BUFFALO
SEWER AUTHORITY

ATTACHMENT C

Full Environmental Assessment Form
Part 3 - Evaluation of the Magnitude and Importance of Project Impacts
and
Determination of Significance

Part 3 provides the reasons in support of the determination of significance. The lead agency must complete Part 3 for every question in Part 2 where the impact has been identified as potentially moderate to large or where there is a need to explain why a particular element of the proposed action will not, or may, result in a significant adverse environmental impact.

Based on the analysis in Part 3, the lead agency must decide whether to require an environmental impact statement to further assess the proposed action or whether available information is sufficient for the lead agency to conclude that the proposed action will not have a significant adverse environmental impact. By completing the certification on the next page, the lead agency can complete its determination of significance.

Reasons Supporting This Determination:
To complete this section:

- Identify the impact based on the Part 2 responses and describe its magnitude. Magnitude considers factors such as severity, size or extent of an impact.
- Assess the importance of the impact. Importance relates to the geographic scope, duration, probability of the impact occurring, number of people affected by the impact and any additional environmental consequences if the impact were to occur.
- The assessment should take into consideration any design element or project changes.
- Repeat this process for each Part 2 question where the impact has been identified as potentially moderate to large or where there is a need to explain why a particular element of the proposed action will not, or may, result in a significant adverse environmental impact.
- Provide the reason(s) why the impact may, or will not, result in a significant adverse environmental impact
- For Conditional Negative Declarations identify the specific condition(s) imposed that will modify the proposed action so that no significant adverse environmental impacts will result.
- Attach additional sheets, as needed.

Please see attached significance statement.

Determination of Significance - Type 1 and Unlisted Actions

SEQR Status: ☑ Type 1 ☐ Unlisted

Identify portions of EAF completed for this Project: ☑ Part 1 ☑ Part 2 ☑ Part 3

Upon review of the information recorded on this EAF, as noted, plus this additional support information

and considering both the magnitude and importance of each identified potential impact, it is the conclusion of the Buffalo Sewer Authority as lead agency that:

☑ A. This project will result in no significant adverse impacts on the environment, and, therefore, an environmental impact statement need not be prepared. Accordingly, this negative declaration is issued.

☐ B. Although this project could have a significant adverse impact on the environment, that impact will be avoided or substantially mitigated because of the following conditions which will be required by the lead agency:

There will, therefore, be no significant adverse impacts from the project as conditioned, and, therefore, this conditioned negative declaration is issued. A conditioned negative declaration may be used only for UNLISTED actions (see 6 NYCRR 617.7(d)).

☐ C. This Project may result in one or more significant adverse impacts on the environment, and an environmental impact statement must be prepared to further assess the impact(s) and possible mitigation and to explore alternatives to avoid or reduce those impacts. Accordingly, this positive declaration is issued.

Name of Action: Louisiana Street CSO064_1.2 SPP137 Modification and CSO064_1.1 CSO-064 ILS

Name of Lead Agency: Buffalo Sewer Authority

Name of Responsible Officer in Lead Agency: Rosaleen B. Nogle, PE, BCEE, BC, WRE, CFM

Title of Responsible Officer: Principal Sanitary Engineer

Signature of Responsible Officer in Lead Agency: Date:

Signature of Preparer (if different from Responsible Officer) Date:

For Further Information:

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For Type 1 Actions and Conditioned Negative Declarations, a copy of this Notice is sent to:

Chief Executive Officer of the political subdivision in which the action will be principally located (e.g., Town / City / Village of)
Other involved agencies (if any)
Applicant (if any)
Environmental Notice Bulletin: http://www.dec.ny.gov/enb/enb.html

PRINT FULL FORM

Full Environmental Assessment Form

Part 3 – Evaluation of the Magnitude and Importance of Project Impacts and Determination of Significance

Lead Agency: Buffalo Sewer Authority
Project: Louisiana Street CSO064_1.2 SPP137 Modification and CSO-064 ILS

Proposed Activity:

Under the proposed project, SPP137 will be modified by raising the overflow weir and removing the underflow orifice plate to reduce overflows at CSO-064 and would be implemented in conjunction with the modification of CSO-064 ILS. The modification of CSO-064 involves replacing the existing 24" sewer upstream of SPP137 with 60-inch diameter sewer piping between South Street and Republic Street along Louisiana Street. These sewers would provide inline sewer storage volume to help reduce overflows at SPP137.

Agency Coordination:

The completion of this project will potentially involve approval from twelve (12) agencies. SEQR materials were prepared and sent to the following agencies: City of Buffalo Common Council – Fillmore District, City of Buffalo Department of Public Works, Parks and Streets, City of Buffalo Office of Strategic Planning, Buffalo Environmental Management Commission, City of Buffalo Water Authority, Erie County Department of Health, New York State Highway Authority, New York State Department of Transportation, New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, New York State Historic Preservation Office, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and New York State Department of State.

