



John R. Kasich, Governor  
Mary Taylor, Lt. Governor  
Craig W. Butler, Director

**November 10, 2015**

**FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT  
TO ALL INTERESTED CITIZENS, ORGANIZATIONS,  
AND GOVERNMENT AGENCIES**

**VALLEY VIEW FOUNDATION  
BATAVIA LOW-HEAD DAM REMOVAL PROJECT  
WR391510-0002**

The purpose of this notice is to seek public input and comments on Ohio EPA's preliminary decision that a Supplemental Environmental Study is not required to implement the recommendations discussed in the attached Environmental Assessment of a general plan submitted by the entity mentioned above.

**How were environmental issues considered?**

The Water Pollution Control Loan Fund program requires the inclusion of environmental factors in the decision-making process. Ohio EPA has done this by incorporating a detailed analysis of the environmental effects of the proposed alternatives in its review and approval process. Environmental information was developed as part of the general plan, as well as through the general plan review process and during site inspections. The Agency's preliminary Environmental Assessment found that the project does not require the preparation of a Supplemental Environmental Study.

**Why is a Supplemental Environmental Study not required?**

Our environmental review concluded that significant environmental impacts will not result from the action. Any adverse impacts have either been eliminated by changes in the general plan or have been reduced by the implementation of the mitigative measures discussed in the attached Assessment.

**How do I get more information?**

A map depicting the location of the project is included as part of the Environmental Assessment. The Environmental Assessment presents additional information on the project, alternatives that were considered, impacts of the action and the basis for our decision. Further information can be obtained by calling or writing the contact person listed in the back of the Environmental Assessment.

**How do I submit comments?**

Any comments supporting or disagreeing with this preliminary decision should be submitted to me at the letterhead address. We will take no action on this general plan for 30 calendar days from the date of this notice in order to receive and consider any comments.

**What happens next?**

In the absence of substantive comments during this period, our preliminary decision will become final. The entity will then be eligible to receive loan assistance from this agency.

Please bring any information that you feel should be considered to our attention. We appreciate your interest in the environmental review process.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in purple ink that reads "Jerry Rouch". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Jerry Rouch, Assistant Chief  
Division of Environmental & Financial Assistance

Attachment

## ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

### A. Project Identification

Name: Village of Batavia Low-Head Dam Removal Project

Address: Andy Dickerson  
Vice President, Valley View Foundation  
5388 South Milford Road  
Milford, OH 45150-4436

WPCLF #: WR391510-0002

### B. Project Summary

Metropolitan Sewer District of Greater Cincinnati (MSD) is proposing to sponsor a project to remove the Batavia Low-Head Dam (Batavia Dam) (see Figure 1) on the East Fork Little Miami River in Batavia. This action will remove a barrier for aquatic organisms, improve aquatic habitat conditions, and reduce the amount of contaminated sediment in the currently impounded section of the river. As a result, the recreational uses of the river will change and new opportunities will be made available to the public. Removal of the dam is identified as a strategic action in the Middle East Fork Watershed Action Plan to restore the East Fork to attainment of its exceptional warmwater habitat aquatic life use designation, as well as to help address the diminished biological integrity of the East Fork Little Miami River in the 1,150 linear foot (LF) impounded section, when compared to the free-flowing sections of that river. The Valley View Foundation (VVF), the Village of Batavia, and Clermont Soil and Water Conservation District, along with its engineering and biological science consulting firms, will administer this proposed project. The estimated cost of the proposed dam removal project and related in-stream and river bank restoration activities is \$763,000, which will be funded by Ohio EPA's Water Resource Restoration Sponsor Program (WRRSP).

MSD has requested \$4.5 million from the Ohio Water Pollution Control Loan Fund (WPCLF) to finance its proposed Eastern and Delta Sewer Separation Phase 3 project. The WPCLF is a loan program operated by the Ohio EPA that provides below-market interest rate loans for improvements to publicly-owned wastewater treatment works (POTW). The WRRSP is a program within the WPCLF that allows Ohio EPA to advance a portion of the interest it would otherwise receive on loans to parties known as Implementers for the restoration or preservation of high quality aquatic resources such as wetlands, streams, etc. Borrowers who participate in the WRRSP (known as Sponsors) receive an interest rate discount of up to 0.1 percent. In the case of the Batavia Dam removal, MSD is the Sponsor and VVF is the Implementer with assistance from the Clermont Soil and Water Conservation District and the Village of Batavia.

