



GRETCHEN WHITMER  
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN  
DEPARTMENT OF  
ENVIRONMENT, GREAT LAKES, AND ENERGY  
LANSING



LIESL EICHLER CLARK  
DIRECTOR

February 7, 2022

TO: All Interested Citizens, Organizations, and Government Agencies

SUBJECT: FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT  
**City of Ann Arbor**  
**Lead Service Line Replacement**  
**Drinking Water State Revolving Fund Project No. 7569-01**

The purpose of this notice is to seek public input and comment on a preliminary decision by the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE) that an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is not required to implement recommendations discussed in the attached Environmental Assessment 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 EGLE to evaluate all environmental implications of a proposed water supply project. EGLE 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. EGLE has prepared the attached Environmental Assessment 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.

#### **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 [Michigan.gov/DWSRF](https://Michigan.gov/DWSRF) under "Related Links." The Environmental Assessment 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.

### **HOW DO I SUBMIT COMMENTS?**

Any comments supporting or disagreeing with this preliminary decision should be submitted to me at EGLE, Constitution Hall, P.O. Box 30457, Lansing, Michigan 48909-7957. 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 EGLE should be brought to our attention. If you have any questions, please contact Ms. Valorie White, the project manager, at 517-599-5879, by email at [WhiteV1@michigan.gov](mailto:WhiteV1@michigan.gov) or you may contact me. Your interest in this process and the environment is appreciated.

Sincerely,



Kelly Green, Administrator  
Water Infrastructure Financing Section  
Finance Division  
517-284-5433

Attachment

**DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT, GREAT LAKES, AND ENERGY**  
**Drinking Water State Revolving Fund**  
**Environmental Assessment**  
**City of Ann Arbor, Washtenaw County**  
**February 2022**

**PROJECT IDENTIFICATION**

**Applicant:** City of Ann Arbor

**Address:** 301 E. Huron Street  
Ann Arbor, Michigan 48104

**Authorized Representative:** Mr. Craig Hupy, Public Service Administrator

**Project Number** 7569-01

**PROJECT SUMMARY**

The City of Ann Arbor (Ann Arbor) is applying for a 20-year low interest Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) loan administered by the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE) for the Barton Pump Station (BPS) valve improvement project.

The estimated project cost is approximately \$4,600,000. Arbor also qualifies to receive a \$1,380,000 Drinking Water Infrastructure (DWI) grant for this project. As a result, the DWSRF loan amount is estimated to be \$3,220,000. The financial impact of this project to the average residential customer in Ann Arbor would be a rate increase of approximately \$0.75 per quarter.

Project construction is anticipated to begin in June 2022 and be completed in spring 2024.

**PROJECT BACKGROUND**

Ann Arbor is located in Washtenaw County and consists of approximately 27.7 square miles. The city's primary drinking water source is surface water withdrawn from the Huron River at Barton Pond. Ann Arbor augments this supply with groundwater taken from a wellfield near the Ann Arbor Municipal Airport. Two pipes send the water from the Huron River to the BPS, which then sends it to the water treatment plant (WTP). The Bird Hills Nature Area is located between the BPS and the WTP, with transmission mains running underneath. Over the next twenty years both the population and water demand are expected to remain relatively stable.

**PROPOSED PROJECT**

**A. Project Need/Justification**

BPS is critical infrastructure as it pumps up to 40 million gallons per day (mgd) or 85 percent of the raw source water for the city's drinking water. A 24-inch and 36-inch diameter pipe bring the water from the Huron River to the BPS. From there two mains, a 24-inch and a 42-inch diameter transmission main, take the water to the WTP. The BPS was built over 70 years ago and has undergone various improvements and additions since. Currently there are numerous valves that are broken, inoperable, leaking, or have exceeded their useful life.

In November 2017, Ann Arbor experienced a break in the 24-inch diameter raw water transmission main and was unable to fully isolate the main to fix it. Temporary in-line stops were installed on an emergency basis. Additionally, the failure of these valves resulted in a

shutdown of the entire WTP, which could have led to water restrictions impacting all city residents. Replacement of the existing valves and associated piping would provide operational control at the BPS and restore the ability for the city to isolate the raw water intake from the WTP.

