



Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation

Agency of Natural Resources

FACILITIES ENGINEERING DIVISION
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Claudette Sortino, Selectboard Chair
Authorized Representative
Town of Ryegate
P.O. Box 332
Ryegate, VT 05042

October 31, 2016

**Re: Categorical Exclusion
Town of Ryegate, South Ryegate Wastewater Treatment Facility
Filter Bed Replacement
RF1 -185 (Vermont/EPA CWSRF Loan)**

Dear Ms. Sortino:

The Department of Environmental Conservation has determined that the proposed refurbishment of the wastewater system, including replacing the filter bed and upgrading the ancillary equipment, may be exempted from detailed environmental review as the project presents no significant environmental impact. The Department's environmental review procedures require a **30-day public comment period** following the issuance of this Notice. During this period, the public may submit substantive comments demonstrating that the Determination is in error. If no comments are received, the project qualifies for a Categorical Exclusion and is exempt from detailed environmental review.

Note that the comment period begins on October 31, 2016 and ends on November 30, 2016.

During the public comment period, documents pertinent to the project must be publicly available. These include the **enclosed** supporting documentation for the Categorical Exclusion, the Facility Plan, and Environmental Information Document prepared by your engineering consultant, and a summary of environmental review procedures. A full listing of the required documents is attached for your convenience.

Please call **(802) 522-2192** if you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Robert Pelosi, E.I.
Pollution Control Design Engineer

Documents Enclosed for 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. Link to: [Environmental Review Procedures for Projects Funded Through the Vermont/EPA Revolving Loan Program.](#)

Additional Documents Needed for Public Comment Period (30 Days)

5. Facilities Plan titled “*Revised South Ryegate Wastewater Treatment Preliminary Engineering Report*” and dated June 30, 2016, by Dufresne Group Consulting Engineers of Springfield, Vermont.
6. Environmental Information Document titled “*South Ryegate Wastewater Treatment Facility*” and dated October 18, 2016, by Dufresne Group Consulting Engineers of Springfield, Vermont.
7. Attachments to the Environmental Information Document titled “*South Ryegate Wastewater Treatment Facility*,” submitted on October 19, 2016 and compiled by Dufresne Group Consulting Engineers of Springfield, Vermont.
8. E-mail correspondence titled “RE: Ryegate WWTF – Environmental Information Document” and dated October 27, 2016, by Dufresne Group Consulting Engineers of Springfield, Vermont.

Mailing List (e-mail)

Robert E. Dufresne, P.E. and **Brian Baker**, Dufresne Group

Julia Butzler, Environmental Analyst, Wastewater Program, VT-DEC, Watershed Management Division

Eamon Twohig, Environmental Analyst, Wastewater Program, VT-DEC, Watershed Management Division

Julie Follensbee, District Wetland Ecologist, Wetlands Program, VT-DEC, Watershed Management Division

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

Patrick Ross, P.E., Rivers Management Engineer, Rivers Program, VT-DEC, Watershed Management Division

Sacha Pealer, Floodplains Manager, Rivers Program, VT-DEC, Watershed Management Division

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

Kirsten Sultan, Regional Coordinator, Vermont Natural Resources Board – St. Johnsbury Office

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

Martha Abair, US Army Corps of Engineers

Eric Blatt, P.E., Director, VT-DEC, Facilities Engineering Division

NOTICE OF DETERMINATION OF ELIGIBILITY FOR CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION

Town of Ryegate, Vermont

Wastewater Treatment System – Filter Bed Replacement

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 Ryegate, Vermont, has requested that its proposed refurbishment of the South Ryegate Wastewater Treatment Facility, including replacing the filter bed and upgrading the ancillary equipment, be exempt from detailed environmental review through Categorical Exclusion.

The proposed project involves refurbishing the wastewater treatment facility that serves 12 residences in the Village of South Ryegate. Specific project elements include:

- Removing the existing distribution network, crushed stone, and clogged sand fill (essentially the filter media) in the filter bed;
- Scarifying the remaining sand fill;
- Installing new crushed stone and a new distribution network;
- Retrofitting the existing septic tanks with effluent filters;
- Re-setting the existing sampling wells in the gravel wick; and
- Implementing flood resiliency measures where appropriate.

A map of the project area is attached for convenience.