### C. Existing Conditions in the Batavia/East Fork Little Miami River Project Area

The proposed WRRSP project is located within the watershed designated as Hydrologic Unit Code number 05090202-120-040 (Middle East Fork Watershed) and is located within the Village of Batavia in Clermont County. Middle East Fork Watershed begins at the outfall of Harsha Lake and is dominated by residential and commercial land use, with some non-irrigated crop production. The beginning flow of the East Fork River is regulated by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers at Harsha Dam at a minimum of 30 cubic feet per second (cfs). The Batavia Dam is located just downstream of river mile (RM) 14 in the Village of Batavia. The East Fork Little Miami River watershed is primarily located in Clermont and Brown counties. Portions are also located in Clinton, Highland, Warren and Hamilton counties. The predominant land uses are cultivated crops, and forested land, with 11.1% of land being developed. The East Fork Little Miami River begins at the outfall of the dam at Harsha Lake and flows into the Little Miami River at Milford in Clermont County. The dam, which is approximately 6 feet tall by 225 feet long, was built near the Main Street Bridge in the 1940s to provide the village with a water supply. The area surrounding the dam is a mixture of industrial and residential structures. Since 1982, EPA crews completed 8 habitat surveys on the East Fork main stem between river miles 9.1 and 18.3. In general, QHEI<sup>1</sup> scores were very good in the main stem East Fork. Scores from the most recent survey in 1998 were higher than scores from surveys in 1993 and 1982. More recent habitat assessments conducted by the Clermont County Office of Environmental Quality (2011) at the Batavia Dam site revealed impairment in the upstream impoundment and excellent conditions downstream of the dam. These findings support the removal of the low-head dam to improve habitat conditions for the East Fork main stem in the Middle East Fork Watershed.

Examples of water quality impairment associated with nutrient enrichment in dam pools include eutrophication, diurnal dissolved oxygen sags, and fish anomalies. Ohio EPA has concluded that habitat (dam removal) improvements are needed to bring about the restoration of water quality at Batavia. Not only will removing the Batavia dam improve habitat; but, the project will also eliminate the adverse effects of nutrient enrichment noted above that generally are associated with dam pools.

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<sup>1</sup> The qualitative habitat evaluation index (QHEI) gives scientists a quantitative assessment of physical characteristics of a sampled stream. QHEI represents a measure of instream geography. By combining evaluations of QHEI and other evaluations, researchers can gain a well-rounded perspective of both the physical and biological conditions of a particular stream site. This comprehensive assessment is critical for evaluating disturbance and land use practices.

#### D. Project Planning

As noted in the previous section, Ohio EPA has completed numerous studies and reports of the East Fork Little Miami River during the past four decades, including surveys of fish and macroinvertebrates using the QHEI, an analysis of the sediments behind the Batavia Dam, and water chemistry studies. Utilizing the information in these earlier reports, VVF and its consultants prepared a project plan in 2014 that establishes the current condition of the river at Batavia and identifies the steps needed to bring about full attainment of water quality in and around RM 14. Specific information from that planning effort is provided below.

#### E. Discussion of Feasible Alternatives

In the project plan developed by VVF and its consultants, five feasible alternatives were compared. These alternatives are summarized below and, aside from Alternative 1, generally share the objective of restoring the structural (e.g., depth and velocity) and functional (e.g., sediment transport and nutrient cycling) elements of the East Fork Little Miami River ecosystem that favor well-balanced aquatic communities.

##### Alternative 1 – No Action

This alternative retains current conditions within the East Fork Little Miami River as they are. As noted in the project plan, the no-action alternative was eliminated from further consideration as it would not result in the needed habitat improvements. Not removing the dam at Batavia would continue the habitat degradation and water quality impairments associated with dams and the impoundments behind them. Furthermore, it would not result in compliance with ambient water quality standards, produce a well-balanced exceptional warmwater aquatic community, or implement the strategic actions of the Middle East Fork Watershed Action.

