

Final Notice and Public Explanation of a Proposed Activity in a Wetland

To: All interested Agencies, Groups and Individuals

This is to give notice that the Northville Charter Township as the Responsible Entity under Part 58 has conducted an evaluation as required by Executive Order 11990, in accordance with HUD regulations at 24 CFR 55.20 Subpart C Procedures for Making Determinations on Wetlands Protection. The activity is funded under the Community Project Funding and HUD Grant #B-22-CP-MI-0441. The proposed project(s) is located along a 0.5 mile long stretch of 5 Mile Road on the border of Plymouth and Northville Townships between a point 1600-ft west of Ridge Road and a point 1000-ft east of Ridge Road. At the point 1000-ft east of Ridge Road the new sewer will connect to the existing sanitary sewer line and the current Western Township's Utility Authority (WTUA) interceptor. The project will provide sanitary sewer service to a development west of Ridge Road as a part of the Michigan International Technology Center (MITC) initiative. 0.074 acres of Palustrine Emergent Persistent (PEM1) wetland directly adjacent to the road are anticipated to be impacted by the project. Approximately 150-ft of sanitary sewer construction will impact the wetland. The proposed impact is located 550-ft east of Ridge Road along the south side of 5 Mile Road in Plymouth Township, Wayne County, MI.

Northville Charter Township has considered the following alternatives and mitigation measures to be taken to minimize adverse impacts and to restore and preserve natural and beneficial values: During conceptual design, it was determined that the existing sewer along the south side of Five Mile Road between Ridge Road and the Western Townships Utilities Authority's (WTUA's) interceptor sewer would need to be replaced, since it was not adequately sized to handle the flows that these developments were anticipated to generate. Part of this existing sewer runs through a low-lying wetland/floodplain that is tributary to the Johnson Drain to the North. During field investigations, it was observed that the existing sewer had very little cover in this area, with a depth of bury less than one foot at the shallowest point. To install the proposed sewer, which would be larger than the existing, some fill would be required within this low-lying area to provide adequate cover and avoid having the new sewer exposed as it passed through the wetland.

During the preliminary stages of design, several alternatives for providing sewer service to the Five Mile Corridor were evaluated: 1) Service by Force Main - Replacing the existing sewer with a force main which could be installed using trenchless methods and could pass under the wetland with sufficient cover was evaluated. However, the cost to construct a pump station for this force main as well as the ongoing operational and maintenance costs it would incur were prohibitive, especially given the relatively low flows this pump station would be expected to handle. 2) Alternate Alignments - A) Alternate routes to connect to the sanitary interceptor line were deemed infeasible, as they were miles long which would drastically increase the cost, schedule, and environmental impacts of constructing this sewer. B) Installing the sewer in the north side of the road was ruled out. This area is already crowded with existing utilities including water main, leaving no room for the sewer within the right of way (ROW), and faces similar challenges with grade and cover crossing the wetland due to the fixed elevation of the receiving sewer. C) Installing the sewer within the road itself was also not feasible for several reasons. The minimum depth of cover would not meet Wayne County standards for depth of bury beneath pavement, and the cost to remove and replace the pavement along the entire stretch of road would exceed the project scope. D) Alternate Construction Methods - Alternate construction methods such as jacking and boring through the wetland would not be possible. With the limited cover available for the shallow sewer, there is the potential risk of freezing during the winter months. Therefore, insulation will be required around the top and sides of the pipe, which will require excavation. E) "Do Nothing" Alternative - This alternative is not viable here since the existing sewer does not have the required capacity to serve the future developments.

The proposed design does as much as possible to mitigate the negative impacts this project will have on the wetland. The proposed sewer alignment will be several feet to the north of the existing sewer, reducing the impacted area of the wetland. The existing sewer will be abandoned in place rather than removed, eliminating the need for additional excavation. After construction, the area will be re-vegetated with plants native to the state of Michigan, preserving its natural character. The proposed plans have been discussed with the Michigan Department of the Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE), and they have indicated that compensatory cut will not be required since the impacted area of wetland is less than one tenth of an acre.

Northville Charter Township has reevaluated the alternatives to building in the wetland and has determined that it has no practicable alternative. Environmental files that document compliance with steps 3 through 6 of Executive Order 11990, are available for public inspection, review and copying upon request at the times and location delineated in the last paragraph of this notice for receipt of comments.

There are three primary purposes for this notice. First, people who may be affected by activities in wetlands and those who have an interest in the protection of the natural environment should be given an opportunity to express their concerns and provide information about these areas. Second, an adequate public notice program can be an important public educational tool. The dissemination of information and request for public comment about wetlands can facilitate and enhance Federal efforts to reduce the risks and impacts associated with the occupancy and modification of these special areas. Third, as a matter of fairness, when the Federal government determines it will participate in actions taking place in wetlands, it must inform those who may be put at greater or continued risk.

Written comments must be received by Northville Charter Township at the following address on or before **December 15, 2023**: Northville Charter Township, 44405 Six Mile Road, Northville, MI 48168, Attention: Bob Belair, Director of Public Services. Comments may also be submitted via email at bbelair@twp.northville.mi.us

Date: December 7, 2023

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