



Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation

Agency of Natural Resources

FACILITIES ENGINEERING DIVISION
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1 National Life Drive
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Ms. Linda L. Holland, Administrative Manager
North Branch Fire District #1
78 Dorr Fitch Road
West Dover, Vermont 05356

September 20, 2017

**Re: Categorical Exclusion
Wastewater Treatment Facility Upgrades
RF1 -197 (Vermont/EPA CWSRF Loan)**

Dear Ms. Holland:

The Department of Environmental Conservation has determined that the proposed Wastewater Treatment Facility Upgrade project 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 September 20, 2017 and ends on October 20, 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 Facilities 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. Facilities Plan titled “*North Branch Fire District #1, Preliminary Engineering Report, Upgrade Additions,*” prepared by Technicon, PC of Ludlow, Vermont, and dated December 2016.
5. Environmental Information Document titled “*North Branch Fire District #1, RF1-197,*” prepared by Technicon, PC of Ludlow, Vermont, and dated September 18, 2017.

Mailing List (e-mail)

Edward H. Floyd, P.E., Technicon, PC

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

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

Chris Tomberg, Environmental Analyst, Stormwater Program, VT-DEC, Watershed Management Division

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

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

Mike Adams, US Army Corps of Engineers

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

NOTICE OF DETERMINATION OF ELIGIBILITY FOR CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION

North Branch Fire District #1

Wastewater Treatment Facility Upgrades

West Dover, Vermont

In accordance with Section VII of the Department's Environmental Review Procedures for Projects Funded Through the Vermont/EPA Revolving Loan Program, North Branch Fire District #1 in West Dover, Vermont, has requested that its proposed Wastewater Treatment Facility Upgrade project be exempt from detailed environmental review through Categorical Exclusion.

The proposed project involves several work elements at the treatment facility and spray disposal field as follows:

- **Secondary Clarifiers**

- Demolish the existing clarifiers; and
- Construct new clarifiers compliant with current design standards;

- **Solids Handling**

- Remove the existing belt filter press; and
- Install a centrifuge without modifying the existing control building;

- **Holding and Polishing Ponds**

- Remove the existing PVC liners;
- Inspect the base materials and the underdrain network;
- Repair or replace the base materials and underdrain, as necessary; and
- Install HDPE liners;

- **Yard Piping**

- Upgrade the Return Activated Sludge lines;
- Relocate the strainer and water meter that serve the subsurface disposal field;
- Replace the yard hydrants; and
- Modify the recirculation piping from the polishing pond;

- **Enclosures**

- Construct a building around the existing headworks; and
- Construct a building around the UV disinfection system; and

- **Spray Disposal Field**

- Replace the current distribution network with a system that is orientated to facilitate drainage and maintenance.

Maps of the project area are included in the Preliminary Engineering Report.

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

- Facilities Plan titled "*North Branch Fire District #1, Preliminary Engineering Report, Upgrade Additions*," prepared by Technicon, PC of Ludlow, Vermont, and dated December 2016.
- Environmental Information Document titled "*North Branch Fire District #1, RF1-197*," prepared by Technicon, PC of Ludlow, Vermont, and dated September 18, 2017.

Upon completion of its independent evaluation, the Department has determined that the project meets the criteria for receiving a Categorical Exclusion. Specifically, the project improves the facility's level of service, improves performance, and reduces maintenance concerns.

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

North Branch Fire District #1, 78 Dorr Fitch Road, West Dover, Vermont 05356

Technicon, P.C., P.O. Box 437, Ludlow, Vermont 05149

**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

September 20, 2017

Date

FACILITIES ENGINEERING DIVISION
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1 National Life Drive
Montpelier, VT 05620-3510
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Telephone: (802) 522-2192

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

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

DATE: September 18, 2017

SUBJECT: North Branch Fire District #1
Wastewater Treatment Facility Upgrades
Evaluation of Eligibility for Categorical Exclusion from Detailed Environmental Review

A. Project Identification

Project Name: North Branch Fire District #1
Wastewater Treatment Facility Upgrades

Address: Ms. Linda L. Holland, Administrative Manager
North Branch Fire District #1
78 Dorr Fitch Road
West Dover, Vermont 05356

Project Location: The proposed project involves numerous upgrades to the wastewater treatment facility and the spray disposal field. Maps of the project area are included in the Preliminary Engineering Report.

Vermont/EPA CWSRF Loan Program Project No.: RF1-197

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, North Branch Fire District #1 in West Dover, Vermont, has requested that its proposed Wastewater Treatment Facility Upgrade project 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 "*North Branch Fire District #1, Preliminary Engineering Report, Upgrade Additions*," prepared by Technicon, PC of Ludlow, Vermont, and dated December 2016.
- Environmental Information Document titled "*North Branch Fire District #1, RF1-197*," prepared by Technicon, PC of Ludlow, Vermont, and dated September 18, 2017.

1. Project Description

North Branch Fire District #1 is located in West Dover, Windham County, Vermont.

The proposed project includes the following improvements:

- **Secondary Clarifiers**
 - Demolish the existing clarifiers; and
 - Construct new clarifiers compliant with current design standards;
- **Solids Handling**
 - Remove the existing belt filter press; and
 - Install a centrifuge without modifying the existing control building;
- **Holding and Polishing Ponds**
 - Remove the existing PVC liners;
 - Inspect the base materials and the underdrain network;
 - Repair or replace the base materials and underdrain, as necessary; and
 - Install HDPE liners;
- **Yard Piping**
 - Upgrade the Return Activated Sludge lines;
 - Relocate the strainer and water meter that serve the subsurface disposal field;
 - Replace the yard hydrants; and
 - Modify the recirculation piping from the polishing pond;
- **Enclosures**
 - Construct a building around the existing headworks; and
 - Construct a building around the UV disinfection system; and
- **Spray Disposal Field**
 - Replace the current distribution network with a system that is orientated to facilitate drainage and maintenance.

2. Justification for Categorical Exclusion

We have determined that the project meets the criteria for receiving a Categorical Exclusion. Specifically, the project improves the facility's level of service, improves performance, and reduces maintenance concerns. Further, the project does not involve (create) serious local or environmental issues, increase treatment capacity, or meet any of the criteria that would result in denial of an Exclusion.