Draft Environmental Assessment Waldo Levee Land Acquisition Marion County, Ohio



U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Huntington District Huntington, West Virginia March 2025 EAXX-202-00-H1P-1736250693



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Executive Summary

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) is proposing a land acquisition of two (2) separate parcels of land located on what is the current Waldo Levee flood protection project just south of the Tomahawk pump station on the east side of Route (Rt) 23.

The Proposed Action Alternative would consist of acquisition of two (2) separate parcels located in Waldo, Marion County, Ohio. Once acquired, the parcels of land would receive mowing as regularly scheduled operations and maintenance (O&M). The proposed project is fully funded by the Corps.

This Environmental Assessment is prepared pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act, Council on Environmental Quality Regulations (40 CFR 1500-1508) and the Corps Implementing regulation, ER-200-2-2. EAXX-202-00-H1P-1736250693



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The brief and concise nature of this document is consistent with the 40 CFR requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) to reduce paperwork and delay by eliminating duplication with existing environmental documentation, incorporating pertinent material by reference, and by emphasizing interagency cooperation. The majority of data collection and analysis in this document was performed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps).

1. PROJECT DESCRIPTION

1.1. Project Background

Delaware Dam in central Ohio was authorized under Section 4 of the Flood Control Act of 1938 and constructed on the Olentangy River in July 1948, creating Delaware Lake. The lake serves a drainage area of 386 square miles and is impounded by a rolled earth-fill dam. The primary project purposes of Delaware Lake include flood risk reduction, vital habitat for fish/wildlife, low flow augmentation, and recreation for the surrounding area. Waldo Levee, an appurtenant structure of the dam, is an integral part of the flood mitigation infrastructure that serves to protect the village of Waldo, Ohio located nine (9) miles upstream of the dam in southern Marion County, Ohio.

Delaware Lake averages 873,000 visitors annually, contributing over \$25 million to the local economy. The project contains Delaware State Park which has 211 campsites, three (3) yurts, a swimming beach and numerous hiking trails. In Fiscal Year (FY) 2016, the project prevented an estimated \$1.6 million in flood damages, with an accumulative \$177 million in flood damages prevented since the project was constructed.

This Environmental Assessment (EA) examines the potential environmental impacts of the proposed land acquisitions. The purpose of the EA is to analyze the potential environmental impacts of the proposed project and to determine whether to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) or a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI), but it is anticipated that an EIS would not be required. An EIS is typically conducted where significant human or natural resources exist, and the implementation of a proposed project may have significant effects to those resources. An EA typically involves projects where no significant resources occur, or the project is expected to have less than significant impacts to the human and natural environment. In both EISs and EAs, additional project actions can be implemented to help avoid, minimize, or mitigate for potential project impacts.

1.2. Purpose, Need, and Authorization

The purpose of the proposed project is to acquire two (2) separate parcels of land located on what is the current Waldo Levee flood protection project just south of the Tomahawk pump station. The parcels will be used for required Operations and Maintenance (O&M). The land acquisition is needed to meet requirements of O&M to support levee safety. Therefore, the proposed project would provide the Corps with ownership of land at a current Corps project.



This EA is prepared pursuant to NEPA, Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) Regulations (40 CFR 1500-1508), and Corps implementing regulation, ER 200-2-2.

2. PROPOSED ACTION AND ALTERNATIVES

2.1. Proposed Action Alternative (PAA)

The PAA would consist of acquisition of two (2) parcels of land. Once acquired, the parcels of land would receive mowing as regularly scheduled operations and maintenance (O&M). However, this would be no change to the current maintenance of the land.

2.2. No Action Alternative (NAA)

Under the NAA, the Corps would not provide funding for the project and the land acquisition by the Corps would not take place. Issues such as encroachment could be a direct result of not obtaining ownership of the two (2) parcels of land. However, it is included in the alternatives analysis to establish a baseline condition for existing human and natural environmental conditions, to allow comparison between future without and with project actions, and to determine potential environmental effects of proposed with project alternatives.

3. ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING AND CONSEQUENCES

This section discusses the existing conditions by resource category and any potential environmental impacts associated with the NAA, as well as with implementation of the PAA.

The Corps took context and intensity into consideration in determining potential impact significance, as defined in 40 CFR part 1508.27. The intensity of a potential impact is the impact's severity and includes consideration of beneficial and adverse effects, the level of controversy associated with a project's impacts on human health, whether the action establishes a precedent for future actions with significant effects, the level of uncertainty about project impacts and whether the action threatens to violate federal, state, or local laws established for the protection of the human and natural environment. The severity of an environmental impact is characterized as none/negligible, minor, moderate, or significant, and may be adverse or beneficial. The impact may also be short-term or long-term in nature and direct or indirect.