Agency Consultations:

The project details were submitted to the New York State Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation- Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation (OPRHP). The OPRHP issued an Effect Finding of No Impact Letter. Based on the review, the OPRHP determined that no properties, including archaeological and/ or historic resources, listed in or eligible for the New York State and National Registers of Historic Places will be impacted by this project.

A consultation was also made with the US Fish and Wildlife Service Information for Planning and Consultation (IPaC) system. The project site is in proximity to one (1) Proposed Threatened species, the Monarch Butterfly. Proposed species are not required to

be analyzed for consultation, unless the action is likely to jeopardize the continued existence of a proposed species. As this project is limited to the Row of Louisiana Street, it is unlikely to affect the Monarch Butterfly population or its habitat. Therefore, no impact on natural communities will occur due to this project.

The site does not require consultation with the New York Natural Heritage Program (NHP) as the site does not contain a designated significant natural community or contain any species that NYS lists as species of special concern. All correspondence from coordinating agencies is included in Part 6 of the SEQR package.

Analysis of Impacts

The following impacts were identified in FEAF Parts 1 and 2.

1. Impact on land

Analysis:

The 15-month construction phase of the project requires the excavation of 4,814 cubic yards of urban soil for the underground SPP and ILS modifications, the area of impact is a 1-acre section of Louisiana Street between Republic Street and South Street. Excavated materials suitable for reuse will be used as backfill where practicable. Unsuitable materials will be disposed of off-site in accordance with applicable local, state, and federal regulations. Construction activities will create significant soil disturbance and the movement and storage of excavated material. Alterations to surface drainage patterns, an increase in erosion, and soil compaction may occur in the project area.

Mitigation Measures:

Mitigation measures will be implemented to limit potential impacts on land, erosion and sediment transport. To limit impacts on land, standard erosion and sediment controls will be used where necessary, including silt fencing, stabilized construction entrances, and temporary vegetative cover or gravel surfacing for disturbed areas. Additionally, stormwater management best practices will be employed to minimize runoff. Proper grading techniques will be used to direct runoff away from sensitive areas and to prevent pooling.

Impact:

The impact on land for this project will be moderate and short term during the construction period. Given the limited area of disturbance, the reuse of excavated materials, and the implementation of erosion control and stormwater management measures, the project is not expected to result in significant adverse impacts on land. Potential affects on the land

will be limited to the 15-month construction period with the implementation of mitigation measures during construction, no long-term effects are predicted after the conclusion of construction.

5. Impact on Flooding

Analysis:
The project site is located within a mapped 500-year floodplain. The proposed action consists of subsurface sewer infrastructure improvements within an existing roadway corridor and does not involve the placement of habitable structures, critical facilities, or above-grade development that would be vulnerable to flood damage. The project will not result in a change in land use, nor will it introduce fill or obstructions that would alter flood storage capacity or flood flow patterns. The inline sewer storage system is designed to improve system performance during wet weather events, which may provide localized benefits in managing peak flows within the combined sewer system.

Mitigation Measures:
Construction activities will be planned to account for potential flood conditions, including temporary dewatering, stabilization of excavated areas, and protection of materials and equipment. Final design will ensure that all infrastructure components are constructed to withstand anticipated groundwater and flood conditions. No permanent mitigation specific to flooding is required as the project does not increase flood risk.

Impact:
The proposed action will not result in significant adverse impacts related to flooding. The project does not increase the potential for flooding on-site or off-site, nor does it place vulnerable uses within the floodplain. Impacts are expected to be negligible.

13. Impact on Transportation

Analysis:

The proposed action is occurring within the 1-acre block section of Louisiana Street between Republic Street and South Street. The project will likely cause lane closures and detours on Louisiana Street during construction for excavation and sewer installation. Pedestrian traffic may be restricted during certain phases of construction. The affected area is mixed commercial and residential properties to the east and a park to the west. The area has low to moderate traffic volumes, no long-term operational impacts on transportation are projected after construction is completed.

Mitigation:

To limit the impact of this project on transportation, a Maintenance and Protection of Traffic (MPT) plan will be developed and coordinated with the City of Buffalo and local emergency services. The MPT plan will include implementation of temporary signage, barriers, pedestrian rerouting, and traffic control measures such as flaggers or temporary signals as needed. Access for emergency vehicles and local deliveries will be maintained.

Impact:

The impact of this project on transportation will likely be moderate and short term during the construction period of the project. There is likely to be a higher impact for businesses and residents who live adjacent to the work site, however Louisiana Street is not a major thoroughfare so the impact on transportation in the greater area will be limited. An MPT plan will limit the impact to traffic patterns in the area. The disruption to traffic will be limited to the 15-month construction period. Once construction is completed, no long-term impact on traffic is expected.

