

## NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY

Notice is hereby given that the United States Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Agriculture Research Service (ARS) has prepared an Environmental Assessment (EA) to analyze the potential impacts of replacing a damaged sewer force main line to prevent damage to water quality and human health. The EA was performed by Wetland Studies and Solutions, and is attached at the end of this FONSI letter.

This project is located at the USDA Beltsville location in Beltsville, Prince George's County, Maryland. The sewer line replacement will impact a swath of land between the terminus of Road E and an unnamed road south of Beaver Dam Road.

This project is needed to replace a damaged sewer force main line. The existing pipe is exposed in the stream bed and has been damaged. The damaged pipe is allowing the release of sewage into Beaver Dam Creek, which has been recognized as a High Quality (Tier II) water by the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE). In addition to the water quality impacts, the sewage leak poses a threat to human health.

An EA was prepared in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and USDA-ARS regulations. The EA provides information necessary to determine whether an environmental impact statement (EIS) should be prepared or if a "Finding of No Significant Impact" (FONSI) decision can be made.

Consideration of the activities involved in the proposed project has been determined to have no significant impact on the quality of the human environment or on local natural resources. As a result of this EA, it is determined that an EIS is not required for the Proposed Action; therefore, a FONSI is recommended.

The EA and the FONSI are available for viewing at the following website:  
<https://www.ars.usda.gov/northeast-area/docs/environmental-assessment/>

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