



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION 2

290 BROADWAY

NEW YORK, NY 10007-1866

JAN 23 2007

To All Interested Government Agencies and Public Groups:

In accordance with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) procedures for the preparation of environmental impact statements (EIS), an environmental review has been performed on the proposed agency action below:

Project Name: Cayuga County Sewer District No. 2

Purpose of Project: This project will alleviate water quality problems resulting from the use of inadequate individual on-site septic systems

Project Originator: Cayuga County Water and Sewer District

Project Location: Village of Fair Haven and Town of Sterling
Cayuga County, New York

Project Description: The proposed project involves construction of 58,000 linear feet of 8" to 12" diameter gravity sewers, 375 individual grinder pumps with 21,000 linear feet of 2" to 5" diameter pressure sewers, and 10 wastewater pumping stations with 27,000 linear feet of 4" to 8" diameter force mains.

Estimated Eligible Project Costs: \$ 3,948,728

EPA Grants: \$ 2,171,800

Our environmental review of this project indicates that no significant adverse environmental impacts will result from the proposed action. Consequently, we have made a decision not to prepare an EIS on the project. This decision is based on a careful review of the project's environmental information document and other supporting information. All of these documents, along with the Environmental Assessment (copy enclosed), are on file at the offices of the EPA Region 2 and the Cayuga County Water and Sewer District, where they are available for public scrutiny upon request. The EA is also available on EPA Region 2's website at <http://www.epa.gov/region02/spmm/r2nepa.htm>.

Comments supporting or disagreeing with this decision may be submitted to EPA for consideration. All comments must be received within 30 calendar days of the date of this finding of no significant impact (FNSI). Please address your comments to: Grace Musumeci, Chief, Environmental Review Section, at the above address. No administrative action will be taken on the project for at least 30 calendar days after the date of this FNSI.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Alan J. Steinberg".

Alan J. Steinberg
Regional Administrator

Enclosure

Environmental Assessment

I. Project Identification:

Name of Project: Cayuga County Sewer District No. 2

Grant Applicant: Cayuga County Water and Sewer Authority
7413 County House Road
Auburn, New York 13021

EPA Project Numbers: XP982784-01 and XP972603-06

Project Location: Village of Fair Haven and Town of Sterling
Cayuga County, New York

II. Description of Facility Planning Area:

The planning area for this project is located in the northwest corner of Cayuga County, New York. It borders Lake Ontario to the north, and Wayne County to the east, and includes the Village of Fair Haven and the western part of the Town of Sterling. (Figures 1 and 2)

The area is predominantly residential, with a large percentage of seasonal homes which are occupied mainly during the summer months. Commercial properties are generally located along NYS Route 104A/Main Street. Fair Haven Beach State Park is located within the planning area as well.

Much of the topography consists of rolling hills that ultimately slope toward Little Sodus Bay. Little Sodus Bay is an 800-acre bay which is connected to Lake Ontario through a seawall channel. Water quality in the bay and aquatic life are being adversely affected by numerous failing septic systems in the surrounding area. Public bathing and aquatic life in the bay area are classified as stressed. Although recreational activities are discouraged as a result of periodic deterioration of water quality, the bay is still used for swimming and other contact recreation by local residents and visitors.

III. Purpose and Need for Project:

The planning area is presently unsewered and, thus, relies on individual subsurface disposal systems, primarily septic tanks, to dispose of sewage from existing residences and commercial structures. However, due to a variety of reasons (poorly drained soils, shallow depth to bedrock, shallow water table, and/or the development density) these disposal systems do not always function properly. As a result, surface and subsurface discharges of inadequately treated sewage from failing septic tanks are a

public health concern and are causing degradation of surface water and groundwater. In addition, Little Sodus Bay is listed as an impaired water body in the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation's (NYSDEC) Priority Waterbodies List due to elevated levels of phosphorous. The NYSDEC attributes the cause of the impairment to failing on-site septic systems. The NYSDEC and the Village of Fair Haven have executed a Consent Order which requires the Village to correct the situation.