- None/negligible No measurable impacts are expected to occur.
- Minor A measurable effect to a resource. A slight impact that may not be readily obvious and is within accepted levels for permitting, continued resource sustainability, or human use. Impacts should be avoided and minimized if possible but should not result in a mitigation requirement.



- Moderate A measurable effect to a resource. An intermediate impact that may or may not be readily obvious but is within accepted levels for permitting, continued resource sustainability, or human use. Impacts may or may not result in the need for mitigation.
- Significant A measurable effect to a resource. A major impact that is readily obvious and is not within accepted levels for permitting, continued resource sustainability, or human use. Impacts likely result in the need for mitigation.
- Adverse A measurable and negative effect to a resource. May be minor to major, resulting in reduced conditions, sustainability, or viability of the resource.
- Beneficial A measurable and positive effect to a resource. May be minor to major, resulting in improved conditions, sustainability, or viability of the resource.
- Direct Caused by the action and occur at the same time and place.
- Indirect Caused by the action and are later in time or farther removed in distance but are still reasonably foreseeable.
- Short-Term Temporary in nature and does not result in a permanent long-term beneficial or adverse effect to a resource. For example, temporary construction-related effects (such as, an increase in dust, noise, traffic congestion) that no longer occur once construction is complete. May be minor, significant, adverse, or beneficial in nature.
- Long-Term Permanent (or for most of the project life) beneficial or adverse effects to a resource. For example, permanent conversion of a wetland to a parking lot. May be minor, significant, adverse, or beneficial in nature.

The Corps used quantitative and qualitative analyses, as appropriate, to determine the level of potential impact from proposed alternatives. Based on the results of the analyses, this EA identifies whether a particular potential impact would be adverse or beneficial, and to what extent.

3.1. Project Location

The affected area is located just outside of the village of Waldo in Marion County, Ohio. The parcels that would be acquired are located on the Waldo Levee flood protection project just south of the Tomahawk pump station on the east side of Rt 23. Figure 1 below shows the overall project location.





Figure 1: Project Location



3.2. Land Use

Land use in the vicinity of the PAA is primarily residential, commercial, and industrial within a rural-type setting. Acquisitions would be limited to the two (2) parcels along the Waldo Levee which have been previously disturbed through construction. No land use changes would result from the PAA. Therefore, there would be no significant adverse short or long-term direct or indirect impacts to land use under the PAA.

There would be no direct impacts to land use as a result of the NAA. Indirect impacts under the NAA could result from potential encroachment.

3.3. Climate

The climate in Olentangy River Basin is typical of the North Temperate Zone. Topographic characteristics considerably modify the climate as marked variations in temperature and precipitation occur between mountain and plateau areas. Frequent and rapid changes in weather occur due to the passage of fronts associated with general low-pressure areas. Marion County, Ohio experiences seasonal weather patterns with typical summer conditions of hot and humid days and winters being mild to moderate cold temperatures with snowfall. Fall is typically the driest season, while spring is typically wetter. The hottest month is July with an average high temperature of 83 degrees Fahrenheit with the summer season lasting from May to September. The coldest month is January with an average low temperature of 17 degrees Fahrenheit with the winter season lasting from December to March. Average annual precipitation is 39 inches and average snowfall is 22 inches. The heaviest precipitation of late fall and the winter months occurs during passage of general storms that move from the southwest to northeastward over the Ohio River Valley. Occasionally, tropical hurricanes moving northward parallel to the Atlantic coast will cross the Appalachian range and deposit enough rain to cause heavy flooding.

The Olentangy River Basin is part of the larger Ohio River Basin (ORB). Although the modeled climatic predictions vary across the ORB and are somewhat uncertain (especially in the latter portion of the 21st century), much of the basin appears likely to experience significantly higher high-flow events and in some cases, lowered low-flow events, interspersed with periods of drought. In the face of changing land use and energy development, and where these projected air temperature and flow changes deviate more than 25% from the current levels, it is likely that fish and mussel populations, wetland complexes, reservoir fisheries, trans-boundary organisms such as migratory fish and water body-dependent birds, and human use and safety will also be noticeably impacted.

