



John R. Kasich, Governor
Mary Taylor, Lt. Governor
Craig W. Butler, Director

May 24, 2018
Preliminary Finding of No Significant Impact
Canton – Canton South Waterline Extension
Stark County
WSRLA No. FS390224-0030

The attached Environmental Assessment (EA) is for a water supply project in your area which the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency intends to finance through its Water Supply Revolving Loan Account (WSRLA) below-market interest rate revolving loan program. The EA describes the project, its costs, and expected environmental benefits. We would appreciate receiving any comments you may have on the project. Making available this EA and seeking your comments fulfills Ohio EPA's environmental review and public notice requirements for this loan program.

Ohio EPA analyzes environmental effects of proposed projects as part of its WSRLA program review and approval process. We have concluded that the proposed project should not result in significant adverse environmental impacts. More information can be obtained by contacting the person named at the end of the EA.

Any comments on our preliminary determination should be sent to me at the letterhead address. We will not act on this project for 30 calendar days from the date of this notice in order to receive and consider comments. In the absence of substantive comments during this period, our preliminary decision will become final. After that, the City of Canton can then proceed with its application for the WSRLA loan.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jerry Rouch".

Jerry Rouch, Assistant Chief
Division of Environmental & Financial Assistance
Office of Financial Assistance

JR/JS

attachment

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

A. PROJECT IDENTIFICATION

Project Name: Canton - Canton South Waterline Extension

WSRLA No.: FS390224-0030

Project Contact: John Highman Jr., Director of Public Service
City of Canton
218 Cleveland Avenue SW
Canton, OH 44702

B. PROPOSED PROJECT

1. SUMMARY

The City of Canton has applied to Ohio EPA's Water Supply Revolving Loan Account (WSRLA) for an approximately \$11,000,000 loan to finance its "Canton South Water Line Extension" project that will install 55,760 linear feet (LF) of 6- and 8-inch waterline, providing 722 residences and commercial properties in the community of Canton South with the ability to tie into the City's water distribution system.

2. PROJECT BACKGROUND

a. History and Existing Conditions

Canton South is a small community within Canton Township in Stark County, Ohio. The Canton Water Department has millions of gallons per day of excess capacity and is in favor of extending water mains throughout the community which is south of and immediately adjacent to the City (Figures I-II).

The Township and City have been working together to plan for the installation of water mains throughout the Canton South community, bringing public drinking water to the township in stages. In 2003, the City developed a Water Service plan to appropriately size waterlines, eliminate approximately 423 wells, six public water systems, and accommodate any future growth or expansion beyond the service area.

b. Project Need

Approximately one-third of the community is serviced by home sewage treatment systems and 90% of residents rely on private wells as their drinking water source. An assessment of these wells by the Stark County Health Department found that static water levels were at the same elevations as the Nimishillen Creek which runs along the entire eastern border of the project area. With a history of regular flooding, contaminants in the creek may enter the aquifer which supplies these wells. Numerous residential wells have tested positive for coliform bacteria, the standard indicator of the potential presence of disease-causing organisms, or pathogens, in the water system. This project will bring a safe, potable water source to 722 residences.

3. DISCUSSION OF FEASIBLE ALTERNATIVES

Canton has planned this project in conjunction with the “Canton South- Cleveland Avenue Waterline Extension” project and evaluated the below alternatives in tandem.

1. No Action

Due to the above-described existing conditions for potable water services within the project area, the No-Action alternative of continuing with the current situation would leave citizens with unsafe, limited or expensive water sources, which is not a viable option.

2. Extension of waterlines throughout the service area using the conventional method of installing 8” and 12” waterline by open cut, trench installation.

This method tends to be expensive due to pavement work and road restoration. To extend the waterlines utilizing this method, the estimated project cost for both projects was approximately \$12,900,000.

3. Installation of 6” lines throughout side streets instead of the installation of only 8” waterline.

This would result in a cost savings of around \$1,300,000, reducing the combined project cost to approximately \$11,615,440.

4. Directionally drilling 2” and 4” water mains throughout neighborhoods which would then tie back to larger water mains that would be installed within the community’s main streets.

These larger water mains would serve as the distribution system’s backbone through the community and would be sized to accommodate future growth and expansion.

4. SELECTED ALTERNATIVE

Even though the 4th option is the most economical in terms of construction costs, after further consideration the City concluded that this option would not be the best overall option for the community and the City. The smaller water mains would be too small to support any future growth or increased demands and could create low pressure in some areas. Therefore, the selected alternative for these projects is Alternative 3.

