



State of Vermont
Department of Environmental Conservation

Agency of Natural Resources

Facilities Engineering Division
Laundry Building
103 South Main Street
Waterbury, VT 05671-0511

FAX (802) 244-4516

E-Mail Address: tom.joslin@state.vt.us
Direct Telephone (voice mail): (802) 241-3740

Hunter Rieseberg, Town Manager
Authorized Representative
Town of Hartford
Municipal Building, 171 Bridge Street
White River Junction, Vermont 05001

December 11, 2009

Re: **Quechee Wastewater Treatment Plant Expansion and Upgrade**
Vermont/ USEPA Clean Water Revolving Loan Number AR1-041

Notice of Intent to Issue a Finding of No Significant Impact

Dear Mr Rieseberg:

The Department of Environmental Conservation intends to issue a Finding of No Significant Impact (FNSI) for the proposed expansion and upgrade of the Quechee wastewater treatment plant and main pump station. The project is not eligible for Categorical Exclusion from detailed environmental review, but the direct and indirect environmental effects of the project are not significant enough to necessitate an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS).

The Department's environmental review procedures require a **30 day public comment period** following the issuance of a Notice of Intent to Issue a Finding of No Significant Impact. If no public comments received during that period demonstrate that this Notice of Intent is in error, then the Finding of No Significant Impact will become effective.

Copies of documents supporting a Finding of No Significant Impact are enclosed. Please keep copies of the **enclosed documents**, along with any pertinent reports by your consulting engineers, **available for public inspection** during a public comment period of 30 days. A full listing of the documents that must be available for public inspection is attached. Please call, (802) 241-3740, if you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Thomas G. Joslin, P.E.
Environmental Engineer
Design Section

TGJ/tgj

Enclosures



Hunter Rieseberg, Town Manager, Authorized Representative; Town of Hartford, Vermont
Quechee Wastewater Treatment Plant Expansion and Upgrade
Notice of Intent to Issue a Finding of No Significant Impact
December 11, 2009

Documents Enclosed for Finding of No Significant Impact Public Comment Period (30 days)

1. **Notice of Intent** to Issue a **Finding of No Significant Impact**
(Signed by Larry R. Fitch, P.E., Director, Facilities Engineering Division.)
2. **Evaluation** of Eligibility for Finding of No Significant Impact
(Approved by Larry R. Fitch, P.E., Director, Facilities Engineering Division.)
3. **Environmental Review Procedures** for Projects Funded Through the Vermont/EPA Revolving
Loan Program, also available online at:

http://www.anr.state.vt.us/dec/fed/design/docs/Environmental_Review_Procedures_for_VT-EPA_SRF.htm

Additional Documents Needed for Finding of No Significant Impact Public Comment Period
(30 days)

4. **Environmental information document** titled "*Town of Hartford, Vermont; Quechee Wastewater Treatment Facility Upgrade/Expansion*", and dated **June 2009**, by **Forcier Aldrich & Associates, Inc.**, of Essex Junction, Vermont.
5. **Facilities plan addendum** titled "*Town of Hartford, Vermont; Quechee Wastewater Treatment Facility Expansion Study, Addendum No. 1*", and dated **June 2008**, by **Forcier Aldrich & Associates, Inc.**
6. **Facilities plan** titled "*Town of Hartford, Vermont; Quechee Wastewater Collection System Investigation and Treatment Facility Expansion, Preliminary Engineering Report*", and dated **November 2007**, by **Forcier Aldrich & Associates, Inc.**

Hunter Rieseberg, Town Manager, Authorized Representative; Town of Hartford, Vermont
Quechee Wastewater Treatment Plant Expansion and Upgrade
Notice of Intent to Issue a Finding of No Significant Impact
December 11, 2009

COPY LIST

Rich Menge, Director of Public Works, Town of Hartford

John Choate, Assistant Director of Public Works, Town of Hartford

Lori Hirshfield, Planning & Development Director, Town of Hartford

Wayne Elliott, P.E, Forcier Aldrich & Associates, Inc, Essex Junction

Elizabeth Hunt, Environmental Analyst, VT-ANR, Policy & Planning

Dan Mason, Environmental Analyst, Stormwater Section (Construction Sites), VT-DEC, Water Quality Division, Barre Regional Office

Shannon Morrison, District Wetlands Ecologist, Wetlands Section, VT-DEC, Water Quality Division, Waterbury

Everett Marshall, Information Manager, Nongame and Natural Heritage Program, VT Dept of Fish & Wildlife

Rich Kirn, Fisheries Biologist, VT Dept of Fish & Wildlife, Roxbury Lab

Chuck Schwer, Chief, Site Management Section, VT-DEC, Waste Management Division

Scott Dillon, Archeologist, Division for Historic Preservation, VT Dept of Housing and Community Affairs



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Notice of Intent to Issue a Finding of No Significant Impact

**Town of Hartford, Vermont
Quechee Wastewater Treatment Plant Expansion and Upgrade**

Vermont/ USEPA Clean Water Revolving Loan Number **AR1-041**

The Department of Environmental Conservation intends to issue a Finding of No Significant Impact (FNSI) for the proposed expansion and upgrade of the Quechee wastewater treatment plant and main pump station.

Under the Department's "*Environmental Review Procedures for Projects Funded Through the Vermont/ EPA Revolving Loan Program*", the Quechee treatment plant expansion is ineligible for Categorical Exclusion from detailed environmental review. The project will increase the permitted annual average flow capacity of the Quechee plant by more than the 20 percent maximum flow increase for Categorical Exclusion.

Also, the direct and indirect environmental effects of the project are not significant enough to necessitate an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), according to USEPA guidance. The project will not include publically-funded sewer extensions.



