



GRETCHEN WHITMER  
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN  
DEPARTMENT OF  
ENVIRONMENT, GREAT LAKES, AND ENERGY  
LANSING



LIESL EICHLER CLARK  
DIRECTOR

November 8, 2021

TO: All Interested Citizens, Organizations, and Government Agencies

SUBJECT: **DRINKING WATER STATE REVOLVING FUND (DWSRF)  
CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION**  
**Project Owner: Village of Muir**  
**DWSRF Project Number: 7540-01**

The purpose of this notice is to advise interested parties of a proposed decision by the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE) that the criteria for qualifying for a Categorical Exclusion are met and this project will not have a significant adverse impact on the environment or public health, and thus, qualifies for a Categorical Exclusion under Section 5408 of 1994 PA 451. Consequently, an Environmental Assessment or an Environmental Impact Statement is not required to implement the water supply project discussed in the attached document.

### CRITERIA USED IN MAKING THE DETERMINATION

Part 54 of the Safe Drinking Water Assistance Act specifies six exclusionary criteria that must be met before EGLE can conclude that a proposed project qualifies for a Categorical Exclusion. The criteria are as follows:

- (1) The project must not result in an increase in residuals and sludge generated by drinking water processes which would negatively impact the performance of the waterworks system or the disposal methods or would threaten an aquifer recharge zone.*
- (2) The proposed facilities must not be designed to provide service to a population greater than 30 percent of the existing population, unless population projections required in section 5405(3)(e) support projected needs.*
- (3) The proposed public water supply project must not be expected, to directly or indirectly affect cultural areas, fauna or flora habitats, endangered or threatened species, or environmentally important natural resource areas.*
- (4) The proposed public water supply project must not directly or indirectly involve the extension of transmission systems to new service areas.*
- (5) The proposed public water supply project has been shown to be the cost-effective alternative.*
- (6) The proposed public water supply project will not cause significant public controversy.*

### PROJECT DETAIL

An attachment describing the proposed project is provided. This information is also available on our website at [Michigan.gov/DWSRF](https://Michigan.gov/DWSRF) under "Related Links." It presents information related to the proposed project, including the alternative selected, rationale for our decision to grant a Categorical Exclusion, and other pertinent information. Map(s) showing the location of the proposed project are also included.

The attachment provides information and allows appropriate federal cross-cutter agencies and state agencies an opportunity to submit information that may impact EGLE's decision prior to its effective date. Significant issues raised by these agencies could result in EGLE staff preparing a full Environmental Assessment.

### **WHERE DO I SUBMIT COMMENTS?**

Any comments regarding this decision should be submitted to:

Ms. Sara Damm, Project Manager  
Water Infrastructure Financing Section  
Finance Division  
Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy  
P.O. Box 30457  
Lansing, Michigan 48909-7957

### **EFFECTIVE DATE OF THE EGLE DECISION ON THE CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION**

Absent comments that introduce significant information contrary to EGLE's final determination, the Categorical Exclusion will become effective upon conclusion of the 30-day comment period.

Questions regarding this project can be directed to Ms. Sara Damm, project manager, Water Infrastructure Financing Section, Finance Division, by phone at 517-231-8916, or by email at [DammS@michigan.gov](mailto:DammS@michigan.gov), or by mail at EGLE, P.O. Box 30457, Lansing, Michigan, 48909-7957; or you may contact me at the aforementioned address. Your interest in this process is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,



Kelly Green, Administrator  
Water Infrastructure Financing Section  
Finance Division  
517-284-5433

Attachment

**DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT, GREAT LAKES, AND ENERGY**  
**Drinking Water State Revolving Fund**  
**Village of Muir, Ionia County**  
**Categorical Exclusion for Lead Service Line Replacement Project**  
**November 2021**

**PROJECT IDENTIFICATION**

**Applicant:** Village of Muir

**Address:** 122 W. Superior Street, P.O. Box 205  
Muir, Michigan 48860

**Authorized Representative:** Mr. Doug Hyland

**Project Number:** 7540-01

**PROJECT SUMMARY**

The Village of Muir (Muir) is in eastern Ionia County in Lyons Township and is about 0.75 square miles. According to the West Michigan Regional Planning Commission, Muir had an estimated population of 581 person in 2020 and is expected to increase slightly to a population of 709 by 2040.