IV. Detailed Description of Selected Plan:

The proposed project represents the Village's strategy to meet the requirements of its Consent Order. It consists of a system of gravity and pressure sewers, grinder pumps, wastewater pumping stations and force mains designed to collect wastewater from portions of the Village of Fair Haven and the Town of Sterling and convey it to the recently constructed Red Creek Regional Wastewater Treatment Facility (WTF) in nearby Wayne County.

The Red Creek WTF is designed to provide a high degree of wastewater treatment and to accept flows from the current planning area. Because federal grant assistance was to be made available for its construction, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) reviewed the planning for the Red Creek WTF project. EPA issued a Finding of No Significant Impact and Environmental Assessment (FNSI/EA) for it on September 26, 2002. The FNSI/EA indicated that the WTF's initial capacity would be sufficient to accommodate flows from this planning area.

The current project, which would be constructed in four main phases, is designed to collect and convey wastewater from the planning area to the Red Creek WTF for treatment. The facilities would be owned and operated by the Cayuga County Water and Sewer District. Most of the construction would occur within the rights of way of local and state roadways. EPA previously issued a Categorical Exclusion from environmental review procedures for Phase 1A of the project, installation of 4,400 linear feet of pipe during reconstruction of New York State Route 104A.

The proposed wastewater facilities consist of the following:

- ▶ 58,000 linear feet of 8" to 12" diameter gravity sewers
- ▶ 21,000 linear feet of 2" to 5" diameter pressure sewers
- ▶ 27,000 linear feet of 4" to 8" diameter force mains
- ▶ 10 wastewater pumping stations
- ▶ 375 individual grinder pumps

V. Project Costs:

Total Estimated Project Cost.....	\$ 16,039,000
Total Eligible Project Cost.....	\$ 3,948,728
Projected EPA Grants.....	\$ 2,171,800

VI. Evaluation of Alternatives:

A. No Action Alternative

The No Action alternative is unacceptable because it would result in continuation of the existing wastewater disposal problems. A sanitary sewer system would not be installed. Existing septic systems would continue to be relied upon for disposal of wastewater. As a result, surface water quality would continue to be degraded and the potential public health problems associated with inadequately treated wastewater would continue. In addition, the provisions of the NYSDEC Consent Order would not be met. As a result, enforcement actions would take place pursuant to state and federal law, subjecting the Village to penalties and fines. Thus, the "No Action" alternative was rejected because it is neither environmentally sound nor legally allowable.

B. Septic Tank Management Program

Pursuant to the Consent Order, the Village of Fair Haven previously instituted an interim septic tank management program in an attempt to optimize use of the existing facilities. The program included periodic septic tank testing, and pumping out the septic tanks located within 500 feet of Little Sodus Bay every five years. Unfortunately, it was subsequently determined that these efforts were not sufficient to adequately address the situation. Thus, the NYSDEC Consent Order required the Village to investigate the feasibility of constructing a sewer system to resolve the water quality problem.

C. Wastewater Collection System Alternatives

In planning the proposed project, the following four general categories of wastewater collection system technologies were considered, based on a variety of factors, including capital cost, operation and maintenance, and suitability for use with the local topography:

- Gravity Sewers with Pumping Stations - due to the hilly topography, a totally gravity-fed sewer system would require expensive deep cuts for pipe installation and a significant number of additional pumping stations, with their associated high operation and maintenance costs.

- Pressure Sewers with Grinder Pumps - these were found to be suitable for areas where installation of gravity sewers would require deep cuts to allow houses located at lower elevations than the roads to connect, but would not be cost-effective in other areas.
- Vacuum Sewers - these were evaluated and considered unsuitable for the project due to reliability and operational issues and high associated maintenance costs.
- A Combination of Gravity and Pressure Systems - See below.

