



Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation

Agency of Natural Resources

FACILITIES ENGINEERING DIVISION
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Doon Hinderyckx, Selectboard Chair
Town of Rochester
P.O. Box 238
Rochester, VT 05767

July 18, 2017

**Re: Categorical Exclusion
Town of Rochester, Wastewater System Improvements
Site No. 3 Disposal Field Reconstruction and Site No. 1 Pump Station Refurbishment
RF1-207 (Vermont/EPA CWSRF Loan)**

Dear Mr. Hinderyckx:

The Department of Environmental Conservation has determined that the proposed improvements to the Town of Rochester's wastewater system, including reconstructing the Site No. 3 disposal field and refurbishing the Site No. 1 pump station, 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 July 18, 2017 and ends on August 17, 2017.

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)

4. Preliminary Engineering Report titled "*Town of Rochester, Municipal (Site No. 3) Replacement Wastewater Disposal System and (Site No. 1) Pump Station Improvements, Project Number 223481L1,*" dated June 2017, and prepared by DuBois & King, Inc. of Randolph, Vermont.
5. Environmental Information Document titled "*Town of Rochester, Municipal (Site No. 3) Wastewater Disposal Site,*" signed on July 3, 2017, and prepared by DuBois & King, Inc. of Randolph, Vermont.

Mailing List (e-mail)

Jonathan Ashley, P.E., DuBois & King, Inc.

Bryan Harrington, Environmental Analyst, Indirect Discharge Program, VT-DEC, Groundwater and Drinking Water Protection Division

Rebecca Chalmers, District Wetland Ecologist, Wetlands Program, VT-DEC, Watershed Management Division

John Broker-Campbell, Floodplains Manager, Rivers Program, VT-DEC, Watershed Management Division

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

Linda Matteson, Regional Coordinator, Vermont Natural Resources Board – Springfield 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 Rochester, Vermont

Wastewater System Improvements

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 Rochester, Vermont, has requested that improvements to the Town's Wastewater Treatment System, including the reconstruction of the Site No. 3 disposal field and refurbishment of the Site No. 1 pump station, be exempt from detailed environmental review through Categorical Exclusion.

The proposed project involves reconstructing the Site No. 3 disposal field, in place, and improving the Site No. 1 pump station. Specific project elements include:

Site No. 3 Disposal Field

- Removing the existing distribution network, stone fill, and fouled native soil;
- Scarifying the native soil interface;
- Placing sand fill to raise the system, thereby reducing fill cover consistent with current standards
- Installing new crushed stone and a new distribution network;
- Replacing the existing septic tanks and installing effluent filters;
- Replacing the existing pump station; and
- Disposing of fouled stone and soil consistent with an Insignificant Waste Management Event Approval.

Site No. 1 Pump Station

- Installing access hatches; and
- Mounting a maintenance rail to facilitate pump inspection and removal.

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:

- Preliminary Engineering Report titled "*Town of Rochester, Municipal (Site No. 3) Replacement Wastewater Disposal System and (Site No. 1) Pump Station Improvements, Project Number 223481L1*," dated June 2017, and prepared by DuBois & King, Inc. of Randolph, Vermont.
- Environmental Information Document titled "*Town of Rochester, Municipal (Site No. 3) Wastewater Disposal Site*," signed on July 3, 2017, and prepared by DuBois & King, Inc. of Randolph, 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 Rochester, Town Offices, 67 School Street, P.O. Box 238, Rochester, Vermont 05767

DuBois & King, Inc., 28 North Main Street, Randolph, Vermont 05060

**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

July 18, 2017

Date

FACILITIES ENGINEERING DIVISION
National Life Building, MAIN 1
1 National Life Drive
Montpelier, VT 05620-3510
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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: July 18, 2017

SUBJECT: Town of Rochester
Wastewater System Improvements
Evaluation of Eligibility for Categorical Exclusion from Detailed Environmental Review

A. Project Identification

Project Name: Town of Rochester
Wastewater System Improvements

Address: Doon Hinderyckx, Selectboard Chair
Town of Rochester
P.O. Box 238
Rochester, VT 05767

Project Location: **Wastewater System:** The Town has proposed making improvements to the existing wastewater system at two discrete locations. Site No. 3 is situated adjacent to the athletic field behind the public school at 222 South Main Street. Site No. 1 is located immediately east of Rochester Village on Recreational Field Drive.

Vermont/EPA CWSRF Loan Program Project No.: RF1 -207

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 Rochester, Vermont, has requested that its proposed improvements to the Rochester Wastewater System 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:

- Preliminary Engineering Report titled "*Town of Rochester, Municipal (Site No. 3) Replacement Wastewater Disposal System and (Site No. 1) Pump Station Improvements, Project Number 223481L1*," dated June 2017, and prepared by DuBois & King, Inc. of Randolph, Vermont.
- Environmental Information Document titled "*Town of Rochester, Municipal (Site No. 3) Wastewater Disposal Site*," signed on July 3, 2017, and prepared by DuBois & King, Inc. of Randolph, Vermont

Project Description

The Town of Rochester is in Windsor County, Vermont.

The proposed project involves reconstructing the Site No. 3 disposal field, in place, and improving the Site No. 1 pump station. Specific project elements include:

Site No. 3 Disposal Field

- Removing the existing distribution network, stone fill, and fouled native soil;
- Scarifying the native soil interface;
- Placing sand fill to raise the system, thereby reducing fill cover consistent with current standards
- Installing new crushed stone and a new distribution network;
- Replacing the existing septic tanks and installing effluent filters;
- Replacing the existing pump station; and
- Disposing of fouled stone and soil consistent with an Insignificant Waste Management Event Approval.

Site No. 1 Pump Station

- Installing access hatches; and
- Mounting a maintenance rail to facilitate pump inspection and removal.

C. Justification for Categorical Exclusion

FED has determined that the project meets the criteria for receiving a Categorical Exclusion. Specifically, work at Site No. 3 functionally replaces the existing system. Further, improvements at Site No. 1 facilitate maintenance of the pump station and allow the operator to avoid confined space entry. Overall, the project 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.