

Status Report and Update

City of Sylvania, Ohio

Water Supply System Feasibility Study

October 1997

This status report and update has been prepared to provide information to the potential partner communities on the progress and current status of the water supply system feasibility study since the informational meeting of August 1996. Much progress has been made in garnering regional support for a water supply system and fostering a cooperative approach toward that goal. We invite you to share this information with all interested members of your staff, department, and organization.

In late 1995, the City of Sylvania initiated a study of the formation of a new regional water supply system for the northwest Ohio and southeast Michigan region. Under the first three phases (Phases A, B, and C) of the study, Black & Veatch, the City's engineering consultant, has shown that a new raw water intake can be located in western Lake Erie, identified the necessary pumping, treatment, and transmission facilities, and developed preliminary costs.

The study is now to a point where it has been demonstrated that a regional system is feasible, and to continue and complete the study will require the support of other communities who are potential partners in a new regional system, and who must have a part in the remainder of the study. Following identification of the partner communities, the final phase of the study (Phase D) will identify the specific facilities required for the system and its partners, analyze management and organizational alternatives for the new regional water supply system, provide financial analyses, and will result in a final report identifying the findings and recommendations for the formation of a regional water system and its organizational and political structure.

Since the August 1996 informational meeting, a number of potential partners have pledged their support, land and easement acquisition for the new facilities has been investigated, and the progress of this study has spurred interest by other groups toward similar goals. Following is a summary of each key area:

Phase D Partnership Members

The attached figure shows the eight governmental entities who have committed support, as of October 1997, toward the next phase of the study. Each partner will have an integral part in the progress and direction of Phase D, and will be in the best position to benefit from the study. Although sufficient financial support has been pledged to proceed with Phase D, the opportunity for additional partners is available, as the final phase of the study will await the outcome of the

Northwest Ohio Regional Water Study described below. It should be noted, however, that communities who do not participate in Phase D will not be precluded from being a part of a new regional water system, but would be expected to abide by the management and operational procedures adopted by the new regional governing entity, and fairly compensate other partners at such time they become a member of the partnership.

Land and Easement Acquisition

Since one of the most time consuming processes in the construction of a new water system is the acquisition of easements for pipelines and land for pumping and treatment facilities, the City of Sylvania has begun identification of, and negotiation for, the necessary easements and land required for the new system:

Land for Pumping and/or Treatment Facilities. The preferred location of facilities at the western shore of Lake Erie has been identified, and negotiations are currently underway with Consumers Energy (property owner) for arrangement of a long-term lease for the intended site.

Easement for Transmission Facilities. An agreement has been reached with Consumers Energy for the acquisition of an easement located along their electric transmission lines, beginning at the intended lakeshore site and leading to the west and areas of water demand. A formal application to purchase easement has been submitted to Consumers Energy by the City of Sylvania. Also, discussions are being held with the Monroe County Road Commission to identify the preferred locations and agency requirements for location of transmission mains within county road rights of way.

Northwest Ohio Regional Water Study Committee

The Northwest Ohio Regional Water Study Committee, a three year old group of officials from five Ohio counties, has begun a study to determine the possibility of a regional water authority in the area (Sylvania Mayor Craig Stough is a member of the committee). The study will be administered by the Lucas County Sanitary Engineer under the direction of the committee. The committee's charge has been to determine the value of the existing City of Toledo water system, and outline how Toledo's system can be integrated into a regional system. The study is planned to be in two parts, with the first determining the value of the existing Toledo system, and the second completing the remaining tasks. In late July 1997, a request for qualifications statements for appraisal of Toledo's water system was issued to a number of consultants, and qualification packages have now been received. The committee has requested formal proposals from five qualified firms.

The City of Sylvania has pledged support and assistance to the committee's study, and has agreed to delay Phase D of their own study pending the progress and outcome of the committee's study. Information developed in the first three phases of the Black & Veatch study will also be made available for the committee's study.

Current Activities

As noted earlier, Phase D of the study will be delayed for a few months. However, while the Northwest Ohio Regional Water Study Committee study progresses, the City of Sylvania will continue with activities necessary for the construction and formation of a new water supply system. These include:

- Continue negotiations for property and easement acquisition for new facilities.
- Continue discussions with state (both Ohio and Michigan) officials regarding financing alternatives and opportunities available for a new multi-state water authority.
- Meet with additional communities interested in becoming partners in a new regional water authority.
- Work with the Northwest Ohio Regional Water Study Committee to ensure meaningful and necessary progress in their study.

We express our thanks and extreme optimism to those communities who have pledged support to Phase D of the regional water supply system study, and will continue to issue periodic updates to appraise you of the status of our activities, the anticipated start of Phase D, and the progress of the committee study. For those communities who may also have an interest in participating in Phase D, please call Mr. Jeff Ballmer, Director of Public Service, City of Sylvania, at (419)885-8965, or Mr. Paul Bhatia, Project Manager, Black & Veatch, at (313)962-9101, for more information or to arrange for a presentation to your community board and/or officials.

**Sylvania, Ohio
Water Supply System Feasibility Study**

**Committed Partner Communities
April 20, 1998**

<u>Community</u>	<u>Population*</u>	<u>Committed Funds</u>
South County Water District, MI	34,732	\$19,929
Whiteford Twp., Michigan	4,433	\$3,000
Perrysburg, Ohio	12,551	\$10,000
Maumee, Ohio	15,561	\$10,000
Whitehouse, Ohio	2,528	\$5,000
Petersburg, Michigan	1,201	\$2,500
Summerfield Twp., Michigan	3,076	\$3,000
Total:	74,082	\$53,429

* 1990 census population within entity limits