D. The Selected Plan (Combination of Gravity Sewers and Pressure Systems)

This is the selected alternative discussed in the above detailed description of the selected plan. The design utilizes gravity sewers where favorable topography exists, and pressure systems where the topography favors the use of pressure systems. This combination of gravity and pressure systems represents the most economical, environmentally sound, and implementable means available to achieve the project's goals.

VII. Environmental Consequences of the Selected Plan:

- A. **Archeological and Historical Resources:** Phase 1A and 1B Cultural Resources surveys were performed within the area of potential effects of the proposed wastewater collection system. No significant cultural resources were identified. Based on the information in the reports, it has been determined that the proposed construction will have no effect on resources or eligibility for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places. Accordingly, no further cultural resources investigations are necessary.
- B. **Wetlands/Floodplains:** Based on the project's preliminary design, there is a small area of wetlands at the northern end of Meadow Cove that may need to be crossed by the project. In the event that the final design is unable to avoid impacting this area, or any other wetland areas, the applicant will be required to obtain all necessary federal and state wetlands permits and implement any necessary mitigation measures. Similarly, with respect to flood-prone areas, an effort will be made to avoid installing sewer pipe within the 100 year floodplain. If, however, it is unavoidable, the pipe will be equipped with backflow prevention devices to prevent flooding. Furthermore, New York State's standard specifications for erosion and sediment control, including the

use of silt fencing and reestablishment of vegetation will also minimize the project's potential adverse effects. Consequently, no significant long-term impacts will result from implementing the project.

- C. **Agricultural Lands:** The State of New York's Department of Agriculture and Markets reviewed the project and determined that the proposed project would not have an unreasonably adverse effect on the continuing viability of farm enterprises.
- D. **Designated Coastal Zones:** The project site is within New York State's (NYS) designated coastal zone. The NYS Department of State reviewed the proposed project for consistency with the New York State Coastal Zone Management Plan and determined it meets the criteria for general consistency with the NYS coastal zone management plan.
- E. **Endangered/Threatened Species:** Based on consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, pursuant to the Endangered Species Act, no federally listed or proposed endangered or threatened species are known to exist in the project area nor does it contain any designated or proposed critical habitats.
- F. **Noise:** During construction there will be increased noise levels in the vicinity of construction activities. This effect will be temporary and localized, and will be minimized by requiring machinery to be equipped with proper mufflers and by limiting construction operations to normal work hours.
- G. **Air Quality:** The area is in attainment for all the National Ambient Air Quality Standards, and no significant impacts to air quality are expected to result from this project.
- H. **Population Projections:** Based on past population trends, significant population increases are not typical in this area of Cayuga County. It is anticipated that this project would have a minimal growth-inducing impact on the service areas.
- I. **Environmental Justice:** EPA Region 2's Environmental Justice (EJ) guidance contains criteria for identifying potential EJ communities, based on minority populations and income levels. Based on EPA's analysis, the planning area does not meet the EPA criteria for being classified an EJ area. Furthermore, environmental review of the project indicates that the project will not result in any significant adverse impacts to residents. Accordingly, there are no environmental justice issues associated with the proposed project.

VIII. Coordination of Environmental ReviewA. Nations and Federal, State, and Local Agencies Consulted by the Town or EPA

Cayuga Nation of Indians

U.S. Department of the Interior - Fish and Wildlife Service

New York State Office of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation

