



GRETCHEN WHITMER
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF
ENVIRONMENT, GREAT LAKES, AND ENERGY
FINANCE DIVISION



PHILLIP D. ROOS
DIRECTOR

April 13, 2026

TO: All Interested Citizens, Organizations, and Government Agencies

SUBJECT: FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT
City of Mt. Morris, Genesee County
Water System Improvements
Drinking Water State Revolving Fund Project Number 7801-01

The purpose of this notice is to seek public input and comment on a preliminary decision by the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE) that an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is not required to implement recommendations discussed in the attached Environmental Assessment of a water supply project planning document submitted by the applicant mentioned above.

HOW WERE ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES CONSIDERED?

Part 54, Safe Drinking Water Assistance, of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act, 1994 PA 451, as amended, being Sections 324.5401 to 324.5418 of the Michigan Compiled Laws Annotated, requires EGLE to evaluate all environmental implications of a proposed water supply project. EGLE has done this by incorporating a detailed analysis of the environmental impact of the proposed alternatives in its review and approval process. A project planning document was prepared by the applicant and reviewed by the State. EGLE has prepared the attached Environmental Assessment and found that the proposed project does not require the preparation of an EIS.

WHY IS AN EIS NOT REQUIRED?

Our environmental review concluded that no significant environmental impacts would result from the proposed action. Any adverse impacts have either been eliminated by changes in the project planning document or will be reduced by the implementation of the mitigative measures discussed in the attached Environmental Assessment.

HOW DO I GET MORE INFORMATION?

A map depicting the location of the proposed project is attached. This information is also available on our website at Michigan.gov/SRF under "Environmental Project Reviews." The Environmental Assessment presents additional information on the project, alternatives that were considered, impacts of the proposed action, and the basis for our decision. Further information can be obtained by calling or writing one of the contact people listed below.

HOW DO I SUBMIT COMMENTS?

Any comments supporting or disagreeing with this preliminary decision should be submitted to EGLE-WIFFS@Michigan.gov or to me at EGLE, Finance Division, Stabenow Building, P.O. Box 30457, Lansing, Michigan 48909-7957. We will not take any action on

Finding of No Significant Impact

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this project planning document for 30 calendar days from the date of this notice in order to receive and consider all comments.

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

In the absence of substantive comments during this period, our preliminary decision will become final. The applicant will then be eligible to receive loan assistance from this Agency to construct the proposed project.

Any information you feel should be considered by EGLE should be brought to our attention. If you have any questions, please contact Jenna Beverly, the project manager, at 517-331-0463; BeverlyJ3@Michigan.gov; or you may contact me. Your interest in this process and the environment is appreciated.

Sincerely,

Dan Beauchamp

Dan Beauchamp, Section Manager
Water Infrastructure Funding and Financing Section
Finance Division
517-388-3380

Attachment

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT, GREAT LAKES, AND ENERGY
Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF)
City of Mt. Morris, Genesee County
Environmental Assessment
April 2026

PROJECT IDENTIFICATION

Applicant: City of Mt. Morris

Address: 11649 North Saginaw Street
Mt. Morris, Michigan 48458

Authorized Representative: Spencer Lewis, City Manager/Clerk

Project Number: 7801-01

PROJECT BACKGROUND

The city of Mt. Morris (Mt. Morris) is located in Genesee County, in the south-central part of Michigan. According to United States Census Bureau data, Mt. Morris had an estimated population of 3,170 as of 2020. The population is expected to remain stable with no significant changes over the next 20 years.

Mt. Morris is applying for a 40-year low interest DWSRF loan administered by the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE) to finance a \$7,500,000 water main replacement and lead service line replacement (LSLR) project. Mt. Morris is eligible to receive up to \$1,725,000 in principal loan forgiveness with funds made available by the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL), as they qualify financially as a significantly overburdened system based on EGLE criteria. As a result of the project, the average residential user is expected to see a rate increase of approximately \$8.51 per month. However, the actual rate increase for this project will likely be lower due to the expected principal forgiveness.

Project construction is expected to begin in fall 2026 and conclude in summer 2027.

PROPOSED PROJECT

A. Project Need/Justification

Mt. Morris owns and operates its water distribution system which serves the city as well as some customers in Mt. Morris Township. Mt. Morris is a customer of the Genesee County Drain Commissioner – Division of Water and Waste Services (GCDC-WWS) and drinking water is supplied through a GCDC-WWS transmission main at two metered locations at the city limits.

The water distribution system consists of over 90,000 linear feet (ft) of water main, ranging in size from 4-inches to 12-inches in diameter. Most of the water mains in the project areas date back to the 1920s to 1950s and have exceeded their useful life. Several of the mains have experienced repetitive breaks, resulting in water service interruptions to customers, potential water quality issues, and expensive repairs. In addition, repairing the water main breaks requires flushing the affected portions of the distribution system, a process that can dislodge debris and cause it to plug water meters or be expelled from faucets.

In accordance with the Michigan Lead and Copper Rule (LCR) as revised in 2018, Mt. Morris is required to replace water service lines constructed with lead, and galvanized steel lines that either currently or historically have been connected to lead, as they are a known public health hazard.

B. Alternatives Considered

No-action Alternative

Taking no action would result in the distribution system continuing to deteriorate. The system would continue to experience numerous water main breaks and water service disruptions. Lead service lines (LSLs) will remain in service and continue to pose public health concerns. Therefore, this alternative was not considered further.

