



REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

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

January 13, 2015

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 Letcher County Fiscal Court (Sponsor), Section 531 Project, in Whitesburg, Letcher County, Kentucky. The Sponsor proposes to construct a new force main collection system with residential connections along Kentucky (KY) Routes 588, 3401, and Flower Road in Letcher County. The proposed work includes rehabilitation of an existing Parkway Inn lift station. The need for the project is to extend sewer collection lines and associated infrastructure to areas with inadequate or failing private septic systems. The collected sewage would be treated at the Whitesburg Wastewater Treatment Plant. The project and Dry Fork collection system locations 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 and southern Kentucky. These projects must address wastewater, water supply, and surface water resources, and related problems. All projects are cost shared with 75% Federal (USACE) funds and 25% non-Federal (Sponsor) funds.

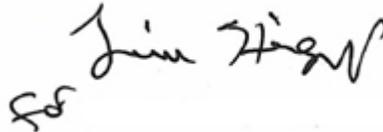
The EA would be prepared in accordance with the NEPA, Council on Environmental Quality Regulations (40 CFR 1500-1508), and Corps of Engineers implementing regulation, ER 200-2-2, 1988. The EA would consider in detail, the No Action and Proposed Action Alternatives. The No Action Alternative would not provide funding under the Section 531 program, and the lack of funds would likely delay or prevent project implementation. The No Action Alternative is not recommended since it would deny residents with failing septic systems access to a reliable public sewer collection system. The release of untreated raw sewage would contaminate ground and surface waters, resulting in a public health hazard and a detriment to surface waters used for recreation.

The Proposed Action Alternative is to install approximately 20,000 linear feet of a new force main sewer collection system, including residential connections along KY Routes 588, 3401, and Flower Road in Letcher County, KY. The new force main would cross Dry Fork stream at Highway 588 (Figure 1). The new infrastructure would connect with the existing force main and Parkway Inn Lift Station along KY Route 15. The lift station would be rehabilitated with updated equipment. Sewer lines would be constructed in road right-of-ways and private lawns. The existing ground is mowed grass or paved road. Environmental effects associated with the Proposed Action Alternative are considered minor. We encourage comments not only about the immediate project, 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. The Corps invites responses to this scoping notice from Native American Tribes or tribal governments; Federal, State, and local agencies; historical and archeological societies; and other parties likely to have knowledge of or concerns regarding historic properties and sites of religious and cultural significance at or near the project area.

Please submit any comments regarding environmental and cultural resource concerns no later than **February 16, 2015** to ensure evaluation and inclusion in the EA. Responses should be emailed to: 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

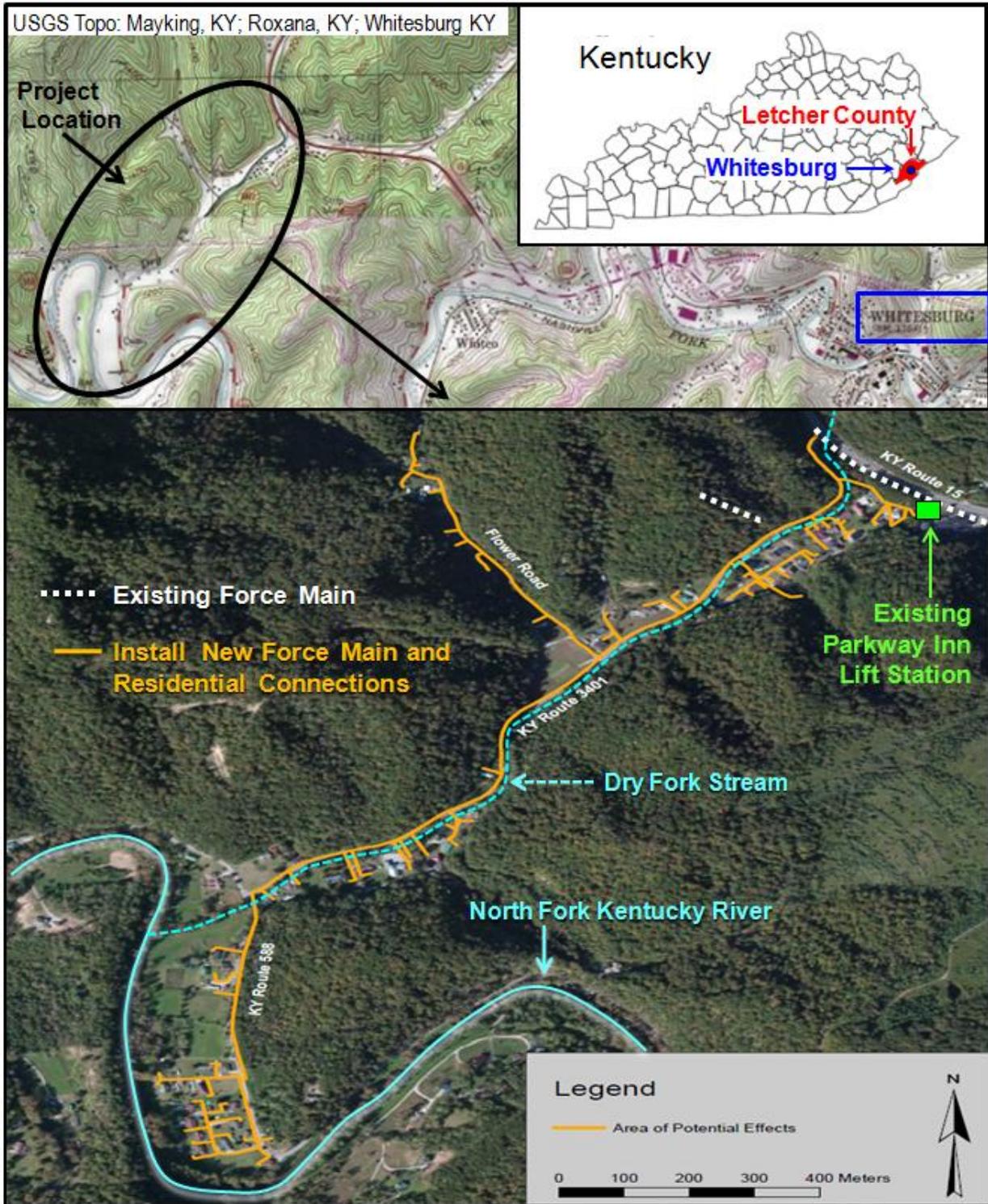


Figure 1. Whitesburg, Kentucky and Dry Fork Project Location Map.