Muir is applying for a Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) loan administered by the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE) for the replacement of private side lead service lines. As a disadvantaged community undertaking lead service line replacement, Muir is eligible to receive Water Infrastructure Fund Transfer Act funding through the DWSRF loan, which can provide up to 100 percent principal forgiveness for construction activities related to lead service line replacements. This project will be done in conjunction with a United States Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (USDA-RD) water main replacement project which includes replacement of public side lead service lines, and Michigan Department of Transportation road funds.

The estimated cost of the private side lead service line replacement project is \$1,175,000. Of that, Muir is requesting \$1,000,000 from the DWSRF in construction costs to replace known lead and galvanized water service lines. The remainder of the costs will be for the project design, construction engineering, bond counsel, financial service fees, and legal and administrative expenses which will be paid for by Muir with cash on hand. As a result, the private side lead service replacement financed by the DWSRF will occur with no rate impact to the system customers.

**EXISTING SYSTEM AND NEED FOR THE PROJECT**

Most of the existing water main was constructed in the 1950's using cast iron pipe with much of the water main being replaced in 2001 and 2010 with ductile iron. Pipe sizes range from 4-inch to 12-inch diameter. The USDA-RD project replaces the remaining known portions of the distribution system that were installed in the 1950's.

In 2015, Muir completed a water reliability study which analyzed the drinking water infrastructure and identified capital improvement projects to complete in the next 20 years. In 2018 Michigan's Lead and Copper Rule was revised, requiring all lead service lines, or galvanized lines that

either currently or were historically connected to lead, to be replaced. The DWSRF will cover the costs associated with the private side service line replacement, which will occur solely on private property from the curb stop box to either the water meter or 18-inches within the house or structure. Lead service lines pose public health risk and are required to be replaced.

## **PROPOSED PROJECT**

Construction is expected to begin in April 2022. The water service material will be confirmed either by Muir, prior to construction, in the design phase, or confirmed by the contractor during construction. Coordination with property owners for potential water service replacements will occur during the design phase starting in October 2021. Muir plans to issue notices and get resident approval to enter the dwelling. Forty-five days prior to the work, Muir will again notify residents of the upcoming work and then again two weeks prior to construction starting. It is anticipated homeowners will be notified by door hangers and home visits prior to the lead service line replacement starting.

Muir considered two alternatives: no action, and critical supply and distribution system improvements. Taking a no action approach would mean not meeting project goals and would not allow Muir to meet the requirements of Michigan's Lead and Copper Rule. As a result, the proposed project is the only feasible alternative.

## **EXISTING ENVIRONMENT AND POTENTIAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS**

The project will occur in the existing public right of way, which has been previously disturbed and is used for roads and utilities. The service line replacements will occur on private property typically on manicured lawns. Therefore, no adverse impacts to environmental, historical, cultural, or threatened and endangered species are expected.

Construction impacts are expected to be minimal. Typical construction disturbances, such as noise, dust, and minor traffic changes will occur. Construction will take place on residential streets within the village and service line replacement on private residential property.

Muir held a public hearing on June 23, 2021, at a special village council meeting. There were no questions or comments from the public regarding the project. The village council unanimously approved the project.