15. Impact on Noise, Odor, and Light

Analysis:

The proposed action will involve the use of heavy equipment for excavation, material transport and pipe installation, which will likely increase noise levels in the local community. The 15-month construction period could cause the surrounding residential and commercial properties could experience extended noise impacts.

Installation of an inline storage system beneath Louisiana Street can create odors that can last for more than one hour per day. While the flow through the system will be continuous, odors may be emitted from above-grade hatches or manholes due to the nature of the nature of contents passing through the system. Given that the area contains residential homes and commercial business adjacent to the storage system, there is potential for noticeable odor to local residents and patrons which raises concerns of recurring air quality issues, particularly during warmer months when higher temperatures may intensify odors.

Mitigation:

The concern of noise impacts will be mitigated by compliance with local noise ordinances, hours of work will be limited to daytime periods, and using equipment with noise reduction features.

Air quality impacts from odors will be controlled through the implementation of odor controls during the final design process. Potential strategies include activated carbon filtration, biofilters, or chemical treatment systems for odor control at key emission points. Proper ventilation design and periodic maintenance will also help minimize long-term odor concerns. If odor impacts prove to be persistent, additional mitigation efforts, such as enclosure enhancements or additional air treatment systems may be required.

Impacts:

The impact on noise levels will be significant and medium term, but not permanent. The sound is expected to only occur during daylight hours and during the 15-month period of construction. The impacts of noise will cease with construction activities.

Odor impacts will be moderate and recurring and will be dependent on the effectiveness of the final design and mitigation measures. While odors will not be constant, the recurring nature of the storage activation means that odor management will be a key long-term consideration for the success of this project.

16. Impact on Human Health

Analysis:

The project site is adjacent to a completed NYSDEC remediation site, identified as 225 Louisiana Street site is part of the Brownfield Cleanup Program. The property has historically been used for manufacturing such as nickel plating, iron works, painting, annealing, and oil furnaces from the 1920s to the 1990s. Since the 1990s, the site has been used as warehousing and a distribution facility, parking area, and storage area. The primary contaminants of concern are polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs), petroleum contamination, and metals in the soil. Chlorinated volatile organic compounds (CVOCs) were detected in the sub-slab vapor. Remediation at the site is complete and soil cleanup objectives for restricted-residential use have been achieved. An active sub-slab depressurization system was installed in portions of the building at 225 Louisiana Street. Residual contamination in the soil, groundwater, and soil vapor is being managed under a Site Management Plan.

Mitigation:

Due to the proximity of a NYSDEC remediation site, additional measures will be implemented to limit the potential exposure to contaminated soil or vapors. If contaminated soil or groundwater is encountered during excavation, it will be managed and disposed of in accordance with applicable NYSDEC regulations. Any contaminated

soils found will be disposed of in accordance to local, state and federal regulations. A Community Air Monitoring Program will be implemented during construction to ensure the limitation of the impact of VOCs and dust on the surrounding community.

Impacts:

The project will have a moderate impact over the short term during the 15-month period of construction. While the remediation of the nearby site is complete, additional mitigation measures will be implemented to limit the potential exposures of contaminants to the public. Soil testing and air monitoring will be implemented to ensure contaminants are not being released and ensure that any contaminated soils will be removed from the site to reach clean up regulations for local mixed commercial and residential use.

Determination of Significance:

The Louisiana Street project involves the raising the overflow weir and removing an underflow orifice plate and the replacement of the 24" sewer pipes with 60" pipes along the 1-acre section of Louisiana Street between Republic Street and South Street. The project is in a mixed commercial and residential area and will involve deep excavation and long-duration construction activities within the public right-of-way.

Temporary impacts include soil disturbance, noise, potential dust emissions, and minor traffic disruptions. The proximity of this site to the NYSDEC 225 Louisiana Street brownfield site suggests a potential impact from contaminated soils and groundwater. This risk will be mitigated by soil and groundwater testing. If contamination is present within the project area, remediation measures will be implemented in accordance with local, state, and federal guidelines to ensure removal of contaminated materials. Any potential dust or VOC risk will be mitigated by Community Air Monitoring programs to limit potential community exposures.

Long-term benefits include significant improvements in combined sewer overflow control, public health, and water quality in the Buffalo sewer system.

With consideration of the aforementioned environmental factors, along with findings from Part 1 and Part 2 of the Full Environmental Assessment Form, the magnitude, importance, duration, and scale of adverse environmental impacts related to the raising of the overflow weir and removing the underflow orifice plate as well as the replacement of the 24" sewer pipes with 60" pipes are low.

Therefore, the lead agency checks "A" on the last page of the Full Environmental Assessment Form, issuing a negative declaration (Neg. Dec) for the action.