The project will install approximately 10.6 miles of 6” waterline throughout Canton South (See Figure III), allowing the elimination of 423 shallow, sub-par, water wells. According to the Stark County Health Department, a number of these wells have tested positive for Total Coliform Bacteria. Connection to the public water supply is not required.

5. PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION

Canton will finance this project's total cost with a WSRLA loan for approximately \$11,000,000 that includes up to 75%, or \$8,250,000 as Principal Forgiveness, an amount that does not require repayment, and the remainder at the "Human Health" interest rate of 0%. Canton will save approximately \$4,250,390 over the 20-year term by using WSRLA loan monies with these discounts in comparison to the June market rate of 3.20%.

C. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS OF THE PROPOSED PROJECT

This project, which will ensure safe, potable water is delivered to customers, is unlikely to directly affect important environmental features.

The entire project area is within a residential and commercial area which lacks important environmental features, wetlands and agricultural land, and no change to land use or existing topography will occur.

Construction will have no adverse effect on surface water resources or ground water resources. It does not involve a new or relocated discharge to surface or ground water, involve any increase in volume of discharge or loading of pollutants from an existing source or new facilities, create a new source of water withdrawals from either surface or ground waters, significantly increase the amount of water withdrawn from existing sources or provide capacity to serve a population greater (thirty percent) than the current design population. Standard construction best management practices will control and minimize soil erosion and runoff to area streams. The project does not require the expansion of the City's water treatment facility beyond its current capacity or require the addition of a supplementary water supplier, so it will not require a change in water withdrawal.

Terrestrial habitats and aquatic habitats will be insignificantly affected by this project. No trees are to be taken down because of the project and vegetation in the area is limited to permanent easements which are maintained/mowed within the developed area. Post-construction vegetation will be grasses on the easement for ease of access and maintenance. For stream crossings, directional boring is proposed, and is not anticipated to have any adverse impact. Unexpected subgrade conditions may allow escape of natural clay-based drilling fluid ("frac-outs") to the surface. To minimize environmental damage, the City will require the drilling contractor to develop and follow a frac-out contingency plan for the control and cleanup of released material.

Air quality will be unaffected by this project, because it adds no sources of air pollution. This project to install water lines will add no permanent sources of air pollution, although short-term, insignificant increases in dust and local air pollution from construction vehicle exhaust are expected during construction and will be controlled by standard construction best management practices. For these reasons, the project should have no significant adverse short-term or long-term impacts on local air quality.

Standard construction best management practices will control noise, dust, traffic disruption, and storm water runoff. Construction noise will be audible but insignificant compared to normal vehicle traffic in the greater project area. Traffic will be disrupted temporarily due to

construction adjacent to roads and will be controlled and minimized by standard traffic controls (signs, barricades, flaggers). Public safety will be protected during construction primarily by proper traffic management in the construction area and by covering or filling trench excavations at the end of each work day.

Because disturbance from the proposed project will be limited to permanent easements, which contain highly erodible soils and have an intensive history of industrial and residential uses and the previously disturbed roadway, which has been excavated for road construction, the Ohio State Historic Preservation Office concurred that there is very little possibility of finding any archaeological or historical material that would represent a potentially historical property. In the event of archaeological finds during construction, Ohio Revised Code Section 149.53 requires contractors and subcontractors to notify the State Historic Preservation Office of any archaeological discoveries in the project area, and to cooperate with the Office in archaeological and historic surveys and salvage efforts when appropriate. Work will not resume until a survey of the find and a determination of its value and effect has been made, and Ohio EPA authorizes work to continue.

Debt from this loan will be repaid from water rates (currently approximately \$181/year for a typical residential customer) and new customer connection fees (approximately \$7,700 per lot). The water rate amount is approximately 0.6% of local median household income (MHI; \$29,418), which is lower than the Ohio average: 1.2%. Rates will not be raised because of this project, although the actual cost to new customers, based on the water rate plus connection fees, if financed over 20 years (\$385 per year), would be equivalent to \$566 per year. By using the WSRLA low-interest financing for this project, the City has minimized the cost to customers and the impact on the local economy.

D. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

On August 3rd, 2015, a special public town hall meeting was held in Canton Township to discuss the possibility of extending waterlines to the area. In this meeting, the service area and the anticipated costs were discussed and questions that the residences had were answered. After the meeting, mailings were sent to the residences within the service area requesting them to mail back a response card. Eighty-three percent of the responses were in favor of the waterline extension project.

As the project progresses, more public meetings will be held to more accurately discuss project cost estimates along with the construction schedule. Based on the limited environmental and economic impacts, this is considered an appropriate level of public participation. Ohio EPA is unaware of controversy about or opposition to this project.