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

Facilities Plan titled "*Revised South Ryegate Wastewater Treatment Preliminary Engineering Report*" and dated June 30, 2016, by Dufresne Group Consulting Engineers of Springfield, Vermont.

Environmental Information Document titled "*South Ryegate Wastewater Treatment Facility*" and dated October 18, 2016, by Dufresne Group Consulting Engineers of Springfield, Vermont.

Attachments to the Environmental Information Document titled "*South Ryegate Wastewater Treatment Facility*," submitted on October 19, 2016 and compiled by Dufresne Group Consulting Engineers of Springfield, Vermont.

E-mail correspondence titled "RE: Ryegate WWTF – Environmental Information Document" and dated October 27, 2016, by Dufresne Group Consulting Engineers of Springfield, 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 functionally replaces an existing system and does not affect the degree of treatment or capacity of the existing facility.

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

Town of Ryegate, Town Offices, 18 South Bayley Hazen Road, P.O. Box 332, Ryegate, Vermont 05042

Dufresne Group Consulting Engineers, 297 South Main Street, Barre, Vermont 05641

**Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation, Facilities Engineering Division,
National Life Building, MAIN 1, 1 National Life Drive, Montpelier, Vermont 05620-3510
Telephone: (802) 828-1550 (land line)**

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

October 31, 2016
Date

FACILITIES ENGINEERING DIVISION
National Life Building, MAIN 1
1 National Life Drive
Montpelier, VT 05620-3510
FAX: (802)828-1552

E-Mail Address: robert.pelosi@state.vt.us
Telephone: (802) 522-2192

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

FROM: Robert Pelosi, E.I., Pollution Control Design Engineer

DATE: October 31, 2016

SUBJECT: Town of Ryegate
South Ryegate Wastewater Treatment Facility
Evaluation of Eligibility for Categorical Exclusion from Detailed Environmental Review

A. Project Identification

Project Name: Town of Ryegate
South Ryegate Wastewater Treatment Facility

Address: Claudette Sortino, Selectboard Chair
Authorized Representative
Town of Ryegate
P.O. Box 332
Ryegate, VT 05042

Project Location: **Wastewater Treatment Facility:** The facility, consisting of septic tanks, a pumping station, a filter bed, and a gravel wick, is located near the intersection of Stoneshed Road and Church Street in the Village of South Ryegate, Vermont.

Vermont/EPA CWSRF Loan Program Project No.: RF1 -185

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 Ryegate, Vermont, has requested that its proposed refurbishment of the South Ryegate Wastewater Treatment Facility be exempted from detailed environmental review through Categorical Exclusion, as detailed in the Procedures.

The applicant's requests, and the following pertinent documents, have been reviewed, and our findings are summarized below:

Facilities Plan titled "*Revised South Ryegate Wastewater Treatment Preliminary Engineering Report*" and dated June 30, 2016, by Dufresne Group Consulting Engineers of Springfield, Vermont.

Environmental Information Document titled "*South Ryegate Wastewater Treatment Facility*" and dated October 18, 2016, by Dufresne Group Consulting Engineers of Springfield, Vermont.

Attachments to the Environmental Information Document titled "*South Ryegate Wastewater Treatment Facility*," submitted on October 19, 2016 and compiled by Dufresne Group Consulting Engineers of Springfield, Vermont.

E-mail correspondence titled "RE: Ryegate WWTF – Environmental Information Document" and dated October 27, 2016, by Dufresne Group Consulting Engineers of Springfield, Vermont.

Project Description

Both the Town of Ryegate and the Village of South Ryegate are located in Caledonia County, Vermont.

The proposed project includes the following construction:

- Removing the existing distribution network, crushed stone, and clogged sand fill (essentially the filter media) in the filter bed;
- Scarifying the remaining sand fill;
- Installing new crushed stone and a new distribution network;
- Retrofitting the existing septic tanks with effluent filters;
- Re-setting the existing sampling wells in the gravel wick; and
- Implementing flood resiliency measures where appropriate.
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2. Justification for Categorical Exclusion

We have determined that the project meets the criteria for receiving a Categorical Exclusion. Specifically, the project functionally replaces an existing system and does not affect the degree of treatment or capacity of the existing facility. Further, the project does not meet any of the criteria that would result in denial of an Exclusion.