ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT FOR SECTION 219, WRDA 1992, AS AMENDED, FOR WATER SUPPLY INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENTS FOR THE WEST PLAYFIELD SUBDIVISION IN THE VILLAGE OF CRESTWOOD, COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS.

April 2019

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Chicago District, Planning Branch
231 South LaSalle Street Suite 1500
Chicago, Illinois 60604
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SECTION 1
PURPOSE AND NEED

PURPOSE

Existing water supply infrastructure upgrades are necessary in the West Playfield Subdivision along Central Avenue in the Village of Crestwood, IL. The proposed improvements will include installing approximately 9,000 linear feet of six inch diameter water main with new hydrants, valves and services. The new water main will be located in the right-of-way of the streets as noted in the attached project map. The new water main will tie into an existing water main on Central Avenue.

NEED FOR ACTION

Existing infrastructure is approaching the end of its useful lifespan. Upgrades to this system will prevent service disruptions to the project area.

AUTHORITY

The study was authorized under Section 219 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1992, as amended by Section 504 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1996, Section 502 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1999, Section 108 of the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2001, Section 145 of the Energy and Water Appropriations Act of 2004, and Sections 5075 and 5158 of the Water Resources Development Act of 2007; these amended authorities allow the Army Corps of Engineers to provide planning, design and construction assistance for water-related environmental infrastructure projects.

LOCAL SPONSOR

The project’s non-Federal sponsor is the Village of Crestwood.

SECTION 2
ALTERNATIVES, INCLUDING THE RECOMMENDED PLAN

There are 3 alternatives considered to address this water supply problem in Crestwood, Illinois.

1. **No Action Plan** - Under this alternative, no changes would be made to upgrade the water main system in the West Playfield Subdivision of the Village of Crestwood. The existing system would continue to be degraded and the probability of service disruptions would increase.

2. **Improvements to Water Mains Plan** - Only the water mains will be replaced to improve the water supply infrastructure. Existing water valves and fire hydrants would not be replaced.

3. **Improvements to the Infrastructure System Plan** - Water mains, water valves, and fire hydrants will be replaced as funding permits. This approach allows interconnected infrastructure to be refreshed simultaneously.

RECOMMENDED PLAN

**Improvements to the Infrastructure System Plan** - Improvements to the infrastructure will be made to
improve service and reduce the risk of service disruptions. Improvements include replacing water mains, water valves, and fire hydrants. Doing this work simultaneously will improve efficiency of the work. An overview of this work is included on the map in Appendix 1.

Work is scheduled to begin in 2019 with completion anticipated in less than 12 months.

COMPLIANCE WITH ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION STATUTES, EXECUTIVE ORDERS AND REGULATIONS

The proposed action is in full compliance with appropriate statutes, executive orders and regulations, including the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act, as amended, Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended, Section 10 of Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899, Clean Air Act of 1963, as amended, National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended, Executive Order 12898 (Environmental Justice), Executive Order 11990 (Protection of Wetlands), Executive Order 11988 (Floodplain Management), and the Clean Water Act of 1972, as amended.

SECTION 3
AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT

PROJECT AREA

The project area is within the West Playfield Subdivision in the Village of Crestwood, Cook County, Illinois. The proposed improvements will take place along Central Avenue between approximately between 131st Street and Homestead Drive.

AIR AND WATER QUALITY

Air and water quality in the project area are typical of what would be expected in a densely populated urban area. Air quality is categorized as moderate to good. Most of the impacts to air quality in this area are due to the large number of cars and trucks driven on the extensive road system in this northern Illinois metropolitan area. Ground water quality within the project area does not meet applicable water quality standards because of historical impacts.

AQUATIC COMMUNITIES

There are no aquatic communities present in the planned project location. Tinley Creek is the closest aquatic community but is located west of the project in the Elizabeth A. Conkey Forest North.

TERRESTRIAL COMMUNITIES

Crestwood provides suitable habitat for common “urban” wildlife species, including fox and gray squirrel, opossum, cottontail rabbit, striped skunk, mice, red fox, bats, and eastern moles. Typical resident birds include English sparrow, starling, robin, herring gull, Canada geese, mallard, pigeon, cardinal, chickadee, red winged blackbird, purple martin, grackle, and blue jay.