In addition, the continued degradation of the Batavia Dam would eventually lead to failure, potentially jeopardizing human life, damaging infrastructure downstream, and substantially degrading aquatic communities downstream of the dam.

##### Alternative 2 – Modification to the Existing Dam

A second alternative to a full dam removal is a modification to the existing structure to allow for fish passage with no in-stream restoration work. This method would construct notches in the dam to connect the upstream and downstream river segments. Again, while this approach would improve migration for fish and other species, the intact structure would continue to create an impoundment, impeding the natural flow regime of the river and posing problems

with sedimentation and habitat degradation. This alternative would leave the majority of the dam intact and, with continued degradation of the Batavia Dam, would eventually lead to failure, potentially jeopardizing human life, damaging infrastructure downstream, and substantially degrading aquatic communities upstream of the dam. The preliminary estimated cost for this approach is \$276,000.

#### Alternative 3 – Partial Dam Removal with No In-Stream Restoration

A third alternative to a full dam removal is a partial removal of the structure with no in-stream restoration. A partial removal would open the segment of river to fish passage by removing a section of the dam and leaving much of the structure intact. While a partial removal could improve fish passage, the remaining portion of the structure would impede a natural flow regime and maintain a semi-impounded river creating problems with sedimentation and habitat degradation. This alternative would leave sections of the dam intact and, with continued degradation of the Batavia Dam, would eventually pose the same failure-related risks as leaving the entire structure intact. The preliminary estimated cost for this approach is \$470,000.

#### Alternative 4 – Partial Dam Removal with In-Stream Restoration

A fourth alternative to full dam removal is partial removal of the structure with in-stream restoration. Most of the dam would be removed leaving a small section on the south bank of the river to help stabilize the bank adjacent to an existing apartment building, as requested by its owner. This method also includes in-stream restoration, incorporating elements of Natural Channel Design<sup>2</sup>. The remaining portion of the dam will not extend into the stream channel, and the majority dam removal will result in the eventual restoration of habitat in this section of river. Removal of the majority of the dam will enhance the migration of fish and other aquatic organisms, improving the overall biodiversity in the Middle East Fork. It will also remove the risks associated with potential failure of remaining dam structure. The estimated cost for this approach is \$763,000.

#### Alternative 5 – Full Dam Removal with In-Stream Restoration

The preferred alternative to restoring this segment of the East Fork back to full attainment of its exceptional warmwater habitat is to fully remove the Batavia Dam. This preferred approach also includes in-stream restoration, incorporating elements of Natural Channel Design. The dam removal will result in the eventual restoration of habitat in this section of river. Removal of the dam will enhance

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<sup>2</sup> Natural channel design is a method of restoring a stream by engineering changes to mimic natural conditions. This might include re-establishing meanders, planting trees in the riparian corridor, replacing woody debris in the stream for habitat, and re-connecting the channel to the floodplain.

the migration of fish and other aquatic organisms, improving the overall biodiversity in the Middle East Fork and eliminate the risks of leaving the dam structure intact. The estimated cost for this approach is \$783,000.

F. Selected Alternative

The VVF's selected alternative for this proposed project will entail removal of the majority of a low-head dam on the East Fork Little Miami River near River Mile 14, and in-stream and stream bank restoration using Natural Channel Design. This alternative will positively affect water quality conditions over about 1.9 river miles (1.4 miles upstream and 0.5 miles downstream of the dam), and is consistent with the goals outlined in the Middle East Fork Watershed Action Plan. This alternative involves the restoration of an impaired habitat, and includes land acquisition with no use of WRRSP funds

Under Ohio EPA's program requirements for nonpoint source projects such as this proposed project, the costs of the selected alternative must be reasonable. Based on the information summarized in the previous section and included in the WRRSP implementation plan, Ohio EPA has concluded that the proposed action can be completed at a reasonable cost and will result in the expected water quality benefits. More specific information on the selected alternative follows.