Institute for Water Resources (IWR) climate modeling results indicate that climatic conditions in the ORB will remain largely within the mean ranges of precipitation and temperatures, with the exception of a gradual warming that has been experienced between 1952 and 2001. Summer highs and winter lows between 2011 and 2040 are expected to remain generally within what has been observed over that historic period, but extreme fluctuations (record temperatures, rainfall,



or drought) are expected to become more likely than before. After 2040, temperatures may rise at one degree per decade through 2099. Likewise, there may be significant changes in precipitation with associated increases or decreases in river flow on an annual mean basis and a seasonal maximum and minimum basis. During 2070-2099, the annual percent change in maximum streamflow increases substantially across Pennsylvania, West Virginia, Ohio, Indiana, and Illinois. It is anticipated there would be some increases between 2040 and 2070 in precipitation and river flow in the base period during the spring season; however, the fall season will bring significant rainfall and increased river flows by as much as 35% to 50% more during the base period.

The NAA or PAA would not involve any activity that could significantly affect the environment in regard to climate and the project would not likely be influenced by future changes in conditions. Therefore, no significant adverse short or long-term direct or indirect impacts to climate would occur as a result of the PAA or NAA.

3.4. Terrestrial Habitat

The acquisitions would be limited to the two (2) parcels of land directly south of Tomahawk pump station on the Waldo Levee which have been previously disturbed through construction. There are no trees located on the property, and vegetation consists of lawn-type grasses that are periodically mowed. Therefore, no significant adverse short or long-term direct or indirect impacts to terrestrial habitat are anticipated as part of the PAA.

As selection of the NAA would entail no changes to the project area, there are no direct or indirect impacts to terrestrial habitat anticipated as part of the NAA.

3.5. Floodplains

E.O. 11988 requires Federal agencies to consider the potential effects of their proposed actions to floodplains. In order to determine the PAA's potential floodplain impact, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRM) were reviewed for the proposed project (<u>https://www.fema.gov/floodplain-management/flood-zones</u>). Parcels are located in Zone X, an area of minimal flood hazard.

Parcel acquisitions would not impact the regulatory floodway or floodplain areas as they would cause no change in grade or elevation. There is no work in floodplain associated with project, therefore, no floodplain development permit is needed. The PAA meets the intent of E.O. 11988, and no significant adverse short or long-term direct or indirect impacts to the floodplain are anticipated to occur from the PAA.

As no construction-related activities would be implemented, no direct or indirect impacts to floodplains are anticipated to occur from the NAA.



3.6. Prime and Unique Farmland

The Farmland Protection Policy Act (FPPA) requires Federal agencies to minimize the conversion of prime and unique farmland to non-agricultural uses. Acquisitions would be limited to two (2) unowned parcels located on the Waldo Levee just south of the Tomahawk pump station. These parcels are considered to be prime and unique farmland and make up the entirety of the project area. Proposed work would be limited to Waldo Levee's existing footprint. A Farmland Conversion Impact Rating Form Ad-1006 was filled out between the Corps and the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) to determine the amount of farmland being converted. Based on the above, the Corps has determined there would be no impacts to prime and unique farmland as a result of the PAA. The Farmland Conversion Impact Rating form and coordination with the NRCS is included in Appendix B.

There are no direct impacts to prime and unique farmland anticipated as part of the NAA. However, indirect impacts could result from potential encroachment.

3.7. Aquatic Habitat/Water Quality

The project area is located within the Brandige Run-Olentangy River Watershed (HUC 050600011005). According to the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (OEPA), the Brandige Run-Olentangy River Watershed is not included in the 303(d) list but is listed as impaired for aquatic life warmwater habitat and water contact recreation. Implementation of the PAA would not result in new discharge of pollutants.

There would be no stream crossings or in-water work associated with the project. Therefore, a Department of the Army permit pursuant to Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act, Section 404 permit, and associated Section 401 permit under the Clean Water Act would not be required prior to construction. No coordination with the Corps' Regulatory Branch or OEPA is required. In addition, a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit would not be required for the project. If conditions change and it is determined that waters may be impacted, coordination with the Corps' Regulatory Branch and OEPA will be required, and all applicable permits shall be obtained.

Implementation of the PAA would not result in significant adverse short or long-term direct or indirect environmental impacts to aquatic habitat and water quality.

Under the NAA, no direct impacts would occur and water quality in the project area would remain unchanged. However, indirect impacts could result from potential encroachment.

3.8. Wetlands

E.O. 11990 requires Federal agencies to consider the potential effects of their proposed actions to wetlands. National Wetland Inventory (NWI) Maps were reviewed for the project area and identified one (1) riverine habitat north of the project area (R4SBC). There would be no



placement or discharge of fill material or in-water work. Therefore, there would be no significant adverse direct or indirect impacts to wetlands from the PAA.

