

Public Notice Announcing the Availability of a Finding of No Significant
Impact

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Rural Development

Two Lakes Collaborative Sewer Authority, Manistee County, Michigan: Notice of Finding of No Significant Impact

AGENCY: Rural Development, USDA

ACTION: Notice of Finding of No Significant Impact.

SUMMARY: The USDA Rural Development (RD) has made a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) with respect to a request for possible financing assistance to the Two Lakes Collaborative Sewer Authority for the construction of a STEP system and treatment facility in Manistee County, Michigan.

FURTHER INFORMATION: To obtain copies of the EA and FONSI, or for further information, contact: Andrew H. Granskog, PE, State Environmental Coordinator, USDA Rural Development, Community Programs, 3001 Coolidge Road, Suite 200, East Lansing, Michigan, 48823, (517) 324-5209, andy.granskog@usda.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Two Lakes Collaborative Sewer Authority proposed to build an effluent only "STEP" sanitary sewage collection and treatment system. The collection system will consist of low-pressure main and forcemain that will be installed primarily along the side of the road within the public right-of-ways at approximately seven feet of depth. The design will include new septic tanks and effluent pumps at each residence. Intermediate lift stations will be constructed to assist the flow over the long distances around the collection areas. The flow for each lake area will culminate at a single duplex lift station where it will be transferred to the treatment facility. The treatment facility is proposed to be built on land currently utilized for agriculture. Treatment will consist of a mechanical wastewater treatment plant with rapid infiltration bed for treated effluent disposal.

The availability of the EA for public review was announced via notice in the following newspaper: Manistee News Advocate on October 9, 12, and 13, 2021. A 14-day comment period was announced in the newspaper notices. The EA was also available for public review at the USDA Rural Development office between October 9, 2021 and November 2, 2022. Based on comments received in August of 2022, the EA had minor revisions to further discuss the No Action Alternative.

Based on its EA, commitments made by the Two Lakes Collaborative Sewer Authority, and public comments received, USDA RD has concluded that the project would have no significant impact to water quality, wetlands, floodplains, land use, aesthetics, transportation, or human health and safety.

The proposed project will have no adverse effect on resources listed or eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. The Agency has also concluded that the proposed project is not likely to affect federally listed threatened and endangered species or designated critical habitat thereof.

The proposed project would not disproportionately affect minority and/or low-income populations.

No other potential significant impacts resulting from the proposed project have been identified. Therefore, USDA RD has determined that this FONSI fulfills its obligations under the National Environmental Policy Act, as amended (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.), the Council on Environmental Quality Regulations (40 CFR §§ 1500-1508), and USDA Rural Development's Environmental Policies and Procedures (7 CFR Part 1970) for its action related to the project.

USDA RD is satisfied that the environmental impacts of the proposed project have been adequately addressed. **USDA RD's** federal action would not result in significant impacts to the quality of the human environment, and as such it will not prepare an Environmental Impact Statement for its action related to the proposed project.

Questions and comments should be sent to RD at the address provided. RD will accept questions and comments on the environmental assessment for 14 days from the date of publication of this notice.

Dated: **[Date]**