Town of Hartford, Vermont
Quechee Wastewater Treatment Plant Expansion and Upgrade
Notice of Intent to Issue a Finding of No Significant Impact
December 11, 2009

Further information on the project and this Notice of Intent is available for inspection at the following locations:

Hunter Rieseberg, Town Manager
Town of Hartford
Municipal Building, 171 Bridge Street
White River Junction, Vermont 05001

voicemail (802) 295-9353
hrieseberg@hartford-vt.org

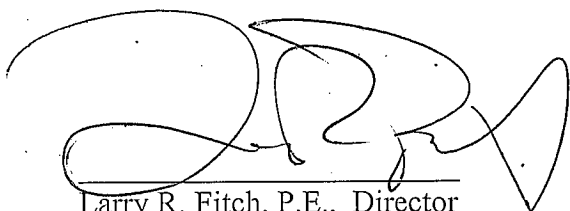
Tom Joslin, P.E.
Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation
Facilities Engineering Division
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voicemail (802) 241-3740
tom.joslin@state.vt.us

Wayne Elliott, P.E.
Forcier Aldrich & Associates, Inc
6 Market Place, Suite 2
Essex Junction, Vermont 05452

voicemail (802) 879-7733
welliott@forcieraldrich.com

No significant administrative action will be taken on this project for thirty (30) days from issuance of this Notice of Intent, to allow for public comment.



Larry R. Fitch, P.E., Director
Facilities Engineering Division

Department of Environmental Conservation
Vermont Agency of Natural Resources

Dec 11, 2009
Date



State of Vermont
Department of Environmental Conservation

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E-Mail: tom.joslin@state.vt.us
Direct Telephone (voice mail): (802) 241-3740

TO: Larry Fitch, Director, Facilities Engineering Division *Concur 12/11/09*
FROM: *TJ* Tom Joslin, Environmental Engineer, Design Section, Facilities Engineering Division
SUBJECT: **Town of Hartford**
Quechee Wastewater Treatment Plant Expansion and Upgrade
Environmental Assessment

DATE: December 11, 2009

A. Project Identification

Project Name: Town of Hartford
Quechee Wastewater Treatment Plant
Expansion and Upgrade

Address: Hunter Rieseberg, Town Manager
Town of Hartford
Municipal Building, 171 Bridge Street
White River Junction, Vermont 05001

Project Location: Quechee, Vermont
Wastewater treatment plant, US Route 4 and Izzo Place
Main pump station, Main Street

Vermont/ USEPA Clean Water Revolving Loan Number: **AR1-041**



Town of Hartford, Vermont
Quechee Wastewater Treatment Plant Expansion and Upgrade
Environmental Assessment
December 11, 2009

B. Summary of Environmental Review

The Department of Environmental Conservation, Facilities Engineering Division, has reviewed this proposed project in accordance with the Department's "*Environmental Review Procedures for Projects Funded Through the Vermont/ EPA Revolving Loan Program*".

The Department has reviewed the following planning documents:

- **Environmental information document** titled "*Town of Hartford, Vermont; Quechee Wastewater Treatment Facility Upgrade/Expansion*", and dated **June 2009**, by **Forcier Aldrich & Associates, Inc.**, of Essex Junction, Vermont.
- **Facilities plan addendum** titled "*Town of Hartford, Vermont; Quechee Wastewater Treatment Facility Expansion Study, Addendum No. 1*", and dated **June 2008**, by **Forcier Aldrich & Associates, Inc.**
- **Facilities plan** titled "*Town of Hartford, Vermont; Quechee Wastewater Collection System Investigation and Treatment Facility Expansion, Preliminary Engineering Report*", and dated **November 2007**, by **Forcier Aldrich & Associates, Inc.**

A **Finding of No Significant Impact** (FNSI) is the appropriate environmental review response for this project. This project is **not** eligible for **Categorical Exclusion** from detailed environmental review. Also, the project's direct and indirect environmental effects do **not** meet the criteria for issuance of an **Environmental Impact Statement** (EIS), as described in section XI of the Department's environmental review procedures.

1. Project Description

The Town of Hartford is located in **Windsor** County, Vermont. The proposed project will expand the permitted annual average flow capacity of the Quechee wastewater treatment plant from 0.300 mgd (million gallons per day) to 0.475 mgd.

The biological wastewater treatment technology will change from secondary aerated lagoons to sequencing batch reactors (SBR's) with post-flow equalization. The project will replace the existing clarifier and anthracite-sand filter with cloth disk filters. The existing headworks facility will be removed and replaced by a new headworks with mechanical fine screen and vortex grit removal system. Ultraviolet (UV) disinfection will replace the existing hypochlorite disinfection. Additional liquid sludge storage tanks will be constructed.

The project will also expand and upgrade the main pump station in the Quechee wastewater collection system, under the same construction contract as the treatment plant expansion.

2. Justification for Finding of No Significant Impact

We have determined that the proposed project meets the criteria for issuance of a Finding of No Significant Impact.

The project will increase the permitted annual average flow capacity of the Quechee wastewater treatment plant by 58.3 percent. Under the Department's environmental review procedures for Vermont/USEPA clean water revolving loan projects, a Categorical Exclusion from detailed environmental review may not be issued for a wastewater plant expansion that increases flow capacity by more than 20 percent.

In addition, the magnitude of the project is not sufficient to necessitate an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), according to USEPA guidance.

Construction of the project is not expected to directly affect wetlands, wetlands buffer zones, floodplains; historic or prehistoric sites; habitats of rare, threatened or endangered species; or other environmentally sensitive areas.

Because the project will receive state funding and includes wastewater plant expansion, it is subject to review under the Vermont growth center funding rules. The project is expected to receive growth center approval. This project will include no publically-funded sewer extensions.