Vegetation within the Crestwood project area contains mowed grass lawns, shrubs, and a variety of tree species including maple, green ash, mulberry, box elder, honey locust, crabapple, and cottonwood.

The proposed construction zone contains no particularly valuable wildlife habitat.

NATURAL AREAS
The Elizabeth A Conkey Forest North Forest Preserve is located west of the project area. A wide variety of wildlife and plants are located within the preserve.

THREATENED AND ENDANGERED SPECIES

The project area is primarily residential. It is within the range of the federally endangered Indiana Bat (Myotis sodalis), the federally threatened northern long-eared bat (Myotis septentrionalis), rusty patched bumblebee (Bombus affinis), piping plover (Charadrius melodus), rufa red knot (Calidris canutus rufa), the Karner blue butterfly (Lycaenides Melissa samuelis), the threatened Pitcher’s thistle (Cirsium pitcheri), and Mead’s milkweed (Asclepias meadii). However, the project area contains no habitat likely to be used by any of these threatened or endangered species.

ARCHEOLOGICAL AND HISTORIC PROPERTIES

The Village of Crestwood has no properties listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The surrounding area has been disturbed by filling, grading, and utility construction. It contains no intact archaeological material.

LAND USE HISTORY

Crestwood was founded in 1928. The Calumet-Saganashkee Channel which is on the northeast side of the village was excavated between 1911 and 1922.

SOCIAL SETTING

The village is home to approximately 10,950 people according to the 2010 census. Median household income is $45,813 (2010). Median home value is $172,400 (2010).

RECREATION

The Village of Crestwood maintains numerous parks, a fitness center and pool, and a number of youth sports programs.

HAZARDOUS, TOXIC AND RADIOACTIVE WASTE (HTRW) INVESTIGATION

A Phase 1 HTRW investigation has been conducted and has revealed that no known potential environmental issues or recognized environmental conditions exist within the project area.
SECTION 4
ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES

IMPACTS OF NO ACTION PLAN

The “no action” plan would not result in any additional impacts but the water supply system would continue to degrade and the possibility of service disruptions would increase and be detrimental to the local quality of life.

IMPACTS OF THE PROPOSED PLAN

SECTION 122, PUBLIC LAW 91-611

Section 122 of Public Law 91-611 identified 17 potential areas of impact (highlighted in bold) that are required to be considered as part of an impact analysis of proposed projects. The proposed plan would not adversely affect community cohesion, desirable community growth, tax revenues, property values, public services, or desirable regional growth. No farms, people, industry or businesses would be displaced. Impacts of the remaining 17 potential areas follow:

Social Impacts

Project impacts on natural resources, man-made resources, and employment will be short term temporary impacts. Employment could increase slightly during construction, and the region's labor force should be sufficient to provide the necessary workers. There will be no significant adverse effect to public facilities. During construction, increased traffic congestion would be localized and intermittent. The construction period is anticipated to be less than 12 months. Minor delays may occur to public bus transportation. Any aesthetic degradation would be temporary. The project would have no significant adverse impact on human health or welfare or to municipal or private water supplies. Increased conveyance to the systems will also significantly reduce sewage backups and basement flooding in residential areas.

Air Quality Impacts

The proposed action would cause temporary increases in exhaust emissions from machinery and equipment during construction. These impacts would be minimal because of emission and dust controls required by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and local restrictions. The Corps of Engineers specifications (CW-04130 Construction Specifications for Environmental Protection, July 1978) are included in construction contracts to provide protection for the local environment. Regarding the Clean Air Act, construction and operation of the project would not result in significant or long-term adverse impacts to air quality. The project would involve only a de minimis discharge of airborne pollutants, and is therefore in compliance with the Clean Air Act.

Noise Impacts

The proposed action will cause temporary increases in noise from machinery and equipment during construction. These impacts will be temporary and will not result in significant or long-term adverse impacts.

Water Quality Impacts
The project will have a beneficial long-term impact on the quality of water in the community. Replacing aging water supply infrastructure will reduce the chances from issues caused by aging mains and valves.

Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899 - does not apply since there is no construction or placement of fill within navigable waters. Section 401 water quality certification - The project will not involve any new discharge to the waters of the United States, therefore Section 401 water quality certification is not required and no Section 404(b)(1) evaluation has not been prepared pursuant to the Clean Water Act. The project would comply will all applicable water quality standards.

