

State of Vermont  
Agency of Natural Resources  
Department of Environmental Conservation  
Notice of Determination of Eligibility for Categorical Exclusion

Wells River Water System, WSID #5176  
Village of Wells River, Vermont  
Water System Improvements  
DWSRF Loan RF3-284

In accordance with Section VII of the Department's Environmental Review Procedures for projects funded through the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) Program, the Wells River Water System located in the Town of Newbury, VT has requested its proposed water improvement project be evaluated for eligibility for a categorical exclusion exempting the project from detailed environmental procedures required for projects having a significant environmental impact.

This project has received an emergency designation in the DWSRF Program. The purpose of the project is to replace an existing water main which crosses the Wells River that was damaged by Tropical Storm Irene during August, 2011. The resultant leak in the river caused the Village to install a temporary above-ground waterline across the Route 5 bridge. The proposed permanent solution is the installation of approximately 520 feet of 8-inch water main, by directional drilling, from the Route 5 / 302 intersection to the north side of the river, connecting on both ends to the existing Village water mains.

Our consideration of the request included review of an Environmental Information Document and supporting documentation prepared by Otter Creek Engineering, Inc. dated June 6, 2012. At the completion of this independent evaluation, the Department has determined the project meets the criteria for receiving a categorical exclusion.

Further information on the project and this determination are available for inspection by contacting the DWSRF Program at (802) 654-8969. In addition to the applicant, a copy of this determination will be sent to a list of stakeholders and posted on the Drinking Water and Groundwater Protection Division's website located at [www.vermontdrinkingwater.org](http://www.vermontdrinkingwater.org).

Agency of Natural Resources  
Department of Environmental Conservation  
David K. Mears, Commissioner

By Christine Thompson  
Christine Thompson, Director  
Drinking Water and Groundwater Protection Division

Dated at Winooski, Vermont this 7<sup>th</sup> day of August, 2012