The dam was built near the Main Street Bridge in the 1940s to provide the village with a water supply. Currently, the dam impounds approximately 1,150 LF behind it, causing habitat and sedimentation impairments. Its removal will allow aquatic organisms to move freely within this section of the river, decrease the amount of sediment built-up in the impounded area, increase the quality of aquatic habitat, and restore the Batavia area for recreational use. As noted in the VVF's project plan, removal of the dam will be followed by in-stream restoration, incorporating elements of Natural Channel Design, which includes stabilizing and restoring the banks of the East Fork Little Miami River with native vegetation where necessary. Available evidence from previous Ohio EPA studies suggest that the existing river bed upstream contains natural channel substrates that will flow downstream once a more normal bedload pattern is reestablished.

As a result of completing this proposed project, VVF expects that by removing the Batavia Dam, the ecological processes that contribute to exceptional warmwater habitat elsewhere in the East Fork Little Miami River will be restored. More specifically, the project will: 1) remove a significant fish passage barrier that affects not only fish, but mussels that require fish as hosts for reproduction, 2) restore habitat types in the project reach that are presently absent (e.g., riffles, glides, runs) and thereby restore hydraulic habitat complexity, 3) increase substrate heterogeneity, 4) alleviate water quality issues associated with the impoundment, and 5) shift habitat conditions away from those that favor invasive

exotic species such as the common carp. Finally, removal of the Batavia structure will result in the establishment of a 14+ mile contiguous stretch of good quality riverine habitat.

G. Project Implementation

The current estimated construction cost of this project is \$763,000, which will be provided as WRRSP funds from MSD's WPCLF sponsorship loan. The following table from the VVF's WRRSP implementation plan shows how these funds will be used.

<b>Planning and Design</b>	
Protection/Restoration Plan Preparation	\$62,000.00
Engineering Construction Services	\$30,000.00
<b>Habitat Restoration</b>	
Dam Deconstruction	\$370,000.00
Stream restoration and bank stabilization	\$286,000.00
Permits, legal services, required surveys	\$10,000.00
Project Signage WPCLF/WRRSP	\$5,000.00
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$763,000.00</b>

Assuming WPCLF loan award to MSD for its sponsoring project in December, 2015, a maximum of \$763,000 in WRRSP funds will be available for this project after final design is completed by the engineers. Construction is currently expected to start in August, 2016 and be completed within nine months, by May, 2017. In advancement of funds, the VVF and the residents of Batavia will not be responsible for repaying the amount shown above. Any project cost increases above \$763,000 will be financed by the VVF or other sources, as the WRRSP is limited to funding the originally approved amount included in the 2014 WPCLF Program Management Plan.

H. Environmental Impacts of the Proposed Project

The following features will not be affected by the project because they are not present in the project area or, if present, will not be impacted due to the nature of the project: coastal zones, wild and scenic rivers, wetlands, wildlife areas, and major land forms (for example, hilltop removal or filling of valleys).

Because of the site chosen for this proposed project, its generally well-defined scope, and the mitigation concepts proposed by VVF's engineering team, Ohio EPA expects that the proposed project will not directly result in significant adverse effects on the natural or human environment. Where there is any potential for direct, indirect, or cumulative impacts on any resources in these two categories, a discussion can be found in the following summary of Ohio EPA's environmental reviews. Overall, this proposed project is not expected to result in any significant, adverse environmental impacts for the reasons cited below.

## 1. Surface and Ground Water Resources

By removing the low-head dam at Batavia and completing the other restoration work described above, Ohio EPA expects that VVF's proposed project will restore a free-flowing river and allow natural sediment processing mechanisms to become reestablished and so achieve exceptional warmwater aquatic life use criteria. As a result, habitat is expected to improve through increases in the riffle substrate quality, decreases in substrate embeddedness, and by enhancing in-stream habitat heterogeneity. A target QHEI score of 65 is expected to be realized within twelve months following removal of the dam and restoration of a more natural flow regime. In general, typical storm water controls are expected to be sufficient to protect surface water quality during the nine months that dam removal and related de-construction activities are underway. On this basis, Ohio EPA does not expect any significant, adverse impacts on surface water features within the project area during or after the relatively short duration of this proposed project.