EXECUTIVE ORDER 11988

Executive Order 11988 (Floodplain Management) - The project will not promote development in the floodplain.

LAKE MICHIGAN COASTAL PROGRAM

This project is not located within the boundaries of the Lake Michigan Coastal Program (LMCP).

ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

Executive Order 12898 (Environmental Justice) - An investigation of the Environmental Protection Agency website (December 26, 2018) indicates that although minority and low-income populations are near the project area, this project will not have an adverse effect on any low-income populations or minority populations in the project area.

AQUATIC IMPACTS

Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act - The project will not have a negative impact on aquatic wildlife or habitat. The U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service has been sent a letter regarding this project.

EXECUTIVE ORDER 11990

Executive Order 11990 (Protection of Wetlands) - The project will have no impact on wetlands.

TERRESTRIAL IMPACTS

The project will not have an adverse impact on any valuable wildlife or habitat.

THREATENED AND ENDANGERED SPECIES IMPACTS

Illinois Endangered Species -The project would not affect state-listed threatened or endangered species, or habitat likely to be used by such species. The Illinois Department of Natural Resources has been sent a letter regarding this project.
Endangered Species Act of 1973 -The project will not affect Federal-listed, threatened, or endangered species, or habitat likely to be used by such species. The U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service has been sent a letter regarding this project.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORIC IMPACTS


HAZARDOUS, TOXIC AND RADIOACTIVE WASTE (HTRW) INVESTIGATION

A Phase I HTRW investigation has been conducted and has revealed that no known potential environmental issues or recognized environmental conditions exist within the project area.

CUMULATIVE EFFECTS

ASSESSMENT OF CUMULATIVE EFFECTS

Consideration of cumulative effects requires a broader perspective than examining just the direct and indirect effects of a proposed action. It requires that reasonably foreseeable future impacts be assessed in the context of the past and present effects to important resources. Often it requires consideration of a larger geographic area than just the immediate “project” area. One of the most important aspects of cumulative effects assessment is that it requires consideration of how actions by others (including those actions completely unrelated to the proposed action) have and will affect the same resources. When assessing cumulative effects, the key determinate of importance or significance is whether the incremental effects of the proposed action will alter the sustainability of resources when added to other present and reasonably foreseeable future actions.

Cumulative environmental effects for the proposed infrastructure project were assessed in accordance with guidance provided by the President’s Council on Environmental Quality (USEPA, EPA 315-R-99-002, May 1999). This guidance provides an eleven-step process for identifying and evaluating cumulative effects in NEPA analysis.

The overall cumulative impact of the project is considered to be beneficial environmentally, socially, and economically.

Cumulative Effects Scoping

The cumulative effects issues and assessment goals are established in this environmental assessment, the spatial and temporal boundaries are determined, and reasonably foreseeable future actions are identified. Cumulative effects are assessed to determine if the sustainability of any of the resources are adversely affected with the goal of determining the incremental impact to key resources that would occur should the proposal be permitted. The spatial boundary for the assessment encompasses the West Playfield Subdivision and the associated facilities and surrounding streets served by the infrastructures to be improved. The temporal boundaries are:

1. Past-1834, when settlement and development of the area began.
2. Present-2019, when the selection plan was being developed.
3. Future-2069, the year used for determining project life end

Projecting reasonably foreseeable future actions is difficult at best. Clearly, the proposed action is reasonably foreseeable, however, the actions by others that may affect the same resources are not as clear. Projections of those actions must rely on judgment as to what are reasonable based on existing trends and where available, projections from qualified sources. Reasonably foreseeable does not include unfounded or speculative projections. In this case, reasonably foreseeable future actions include:

1. Increased growth in water consumption.
2. Continued application of environmental requirements such as the Clean Water Act.

Cumulative Effects on geology and soils

The topography and soils of the area has been affected by filling, excavations, construction, and the burial of utilities. The proposed project would not alter soil chemistry.

Cumulative Effects on Water Quality and Aquatic Communities

The project would have no adverse effects on water quality or aquatic communities.

Cumulative Effect of Terrestrial Resources

Relatively small modifications for this project will have no long-term adverse or cumulative effects to terrestrial resources, plants or animals.

Cumulative Effects on Air Quality

The project will have no long term cumulative effect on Air Quality. A temporary short term impact to air quality will result from construction activity.

Cumulative Effects on Land Use

The project will have no cumulative effect on land use.