Under the NAA, no direct impacts would occur. However, indirect impacts could result from potential encroachment.

3.9. Wild and Scenic Rivers

No designated State Wild or Scenic Rivers are present within the Project Area. Therefore, no direct or indirect impacts to these resources are anticipated as part of the PAA or NAA.

3.10. Hazardous, Toxic, and Radioactive Waste (HTRW)

A search of available environmental records was conducted by Environmental Data Resources, Inc. (EDR). The report was designed to assist parties seeking to meet the search requirements of U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (USEPA) Standards and Practices for All Appropriate Inquiries (40 CFR Part 312), the American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM) Standard Practice for Environmental Site Assessments (E1527 - 21), the ASTM Standard Practice for Environmental Site Assessments for Forestland or Rural Property (E2247 - 16), the ASTM Standard Practice for Limited Environmental Due Diligence: Transaction Screen Process (E1528 - 22) or custom requirements developed for the evaluation of environmental risk associated with a parcel of real estate.

As a result of the information above, Corps' HTRW staff has the recommendation that no recognized environmental conditions exist on the subject tracts. A clearance memorandum was signed by Corps' HTRW staff on 8 November 2024 and is included in Appendix B. The PAA would not result in ground disturbing activities. Therefore, no significant adverse short or long-term direct or indirect construction-related HTRW impacts would be associated with the PAA.

The NAA would not result in ground disturbing activities. Therefore, no direct or indirect construction-related HTRW impacts would be associated with the NAA.

3.11. Cultural Resources

The Corps is proposing to purchase two (2) land parcels that are currently managed by the Corps for the purpose of maintaining the Waldo Levee. The Waldo Levee is an integral part of the Delaware Lake and Dam Flood Control System. Construction was authorized by the Flood Control Act of 1938 and the dam and levee system was constructed as an element of the larger flood control effort for the ORB. Delaware Dam was constructed as part of a series of water management facilities implemented within the Scioto River Basin. Delaware Dam impounds water within the upper reaches of the Olentangy River, a tributary of the Scioto River. The Waldo Levee specifically protects the village of Waldo (located 9 miles above the dam) during high water events.



Construction of Delaware Lake and Dam was completed in 1951 and in addition to flood protection, the dam provides low-flow control for pollution reduction, water supply for the region, as well as recreation and fish and wildlife management capacity. The Corps and the Ohio State Historic Preservation Office (OSHPO) concurred in 2012 that Delaware Dam and its appurtenant structures are eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) under Criterion A for its contribution to the overall flood protection management system implemented for the ORB.

Consultation with the OSHPO was conducted on 1 May 2024 to ascertain the potential for cultural resources to be included within the parcels to be purchased. A review of the Cultural Resource Data Base was visually examined. No previously identified cultural remains are documented within or adjacent to the parcels. While the proposal to purchase two (2) land parcels include portions of the Waldo Levee, this action would have no effect on historic cultural resources.

Under the NAA, no construction-related actions would be implemented, so no direct or indirect impacts to cultural resources would occur.

3.12. Threatened and Endangered Species

According to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) Information for Planning and Consultation (IPaC) tool, the project area is within the range of the Indiana bat (*Myotis sodalis*), northern long-eared bat (*Myotis septentrionalis*), rayed bean mussel (*Villosa fabalis*), proposed F

There are no trees located on the property, and vegetation consists of lawn-type grasses that are periodically mowed. In addition, there would be no in-water work or ground disturbing activities. Therefore, the Corps has determined the proposed action would have no effect to Federally-listed species. Therefore, no significant adverse short or long-term direct or indirect impacts to threatened and endangered species is expected to occur. No further coordination under Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act is required. Coordination under the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act is ongoing and will be completed prior to issuance of the FONSI.

The NAA would not result in additional ground disturbing activities, tree clearing or fill/work within waters. Therefore, there would be no direct or indirect impacts to Federally-listed species associated with the NAA.

3.13. Air Quality

According to the OEPA, Marion County, Ohio is in attainment for all criteria pollutants. Under the PAA, emissions would only occur during regular O&M activities such as periodic mowing. The PAA is exempt through 40 CFR Part 93.153 from making a conformity determination, since



estimated emissions from mowing would not be expected to exceed de minimis levels or have direct emissions of a criteria pollutant or its precursor. Any impacts would be short-term, localized and would occur during mowing. Therefore, direct and indirect impacts to air quality under the PAA would be minor.