Batavia and the surrounding townships within the immediate project area are within the boundaries of the Greater Miami Great Miami River/Little Miami River Buried Valley Aquifer System, a sole source aquifer (SSA), which is subject to review by the US EPA Sole Source Aquifer (SSA) program under the Safe Drinking Water Act and U.S. EPA reviewed the project and concurred with Ohio EPA that the a routine ground water pollution prevention and fuel spill containment plan in place as part of the storm water pollution prevention plan will prevent significant, adverse impacts on the SSA. Accordingly, we have concluded that the proposed dam removal project will not have any significant, adverse impacts on ground water features in the vicinity of the project.

## 2. Aquatic, Terrestrial, and Critical Habitat, including Floodplains and Wetlands

- Aquatic Habitat

As discussed in the previous section, the East Fork Little Miami River is the one aquatic habitat that will benefit the most from the proposed dam removal activities. Given the limited scope and duration of the proposed project, along with the mitigative measures proposed by VVF's engineering team, Ohio EPA has concluded that the short-term impacts of the proposed de-construction

project on aquatic habitats in the East Fork Little Miami River will be controllable. In return for these relatively short-term effects on water quality, the long-term benefit consists of restoring 1.4 miles of the East Fork Little Miami River to a free-flowing condition and removing the impoundment which contributes sediment. Finally, should any temporary filling and/or dredging of the East Fork Little Miami River at or below the dam site be needed to complete this project in accordance with the findings of prior sediment studies, Ohio EPA expects that all conditions of the pertinent Clean Water Act Section 404 and 401 permits will be adhered to, and so assure that aquatic habitat is properly protected. On this basis, we have concluded that the proposed dam removal project will not have any significant, adverse long-term impacts on this resource.

- Terrestrial Habitat

The land in the immediate area of the Batavia Dam and its impoundment is previously disturbed and reflects past and current industrial, commercial and residential uses. Roads are adjacent to the north and south banks (Foundry Avenue and South Riverside Drive, respectively) of the East Fork Little Miami River near the dam and its impounded stretch. A narrow buffer consisting of a mixture of mature trees, saplings and invasive brush is present between South Riverside Drive and the north river bank along the full extent of the project area. The south river bank has the same mixture of vegetation between South Riverside Drive and riverbank as does the north side, except in the immediate area of the dam, which consists of sparse, mature trees. The trees here provide bank stabilization and food and cover for aquatic organisms in the East Fork Little Miami River. Select tree removal ahead of the temporary access road construction and dam removal work is an unavoidable aspect of this project, as discussed below. However, by allowing the root structures to remain and narrowing the temporary access road's construction as much as possible, slope stability along the riverbank can be maintained and terrestrial habitat impacts minimized. In addition, VVF and its consultants have indicated that steps will be taken to restore native vegetation to the river bank upon removal of the dam and related structures. This replacement activity should help compensate for any necessary tree removal.

A temporary access road through the Duke Energy property north of the dam will need to be constructed for work site access by track hoes and other heavy equipment. At the completion of the dam removal and restoration activities, the access road will be restored to its previous condition.

Based on the above, Ohio EPA has concluded that these activities, with effective erosion and sedimentation controls, will not result in significant, adverse impacts on the terrestrial habitat of the project area.

- Critical Habitat

The US Fish and Wildlife Service indicates that the project is within the range of the Indiana bat (endangered) and northern long-eared bat (threatened). Trees within the project area range from small shrubs to large, mature trees in a mixed commercial and residential setting. Tree clearing is expected to be limited to small shrubs at the location of the temporary access road. Other mature trees are located outside of the work area and within the river corridor and would provide habitat for displaced bats, if present. Tree removal is only permitted to occur October 1 - March 31 or in coordination with the US Fish and Wildlife Service, and tree removal is limited to only those trees necessary for completion of the project (e.g., trees within the access road location or within the path of heavy equipment, etc.). These tree clearing restrictions will further reduce potential impacts to Indiana bats or northern long-eared bats. On this basis, we have concluded that the proposed project will not have any significant, adverse impact on these species or their critical habitat.