Cumulative Effects on Aesthetic Values

The project will have no cumulative adverse effects on the visual setting of the project area.

Cumulative effects on Public Facilities

The project will have no long-term adverse effects on public facilities.

Cumulative effects on Cultural Resources
This project will have no adverse effects on cultural resources.

Cumulative Effects Summary

Along with direct and indirect effects, cumulative effects of the proposed project were assessed following the guidance provided by the Presidents’ Council on Environmental Quality (Table 1). There have been numerous effects to resources from past and present actions, and reasonably foreseeable future actions can also be expected to produce both beneficial and adverse effects. The effects of the proposed project are relatively minor.

Table 1 – Environmental Impact Summary

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SECTION 5
COORDINATION

During preparation of this environmental assessment numerous Federal and state agencies and others were consulted including the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), U. S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA), Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR), Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (ILEPA), and the Illinois State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO). Copies of the respondents’ letters are attached in the Correspondence Section of this assessment.

The following agencies, groups, and individuals received a copy of this environmental assessment:
Kickapoo Tribe of Oklahoma  
P.O. Box 70  
McCloud, OK 74851

Miami Nation in Indiana  
P.O. Box 41  
Peru, IN 46970

Prairie Band Potawatomi Tribal Council  
16281 Q. Road  
Mayetta, KS 66509

Nottawaseppi Huron Potawatomi Tribal Office  
2224 One-and-a-half Mile Road  
Fulton, MI 49052

Pokagon Band of Potawatomi Indians  
P.O. Box 180  
Dowagiac, MI 49047  
Mr. David Joe Barrett  
Citizen Potawatomi Executive Council  
1901 S. Gordon Cooper Drive  
Shawnee, OK 74801

Forest County Potawatomi Executive Council  
P.O. Box 340  
Crandon, WI 54520  
Mr. Bobb A. Beauchamp  
Federal Aviation Administration  
Chicago Airports District Office, CHI-ADO-600  
2300 E. Devon Avenue  
Des Plaines, IL 60018

Mr. Scott Beckerman  
U.S. Department of Agriculture  
APHIS Wildlife Services  
3430 Constitution Drive, Suite 121  
Springfield, IL 62711

Trustee Anthony J. Benigno  
13840 S. Cicero  
Crestwood, IL 60418

Mr. Steve Byers  
Illinois Nature Preserves Commission  
Lost Valley Nature Center  
7210 Keystone Road  
Richmond, IL 60071

Mr. James Casey  
Illinois Department of Natural Resources  
Lake Michigan Management Section  
160 N. LaSalle Street, Suite S-700  
Chicago, IL 60601

Ms. Louise Clemency  
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service  
Chicago Ecological Services Office  
230 South Dearborn Street, Suite 2938  
Chicago, IL 60604

Senator Tammy Duckworth  
U.S. Senate  
524 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Senator Dick Durbin  
U.S. Senate  
711 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Senator Tammy Duckworth  
U.S. Senate  
524 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Trustee Patricia Flynn  
13840 S. Cicero  
Crestwood, IL 60418

Mr. Estavio Elizondo  
Kickapoo Tribe of Texas  
2212 Rosita Valley Road  
Eagle Pass, TX 78852

Ms. Diane Hunter  
Miami Tribe of Oklahoma  
P.O. Box 1326  
Miami, OK 74355
Mr. Loren Wobig  
Illinois Department of Natural Resources  
Office of Water Resources  
1 Natural Resources Way  
Springfield, IL 62702
CORRESPONDENCE
Hi Jason,

On behalf of the Village of Crestwood, I am writing to inform you that the Village has no concerns about potential impacts from the proposed project to threatened and endangered species, wetlands, flood plains, archaeological and cultural sites and other sensitive environmental habitats.

If you have any questions or require any additional information, please feel free to call or email me.

Thank you

Akwasi Nketia, PE / Sr. Project Engineer

o / 708.326.4000  d / 708.593.5114  c / 815.997.0412

FARNSWORTH GROUP
18311 North Creek Drive, Suite F / Tinley Park, IL 60477

Celebrating 3 Years as A Great Place to Work®!
Dear Mr. Zylka,

Pursuant to consultation under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (1966 as amended) the Forest County Potawatomi Community (FCPC), a Federally Recognized Native American Tribe, reserves the right to comment on Federal undertakings, as defined under the act.