Greenhouse gasses (GHG) such as carbon dioxide (CO2), methane (CH4), and nitrous oxides (NOx) are considered pollutants to air quality. The PAA would generate GHG emissions from O&M throughout its life cycle. The PAA would include regular O&M activities such as periodic mowing. Therefore, direct and indirect GHG emissions from the project would be minor and temporary in nature. In addition, all equipment would comply with Federal vehicle emission standards.

As stated above, Marion County, Ohio is considered an attainment area for all criteria pollutants. Currently, the State of Ohio has a permitting threshold of 75,000 tons or more of carbon dioxide (CO2) equivalent emissions of GHG gases per year for major stationary sources and major modification of sources (Rule 3745-31-34). The USEPA's Mandatory Reporting Rule of GHG (MRR-GHG) applies to direct GHG emitters, fossil fuel suppliers, industrial gas suppliers, and facilities that inject carbon dioxide (CO2) underground for sequestration (containment) or other reasons. In general, the threshold for reporting is 25,000 metric tons or more of CO2 equivalent per year. The PAA would not fall under any of these permitting or reporting requirements.

O&M under the PAA would take approximately five (5) days a year, and it is anticipated that an average working day for the project would be one (1) hour. Equipment that may be required for O&M activities include mowers. Table 1 below provides the total approximate amount of GHG emissions that are expected to result from O&M based on the USEPA Motor Vehicle Emission Simulator (MOVES4) tool. It is anticipated that direct GHG emissions from O&M of the project would be minimal. In addition, indirect emissions would be minimal and do not have enough significance to be quantified.

No direct or indirect impacts to air quality or GHG are anticipated as part of the NAA.

3.14. Noise

Noise associated with the PAA would be limited to related sounds generated during O&M activities such as periodic mowing. The noise associated with mowing would be short in duration and would only occur during daylight hours and on weekdays. Direct and indirect impacts from the noise to local residences would be temporary and minor. No long-term significant adverse impacts are expected with the PAA.

There would be no change in noise and thus no direct or indirect impacts under the NAA.

3.15. Socioeconomics

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, the 2020 population estimate for Marion County, Ohio was 65,359 and does not contain significant minority populations. The 2020 estimates indicate



Marion County, Ohio is 85.9% white and has a median household income of \$56,707 compared with the median household income of \$65,720 for the State of Ohio. Individuals residing in the County below the poverty level is 18% compared to 13.4% statewide. In addition, 21.3% of individuals residing in the County are under the age of 18 compared to 21.8% statewide.

E.O. 13045, as amended, requires each Federal agency "to identify and assess environmental health risks and safety risks that may disproportionately affect children" and "ensure that its policies, programs, activities, and standards address disproportionate risks to children that result from environmental health risks or safety risks." This E.O. was prompted by the recognition that children, still undergoing physiological growth and development, are more sensitive to adverse environmental health and safety risks than adults. The potential for impacts on the health and safety of children is greater where projects are located near residential areas.

No ground disturbing activities would occur as a result of the PAA or NAA. Therefore, no homes or buildings would be negatively impacted by the proposed project. The PAA or NAA meets the directive of E.O. 13045 by avoiding any disproportionately high adverse human health or environmental effects on children.

3.16. Aesthetics

The project would not involve ground disturbing activities. Therefore, there would be no significant adverse short or long-term direct or indirect impacts to aesthetics under the PAA.

There would be no direct or indirect impacts to local aesthetics under the NAA.

3.17. Transportation and Traffic

There would be no changes to transportation or traffic patterns under the NAA or PAA. Therefore, no direct or indirect impacts to transportation and traffic are anticipated to occur from the PAA or NAA.

3.18. Health and Safety

There would be no changes to health or safety conditions under the NAA or PAA. Therefore, the PAA nor NAA would have significant direct or indirect impacts to health and safety.

3.19. Cumulative Effects

The Corps must consider the reasonably foreseeable future/cumulative effects of the proposed project on the environment as stipulated by NEPA. Cumulative effects are the impact on the environment which results from the incremental impact of the action when added to other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions regardless of what agency (Federal or non-

Federal) or person undertakes such other actions. Cumulative impacts can result from individually minor but collectively significant actions taking place over a period of time.

