



State of Ohio Environmental Protection Agency

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June 19, 2009

**Notice of Issuance of a Limited Environmental Review and Finding of No Significant Impact to All Interested Citizens, Organizations, and Government Agencies**

**Haley's Ditch Restoration  
WPCLF #CS396984-01**

The purpose of this notice is to advise the public that Ohio EPA has reviewed the referenced project and finds neither an Environmental Assessment (EA) nor a Supplemental Study (SS) is required to implement the project as discussed in the attached Limited Environmental Review (LER). Therefore, a Finding of No Significant Impact is being issued for this project.

The Water Pollution Control Loan Fund program requires the inclusion of environmental factors in the decision-making process for project approval. Ohio EPA has done this by incorporating a detailed analysis of the environmental effects of the proposed action in its review and approval process. Environmental information was developed as part of the facilities plan, as well as through the facilities plan review process. A subsequent review by this Agency has found that the proposed action does not require the preparation of either an EA or an SS.

Our environmental review concluded that because the proposed project is limited in scope and meets all applicable criteria, a Limited Environmental Review is warranted. Specifically, the proposed storm sewer decontamination, contaminated soil and sediment removal, and natural stream channel design construction is a nonpoint source pollution control project consisting of non-structural practices that qualifies for a LER and meets the following additional criteria for a LER:

The proposed project:

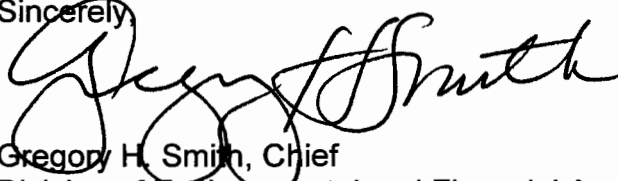
- has no significant environmental effect;
- does not require extensive specific impact mitigation;
- has no effect on high value environmental resources;
- is cost effective;
- is not a controversial action;
- does not create a new, or relocate an existing discharge to surface or ground waters;
- will not result in substantial increases in the volume of discharge or the 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.

Ted Strickland, Governor  
Lee Fisher, Lieutenant Governor  
Chris Korleski, Director

The LER presents additional information on the proposed project, costs, and basis for our decision. Further information can be obtained by calling or writing the contact person named at the end of the LER.

Upon issuance of this determination, loan award may proceed without being subject to further environmental review or public comment, unless information is provided which determines that environmental conditions on the proposed project have changed significantly.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gregory H. Smith". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Gregory" and last name "Smith" clearly legible.

Gregory H. Smith, Chief  
Division of Environmental and Financial Assistance

GHS/DH

c: Keith Riley, OEPA-NEDO-DSW  
Sue Farmer, OWDA  
File (2)

## LIMITED ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

### A. Project Identification

Project Name: Haley's Ditch Restoration Project

WPCLF# CS396984-01

Address: Christopher Burnham, President  
Summit County Port Authority  
One Cascade Plaza, 18<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Akron, OH 44308

### B. History and Existing Conditions

The historic Airdock in south Akron, built in 1929 by the then- Goodyear-Zeppelin Corporation for building dirigibles and blimps, was coated with a fire retardant substance that contained polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), including the compound known as Aroclor 1268. As the facility aged, roofing and siding disintegrated and released dust to the ground where rainwater carried contaminated particles into storm drains under the Airdock and Akron Fulton Airport and, ultimately, into Haley's Ditch. Haley's Ditch runs through industrial and municipal properties and is tributary to Adams Run, which is a direct tributary of the Little Cuyahoga River.

The Summit County Port Authority assumed ownership of the Airdock in 2006 and leases the building to Lockheed Martin Corporation.

Detection of PCBs in 2003 led Lockheed Martin to investigate the extent of the contamination and to remove PCBs from the Airdock and the surrounding pavement, soils, and storm drain system. That cleanup has been completed by Lockheed Martin. The risk of future contamination has been reduced by the installation of a rubber membrane over the roof of the Airdock, replacement of siding and rain gutters, and installation of filters over storm drain openings.

Lockheed Martin received a "No Further Action" letter for the cleanup from the Ohio EPA Voluntary Action Plan that allows voluntary environmental remediation to established standards in exchange for a covenant not to sue for further cleanup from Ohio EPA.

Based on studies of soil and sediment contamination in approximately 1,800 feet of Haley's Ditch immediately outside the airport property (between Triplett Boulevard and Archwood Avenue), Lockheed Martin submitted to U.S. EPA a cleanup plan to remove PCB-contaminated soil and sediment to a concentration below the threshold of safety for human health and the environment. Sediment samples from north of Archwood Avenue show concentrations of PCBs below the safety standard.

