



REPLY TO  
ATTENTION OF

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

March 27, 2015

Project Planning Branch

To All Interested Parties:

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Nashville District (USACE), has prepared a Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) and unsigned Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) for the Letcher County Fiscal Court's Dry Fork Addition of the Crafts Colley Sanitary Sewer Extension-Phase I Section 531 Project near the City of Whitesburg, Letcher County, Kentucky. 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 75% Federal (USACE) and 25% non-Federal from the local sponsor (Letcher County Fiscal Court).

The purpose of the project is to construct additional sewage collection lines to serve areas near the City of Whitesburg. The proposed project would eliminate discharges from poorly-functioning septic tanks and straight pipes. The sewage collection system addition would provide public sanitary sewer service to approximately 35 new customers. The project consists of a force main with installation of residential connections, and rehabilitation of the Parkway Inn Lift Station. The new force main line would connect the Parkway Inn Lift Station, which is already connected to the City of Whitesburg Sewer Collection System that flows to the City of Whitesburg Wastewater Treatment Plant. The attached map shows the area served by the Dry Fork Addition and the location of the existing Parkway Inn Lift Station (Figure 1).

Existing failing septic tanks and straight piping creates both public health risks and water quality degradation of Dry Fork Creek and the North Fork of the Kentucky River. Dry Fork Creek is currently listed by the State of Kentucky as not fully meeting designated stream uses (primary contact recreation and aquatic life) due to pathogen levels. The proposed project would eliminate many sources of pathogens to the river and be a positive step toward improving water quality in the North Fork of the Kentucky River basin.

This EA is prepared pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), Council on Environmental Quality Regulations (40 CFR 1500-1508), and USACE implementing regulation, ER 200-2-2, 1988.

The EA evaluated two alternatives for the proposed project as described below:

- a. Alternative 1 – No Action Alternative: The No Action alternative would involve denying funding under the Section 531 program and likely result in continued existing conditions of failing septic tanks and straight piping. This is not recommended since it would result in continued degradation of public health and water quality in the area.
- b. Alternative 2 – Preferred Action Alternative: This alternative consists of installing a force main with residential connections and rehabilitating the Parkway Inn Lift Station

The EA determined that there would be no significant direct or indirect impacts from the Preferred Action Alternative. Under this alternative the environmental effects would be minor and temporary in duration. The EA identifies measures to be taken to ensure environmental effects are minimal. The EA and unsigned FONSI have been coordinated with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources, and Kentucky Heritage Council. Their recommendations have been addressed in the EA.

This letter serves as Notice of Availability of the EA and the unsigned FONSI. Interested parties may review electronic copies of these documents at: <http://www.lrn.usace.army.mil/Media/PublicNotices.aspx>. A copy of the EA, unsigned FONSI, and detailed plans of the project are also available for review at the Letcher County Fiscal Court Office, 156 Main Street, Whitesburg, KY 41858.

Please provide comments **no later than April 30, 2015** to ensure consideration in the EA. Email responses to: [CorpsLRNPlanningPublicCom@usace.army.mil](mailto:CorpsLRNPlanningPublicCom@usace.army.mil); or mail responses to the address listed above, attention Joy Broach, Aquatic Biologist. If you have questions, please contact Joy Broach at (615) 736-7956. Your participation is appreciated.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Russ L. Rote". The signature is stylized with large loops and a long horizontal tail.

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

Enclosure

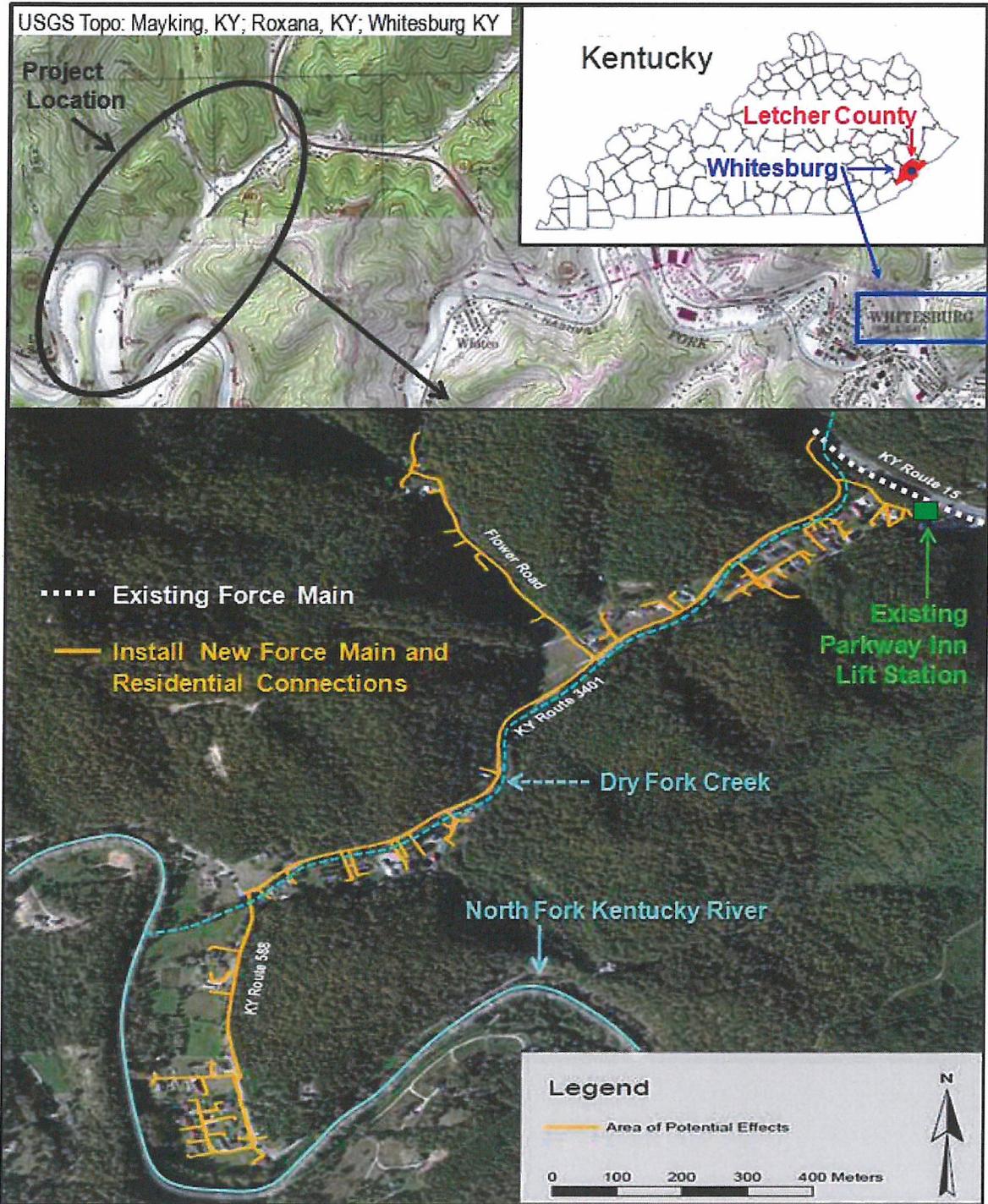


Figure 1. Whitesburg, Kentucky, Letcher County, Vicinity Map and Project Location