New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets

New York State Department of Environmental Conservation

New York State Department of Health

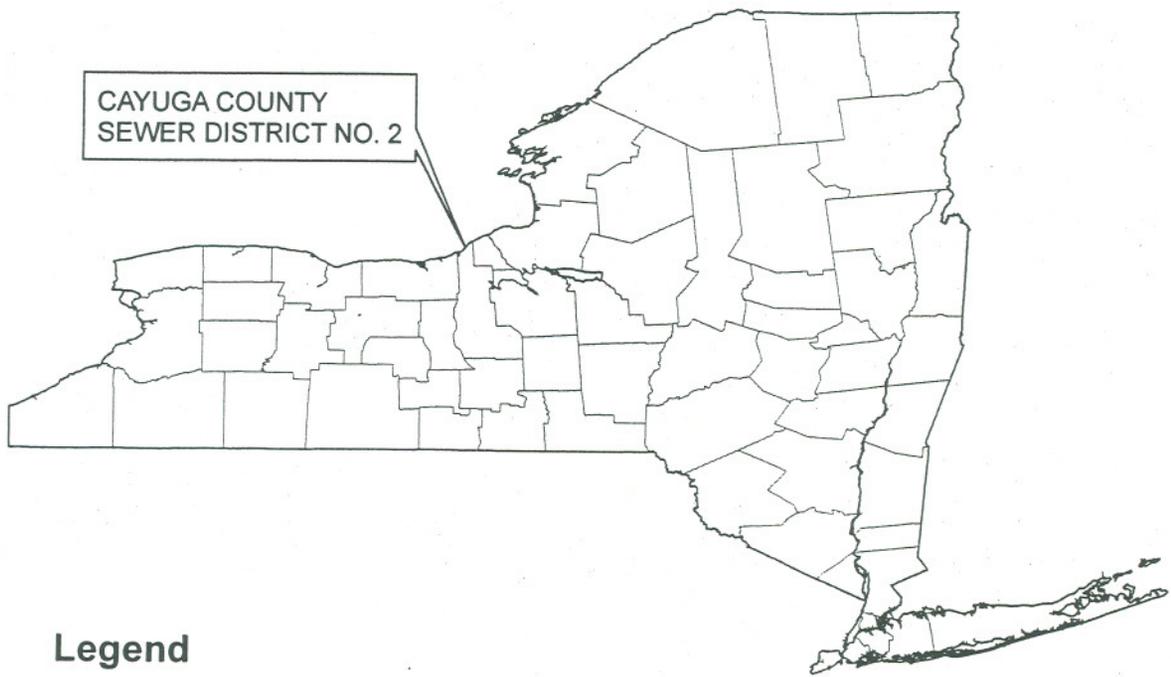
New York State Department of Transportation

New York State Department of State

B. Reference Documents

- *Environmental Impact Document for the Cayuga County Sewer District No. 2, Cayuga County Water and Sewer Authority, Village of Fair Haven & Town of Sterling, New York, O'Brien and Gere Engineers, May 2006*
- *Phase 1A Cultural Resources Investigations for the Proposed Cayuga County Sewer District No. 2, Village of Fair Haven and Town of Sterling and Town of Wolcott, New York, Pan American Consultants, May 2006*
- *Phase 1B Cultural Resources Investigations for the Proposed Cayuga County Sewer District No. 2, Village of Fair Haven and Town of Sterling and Town of Wolcott, New York; Pan American Consultants, August 2006*
- *Determination of Eligibility for Categorical Exclusion from environmental review requirements for Phase 1A of the Village of Fair Haven Sanitary Sewer System Project; U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 2, December 19, 2005*
- *Finding of No Significant Impact and Environmental Assessment for the Red Creek Area Regional Wastewater Treatment Facilities Project; U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 2, September 26, 2002*

NEW YORK STATE



Legend

-  State Boundaries
-  County Polygons

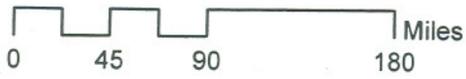


FIG. 1



FIGURE 2

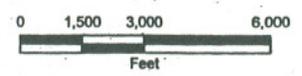


LEGEND

- PHASE 1
 — PUMPING TO CHAPMAN CORNERS ROUTE 104A FACILITIES (PHASE 1A) FANCHER AVENUE COLLECTION (PHASE 1B)
- PHASE 2
 — WEST BAY SIDE PRESSURE SEWERS
- PHASE 3
 — EAST BAY SIDE COLLECTION
- PHASE 4
 — REMAINING EAST BAY SIDE COLLECTION FACILITIES

CAYUGA COUNTY SEWER DISTRICT NO. 2

LOCATION PLAN



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