Air release valves are generally installed on pipes to allow air trapped in the pipe to escape, allowing the full circumference of the pipe to be used to transport water. If a pipe needs to be drained, air release valves also allow air into the pipes, to prevent an internal vacuum from forming. Therefore, these valves are essential to allow the raw water to flow into the WTP at a rate necessary to meet peak demands. There are three existing air release valves on the 42-inch diameter main that were installed with the pipeline in 1965. Two of these valves are now inoperable, with one of them actively leaking. The status of the third is unknown. There were no air release valves originally installed on the 24-inch diameter main.

## **B. Alternatives Considered**

### No-action Alternative

The no action alternative would result in continued valve failures, risks of water interruptions or limited supplies, and repairs on an emergency basis. This alternative was not considered further.

### Regional Alternative

The only regional option for the city is the Great Lakes Water Authority. Ann Arbor reviewed their options and determined that repairing the valves was the most cost-effective alternative and aligned better with the city's goals. Therefore, this alternative was not considered further.

### Optimization

Optimization of existing facilities without capital improvements will not restore service life to the valves. Therefore, it was not considered further.

### Project Alternatives

The only feasible alternative was the replacement of the existing valves. This will include replacement of various types of valves, associated piping, and the addition of new air release valves on the 24-inch diameter raw water transmission main.

### Selected Alternative

This project will replace valves and associated piping, as well as the replacement of three existing air release valves on the 42-inch diameter main and the addition of three new release valves to the 24-inch diameter main (Figure 1). Gate valves and butterfly valves will be replaced on both the raw water intake pipes, as well as the transmission mains. Surge relief piping and valves will be installed external to the BPS along with the replacement of the suction piping and valves. Also included in this project is the replacement of the sluice gate valve and actuator in the Barton Dam Powerhouse building, as the valve does not fully close and is in poor physical condition.

## **C. Project Cost and Implementation**

The project costs are estimated at \$4,600,000. Ann Arbor will receive a \$1,380,000 DWI grant. As a result, the DWSRF loan amount is expected to be approximately \$3,220,000. This includes design, construction, contingencies, financial, administrative, legal, and engineering services.

Due to this project the average residential customer in Ann Arbor can expect a rate increase of approximately \$0.75 per quarter.

Project construction is anticipated to begin in June 2022 and be completed in spring 2024.

## **IMPACT OF PROJECT**

### **A. Water Quality Impacts**

The proposed project will include necessary repairs to valves and piping in and around the main surface water intake pump station that provides drinking water to Ann Arbor. Eighty-five percent of all drinking water flows through these pipes which are currently at risk due to leaking and inoperable valves. This poses a public health risk and can have a huge impact on the residents of Ann Arbor.

### **B. Primary Impacts**

Impacts of construction activities associated with the project are considered short-term disruptions that, for the most part, will not extend beyond the period of construction. Short-term adverse impacts associated with construction include noise, dust, exhaust fumes, removal of groundcover, and increased erosion potential.

Construction associated with the projects will occur in the Bird Hills Nature Area, the area around the BPS, and within the pump station itself. Construction contract provisions will be enforced for compliance with the Soil Erosion and Sedimentation Control Act to prevent damage to the surrounding areas from soil erosion, dust, and sedimentation.

With work occurring in the Bird Hills Nature Area, Ann Arbor completed a thorough endangered and threatened species review. The potential for both Indiana bat and Northern long eared bat exist, and therefore no trees will be cut during the roosting season from April 1 through October 14<sup>th</sup>. Impacts to the nature area itself will be minimized to the extent possible.

This project is not expected to cause impacts on historical, archeological, religious, or culturally significant areas.

### **C. Secondary Impacts**

No significant secondary impacts are anticipated as a result of this project. The project was designed to address the need for clean safe drinking water, remove potential sources of contamination, and provide service for years to come. Improvements to the system are associated with the need to address deficiencies, public health threats, and increase the reliability of the system.

## **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

A formal public hearing for the proposed project was held virtually on June 3, 2021, after notice was given in the *Washtenaw County Legal News* newspaper on April 29, 2021. Presentations were made on the project plan, including alternatives considered, project impact, and estimated costs. Questions and comments were addressed at the public hearing. The Ann Arbor City Council passed a resolution approving the project plan and agreeing to implement the selected alternatives on June 21, 2021.