The project is within the range of the rayed bean (*Villosa fabalis*); and the sheepnose (*Plethobasus cyphus*), both state endangered and federally endangered mussels, the washboard (*Megaloniais nervosa*); the ebonyshell (*Fusconaia ebena*); the butterfly (*Ellipsaria lineolata*); the elephant-ear (*Elliptio crassidens crassidens*); the Ohio pigtoe (*Pleurobema cordatum*); the little spectaclecase (*Villosa lienosa*); the monkey face (*Quadrula metanevra*); and the wartyback (*Quadrula nodulata*), all state endangered mussels, and the fawnsfoot (*Truncilla donaciformis*), a state threatened mussel.

A mussel survey will be required to be conducted six months prior to construction activities. Readers should also note that the relocation of any native freshwater mussels that become stranded as a result of lowering the water level during the dam's removal will need to be conducted in accordance with the current Ohio Mussel Survey Protocol.

The project is within the range of the northern madtom (*Noturus stigmosus*); the shovelnose sturgeon (*Scaphirhynchus platyrhynchus*); and the goldeye (*Hiodon alosoides*), all state endangered fish, the mountain madtom (*Noturus eleutherus*); the paddlefish (*Polyodon spathula*); the bigeye shiner (*Notropis boops*); and the channel darter (*Percina copelandi*), all state threatened fish. The Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) recommends no in-water work in perennial streams from April 15 to June 30 to reduce impacts to indigenous aquatic species and their habitat.

The project is within the range of the Kirtland's snake (*Clonophis kirtlandii*), a state threatened species. This secretive species prefers wet fields and meadows. Due to the location, the type of habitat present at the project site, and within the vicinity of the project area, and the type of work proposed, this project is not likely to impact this species.

The project is within the range of the northern harrier (*Circus cyaneus*), a state endangered bird. This is a common migrant and winter species. Nesters are much rarer, although they occasionally breed in large marshes and grassland. Harriers often nest in loose colonies. The female builds a nest out of sticks on the ground, often on top of a mound. Harriers hunt over grasslands. As this type of habitat is not expected to be impacted, this project is not likely to impact this species. If this type of habitat will be impacted, construction should be avoided in this habitat during the species' nesting period of May 15 to August 1.

Based on this information, the project will have no significant short-term or long-term adverse effect on terrestrial habitat or endangered species.

- Floodplains

A defined floodplain for the East Fork Little Miami River at Batavia has been previously established. While the removal of the dam will have some effect on the interaction of the river with its floodplain, the original purpose of the dam was for water supply to surrounding businesses and community drinking water, not flood control. On this basis, Ohio EPA has concluded that the proposed project will have no significant, adverse effect on floodplains in the immediate project area.

### 3. Air Quality

During the relatively short-term estimated dam removal period, operation of heavy equipment will result in minor increases in air pollution in the project area. This minor increase is an unavoidable result of the proposed project, but routine use of dust control measures (such as water and calcium chloride) and proper engine maintenance should help limit the amount of air pollutants that will be generated. Upon completion of the proposed project, air quality should return to a pre-construction condition. Accordingly, no significant, adverse direct or indirect, short- or long-term, impacts on air quality are expected. Clermont County is listed as having marginal nonattainment for the 8-Hour Ozone standard.

### 4. Dust, Noise, Odors and Traffic,

Overall, this proposed project and its location within a commercial/residential corridor suggest that impacts on ambient noise levels and traffic patterns will be limited in magnitude and extent during the estimated nine month dam removal period. On this basis, Ohio EPA expects that noise and traffic levels will return to a pre-construction condition upon project completion and thus have no lasting impacts on area residents. Odors and dust will be controlled with silencers, emissions controls and dust suppressants.

## 5. Energy Use

In the short-term, non-renewable energy will be needed to run the heavy equipment required to remove the dam and related structures and sediment from the project area. While this projected, relatively short-term energy use is unavoidable, it is a necessary aspect of this project if the goal of restoring the water quality of this section of the river is to be accomplished. On this basis, Ohio EPA expects that actual energy use required by this project will be consistent with the de-construction of other low-head dams, and will not be a significant long-term draw on local sources. In the long-term, this proposed project will have no negative effects on local energy use and supplies.