Ohio EPA will make a copy of this document available to the public on its webpage at <http://epa.ohio.gov/defa/ofa.aspx> ("WSRLA Documents for Review and Comment").

E. REASONS FOR A PRELIMINARY FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

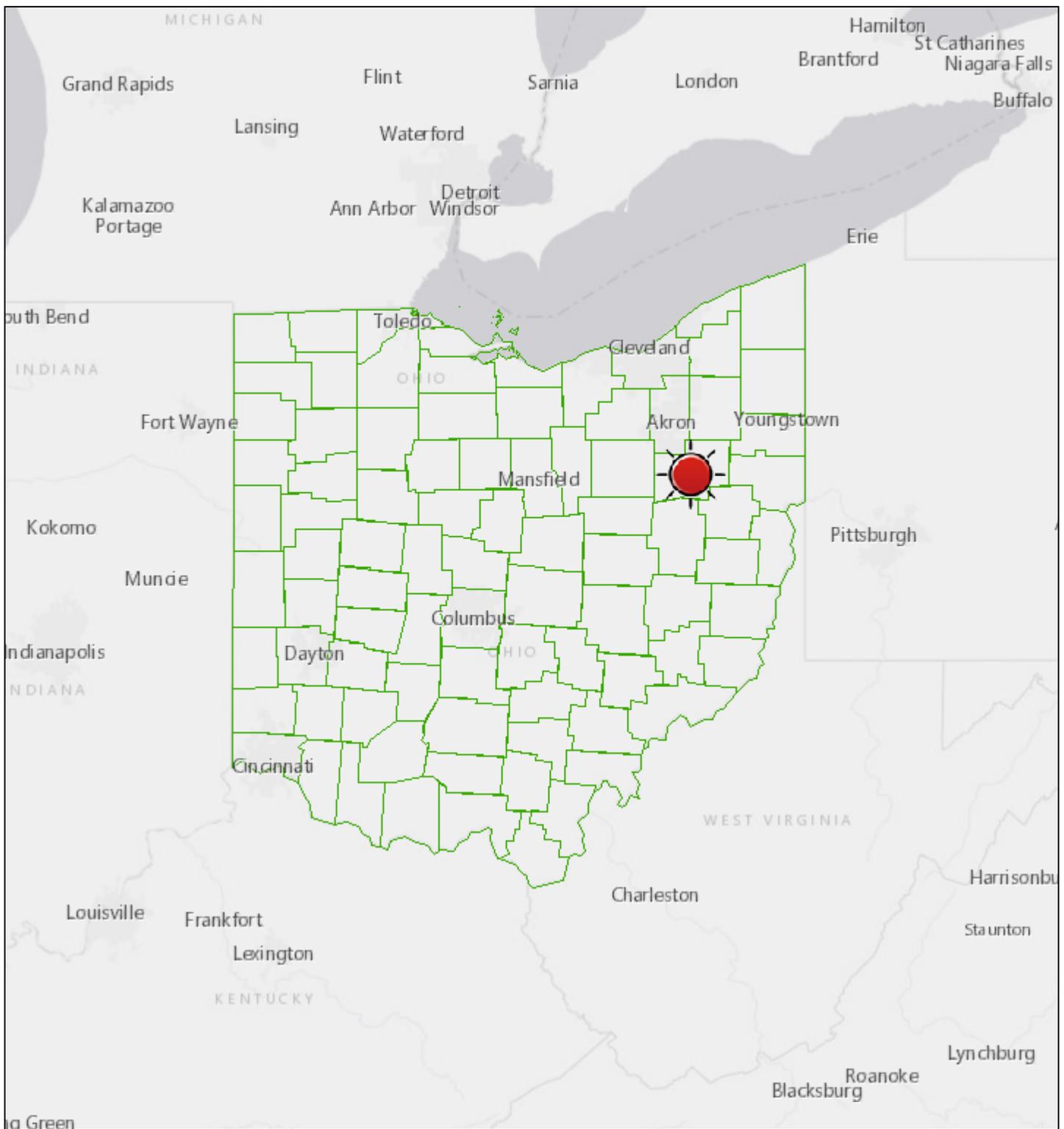
Based on the planning documentation, associated correspondence, public participation and the

comments from interested agencies, the proposed project as designed will have no adverse long-term effect on farmland, coastal zones, surface water, ground water, floodplains, wetlands, aquatic or terrestrial habitat, endangered species, state or federal wildlife areas, state-designated scenic or recreational rivers, cultural properties, air quality or the local economy. It will have no long-term adverse effects with respect to noise, dust and odors. It will have long-term benefits associated with the provision of a safe and adequate supply of potable water that is maintained according to the standards of the Safe Drinking Water Act and can provide adequate and reliable water pressure to support not only the needs of residential customers and businesses, but also fire protection services throughout the project area.