## **REASONS FOR CONCLUDING NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACTS**

The proposed project will address inoperable valves and the risk to the flow of source water to the WTP while extending the life of the system. The water quality benefits anticipated from the project are expected to outweigh the short-term adverse impacts. Preserving access to the surface water intakes and guaranteeing sufficient flow during peak needs will provide long-term beneficial impacts.

Questions regarding this Environmental Assessment should be directed to:

Ms. Valorie White, Project Manager  
Water Infrastructure Financing Section  
Finance Division  
Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy  
P.O. Box 30457  
Lansing, Michigan 48909-4957  
Telephone: 517-284-5433  
E-Mail: [Whitev1@michigan.gov](mailto:Whitev1@michigan.gov)

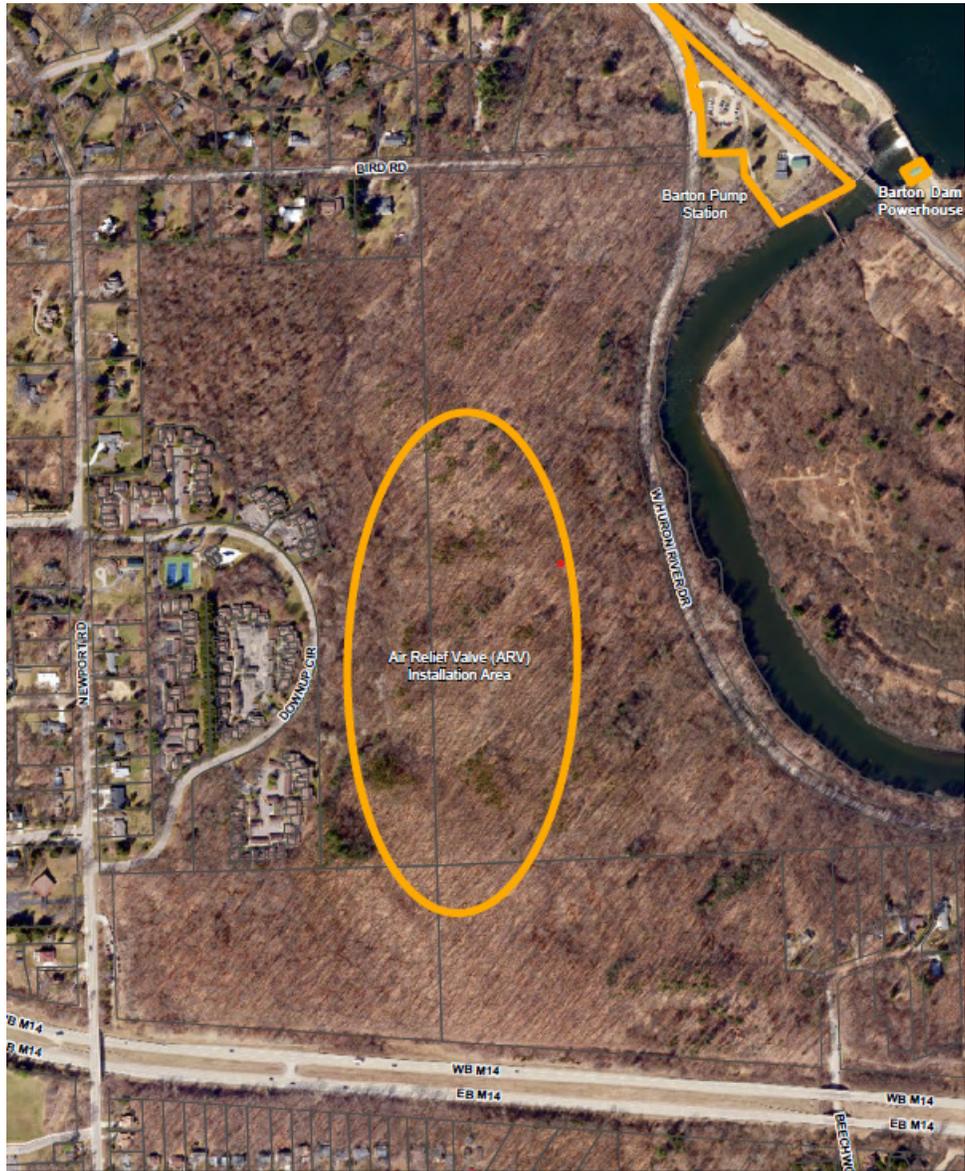


Figure 1: Location of City of Ann Arbor proposed Barton Pump Station project.