



February 13, 2026

Limited Environmental Review and Finding of No Significant Impact

City of Wooster – Wayne County

Well S-4

Loan number: FS391014-0022

The attached Limited Environmental Review (LER) is for a well installation project in Wooster which the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (Ohio EPA) intends to finance through its Water Supply Revolving Loan Account (WSRLA) below-market interest rate revolving loan program. The LER describes the project, costs, and expected environmental benefits. Making available this LER fulfills the 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. In accordance with Ohio Administrative Code 3745-150-05, this project meets the criteria for an LER rather than the more comprehensive Environmental Assessment. More information can be obtained by contacting the person named at the end of the attached LER.

Upon issuance of this Final 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,

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

Kathleen Courtright, Assistant Chief

Division of Environmental and Financial Assistance

LIMITED ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

Project Identification

Project: Well S-4

Applicant: City of Wooster
538 North Market Street
Wooster, Ohio 44691

Loan Number: FS391014-0022



Figure 1. Wayne County

Project Summary

The City of Wooster, in Wayne County (Figure 1), has requested approximately \$760,000 from the Ohio Water Supply Revolving Loan Account (WSRLA) to finance the Well S-4 project. This project includes the construction of a new water supply wellhouse and raw water line within the City of Wooster's South Well Field.

This project is eligible for full loan amount as WSRLA emerging contaminant principal forgiveness, which will not need to be repaid. Due to the nature and location of construction, as well as proposed protection measures to be implemented, no significant adverse impacts are anticipated, as discussed in the conclusion.

History & Existing Conditions

The source water for the City of Wooster's public water supply system (PWS) is from groundwater wells at two well fields (North and South). The North Well Field has four wells, and the South Well Field has three wells. Well S-1 at the South Well Field has a history of chlorinated volatile organic compound (VOC) detections. Additionally, samples collected at wells S-1 and S-2 in 2023 identified per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) detections that exceeded U.S. EPA's primary drinking water maximum contaminant levels (MCLs) for perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) and perfluorooctanesulfonic acid (PFOS). Wells S-1 and S-2 were therefore both taken out of routine operation, leaving the city with insufficient groundwater.

Treatment for PFAS is a long-term solution that is currently being evaluated by the city; however, it will not address the immediate need to provide sustainable capacity of safe drinking water. The North Well Field has no detection for PFAS but does not have the sanitary setbacks required to site an additional supply well and is already operating close to peak aquifer capacity in that area. The parcel that makes up the South Well Field has available space to site a new well to the south of Well S-3, which is the furthest away from the assumed potential contaminant sources. Three potential well-site

locations were identified and evaluated within the South Well Feld. The proposed S-4 well site was determined to be placed south of Well S-3 and was drilled and completed in 2025.

Project Description

The proposed project includes the construction of the S-4 wellhouse, pump, and raw water line to convey water from the well to the city's water treatment plant (WTP).

See Figure 2 for a map of the project location within the South Well Field.

Implementation

The City of Wooster is eligible for the full loan amount in principal forgiveness (loan amount that does not need to be repaid) from the Ohio WSRLA. With this favorable financing, Wooster will save \$1,153,812 compared to financing the entire loan amount at the market rate, 4.43%, for a 20-year loan period.

The city indicated that no rate increases are specifically associated with this project. The current city ordinance includes annual 3-4% increases. The average annual residential water bill in 2027 will be \$472.23 which is 0.8% of the median household income for Wooster (MHI; \$61,608) and is less than the Ohio average annual water bill of \$477.

Loan award is expected in March, and construction will be completed by the end of 2026.

Public Participation

The S-4 well project has been discussed during Wooster city council meetings where the public is welcome to attend. Council meetings are held the first and third Monday of each month at 7 pm and are also live streamed on the city's YouTube channel. The city's website allows for review of council meeting minutes and legislation.

Ohio EPA is unaware of any controversy about or opposition to this project. The Limited Environmental Review (LER) and Finding of No Significant Impact (FNSI) will be posted on the Ohio EPA Division of Environmental and Financial Assistance website. Additionally, the LER and FNSI have been provided to the City of Wooster to be made available according to their public notification procedures.

Conclusion

The proposed project meets the criteria for an LER; namely, it is an action within an existing well field, which involves improvements to Wooster's PWS. Furthermore, the project meets the other qualifying criteria for an LER; specifically, the proposed project:

Will have no significant environmental effect, will require no specific impact mitigation, and will have no effect on high-value environmental resources. All work will be within the existing well field, pavement and rights-of-way, and mowed lawn with no important or sensitive environmental resources to be disturbed. Trees are not anticipated to be cut down, but if necessary, trees will be cut seasonally between October 1 and March 30 to avoid impacts to threatened and endangered bat species who utilize trees as foraging and roosting habitat. A small portion of farmland will be converted for the wellhouse, but the amount is negligible compared to other available farmed land nearby.

