

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

FROM: Robert Pelosi, E.I., Design Engineer, Facilities Engineering Division 

SUBJECT: Town of Addison
Wastewater Treatment Facility

Evaluation of Eligibility for a **Finding of No Significant Impact**

DATE: March 23, 2017

A. Project Identification

Project Name: Town of Addison, Vermont
Wastewater Treatment Facility

Address: Jeffrey Kauffman, Addison Selectboard Chair
Town of Addison

Addison, Vermont 05491

Project Location: Route 17
Addison, Vermont

Funding: Vermont/USEPA Clean Water Revolving Loan Number RF1-195

B. Summary of Environmental Review

The Department of Environmental Conservation, Facilities Engineering Division, has reviewed this proposed project in accordance with Department's Environmental Review Procedures for Projects Funded Through the Vermont/EPA Revolving Loan Program. Consistent with those procedures, the Department intends to issue a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) for the proposed Addison Wastewater Treatment Facility.

The Department has reviewed the following planning documents:

- **90% Preliminary Engineering Report** titled *Town of Addison, Community Wastewater System, RF1-178* and dated October 2015, by Phelps Engineering, Inc. of Middlebury, Vermont.
- **Preliminary Engineering Report Addendum** titled *Town of Addison, Community Wastewater System, RF1-178, Addison, Vermont* and dated July 2016, by DuBois & King, Inc. of Brandon, Vermont
- **Environmental Information Document** titled *Environmental Report* and dated December 12, 2016 (signed February 2, 2017), by DuBois & King, Inc. of Brandon, Vermont

A **Finding of No Significant Impact** (FONSI) is the appropriate environmental review response for this project. The project is primarily ineligible for Categorical Exclusion from detailed Environmental Review as it creates a new discharge to groundwater. Further, the Town proposes to permanently conserve 2.86 acres of farmland with the Vermont Land Trust to mitigate the conversion of the 1.97 acres of farmland required for construction. Finally, the Town has adopted ordinances to limit connections to the facility and prevent scattered growth outside the Village Center. With the appropriate mitigation and ordinances in place the direct and indirect environmental effects of the project are not significant enough to require an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), as described in Section XI of the Department's environmental review procedures.

1. Project Description

The Town of Addison is located in Addison County, Vermont. The project is necessary to accommodate town uses and address substandard wastewater disposal in the Village Center. The Town wishes to renovate the historic Town Hall so that it may again be used for Town functions. To assume title, the Town must first subdivide the Town Hall from the existing Addison Baptist Church property and obtain wastewater permits as necessary. Given the proximity to other public buildings in the Village Center, the Town also wishes address substandard wastewater systems at the Town Office and Addison Fire Department. As such, the proposed project consists of constructing (1) a sewer collection system to serve the buildings described above and (2) a soil-based mound disposal system.

Recently adopted ordinances limit service to the building listed above but make accommodation for the future connection of Town-owned properties. With these restrictions in place, the mound system is sized for a design flow of 4,300 gallons per day, accounting for infiltration and inflow.

As mentioned previously, the project is not eligible for Categorical Exclusion.

2. Justification for Finding of No Significant Impact

The Design Section has determined that the proposed project meets the criteria for issuance of a Finding of No Significant Impact.

As discussed in a prior section, the Design Section scrutinized the project's direct impact on two environmental conditions. First, construction of the collection system and mound system require conversion of farmland. Second, wastewater infrastructure has the potential to encourage scattered growth. To mitigate and protect against these impacts, the Town has initiated discussion with the Vermont Land Trust to permanently conserve proximate farmlands and has adopted a wastewater ordinance to prevent scattered growth.

Per procedure, the Design Section has also determined that no other direct or indirect environmental effects warrant an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). As evidenced by the Environmental Information Document and the VT ANR Resource Atlas, all construction is proposed outside of

delineated wetland buffers, there are no proximate rare, threatened, or endangered species present, and a Phase IB Archeological Investigation indicates that there are no effects on historic or prehistoric sites.

The Town held an Environmental Impact Hearing on March 21, 2017 to discuss project details with the public. Attendees did not raise objections or voice concerns about the project.



