



Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation

EC7 Facilities Engineering Division

1 National Life Drive

Main Building, 1st Floor

Montpelier, VT 05620-3510

Agency of Natural Resources

John Hall, Town Manager
Authorized Representative
Town of St Johnsbury
51 Depot Square, Suite 3
St Johnsbury, Vermont 05819

April 18, 2014

**Re: Wastewater Treatment Facility Refurbishment and Pump Station Upgrades
Vermont/ USEPA Clean Water Revolving Loan Number RF1-153**

Categorical Exclusion from Detailed Environmental Review

Dear Mr Hall:

The Department of Environmental Conservation has determined that the City's proposed **Wastewater Treatment Facility Refurbishment and Pump Station Upgrades** project may be excluded from the detailed environmental review procedures that are required for projects that have significant environmental effects. The Department's environmental review procedures require a **30 day public comment period** following the issuance of a Notice of Determination of Eligibility for Categorical Exclusion. If no public comments received during that period demonstrate that this Determination is in error, then the Categorical Exclusion exempting the project from detailed review will become effective.

Copies of documents supporting a Categorical Exclusion are enclosed. Please keep copies of the **enclosed documents 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) 490-6227**, if you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Tom Joslin".

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

TGJ/tgj

Enclosures

John Hall, Town Manager, Authorized Representative
Town of St Johnsbury, Vermont
Wastewater Treatment Facility Refurbishment and Pump Station Upgrades
Categorical Exclusion from Detailed Environmental Review
April 18, 2014

Documents Enclosed for Categorical Exclusion Public Comment Period (30 days)

1. *"Notice of Determination of Eligibility for Categorical Exclusion"*
(Signed by Eric Blatt, P.E., Director, Facilities Engineering Division.)
2. *"Evaluation of Eligibility for Categorical Exclusion"*
(Approved by Eric Blatt, 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
4. **Categorical Exclusion** request letter, by Town of St Johnsbury, dated **April 4, 2014**.
5. **Environmental information document (EID)**, dated **December 30, 2013**, and prepared by **Dufresne Group Consulting Engineers**, of Windsor, Vermont.

Additional Documents Needed for Categorical Exclusion Public Comment Period (30 days)

6. **Facilities plan** titled *"Preliminary Engineering Report, Wastewater Improvement RF1-153POTW, St. Johnsbury, Vermont"*, and dated **December 20, 2013**, by **Dufresne Group Consulting Engineers**, of Windsor, Vermont.

John Hall, Town Manager, Authorized Representative
Town of St Johnsbury, Vermont
Wastewater Treatment Facility Refurbishment and Pump Station Upgrades
Categorical Exclusion from Detailed Environmental Review
April 18, 2014

COPY LIST

Jim Brimblecombe, Chief Operator POTW, Town of St Johnsbury (Utility Partners)

Naomi Johnson, PE, Dufresne Group Consulting Engineers, Windsor, Vermont

Rebecca Pfeiffer, CFM, Assistant NFIP Coordinator, Rivers Program, VT-DEC, Watershed Management Division, Essex

Staci Pomeroy, River Scientist, Rivers Program, VT-DEC, Watershed Management Division, Essex

Barry Cahoon, PE, River Management Engineer, Rivers Program, VT-DEC, Watershed Management Division, St Johnsbury

Shannon Morrison, District Wetlands Ecologist, Wetlands Program, VT-DEC, Watershed Management Division

Tom Benoit, Environmental Analyst, Stormwater Program, VT-DEC, Watershed Management Division

Ben Copans, Watershed Coordinator; Monitoring, Assessment and Planning Program; VT-DEC, Watershed Management Division, St Johnsbury

Ernie Kelley, Chief, Wastewater Program, VT-DEC, Watershed Management Division

Liz Dickson, Environmental Analyst, Wastewater Program, VT-DEC, Watershed Management Division

Chuck Schwer, Chief; Sites Management Section/ Brownfields Response Program; VT-DEC, Waste Management and Prevention Division