Is cost effective and not a controversial action. It is the most feasible option to drill a new well for PFAS contamination avoidance and to restore production capacity. Ohio EPA is unaware of any controversy or opposition to the project that does not raise rates beyond the typical annual increase.

Does not create a new, or relocate an existing, discharge to surface or ground waters, does not create a new source of water withdrawals from either surface or ground waters, significantly increase the amount of water withdrawn from an existing water source, substantially increase the volume of discharge or loading of pollutants from an existing source or from new facilities to receiving waters, and will not provide capacity to serve a population substantially greater than the existing population. The project will not impact discharges or withdrawal amounts, nor serve a larger population.

Based upon Ohio EPA's review of the planning information and the materials presented in this LER, we have concluded that there will be no significant adverse impacts from the proposed project as it relates to environmental features. 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 protect public health by helping to provide an adequate, safe, and reliable water supply for existing water system customers.

Contact Information

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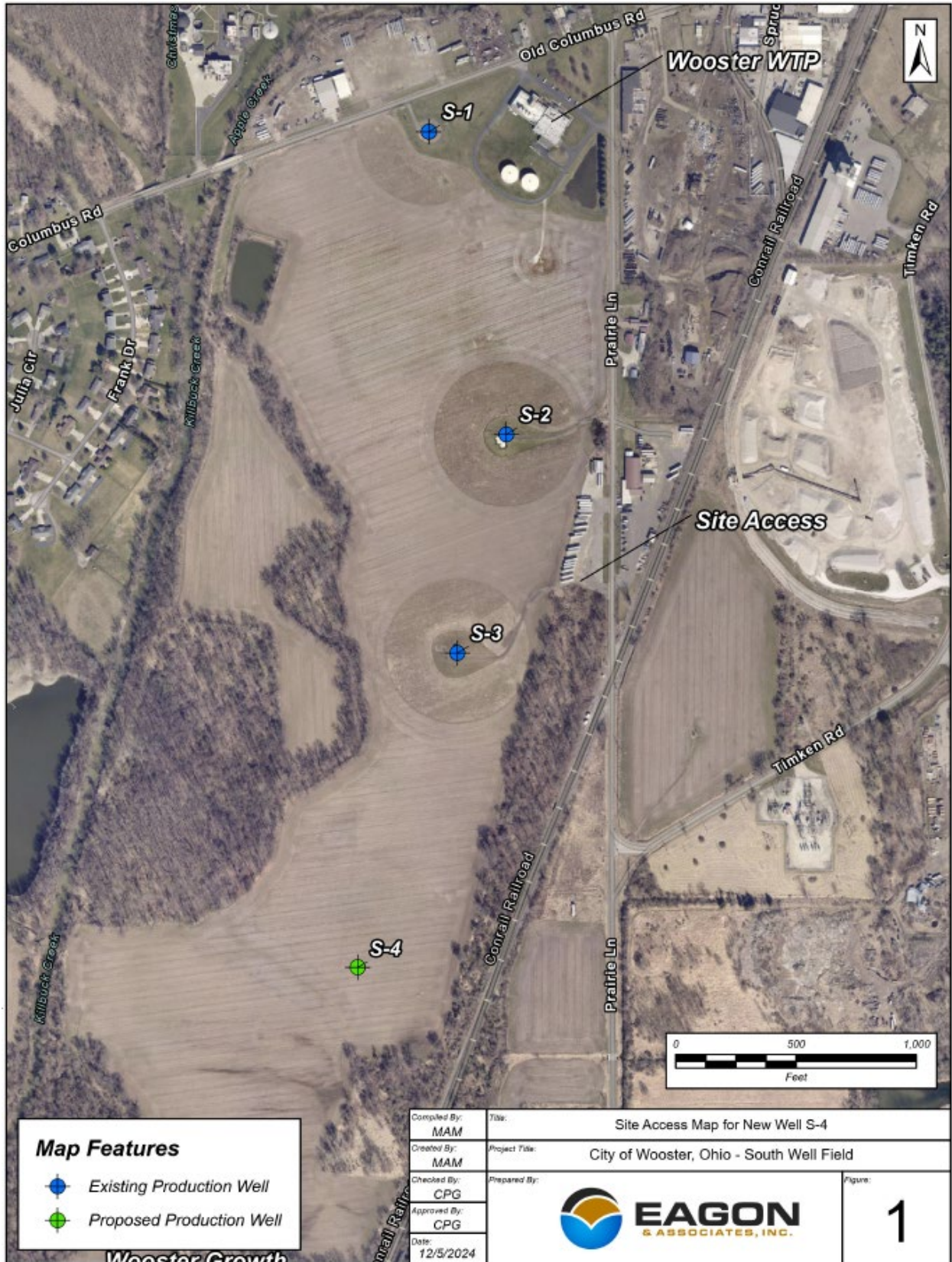


Figure 2. Well S-4 location within the South Well Field.