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Telephone: (802) 522-2192

March 23, 2017

Jeffrey Kauffman, Selectboard Chair
Town of Addison
65 Vermont Route 17W
Addison, VT 05491

**RE: Wastewater Treatment Facility
Town of Addison, VT
Vermont/USEPA Clean Water Revolving Loan: RF1-195
Notice of Intent to Issue a Finding of No Significant Impact**

Dear Mr. Kauffman:

The Department of Environmental Conservation intends to issue a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) for the proposed Addison Wastewater Treatment Facility, which consists of a collection system -- limited to serving Town buildings and the Addison Baptist Church -- that conveys wastewater to a soil-based mound disposal system. The project is primarily ineligible for Categorical Exclusion from detailed Environmental Review as it creates a new discharge to groundwater. Further, the Town proposes to permanently conserve 2.86 acres of farmland with the Vermont Land Trust to mitigate the conversion of the 1.97 acres of farmland required for construction. Finally, the Town has adopted ordinances to limit connections to the facility and prevent scattered growth outside the Village Center. With the appropriate mitigation and ordinances in place the direct and indirect environmental effects of the project are not significant enough to require an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), under the Department's environmental review procedures.

The Department's environmental review procedures require a 30-day public comment period following the issuance of a Notice of Intent to Issue a FONSI. If no public comments are received during this period, the Finding of No Significant Impact becomes effective immediately. If comments are received, the Department must evaluate and address any comments before affirming the decision.

Copies of documents supporting a FONSI are enclosed. Please keep copies of the enclosed documents, along with any pertinent reports by your consulting engineer, available for public inspection during the 30-day public comment period. The documents which must be available for public inspection are listed below.

Please contact Robert Pelosi at (802) 522-2192 if you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,



Eric Blatt, P.E.
Director
Facilities Engineering Division

Sincerely,



Robert Pelosi, E.I.
Pollution Control Design Engineer
Facilities Engineering Division

Enclosures

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 Eric Blatt, P.E., Director, Facilities Engineering Division)
2. **Evaluation** of Eligibility for Finding of No Significant Impact
(Approved by Eric Blatt, P.E., Director, Facilities Engineering Division)
3. **Environmental Review Procedures** for Projects Funded Through the Vermont/EPA Revolving Loan Program

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

4. **90% Preliminary Engineering Report** titled *Town of Addison, Community Wastewater System, RF1-178* and dated October 2015, by Phelps Engineering, Inc. of Middlebury, Vermont.
5. **Preliminary Engineering Report Addendum** titled *Town of Addison, Community Wastewater System, RF1-178, Addison, Vermont* and dated July 2016, by DuBois & King, Inc. of Brandon, Vermont.
6. **Environmental Information Document** titled *Environmental Report* and dated December 12, 2016 (signed February 2, 2017), by DuBois & King, Inc. of Brandon, Vermont.

COPY LIST

David Swift, Regional Engineer, Rutland Regional Office, Drinking Water and Groundwater Protection Division, VT-DEC

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

Zapata Courage, District Wetlands Ecologist, Wetlands Section, Watershed Management Division, VT-DEC

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

Stephanie Smith, Chief Policy Enforcement Officer, Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food, and Markets

Thomas Villars, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service

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Notice of Intent to Issue a Finding of No Significant Impact

**Town of Addison, Vermont
Wastewater Treatment Facility Project**

Vermont/USEPA Clean Water Revolving Loan: RF1-195

The Department of Environmental Conservation intends to issue a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) for the proposed Addison Wastewater Treatment Facility, which consists of a collection system -- limited to serving Town buildings and the Addison Baptist Church -- that conveys wastewater to a soil-based mound disposal system.

Under the Department's Environmental Review Procedures for Projects Funded Through the Vermont/EPA Revolving Loan Program, the project is ineligible for Categorical Exclusion from detailed Environmental Review. The proposed wastewater treatment facility is necessarily defined as a new discharge to groundwater. Further, the project involves converting approximately 1.97 acres of farmland; however, the Town plans to permanently conserve 2.86 acres of farmland with the Vermont Land Trust as mitigation to minimize adverse impacts.

The Department has also determined that the project does not impact other natural and cultural resources. The facility's alignment, though proximate to a wetland, is outside of the delineated buffer. Also, the project avoids sensitive archeological and historical sites, as confirmed by an Archeological Resources Assessment and a Phase 1B Investigation.

In addition, the direct and indirect environmental effects of the project are not significant enough to require an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), under the Department's environmental review procedures. The wastewater facility is to serve a traditional town center, as defined by the Vermont Agency of Natural Resources: Growth Center and Growth Management Guidance Document. Further, the Town has adopted ordinances to limit connections to the facility and prevent scattered growth.

The Town held an Environmental Impact Hearing on March 21, 2017 to discuss project details with the public. Attendees did not raise objections or voice concerns about the project.

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

Town of Addison, Town Office, 65 Vermont Route 17W, Addison, Vermont 05491

DuBois & King, Inc., 25 Union Street, Brandon, Vermont 05733

**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 Intent, to allow for public response.



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

March 23, 2017

Date