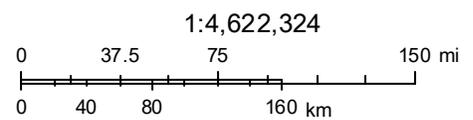
For more information, please contact:

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Columbus, OH 43216-1049
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Figure I

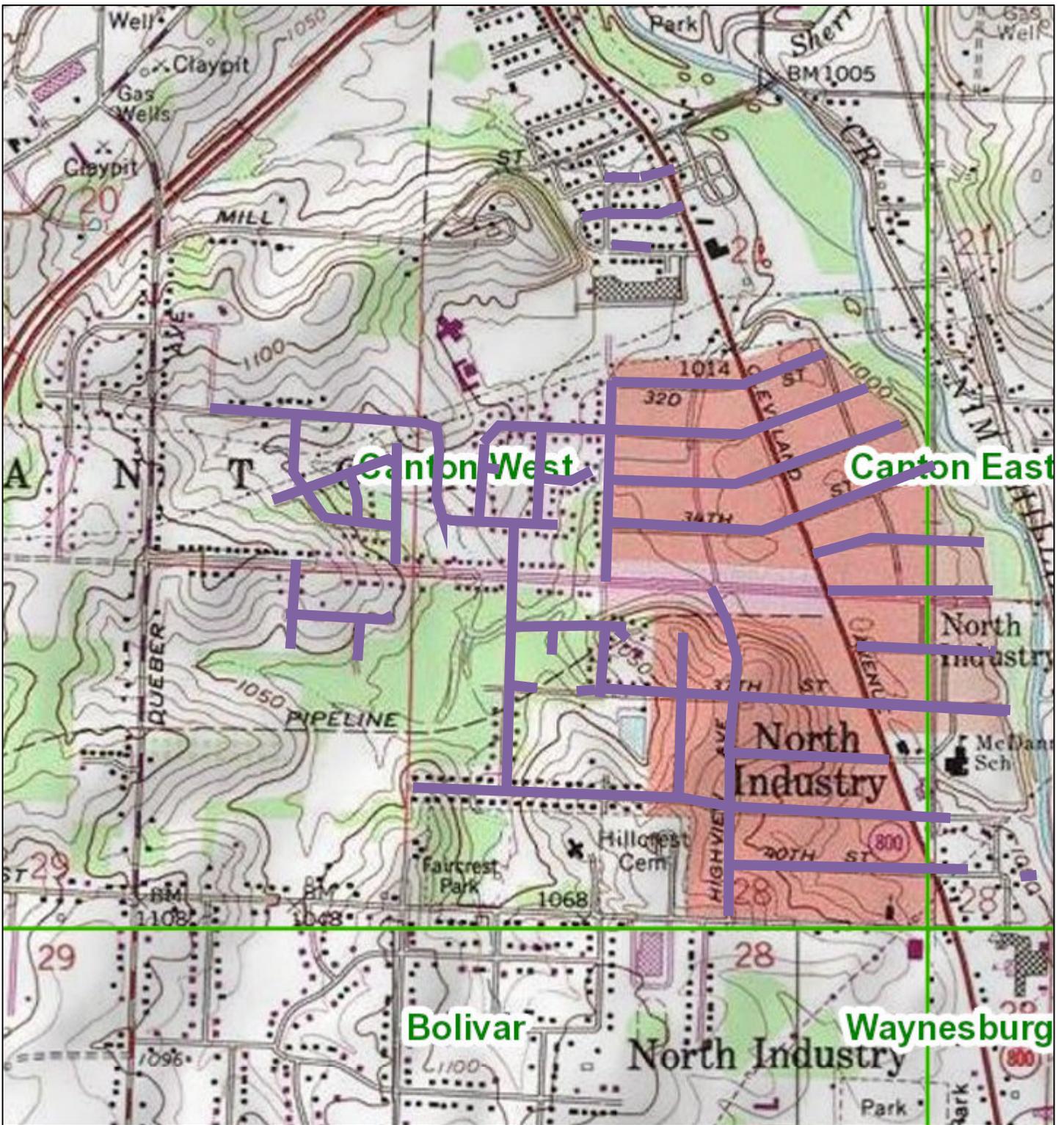


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Figure II

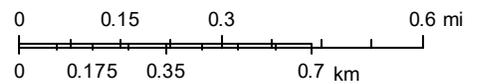


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 7.5 Minute Index

7.5 Minute Labels

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