Everett Marshall, Data Manager, Wildlife Diversity Program, VT Dept of Fish & Wildlife

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

Winslow Ladue, Chief, Financial Management Section, VT-DEC, Facilities Engineering Division

Lynnette Whitney, P.E., Chief, Design Section, VT-DEC, Facilities Engineering Division1

Notice of Determination of Eligibility for Categorical Exclusion

Town of St Johnsbury

Wastewater Treatment Facility Refurbishment and Pump Station Upgrades

Vermont/ USEPA Clean Water Revolving Loan Number RF1-153

April 16, 2014

In accordance with section VII of the Department's "*Environmental Review Procedures for Projects Funded Through the Vermont/ EPA Revolving Loan Program*", the **Town of St Johnsbury** has requested that its proposed **Wastewater Treatment Facility Refurbishment and Pump Station Upgrades** 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 effects.

Consideration of the **Town of St Johnsbury** request for Categorical Exclusion included a review of the following documents:

Environmental information document (EID), dated **December 30, 2013**, and prepared by **Dufresne Group Consulting Engineers**, of Windsor, Vermont.

Facilities plan titled "*Preliminary Engineering Report, Wastewater Improvement RF1-153POTW, St. Johnsbury, Vermont*", and dated **December 20, 2013**, by **Dufresne Group Consulting Engineers**, of Windsor, Vermont.

Upon completion of its independent evaluation, the Department has determined that the proposed project meets the criteria for issuance of a Categorical Exclusion.

Specifically, the project will not increase the permitted annual average flow (hydraulic) capacity of the existing Town of St Johnsbury wastewater treatment plant, and it will not increase permitted pounds of pollutants that may be discharged by that plant to the Passumpsic River. Also, the project will not increase the design organic (equivalent population) treatment capacity of the St Johnsbury wastewater treatment plant. The project will not add a new permanent discharge of stormwater or treated wastewater to surface waters or groundwater. Further, the project does not involve (create) serious local or environmental issues, or meet any of the criteria that would result in denial of an Exclusion.

Town of St Johnsbury, Vermont
Wastewater Treatment Facility Refurbishment and Pump Station Upgrades
Notice of Determination of Eligibility for Categorical Exclusion from Detailed Environmental Review
April 16, 2014

Further information on the project and this Determination is available for inspection at the following locations:

John Hall, Town Manager
Town of St Johnsbury
51 Depot Square, Suite 3
St Johnsbury, Vermont 05819

telephone (802) 748-3926
townmanager@stjvt.com

Tom Joslin, P.E.
Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation
Facilities Engineering Division
1 National Life Dr, 1 Main
Montpelier, Vermont 05620-3510

telephone (802) 490-6227
tom.joslin@state.vt.us

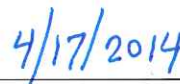
Naomi Johnson, P.E.
Dufresne Group Consulting Engineers
54 Main Street, PO Box B
Windsor, Vermont 05089

telephone (802) 674-2904
njohnson@dufresnegroup.com

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



Eric Blatt, P.E., Director
Facilities Engineering Division



Date

Department of Environmental Conservation
Vermont Agency of Natural Resources

Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation**EC7** Facilities Engineering Division

1 National Life Drive
Main Building, 1st Floor
Montpelier, VT 05620-3510

Agency of Natural Resources

TO:  Eric Blatt, Director, Facilities Engineering Division

FROM:  Tom Joslin, Environmental Engineer, Design Section, Facilities Engineering Division

SUBJECT: **Town of St Johnsbury**
Wastewater Treatment Facility Refurbishment and Pump Station Upgrades

Evaluation of Eligibility for Categorical Exclusion
from Detailed Environmental Review

DATE: April 16, 2014

A. Project Identification

Project Name: Town of St Johnsbury
Wastewater Treatment Facility Refurbishment and
Pump Station Upgrades

Address: John Hall, Town Manager
Authorized Representative
Town of St Johnsbury
51 Depot Square, Suite 3
St Johnsbury, Vermont 05819