Regional Alternative

Mt. Morris is part of a regional water system owned by the GCDC-WWS that supplies water to the city and other communities within and adjacent to Genesee County. The deficiencies in the distribution system would not be addressed by a regional alternative. Therefore, this alternative was not considered further.

Alternative 1: Replace Water Mains with Polyvinyl Chloride (PVC) Pipe

This alternative would involve replacing the water mains with new PVC pipe and replacing LSLs with new copper pipe. Water main replacement would be completed using the open cut trench construction method, as this method was determined to be most efficient given the number of services, valves, fire hydrants, and connections to other mains. Service line replacements would be completed using the directional drill method where feasible.

Alternative 2: Replace Water Mains with Ductile Iron Pipe

This alternative would involve replacing the water mains with ductile iron pipe. Similar to Alternative 1, LSLs would be replaced with new copper pipe, and water main replacement would be completed using the open cut trench method. Under Alternative 2, service line replacements would be completed using the open cut trench method.

C. Selected Alternative

Alternative 1 was determined to be the most cost effective alternative to address the project needs. Additionally, the Mt. Morris Department of Public Works has indicated a preference for PVC water main over ductile iron water main, primarily due to it being lighter in weight and easier to work with.

The proposed project will replace approximately 9,500 lft of water main on Maginn Court, Howard Street, East Mt. Morris Rd, Pound Street, Hughes Street, Union Street, Spruce Street, and Maple Street (see Figure 1). The existing cast iron and ductile iron water main pipes, which range in size from 4-inches to 8-inches in diameter, will be replaced with PVC pipes that are 8-inches and 12-inches in diameter. Additionally, a dead end on Pound Street will be eliminated by installing a water main loop from Saginaw Street to Union Street.

Approximately 45 LSLs will also be replaced as part of the proposed project. Prior to the start of construction, Mt. Morris plans to issue consent waivers to impacted residents for permission to access their homes and connect the new services, which will be replaced from the water main to the water meter or 18-inches within the residence, whichever is

shorter. In addition, door hangers will be placed at the residences a minimum of 72 hours in advance. Temporary interruptions to water service are expected during these replacements and typically last approximately four to six hours in duration.

D. Project Cost and Implementation

The estimated proposed project cost of \$7,500,000 is expected to be financed with a 40-year DWSRF loan at 1.00 percent interest. Mt. Morris has qualified under EGLE criteria as a significantly overburdened system and as a result, is eligible for BIL principal loan forgiveness of 23 percent of the eligible project cost not to exceed \$1,725,000 and an interest rate deduction of 1.75 percent from the standard rate of 2.75 percent. The average residential user's rate is expected to increase by approximately \$8.51 per month as a result of this project. However, the principal forgiveness that Mt. Morris has qualified for may reduce this amount.

PROJECT IMPACTS

A. Water Quality Impacts

The proposed project does not have any anticipated impacts to floodplains, inland lakes and streams, or wetlands. Replacing aging water main and LSLs will have a positive impact on water quality for system users.

B. Construction Impacts

Impacts associated with this project are related to typical short-term construction disturbances, such as dust, noise, soil, traffic impacts, and brief service interruptions. The proposed work will take place in previously disturbed areas. Construction specifications and contract provisions will require standard procedures to mitigate construction activities.

A review by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service identified the potential for federally threatened and endangered species and habitat to be located near the project area, including the Indiana bat and Northern long-eared bat. However, it was determined that the project is not likely to have any adverse impacts on endangered or threatened plant or animal species. Any necessary tree cutting will be limited to October 1 through April 14, during the inactive season for the listed bats.

The Michigan Natural Features Inventory review of the proposed project indicated that adverse impacts are highly unlikely to occur as there are no known occurrences of at-risk species or rare natural communities within 1.5 miles of the project area.

The State Historic Preservation Office was consulted and determined that the project will have no adverse effect on historic properties within the project area.

Tribal Historic Preservation Officers identified to be associated with Genesee County were contacted requesting comments as to any potential impact to tribal historic, religious, or cultural resources. To date, none have expressed any concerns.

C. Secondary Impacts

No significant secondary impacts are anticipated due to this project. Improvements to the water system are associated with the need to address aging drinking water infrastructure and to improve water quality and public health.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

A public meeting on the draft project planning document was held on May 8, 2023, at Mt. Morris City Hall. Notice of the public meeting was advertised on the Mt. Morris website on April 25, 2023, and a copy of the draft project planning document was available for public review at Mt. Morris City Hall. At the public meeting, a presentation was given on the proposed project, and all questions and comments were addressed. The City Council passed a resolution to adopt the project planning document and selected alternative following the public meeting.

REASONS FOR CONCLUDING NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACTS

The proposed water main replacement and LSLR project is anticipated to have no significant adverse direct, indirect, or cumulative impacts on socioeconomic, cultural, or environmental factors. The project is expected to have a positive impact on Mt. Morris as it will improve reliability and water quality within the distribution system. The water quality benefits anticipated from the project are expected to outweigh the short-term adverse impacts. Therefore, a finding of no significant impact has been made.

Questions regarding this Environmental Assessment should be directed to:

Jenna Beverly, Project Manager
Water Infrastructure Funding and Financing Section
Finance Division
Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy
P.O. Box 30457
Lansing, Michigan 48909-7957
Telephone: 517-331-0463
Email: BeverlyJ3@Michigan.gov

Figure 1: Study Area and Project Locations

