



Early Notice and Public Review of a Proposed Activity in a Floodplain and Wetlands

To: All interested Agencies [U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), Oregon Department of State Lands (DSL), Oregon Department of Land Conservation and Development (DLCD), Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife (ODFW), Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), U.S. Forest Service-Malheur, Eastern Oregon Regional Solutions Center, and Grant County, Oregon], Groups and Individuals [North Fork and South Fork of the John Day Watershed Council, and Harney County Watershed Council], and residents of the City of Seneca and Grant County.

This is to give notice that **Responsible Entity (City of Seneca) under Part 58** has determined that the following proposed action under **State-administered Community Development Block Grant and P16007** is located in the **floodplain and wetlands**, and the **Responsible Entity** will be identifying and evaluating practicable alternatives to locating the action in the **floodplain/wetland** and the potential impacts on the **floodplain/wetland** from the proposed action, as required by **Executive Order 11988 and 11990**, in accordance with HUD regulations at 24 CFR 55.20 Subpart C Procedures for Making Determinations on Floodplain Management and Protection of Wetlands.

The proposed action will include boring under the Silvies River, a floodway unmapped by FEMA or other agencies, and crossing two small strips of Riverine and Riverine/Freshwater Emergent Wetlands. Total impact on wetlands should be under 50 cubic meters, at approximately 0.03 acres.

The \$3,500,000 proposed action, funded through HUD's Community Development Block Grant program and OBDD's Water Wastewater Financing Program, is a sewer system improvement project in the City of Seneca, Oregon. The project can be divided into two main categories: (1) new construction of a force main and wastewater treatment plant west of the main City development and (2) rehabilitation of existing sewer collection system throughout the City's urban footprint. HECO Inc. estimates Total ground disturbance of the two strips of wetlands will be under 50 cubic meters. The proposed action's project elements location in relation to floodways, floodplains, and wetlands is described below.

1. Project element: New construction.
 - a. Floodplains/FEMA potential impact: All new construction takes place in area unmapped by FEMA. However, the Silvies River acts as a floodway and the project will involve boring under the Silvies. A second crossing will occur across Shirttail Creek, but it will not require an additional bore – there is a culvert already in place to accommodate the crossing. Wastewater treatment plant construction will take place entirely outside of the floodplain.
 - b. Wetlands/NWI potential impact: New construction of the new force main and wastewater treatment plant has been aligned to minimize wetlands impacts during the crossing of the Silvies River and Shirttail Creek. The Silvies River includes wetlands and riparian areas nearby. HECO, the project engineers, estimate disturbance and digging in the wetlands will be less than 50 cubic meters. Shirttail Creek is listed as Freshwater Emergent Wetland and small areas around Shirttail near the potential crossing are identified as Riverine. Crossing Shirttail will not require new boring because there is an existing culvert feature



that will accommodate the crossing. Wastewater treatment plant construction will take place entirely outside of the wetlands and there will be a 25' offset between the reuse area and the Shirttail Creek wetlands area.

2. Project element: The rehabilitation of existing sewer collection system elements
 - a. Floodplains/FEMA potential impact: Rehabilitation of existing collection lines will take place entirely within Zone C "Area of minimal flood hazard, usually depicted on FIRMs as above the 500-year flood level."
 - b. Wetlands/NWI potential impact: No wetlands near the rehabilitation project areas.

The proposed project(s) is located in **City of Seneca, Grant County, Oregon.**

There are three primary purposes for this notice. First, people who may be affected by activities in **floodplains/wetlands** and those who have an interest in the protection of the natural environment should be given an opportunity to express their concerns and provide information about these areas. Commenters are encouraged to offer alternative sites outside of the **floodplain/wetland**, alternative methods to serve the same project purpose, and methods to minimize and mitigate impacts. Second, an adequate public notice program can be an important public educational tool. The dissemination of information and request for public comment about **floodplains/wetlands** can facilitate and enhance Federal efforts to reduce the risks and impacts associated with the occupancy and modification of these special areas. Third, as a matter of fairness, when the Federal government determines it will participate in actions taking place in **floodplains/wetlands**, it must inform those who may be put at greater or continued risk.

Written comments must be received by **the City of Seneca** at the following address on or before **April 13, 2018**:

City of Seneca
106 A Ave/ PO Box 208
Seneca, Oregon 97873
541.542.2161
Attention: Josh Walker, Public Works Director/Project Manager.

A full description of the project may also be reviewed from **9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at same address as above and on the City website (<https://www.senecaoregon.com/>)**. Comments may also be submitted via email to publicworks@senecaoregon.com.

Date: March 19, 2018