Additionally, the EA and FNSI have been provided to the Village of Buckeye Lake to be made available according to their public notification procedures.

Environmental Impacts

The project has the potential to affect the following features, but the effects will be reduced or mitigated to acceptable levels as explained below.

Air Quality

This project includes no activities that will impact Licking County's air quality standards. The contractor will prevent unnecessary dust from construction activities from entering the atmosphere. Dust on unsurfaced streets or parking areas and any remaining dust on surfaced streets shall be controlled with water as needed. Because of this approach, there will be no significant adverse short-term or long-term impacts on local air quality.

Archaeological and Historical Resources

All excavation work will take place within previously disturbed roads and rights-of-way alongside other existing utilities. As no new excavations will occur, no impacts are expected to archaeological or historical resources.

However, in the event of archaeological finds during construction, Ohio Revised Code Section 149.53 requires contractors and subcontractors to notify the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) of any archaeological discoveries in the project area, and to cooperate with the Office in archaeological and historic surveys and salvage efforts when appropriate. Work will not resume until a survey of the find and a determination of its value and effect has been made, and Ohio EPA authorizes work to continue.

Terrestrial Habitat and Endangered Species

Five federally listed species occur in Licking County: the Indiana bat, the northern long-eared bat, the tricolored bat, the eastern massasauga, and the round hickorynut mussel.

The Indiana, northern long-eared, and tricolored bats have similar summer maternity and roosting habitat preferences (trees with large crevices or loose, sloughing bark higher than ten feet above the ground). No tree and vegetation removal is planned in the project area. As construction will occur within previously disturbed rights-of-way, no habitat suited to the eastern massasauga or mussels will be impacted by construction. Based on this information, the project will have no significant adverse short-term or long-term effect on terrestrial habitat or endangered species.

Groundwater Resources

To avoid adverse impacts to ground water resources, the construction contract includes specifications for appropriate and safe dewatering of deep excavations and management of groundwater.

Safety, Noise, Traffic, and Aesthetics

The contractor shall develop a traffic plan prior to commencing construction which shall include all proper traffic control devices and adequate lights, signs, and barriers to minimize the extent of disruption of traffic and disturbance to the neighborhood during construction. Local aesthetics will be unchanged after construction is complete.

Surface Water Resources

The contractor will minimize soil from eroding or otherwise entering onto all paved areas and into natural watercourses, ditches, and public sewer systems with the use of storm water pollution prevention tools such as buffer zones, silt fencing, inlet protection, and seeding.

There is a channel located adjacent to the property from the Buckeye Lake spillway which collects both lake outflow and surface stormwater. This project will keep the maximum distance from this channel during construction and any potential impacts will be mitigated through stormwater pollution control measures.

Floodplains

The floodplain administrator has been contacted regarding this project and will sign a permit through Licking County Planning. Construction within the floodplain will be temporary and will result in no new above-ground structures.

Energy Use

This project will have little effect on local or regional energy supplies. Through utilizing the already existing Buckeye Lake water distribution system in place, no additional energy from the village is required.

Local Economy

The current annual Buckeye Lake residential water bill is approximately \$777. Residential water bills with the implementation of this and other associated water projects are expected to increase to

approximately \$796, or 1% of median household income (MHI) of Buckeye Lake, which is \$75,179. Residents at the mobile home park will have a new water bill from the village. No connection fee will be associated with the hookup.

Buckeye Lake has minimized project costs and associated economic impact on customers by obtaining a 0% interest loan from the WSRLA.

Unaffected Features

Prime farmland, wetlands, aquatic habitat, coastal zones, and Wild and Scenic Rivers will remain unaffected as there are none located within the project area. Additionally, the project will not impact recreational land use.

Conclusion

Based upon Ohio EPA's review of the planning information and the materials presented in this Environmental Assessment, 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.

The project will provide a safe, reliable source of drinking water to residents within the mobile home park.

Contact information

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