



**Department of the Army**  
**NASHVILLE DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS**  
**P.O. BOX 1070**  
**NASHVILLE TN 37202-1070**

REPLY TO  
ATTENTION OF

December 10, 2014

Project Planning Branch

To All Interested Parties:

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Nashville District (USACE) is initiating Scoping under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) for an Environmental Assessment (EA) for the City of Harlan, Section 531 Project, in Harlan County, Kentucky. The City of Harlan proposes to replace a portion of the existing public sanitary sewer system for residents in the communities of Rio Vista and Loyall, Kentucky. The proposed project is to replace approximately 2,000 linear feet of a 16-inch ductile iron force main pipeline with a 16-inch polyvinyl chloride (PVC) force main pipeline in the exact same location. Project and pipeline location are shown in Figure 1.

Section 531 of the 1996 Water Resources Development Act authorizes a program whereby USACE can provide design and construction assistance for water related environmental infrastructure projects in eastern Kentucky. These projects must address wastewater, water supply and surface water resource and related problems. All projects are cost shared with 75% Federal (Corps) funds and 25% non-Federal (Sponsor) funds. The Sponsor for this project is the City of Harlan. The ductile iron force main piping was installed in the late 1990's.

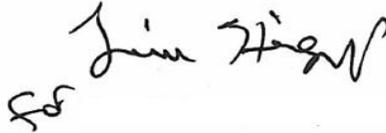
This EA is prepared pursuant to the NEPA, Council on Environmental Quality Regulations (40 CFR 1500-1508), and Corps of Engineers implementing regulation, ER 200-2-2, 1988. The following alternatives are considered in this EA: No Action and Proposed Action. The No Action alternative would involve denying funding under the Section 531 program and no replacement of the iron piping. The No Action Alternative is not recommended since it would allow for an unsafe and hazardous condition to the environment and public health. This section of force main is at risk of leaking and the release of untreated sewage would contaminate ground water and surface conditions in a residential area.

There is no new ground disturbance. The new PVC pipeline would replace the iron pipeline in the same place. The existing ground cover over the existing pipeline is mowed grass or paved road. No trees would be removed. Environmental effects associated with the proposed alternative are minor. We encourage comments not only about the immediate project area, but also of plans or proposals for any other development that may impact or influence the project or surrounding watershed.

This letter also serves to initiate public involvement requirements of Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended. Section 106, implemented by regulations at 36 Code of Federal Regulations 800, requires the Corps to consider the effects of its undertakings on historic properties. Appropriate architectural and archaeological investigations would be conducted if deemed necessary within areas affected by the proposed activity. Results would be coordinated with the Kentucky State Historic Preservation Officer, Tribal Nations, and other consulting parties.

Please submit any comments regarding environmental and cultural resource concerns no later than **January 20, 2015** to ensure evaluation and inclusion in the EA. Responses should be emailed to: [CorpsLRNPlanningPublicCom@usace.army.mil](mailto:CorpsLRNPlanningPublicCom@usace.army.mil); or mailed to the address listed above. If you have any questions, please contact Ms. Joy Broach, Aquatic Biologist, at (615) 736-7956. Your participation is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Russ L. Rote". To the left of the signature, there are two small, handwritten initials "SR".

Russ L. Rote, P.E., PMP, CFM  
Chief, Project Planning Branch

Enclosure

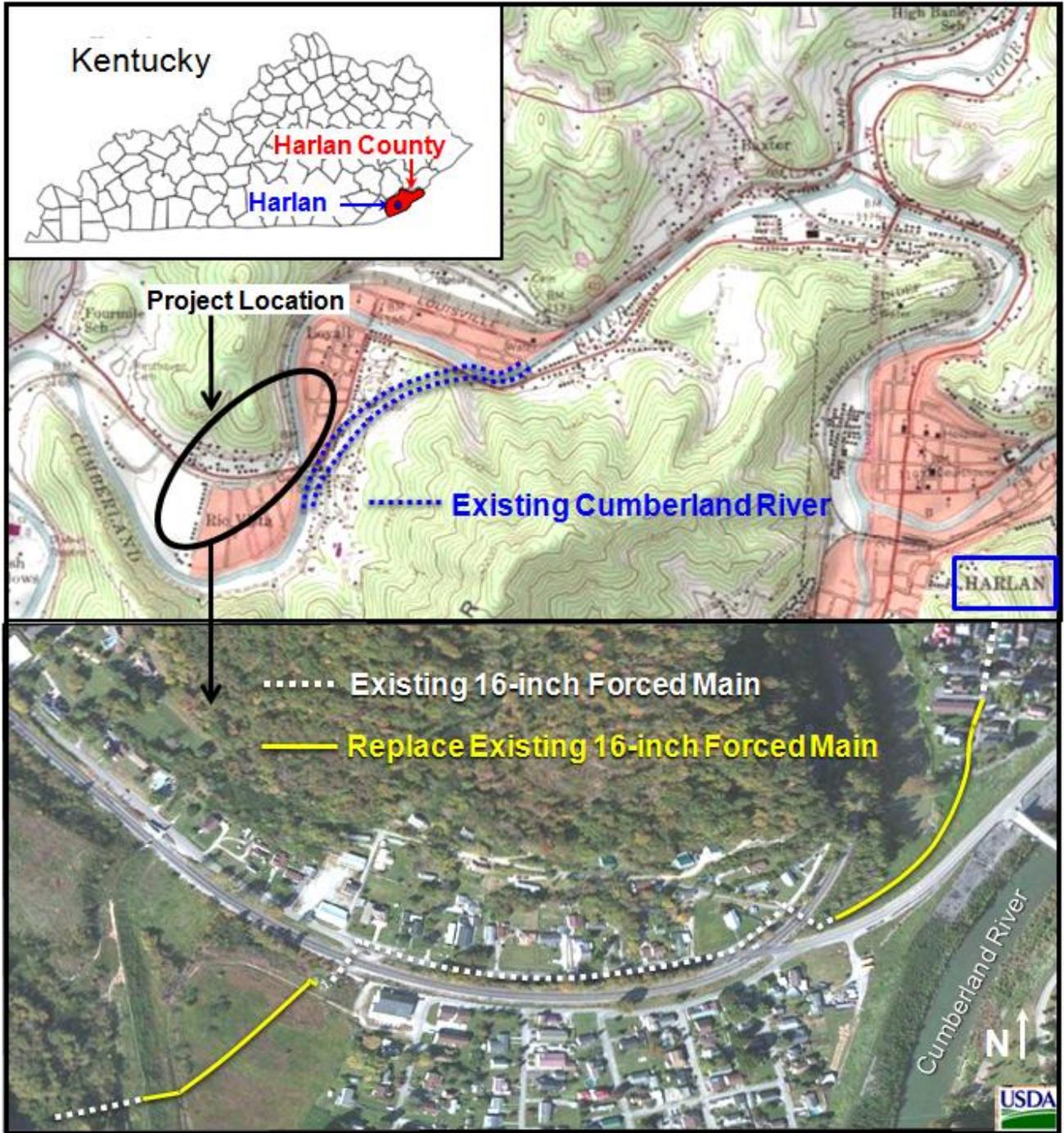


Figure 1. Harlan, Kentucky and Project Location Map.