The Summit County Port Authority requested \$8,700,000 from the federal American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 fund package (ARRA; "Stimulus") for this project to eliminate a threat to human and aquatic health, which will be managed by Lockheed Martin. Ohio EPA determined that the project is eligible for \$1,819,990 from the ARRA fund package and \$6,880,010 from the Ohio Water Pollution Control Loan Fund (WPCLF) qualifying as a "Green Infrastructure Project": a non-structural method of controlling water pollution (removing PCB-contaminated stream sediment and adjacent PCB-contaminated soil), particularly from sources related to stormwater or nonpoint source runoff (PCBs arrived from offsite in storm water) and includes stream corridor restoration actions (the stream and stream corridor will be reconstructed based on "natural stream channel design" standards).

### C. Project Description

Lockheed Martin proposes removing PCB-contaminated sediment from the 175 linear feet of storm sewer immediately upstream of Haley's Ditch; removing contaminated sediment in the Haley's Ditch stream channel between Triplett Boulevard and Archwood Avenue; and removing adjacent contaminated soil (Figure 1). Sediment and soil with PCB concentrations greater than the U.S. EPA "action level" of 1.0 mg / kg will be removed and disposed at a regulated hazardous waste landfill. The major restoration excavation and remediation grading related to the stream include:

- removal of all soft sediments from the streambed
- collection of verification samples from soil remaining after streambed sediments are removed and continue to excavate until results are less than 1 mg/kg PCB
- creation of a sub-grade for the stream channel and potentially wetted areas by relocating soils with less than 1 mg/kg PCB within the project area, or importing soils with less than 1 mg/kg total PCB, as needed
- creation of a final grade in the stream channel with a one-foot thick top layer of sand, gravel, stone and other appropriate materials for erosion control having a total PCB concentration of 0.5 mg/kg or less
- creation of a final grade in potentially wetted areas including the flood plain areas and wetlands with a one-foot thick top layer of soil or other materials as appropriate having a total PCB concentration of 0.5 mg/kg or less.

Lockheed Martin has received a Nationwide Permit 38 from the Army Corps of Engineers authorizing proposed activities in waters of the United States (streams and wetlands) to contain, stabilize, or remove hazardous or toxic waste ordered or sponsored by a government agency with established legal or regulatory authority (in this case, the removal of soil and sediment contaminated with PCBs as regulated by U.S. EPA).

Restoration of the excavated areas after the cleanup is completed will be part of stream restoration based on natural stream channel design to create a sinuous channel with alternating riffles and pools and floodplain with restored wetlands to replace the straightened ditch. The restoration design will mitigate both the historical impact of

channelization and the disturbance required for contamination removal and is based on studies of similar streams in the area. The new streambed will be lined with a heterogeneous mix of sand, gravel, and cobble from a local sand and gravel quarry that mimics the glacial fill streambed geology natural to the area. Re-creation of the floodway corridor allows space for a 0.8 acre wetland. The proposed design and planting of selected native wetland and riparian (streamside) species will further improve stream and terrestrial habitat quality.

Lockheed Martin has access agreements with the property owners to conduct the sediment and soil removals and stream restoration and is coordinating an effort through the not-for-profit Western Reserve Land Conservancy and the City of Akron, as one of the owners, to consolidate the land through donations or easements for eventual management as part of the integrated Summit County Trail and Greenway Plan. A Conservation Easement protecting the public's investment in the stream restoration will be applied to the property.