## 6. Archaeological and Historic Resources

Ohio EPA (in accordance with its State Environmental Review Procedure for nonpoint source projects) determined that §106 of the NHPA does not apply to the proposed dam removal project. Based on Ohio EPA's research, and in consultation with local historians, the dam is not known, nor believed, to have been constructed utilizing any unusual engineering methods, features or materials, and it is not known to be associated with any significant events, organizations or individuals, including the Works Progress Administration, it has not been maintained since its original construction and is not covered by ODNR's dam safety regulations. On this basis, and due to the lack of any connection between the current dam and its prior flood control and water supply functions, no historic structures eligible for the National Register of Historic Places are located in the area of potential effects. Furthermore, no structures within the project area are present on the NPS-NRHP database. The area of potential effects has been extensively disturbed and thus has a low likelihood of containing unrecorded below grade intact archaeological properties that are eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places.

In the event of archaeological finds during construction, contractors and subcontractors are required under Ohio Revised Code Section 149.53 to notify OHPO of any archaeological discoveries in the project area, and to cooperate with that entity (and with Ohio EPA) in archaeological and historic surveys and salvage efforts when appropriate.

On this basis, Ohio EPA has concluded that the Batavia Low-Head Dam removal project will have no adverse effect on archaeological or historic resources in the project area.

## 7. Local Economy

Given the proposed funding package and large amount of "free money" available for this proposed project, Ohio EPA anticipates that the removal of the Batavia Dam will have no adverse effect on the local economy. Finally, as the

recreational aspects of a free-flowing East Fork Little Miami River become apparent in the Batavia area, there may be additional long-term economic benefits to the community.

I. Public Participation

The following agencies have reviewed, and were provided an opportunity to comment on, the proposal to finance the Batavia Low-Head Dam Removal project with WRRSP and other funds:

Ohio Department of Natural Resources  
Ohio EPA  
Ohio Historic Preservation Office  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

During the environmental reviews of this proposed project, Ohio EPA, VVF, and its engineering team coordinated fully with these federal and state review agencies. Any concerns were addressed by Ohio EPA and VVF's engineering team as indicated in the environmental impacts section of this document. If needed, any additional reports required by the agencies will be filed and reviewed before WRRSP funds are released for construction activities.

VVF has held several public meetings at which the proposed project was discussed, project information has been present on Valley View's website, and several articles have been published in the local newspaper regarding the project's progress. Thus, there have been adequate opportunities for information dissemination and public participation.

J. Reasons for a Preliminary Finding of No Significant Impact

Based upon our review of the restoration plan and other information collected about this project, Ohio EPA has concluded that no significant short-term or long-term adverse direct environmental impacts will result from the project as related to the environmental features discussed in this document. This is because either the features: (1) do not exist in the project area, (2) exist but will not be adversely affected, or (3) the impacts of construction will be temporary and/or mitigated in accordance with provisions to be included in the contract documents. For these reasons, this project, alone or in combination with other projects, is not expected to result in any significant indirect or cumulative short-term or long-term adverse environmental impacts. Overall, this proposed project is expected to re-create a natural, free-flowing condition in the East Fork Little Miami River where a 1,150 linear foot stagnant impoundment now exists.