Temporal and geographical limits for this project must be established in order to frame the analysis. These limits can vary by the resources that are affected. The parcel acquisition would have no impacts on the environment. The temporal limits for assessment of this impact would initiate in 1972 with the passage of the Clean Water Act and end 50 years after completion of this project. The geographical extent would be broadened to consider effects beyond the PAA. The geographical extent considered is the Olentangy River Watershed, which is part of the Scioto River Watershed.

The parcel acquisition consists of two (2) tracks of land located within 40 miles of Columbus, Ohio. Columbus, Ohio has grown from a population of 787,033 in 2010 to 905,939 as of 2020. Due to the urban spread and growth of Columbus, Ohio these parcels could potentially be areas of encroachment on Waldo Levee.

The project area is located within the Brandige Run-Olentangy River Watershed (HUC 050600011005) According to the OEPA, the Brandige Run-Olentangy River Watershed is not included in the 303(d) list but is listed as impaired for aquatic life warmwater habitat and water contact recreation. Implementation of the PAA would not result in new discharge of pollutants. Water quality standards and regulations are expected to remain as stringent in the future as today.

Section 3.0 documents the existing environment and potential environmental effects of the PAA and NAA with respect to existing conditions. There would be no effect as a result of the PAA or NAA.

4. STATUS OF ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE

The PAA will be in full compliance with all local, state, and Federal statutes as well as Executive Orders prior to issuance of a FONSI. Compliance is documented below in Table 1.

Table 1- Environmental Compliance Status			
Statute/Executive Order	Full	Partial	N/A
National Environmental Policy Act (considered partial until the FONSI is signed)		Х	
Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act		X	
Endangered Species Act	X		
Clean Water Act	X		
Wild and Scenic Rivers Act	X		
Clean Air Act	X		
National Historic Preservation Act	X		
Archeological Resources Protection Act			N/A

Table 1- Environmental Compliance Status			
Comprehensive, Environmental Response, Compensation and	X		
Liability Act			
Resource Conservation and Recovery Act	X		
Toxic Substances Control Act	X		
Quiet Communities Act	X		
Farmland Protection Act	Х		
Executive Order 11988 Floodplain Management	X		
Executive Order 11990 Protection of Wetlands	Х		
Executive Order 13045 Protection of Children	X		

5. REQUIRED COORDINATION

5.1. Agencies Contacted

Direct coordination with the Corps HTRW Section and NRCS occurred prior to publication of the EA. Coordination with the USFWS, Ohio Department of Natural Resources, OEPA, OSHPO and the Marion County Floodplain Administrator are ongoing and will be completed prior to issuance of the FONSI. Agency correspondence is included in Appendix B.

5.2. Public Review and Comments

The EA and FONSI will made available for public review and comment for a period of 30 days, as required under NEPA. A Notice of Availability will be published in the local newspaper, <u>The Marion Star</u>, advising the public of this document's availability for review and comment. A copy of the EA will also be placed in the Marion Public Library and made available on-line at *https://www.lrd.usace.army.mil/News/Project-Documents-Notices-Public-Review/*. The mailing list for the EA is located in Appendix C

6. CONCLUSION

The Corps is proposing a land acquisition of two (2) separate parcels of land located on what is the current Waldo Levee flood protection project just south of the Tomahawk pump station on the east side of Rt 23. The NAA was considered unacceptable as these parcels should have been purchased by the Corps when the Waldo Levee system was originally built for flood protection and safety in the region. No significant, adverse, short-term or long-term, direct or indirect impacts have been identified as a result of implementation of the proposed project.

7. LIST OF INFORMATION PROVIDERS AND PREPARERS

The following agencies were involved in preparation of the EA.



U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Huntington District Planning Branch 502 Eighth Street Huntington, WV 25701

8. REFERENCES

Council for Environmental Quality 1997 Considering cumulative Effects Under the National Environmental Policy Act.

Federal Emergency Management Agency 2024 Floodplain Maps Website: https://msc.fema.gov/portal/home

Schomer, Paul 2001 A White Paper: Assessment of Noise Annoyance. Schomer and Associates

U.S. Census Bureau 2024 American FactFinder Website: https://www.quickfacts.census.gov

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency 2024 How's My Waterway Waterbody Report website: https://mywaterway.epa.gov

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service 2024 National Wetlands Inventory website: https://www.fws.gov/wetlands/data/mapper.html

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service 2024 Information for Planning and Conservation website: https://www.fws.gov/ipac

U.S. Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service Prime and Other Important Farmlands https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/publications/Legend%20and%20Prime%20Farmland%20-%20Query%20by%20Soil%20Survey%20Area.html

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Green Book https://www3.epa.gov/airquality/greenbook/anayo_oh.html