



Mike DeWine, Governor  
Jon Husted, Lt. Governor  
Laurie A. Stevenson, Director

February 4, 2020

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

**Village of Bolivar –Tuscarawas County  
Water Meter Installation  
Loan number: FS390179-0004**

The attached Limited Environmental Review (LER) is for the installation of a water meters in the Village of Bolivar, 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, as described in Ohio Administrative Code (OAC) 3745-150-05.

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, as described in OAC 3745-150-06. 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,



Jonathan Bernstein, Assistant Chief  
Division of Environmental and Financial Assistance

Attachment

## LIMITED ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

### **Project Identification**

Project: Bolivar Water Meter Installation

Applicant: Rebecca Hubble, Mayor  
P.O. Box 117  
Bolivar, OH 44612

Loan Number: FS390179-0004

### **Project Summary**

The Village of Bolivar has applied to the Ohio EPA Division of Environmental and Financial Assistance (DEFA) for a Water Supply Revolving Loan Account (WSRLA) loan to install new water meters in their previously unmetered water distribution system. The project includes constructing meter pits, installing 405 water meters, and installing 500 feet of 2-inch service branch. Bolivar plans to borrow approximately \$919,639 from the WSRLA to install the new water meters.

### **History and Existing Conditions**

The Village of Bolivar is a small community located in northern Tuscarawas County (Figure 1) with a population of 1,131, based on the 2013-2017 American Community Survey. The Village owns and operates a water treatment and distribution system made up of three groundwater wells, approximately seven miles of 4-inch to 12-inch waterline, 24 hydrants, and one 200,000-gallon buried concrete storage tank with two 100,000-gallon chambers. The Village also has two interconnections with the Tuscarawas County Metropolitan Water and Sewer District, which connect to the Lawrence Township Industrial Park and serves as an emergency water supply to the Village of Bolivar.

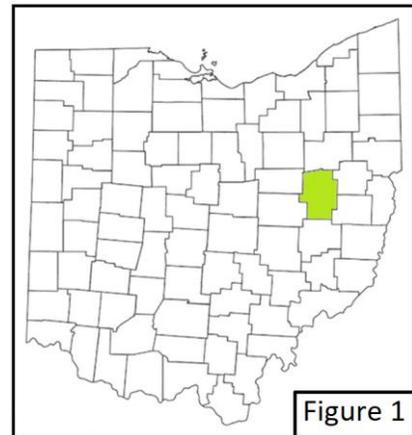


Figure 1

Currently, the Village of Bolivar has unmetered drinking water, and charges a flat rate to water customers. The Village is experiencing a substantial water loss and being unmetered does not allow the Village to target water loss location(s) in the system. The estimated water loss is 36%. An asset management plan is currently being completed to provide the Village with a condition assessment of system components, and to help develop a capital improvement plan for future improvements.

### **Project Description**

This project includes installing approximately 405 water meters and associated meter pits for all water customers of Bolivar. Additionally, 500 feet of 2-inch water line will be installed in conjunction with the new water meters and pits. Property owners will be billed for usage, and not at a flat quarterly rate as was previously conducted. This project will help target water loss areas, with the addition of meters throughout Bolivar. Metering water will allow the Village to accurately monitor water loss, maintain, and manage their water system. Implementing meters will also

provide Bolivar the option to purchase water from Tuscarawas County Metropolitan Water and Sewer District fulltime, should they decide to in the future. Installing meters will encourage water customers to be mindful of water usage and good water conservation practices.

See Figure 2 for project location.