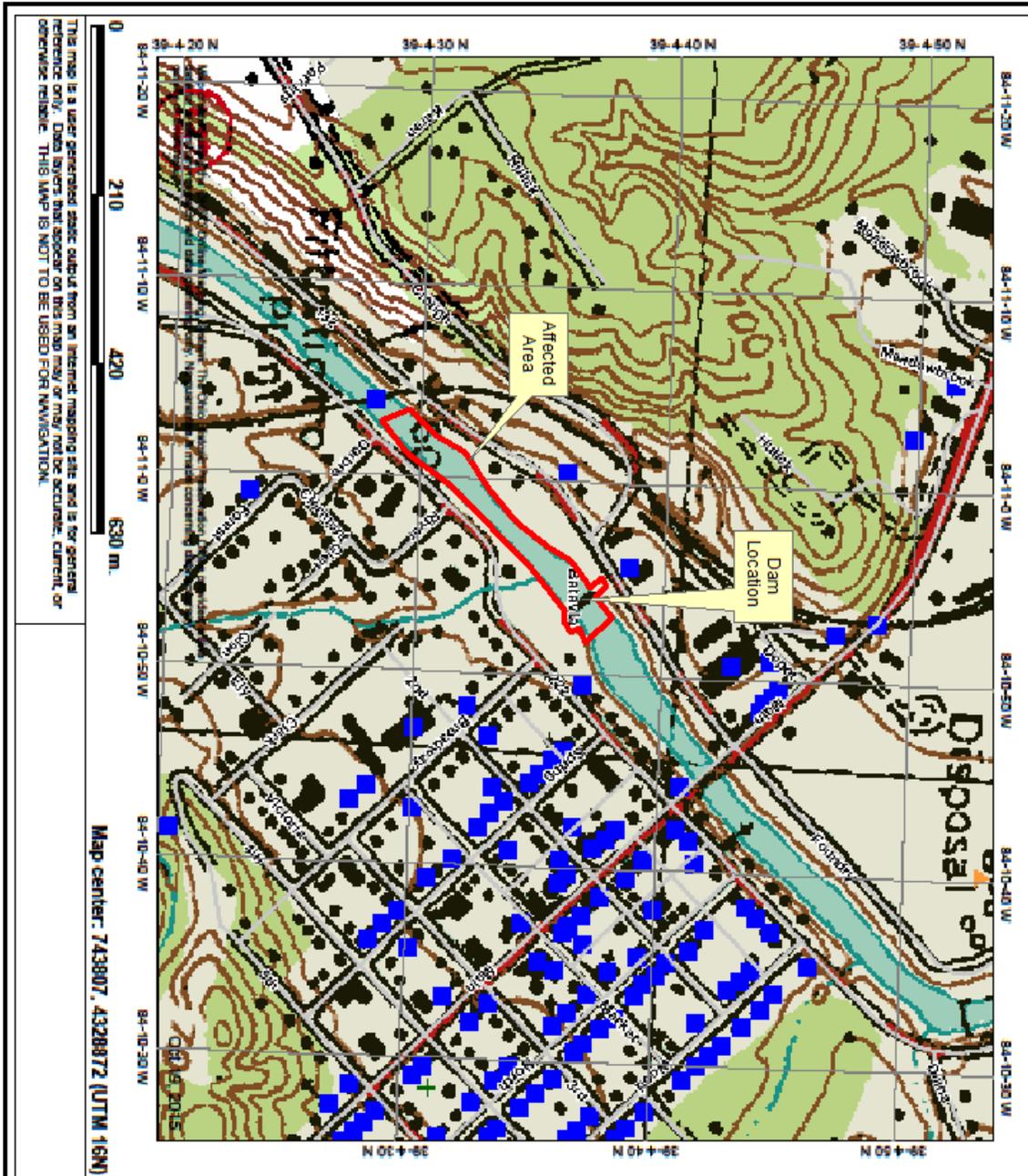
K. For further information, please contact:

R. Eric Schultz  
Division of Environmental and Financial Assistance  
Ohio Environmental Protection Agency  
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**Figure 1: Batavia Low-Head Dam (39.077, -84.182, Village of Batavia, Batavia Township, Clermont County, Batavia USGS quadrangle)**

# Batavia Dam Removal Project



**Legend**

- NFR Determinations of Eligibility
- Historic Bridges
- ▲ OHS Sites
- National Road
- Highways
- Roads
- National Historic Landmarks
- National Register Listings
- Archeological Sites
- Historic Structures
- OHS Cemeteries
- Phase 1
- Phase 2
- Phase 3
- National Register Boundaries
- Historic Surveyed Areas
- Wayne National Forest
- Critic
- Wayne National Forest
- Counties
- Historic Area Numbers

Scale: 1:7,252

Figure 2: Project area/area impounded by the Batavia Low-Head Dam