Environmental Studies

ODOT has completed detailed environmental studies of the project. These studies will be compiled in a document for Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) approval under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). This approval must be obtained prior to building the project.

Waters and Wetlands: Field investigations identified two wetlands within the study area; however, they do not exhibit features of jurisdictional features and neither of these are likely to require any further coordination with the US Army Corps of Engineers. No streams were identified.

Threatened and Endangered Species: The project area contains potential habitat for the American Burying Beetle and the Northern Long-Eared Bat. These are federally protected species. No adverse effects are anticipated. Notes will be added to the plans to ensure the project avoids and/or minimizes impacts to these species.

Cultural Resources: A pedestrian survey of the entire project area was completed. No significant archeological or historic resources were identified.

Hazardous Materials: The project area was the site of coal strip mining activities in the past. There was a pit on the site that was filled with local material after use. ODOT is reviewing the findings of the investigation. Additional work and/or plan notes may be required.