



State of Vermont
Department of Environmental Conservation

Agency of Natural Resources

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DETERMINATION OF CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION

VILLAGE OF BELLOWS FALLS, VERMONT

**WASTEWATER TREATMENT FACILITY ROTATING BIOLOGICAL CONTRACTORS UPGRADE & FACILITY
REHABILITATION**

RF1-154 (Vermont/EPA Revolving Loan)

TO: ALL INTERESTED PERSONS

Pursuant to 40 CFR Part 6, Procedures for Implementing the National Environmental Policy Act, and in accordance with Section VII of the Department's Environmental Review Procedures for Projects Funded Through the Vermont/EPA Revolving Loan Program, the Village of Bellows Falls, Vermont, has requested that its proposed Wastewater Treatment Facility Rotating Biological Contractors (RBC) Upgrade & Facility Rehabilitation project be evaluated for eligibility for a Categorical Exclusion from the detailed environmental review that is described in the Procedures and required for projects with significant environmental impact.

The purpose of the proposed project is to improve process operations monitoring at the Village wastewater treatment facility, by installation monitoring instrumentation and a SCADA system, and to increase the overall treatment efficiency and compliance with current design standards, by replacement of RBC media.

Our consideration of the Village's request for Categorical Exclusion included a detailed review of the following document:

Facilities plan titled "*Wastewater Treatment Facility Rotating Biological Contractor Upgrade and Facility Rehabilitation including Environmental Information Document*" and dated May 27, 2011, by Stantec Consulting Services Inc., of South Burlington, Vermont.

Upon completion of its independent evaluation, the Department has determined that the project meets the criteria for receiving a Categorical Exclusion. Specifically, the project involves minor rehabilitation of existing facilities and replacement of RBC media and installation of a new SCADA system, and does not affect the degree of treatment or increase the capacity of the existing wastewater treatment facility by more than 20 percent.



Determination of Categorical Exclusion
Page 2

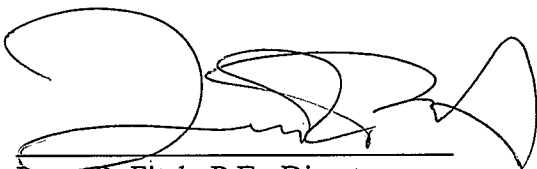
Furthermore, based on our review, none of the criteria that would result in the denial of a Categorical Exclusion is met.

Therefore, I am granting the Categorical Exclusion from substantive environmental review as provided in Section VII (b). This exclusion may be revoked at any time if:

- (1) the proposed action changes and fails to meet the requirements;
- (2) new evidence is presented that demonstrates that serious local or environmental issues, or
- (3) federal, state or local laws are, or will be, violated.

Upon issuance of this determination, the Department may proceed with any appropriate administrative action. Comments relative to this decision may be submitted to Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation, Facilities Engineering Division, Laundry Building, 103 South Main Street, Waterbury, Vermont 05671-0511, with a copy to Village of Bellows Falls, Municipal Manager Office, Town Hall, 7 Square, Bellows Falls, Vermont 05101.

Further records in regard to this project are on file and are available for public review at the above locations.



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

June 17, 2011
Date