



RICK SNYDER
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY
LANSING



C. HEIDI GREYER
DIRECTOR

May 8, 2017

TO: All Interested Citizens, Organizations, and Government Agencies

SUBJECT: FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT
City of Flint, Genesee County
Service Line Replacement
Drinking Water Revolving Fund Project No. 7421-01

The purpose of this notice is to seek public input and comment on a preliminary decision by the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) that an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is not required to implement recommendations discussed in the attached Environmental Assessment Supplement of a water supply project plan submitted by the applicant mentioned above.

HOW WERE ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES CONSIDERED?

Part 54, Safe Drinking Water Assistance, of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act, 1994 PA 451, as amended, being Sections 324.5401 to 324.5418 of the Michigan Compiled Laws Annotated, requires the DEQ to evaluate all environmental implications of a proposed water supply project. The DEQ has done this by incorporating a detailed analysis of the environmental impact of the proposed alternatives in its review and approval process. A project plan was prepared by the applicant and reviewed by the State. The DEQ has prepared the attached Environmental Assessment Supplement and found that the proposed project does not require the preparation of an EIS.

WHY IS AN EIS NOT REQUIRED?

Our environmental review concluded that no significant environmental impacts would result from the proposed action. Any adverse impacts have either been eliminated by changes in the project plan or will be reduced by the implementation of the mitigative measures discussed in the attached Environmental Assessment Supplement.

HOW DO I GET MORE INFORMATION?

A map depicting the location of the proposed project is attached. This information is also available on our website at www.michigan.gov/cleanwaterrevolvingfund under "Related Links." The Environmental Assessment Supplement presents additional information on the project, alternatives that were considered, impacts of the proposed action, and the basis for our decision. Further information can be obtained by calling or writing one of the contact people listed below.

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HOW DO I SUBMIT COMMENTS?

Any comments supporting or disagreeing with this preliminary decision should be submitted to me at DEQ, Drinking Water and Municipal Assistance, Revolving Loan Section, Constitution Hall, P.O. Box 30241, Lansing, Michigan 48909-7741. We will not take any action on this project plan for 30 calendar days from the date of this notice in order to receive and consider any comments.

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

In the absence of substantive comments during this period, our preliminary decision will become final. The applicant will then be eligible to receive loan assistance from this Agency to construct the proposed project.

Any information you feel should be considered by the DEQ should be brought to our attention. If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Eric Pohan, the project manager, at 517-284-5416, or you may contact me. Your interest in this process and the environment is appreciated.

Sincerely,



Sonya T. Butler, Section Manager
Revolving Loan Section
Drinking Water and Municipal Assistance Division
517-284-5433

Attachments

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY
City of Flint, Genesee County
Service Line Replacement
Drinking Water Revolving Fund (DWRf)
Environmental Assessment Supplement
May 2017

Applicant: City of Flint, Genesee County

Authorized Representative: Ms. JoLisa McDay, Water Plant Supervisor

Address: 1101 South Saginaw Street
Flint, Michigan 48502

Project No: 7421-01

I. RATIONALE FOR ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT SUPPLEMENT

This document supplements our Environmental Assessment (EA), which was published for review and comment on March 8, 2017, for the above-referenced DWRf project. The original scope of work for this DWRf project consists of replacement of up to 6,000 residential service lines constructed of lead or galvanized pipe with new copper pipe within 10 zones located throughout the city of Flint. The additional information, which prompted this EA supplement, relates to expanding the locations eligible for construction within this project.

II. PROJECT DISCUSSION

In May 2017, Flint will begin replacing up to 6,000 residential service lines constructed of lead or galvanized pipe with new copper pipe. The water service lines will require either full-length or partial replacement depending on the existing material. Any portion of the service line not constructed of copper pipe from the water main to the water meter, which could be located either inside or outside of each identified residence, will be replaced. Flint will also use hydrovacating at approximately 4,500 homes throughout the city. This process uses high pressure water and a vacuum to make a hole in the soil in order to identify existing service line material. This technique will cost effectively help identify what water service lines need replacing. The total project (service line replacement, restoration, inspection, hydrovacating, and project management) is estimated to cost up to \$40,000,000 with funding made available by the Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation Act through the DWRf as a loan with 100-percent principal forgiveness. Additional funding may be secured for eligible homes from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP). CHIP covers lead abatement in Medicaid-eligible homes.

III. SUMMARY DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED NEW LOCATIONS

Since the EA was published, Flint has conducted additional research on the homes identified for service line replacement in the 10 zones presented in the EA. At the time the EA was published, a large percentage of the pipe material in the 10 zones was

unknown. Data is now available from the previously rehabilitated Fast Start water service lines and city records, which show a higher percentage of pipes than estimated as lead, galvanized, or unknown material constructed entirely of copper pipe. The hydrovacing will also help confirm these estimates. Flint is now anticipating that fewer than 6,000 homes will require service line replacement located within the 10 zones. As a result, Flint is expanding the area of construction beyond the 10 zones so it can achieve its commitment to replace up to 6,000 service lines in 2017. Each zone is scheduled to have up to 600 lines replaced. If a zone is unable to identify 600 homes for replacement, additional homes will be added outside of the zone. Flint will be expanding zones with fewer than 600 eligible homes to residences located on streets and neighborhoods directly adjacent to the 10 zones that have been identified. In emergency situations, homes may be added to the project anywhere within the eligible city limits but outside of the expanded zones.