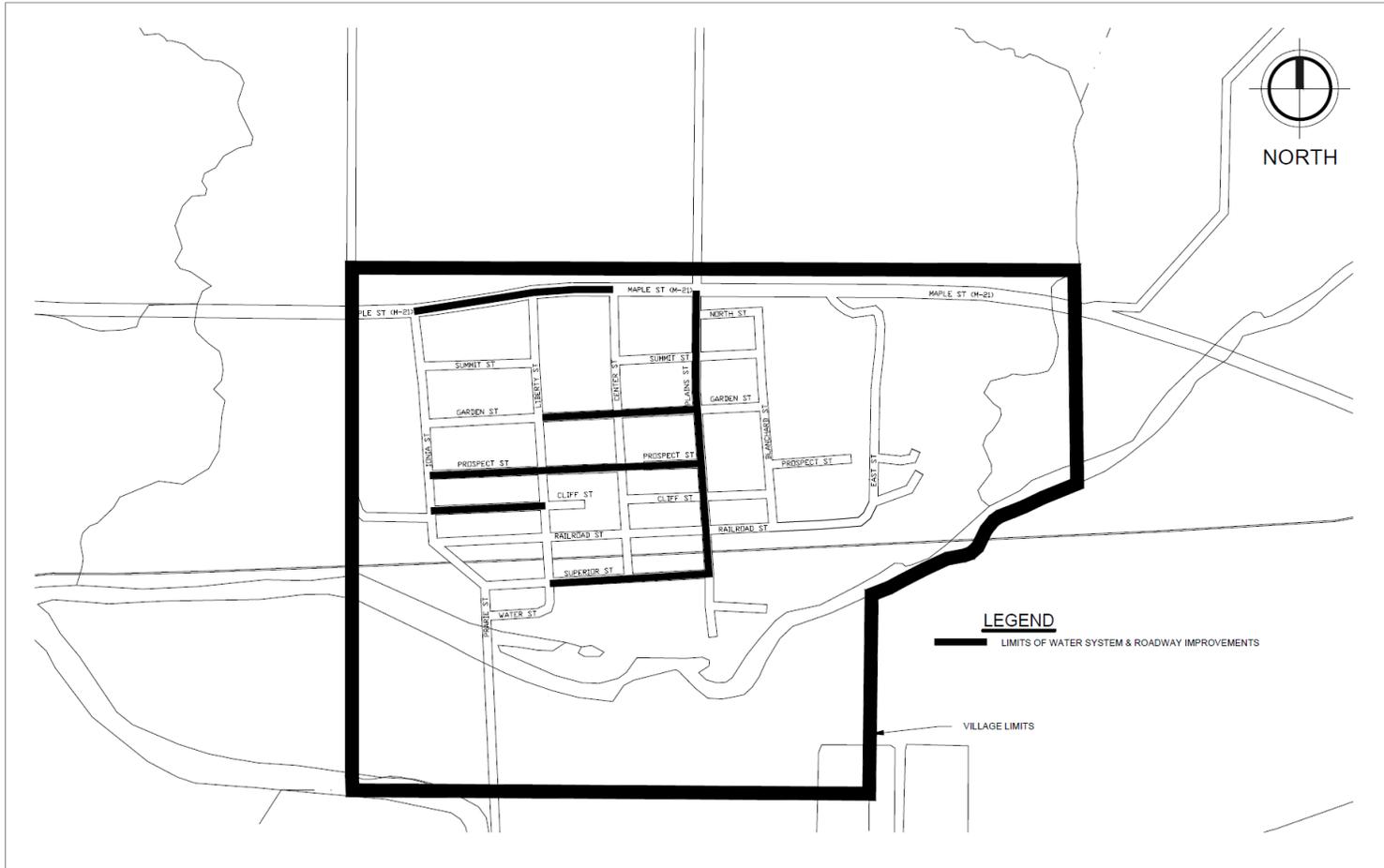
## **RATIONALE FOR CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION**

The proposed project will remove many, if not all, of the existing known lead and galvanized water services within the Muir drinking water distribution system. EGLE staff have carefully reviewed the proposed lead service line replacement portion of the proposed project and related documents and determined no significant adverse impacts are anticipated as a result of the project.

Questions regarding this Categorical Exclusion should be directed to:

Sara Damm, Project Manager  
Water Infrastructure Financing Section  
Finance Division  
Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy  
P.O. Box 30457  
Lansing, Michigan 48909-4957  
Telephone: 517-231-8916  
E-Mail: [DammS@michigan.gov](mailto:DammS@michigan.gov)

**Figure 1**  
**Service Line Replacement Locations**



NOTE: THE VILLAGE'S INTENT IS TO REPLACE AS MANY SERVICES AS FUNDING ALLOWS. IT APPEARS THAT ALL SERVICES WITHIN THE PROJECT AREA CAN BE ADDRESSED. IF FUNDING IS NOT SUFFICIENT TO ADDRESS ALL SERVICES, THOSE IN THE WATER MAIN REPLACEMENT AND ROADWAY IMPROVEMENT AREAS INDICATED WILL BE FIRST PRIORITY FOR REPLACEMENT.

**VILLAGE OF MUIR**  
**IONIA COUNTY, MICHIGAN**  
**SERVICE LINE REPLACEMENT LOCATIONS**

**FIGURE 1**

84270  
 F&V PROJECT NO.