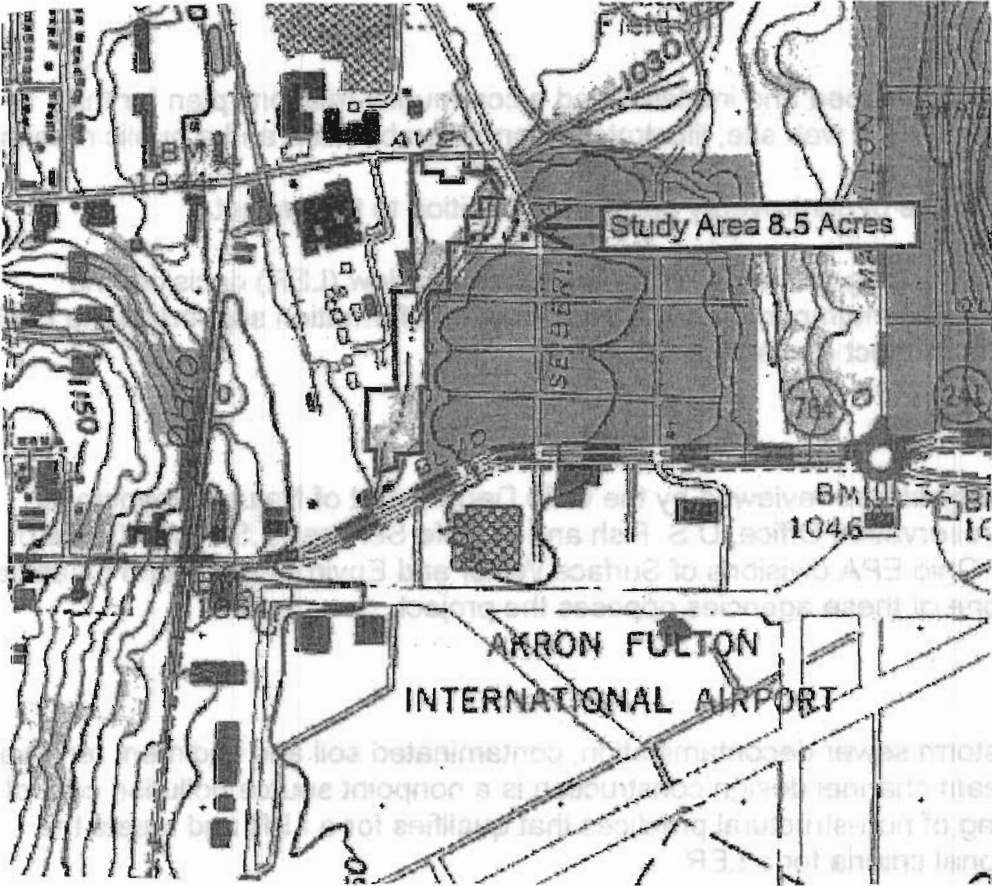


Figure 1 – Project Location

#### D. Estimated Project Costs

The Summit County Port Authority expects to borrow approximately \$8,700,000 from the WPCLF, \$6,888,010 at the “short-term construction” interest rate (3.2%), and \$1,819,990 as ARRA funds awarded as “principal forgiveness” to reduce the amount of the loan.

Lockheed Martin will reimburse the Port Authority for the loan repayments.

During the 2-year loan period, the Port Authority will save approximately \$198,000 by using WPCLF dollars at this rate, compared to the market rate of 5.45%.

#### E. Project Schedule

Assuming a June loan award, storm sewer decontamination will begin in July, with soil and sediment removal immediately following and construction of the natural stream channel and revegetation completed before December 2009.

#### F. Public Notification

Lockheed Martin developed and implemented a community relations plan for this project, which includes a web site, illustrated information booklet, and a public meeting.

Ohio EPA is unaware of controversy about or opposition to the project.

The Ohio EPA is sending this Limited Environmental Review (LER) decision and Finding of No Significant Impact to interested parties. Information supporting the LER is available from the project contact named below.

#### G. Planning Information

The proposed project was reviewed by the Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Ohio Historic Preservation Office, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and Ohio EPA divisions of Surface Water and Environmental and Financial Assistance. None of these agencies opposes the project.

#### H. Conclusion

The proposed storm sewer decontamination, contaminated soil and sediment removal, and natural stream channel design construction is a nonpoint source pollution control project consisting of non-structural practices that qualifies for a LER and meets the following additional criteria for a LER:

*It has no significant environmental effect, has no effect on high value environmental resources, and requires no extensive specific impact mitigation – The project will remove a large volume of contaminated soil and sediment and re-establish a natural*

stream channel with adjacent wetlands and floodplain. No important species or habitats occur on the project site. The project will eliminate a potential human health risk by removing soils and sediments contaminated with carcinogenic PCB and will restore natural hydrology.

*It is cost effective and is not controversial* – This publicly financed project managed by a private corporation has no effect on Akron water or sewer bills. The restored project site will be part of a proposed county trail and greenway system.

*It does not create a new, or relocate an existing, discharge to surface or ground waters and will not result in substantial increases in the volume of discharge or the loading of pollutants from an existing source or from new facilities to receiving waters* – The proposed removal of contaminated soil and sediment will eliminate a source of water pollution; the proposed stream restoration and floodplain and wetland creation will positively affect water quality.

*It will not provide capacity to serve a population substantially greater than the existing population* – (This is applicable to traditional public infrastructure projects rather than to the proposed nonpoint source pollution control project.)

The planning activities for the project have identified no potentially significant adverse impacts. The project is expected to have no significant short-term or long-term adverse impacts on the quality of the human environment or on sensitive resources (floodplains, wetlands, prime or unique agricultural lands, aquifer recharge zones, archaeologically or historically significant sites, or threatened or endangered species).

The project will eliminate contaminated soils and sediments that are a potential human health threat and restore a channelized ditch to a natural stream channel for improved aquatic health.

I. For further information, please contact:

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dan.halterman@epa.state.oh.us