Project Locations: Wastewater Treatment Facility, Bay Street, St Johnsbury

Hood Pump Station Forcemain, Railroad Street, St Johnsbury

Oak Street Pump Station, St Johnsbury

Vermont/ USEPA Clean Water Revolving Loan Number RF1-153

Town of St Johnsbury, Vermont
Wastewater Treatment Facility Refurbishment and Pump Station Upgrades
Evaluation of Eligibility for Categorical Exclusion from Detailed Environmental Review
April 16, 2014

B. Summary of Environmental Review

In accordance with section VII of the Department's "*Environmental Review Procedures for Projects Funded Through the Vermont/EPA Revolving Loan Program*", the Town of St Johnsbury has requested that its proposed **Wastewater Treatment Facility Refurbishment and Pump Station Upgrades** 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 effects.

The applicant's request, along with the following planning documents, have been reviewed, and our findings are summarized below:

Environmental information document (EID), dated **December 30, 2013**, and prepared by **Dufresne Group Consulting Engineers**, of Windsor, Vermont.

Facilities plan titled "*Preliminary Engineering Report, Wastewater Improvement RFI-153POTW, St. Johnsbury, Vermont*", and dated **December 20, 2013**, by **Dufresne Group Consulting Engineers**, of Windsor, Vermont.

1. Project Description

The Town of St Johnsbury is located in **Caledonia County**, Vermont.

The proposed project will refurbish limited portions of the existing Town of St Johnsbury wastewater treatment plant.

The project will also replace the existing Oak Street pump station and will replace the Passumpsic River crossing in the forcemain from the existing Hood pump station.

At the treatment plant, the project will include replacement of the existing screw lift pumps, replacement of the existing comminutor with a grinder and mechanical fine screen, addition of a septage receiving flow meter, replacement of the existing anaerobic digester mixers, and repair of the existing digester CMU veneer walls.

7/6/14
4/16/14 The project will be constructed under three contracts, one each for the treatment plant, the Hood pump station forcemain river crossing replacement and the Oak Street pump station replacement. The project construction contract documents will contain standard requirements to limit hours of construction and to control noise, dust and discharges of stormwater runoff or pollutants during construction.

2. Justification for Categorical Exclusion

We have determined that the proposed project meets the criteria for issuance of a Categorical Exclusion.

Town of St Johnsbury, Vermont
Wastewater Treatment Facility Refurbishment and Pump Station Upgrades
Evaluation of Eligibility for Categorical Exclusion from Detailed Environmental Review
April 16, 2014

Specifically, the project will not increase the **design hydraulic** capacity of the **St Johnsbury** wastewater treatment plant by more than 20 percent, and it will not increase the design **organic** treatment capacity (**equivalent population served**) by more than 30 percent. In fact, the project is not intended to increase the hydraulic or organic capacity of the treatment plant at all.

The project will **not** create a **new permanent discharge** of **stormwater** or treated **wastewater** to surface waters or groundwater, and there will be **no increase** of effluent **pollutant loadings** (pounds per day) permitted to be discharged from the St Johnsbury treatment plant.

The project is not expected to adversely affect wetlands, wetlands buffer zones, floodplains, historic sites, archeological sites, habitats of threatened or endangered species, or other environmentally or culturally sensitive areas.

TBS
9/18/14

The project EID includes an archeological resource assessment report on the Hood pump station forcemain river crossing replacement and the Oak Street pump station replacement. That archeological report, by Monadnock Archaeological Consulting, LLC, of Stoddard, New Hampshire, indicates "a very low potential for intact pre-contact Native American sites in the project area due to its extensive historic and modern disturbance. Consequently, no further archaeological study is recommended for this project."

The archeological resource assessment does not cover the treatment plant portion of the proposed project, but the proposed plant improvements will require little or no excavation, and in any event the treatment plant site ground contours were substantially altered during the early 1990's plant upgrade.

The project does not involve (create) serious local or environmental issues, or meet any of the criteria that would result in denial of an Exclusion.