IV. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

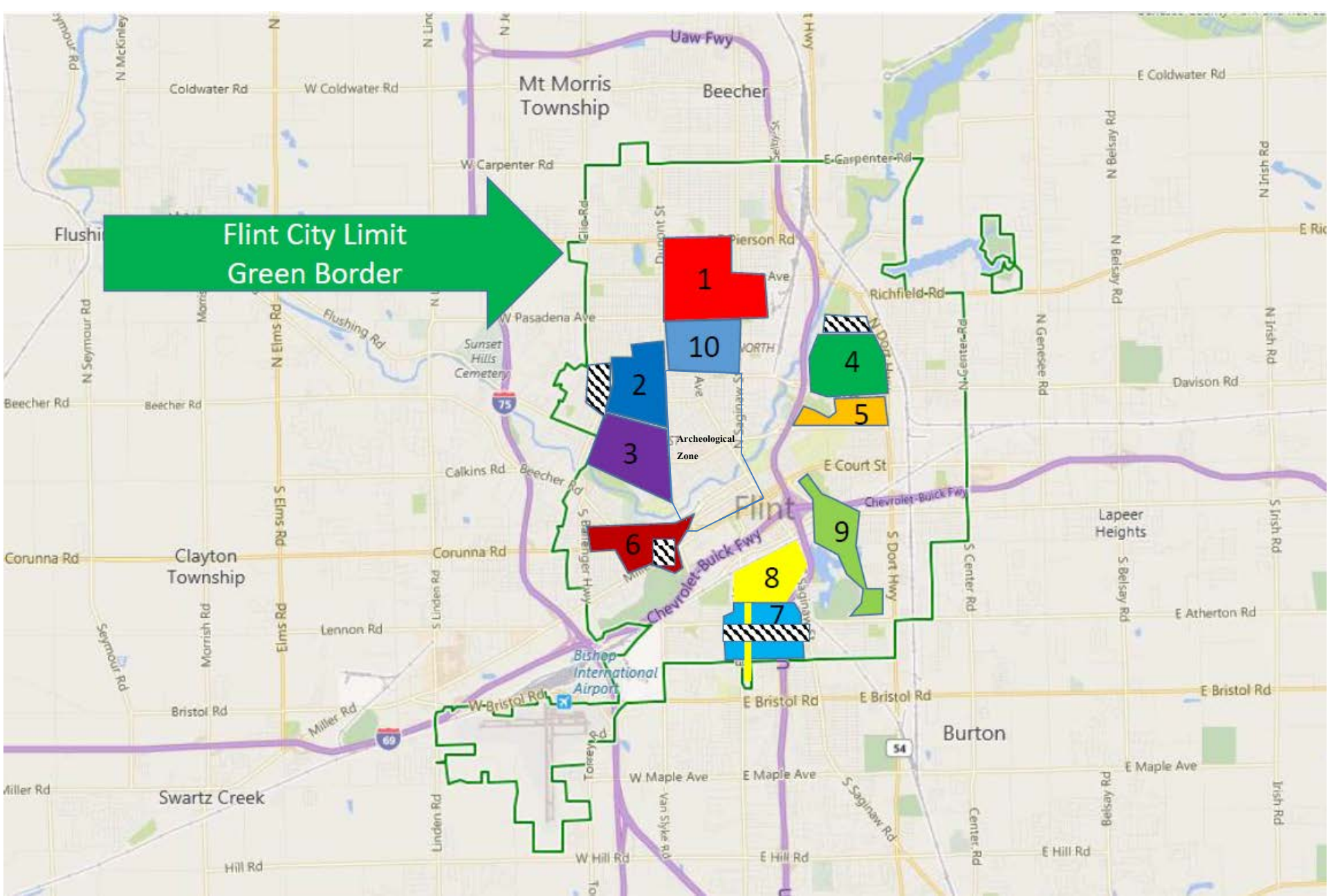
The primary concern for additional construction outside of the 10 zones presented in the EA was that the State Historic Preservation Office's (SHPO) review only covered the 10 zones that were identified by Flint. An updated review by SHPO now covers the entire city limits of Flint, with the exception of an area of the city bordered by Hamilton Avenue to the north, Court Street to the south, Saginaw Street to the east, and Dupont Street to the west, referred to as the Archeological Zone (see attached map). The reason this area is not being totally cleared at this time is several early Native American sites have been recorded in Flint, including early burials and cemeteries, and Native American ancestral remains have been previously discovered in this Archeology Zone. If construction is proposed in this area, specific addresses would have to be provided to SHPO for review. Depending on the location of each address, additional oversight may be required. This could include, but may not be limited to having an archeologist and a Tribal Historic Preservation Officer onsite during construction.

V. REASONS FOR CONCLUDING NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

The areas for construction are being expanded; however, the cost and construction methods remain the same. The proposed project will work towards providing Flint a reliable distribution system. The short-term, minor construction impacts are outweighed by the improvements to Flint's water distribution system and the reduced threat to public health.

Questions regarding this Environmental Assessment Supplement should be directed to:

Ms. Sonya Butler, Section Manager
Revolving Loan Section
Drinking Water and Municipal Assistance Division
P.O. Box 30241
Lansing, Michigan 48909-7741
Telephone: 517-284-5433
E-Mail: butlers2@michigan.gov



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