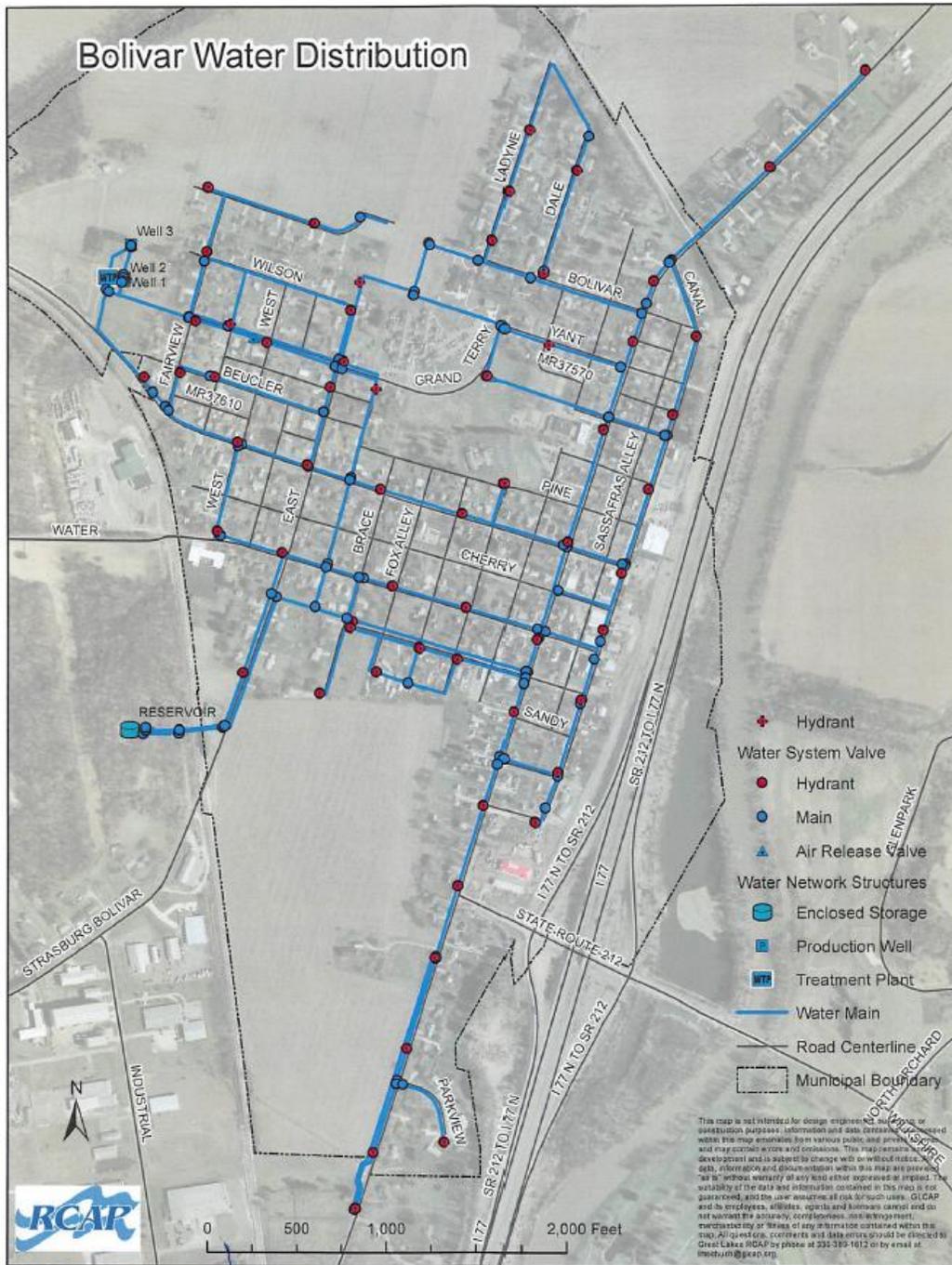


Figure 2. Project location

## **Estimated Project Costs and Implementation**

The Village of Bolivar will borrow approximately \$919,639 from the WSRLA at the small-community interest rate during the month of loan award, currently 0.60% for February 2020. During the 20-year loan period, The Village of Bolivar will save approximately \$180,618 by using WSRLA dollars at this rate, compared to the market rate of 2.35%.

The loan will be repaid by user charges, and the increase in water rates. In 2017, the flat rate water bill for customers was raised from \$25.50 to \$32 per month to prepare for the planned water meter installation project. Also, the additional revenue collected because of unmetered loss will contribute to repay the loan.

## **Public Notification**

The Village has publicly available council meeting minutes and copies of ordinances pertinent to the water meter project. Detail plans specify that the contractor is required to contact property owners before construction interrupts water service.

Ohio EPA will make a copy of this document available to the public on its web page (<http://epa.ohio.gov/defa/ofa.aspx> WSRLA Documents for Review and Comment) and will provide it on request to interested parties.

Information supporting the LER is available from the project contact named below.

## **Conclusion**

The proposed project meets the project type criteria for a Limited Environmental Review (LER); namely, it is an action within an existing water distribution system, which involves the installation of water meters and improvements to existing mechanical equipment. Furthermore, the project meets the other qualifying criteria for an LER; specifically, the proposed project:

**Will have no significant environmental effect and will require no specific impact mitigation** because water meters will be installed in urban areas, at existing curb stops adjacent to buildings that are already part of the water distribution system of Bolivar. Standard construction best management practices will be used to address things like noise, dust, traffic disruption, and storm water runoff.

**Will have no effect on high-value environmental resources** because the urban area of town where the water meters will be installed lacks sensitive, unique, or quality natural resources.

**Is cost-effective and not a controversial action** because replacing water meters will reduce leakage of paid water, save money, and save water resources. The public is aware of this project and Ohio EPA is unaware of any opposition to this project.

**Does not create a new, or relocate an existing discharge to surface or ground waters, and 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.** This project will only be adding water meter equipment to the existing water distribution system. Water resources will not be affected by the small scope of the project.

**Will not provide capacity to serve a population substantially greater than the existing population** because water meters and pits are only being installed at existing buildings with water customers in the Bolivar system. No additional service will be extended for this project.

The planning activities for the project have identified no potentially significant adverse impacts. The project is expected to have no significant short-term or long-term adverse impacts on the quality of the human environment or on sensitive resources (surface waters, coastal zones, floodplains, wetlands, state-designated scenic or recreational rivers, prime or unique agricultural lands, aquifer recharge zones, archaeologically or historically significant sites, threatened or endangered species, or state and federal wildlife areas). The water meter installations will occur in urban areas lacking important, sensitive, or quality environmental resources and therefore will have no impact on these resources.

For more information, please contact:

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