This project falls within the current geographic area of interest the Forest County Potawatomi Community. Based on the evidence presented it appears that the new waterlines and hydrants are replacing existing lines. If this is the case then there is not likely to be any impact to undisturbed soils. Based on this premise the Tribal Historic Preservation Office, on behalf of the Tribe, is pleased to offer a finding of no historic properties affected, with three conditions. First, if the lines are reroutes not falling within existing trenches then the Tribe asks for more detailed maps to review. Second, should the SHPO finding differ the Tribe reserves the right to reconsider this opinion based on new information. Finally, in the event that human remains or archaeological materials are exposed as a result of project activities then work must halt and the Tribe must be included in any further discussion regarding treatment and disposition of the find prior to its removal.

Your interest in protecting cultural and historic properties is appreciated. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact me at phone number or email listed below.

Respectfully,

Michael LaRonge
Tribal Historic Preservation Officer
Natural Resources Department

Forest County Potawatomi Community

5320 Wensaut Lane

P.O. Box 340

Crandon, Wisconsin 54520

Phone: 715-478-7354

Fax: 715-478-7225

Email: Michael.LaRonge@FCPotawatomi-nsn.gov
December 21, 2018

Mr. Jason Zylka
USACE
231 S. LaSalle Street, Ste. 1500
Chicago, IL 60604

RE: Village of Crestwood Main Extension Project

Dear Mr. Fox,

The Agency has no objections to the project; however, a permit will be required from the Division of Public Water supplies for the water main improvements.

In addition, if one or more acres are disturbed during construction, a construction site activity stormwater NPDES permit will be required from the Division of Water Pollution Control as well.

Please be advised that any solid or hazardous waste must be properly disposed of or recycled.

Cordially,

[Signature]

Alec Messina
Director
Cook County
Crestwood
Area bounded by 131st St., 137th St., S. Central Ave., E. Playfield Dr.
FARNSWORTH-0160153.00, IEPA LOAN, COBC
Sanitary sewer improvements/sewer main replacement - Playfield Subdivision Phase 2

December 21, 2018

Jason Zylka
US Army Corps of Engineers-Chicago District
231 South LaSalle Street, Suite 1500
Chicago, IL  60604

Dear Mr. Zylka:

We have reviewed the documentation submitted for the referenced project(s) in accordance with 36 CFR Part 800.4. Based upon the information provided, no historic properties are affected. We, therefore, have no objection to the undertaking proceeding as planned.

Please retain this letter in your files as evidence of compliance with section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended. This clearance remains in effect for two (2) years from date of issuance. It does not pertain to any discovery during construction, nor is it a clearance for purposes of the Illinois Human Skeletal Remains Protection Act (20 ILCS 3440).

If you are an applicant, please submit a copy of this letter to the state or federal agency from which you obtain any permit, license, grant, or other assistance. If further assistance is needed contact Jeff Kruchten, Chief Archaeologist at 217/785-1279 or Jeffery.kruchten@illinois.gov.

Sincerely,

Robert F. Appleman
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer
January 14, 2019

Mr. Jason Zylka
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
231 South LaSalle Street, Suite 1500
Chicago, IL 60604

Re: Water Main Improvement, Village of Crestwood, Illinois – Comments of the Miami Tribe of Oklahoma

Dear Mr. Zylka:

Aya, kikwehsitoole – I show you respect. My name is Diane Hunter, and I am the Tribal Historic Preservation Officer for the Federally Recognized Miami Tribe of Oklahoma. In this capacity, I am the Miami Tribe’s point of contact for all Section 106 issues.

The Miami Tribe offers no objection to the above-mentioned project at this time, as we are not currently aware of existing documentation directly linking a specific Miami cultural or historic site to the project site. However, as this site is within the aboriginal homelands of the Miami Tribe, if any human remains or Native American cultural items falling under the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) or archaeological evidence is discovered during any phase of this project, the Miami Tribe requests immediate consultation with the entity of jurisdiction for the location of discovery. In such a case, please contact me at 918-541-8966 or by email at dhunter@miamination.com to initiate consultation.

The Miami Tribe accepts the invitation to serve as a consulting party to the proposed project. In my capacity as Tribal Historic Preservation Officer I am the point of contact for consultation.

Respectfully,

Diane Hunter
Tribal Historic Preservation Officer
APPENDIX 1
Project Map