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

St Johnsbury Water System, WSID #5045 St Johnsbury, VT Water System Improvements DWSRF Loan WPL-277 & CWSRF Loan RF1-215

In accordance with Section VII of the Department's Environmental Review Procedures for projects funded through the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) and Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) Programs, the St Johnsbury Water System, located in the Town of St Johnsbury, 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 proposed project consists of installation of approximately 9,750 If of new PVC sanitary sewer main, 4,000 If of new HDPE storm sewer main, 7,250 If of new water main, and a new inverted siphon for the sanitary sewer below the Moose River. The project is also designed to switch domestic water services from an existing 6-inch unlined cast iron water main on Pleasant Street and connect to a 12-inch lined cast iron water main, allowing the 6-inch cast iron to be abandoned in place.

The existing combined sewer system collects sanitary sewer and storm sewer from Lawrence Circle, Waterman Circle, Gilman Avenue, School Street, Pleasant Street, Dundee Street and Nelson Street. Through the use of video line inspection performed by Hartigan Company, it was found that the existing combined collection system has many structural defects. Some of the structural defects include radial cracking, joint failure, holes, and sags.

The planned project is necessary to address the poor condition of the existing collection system and effectively reduce flow going to the Combined Sewer Overflow 016 (CSO 016) located on Concord Ave. The condition of the existing combined sewage collection system is also allowing for high amounts of infiltration to enter the system. The planned project will also replace the existing single barrel 8-inch inverted siphon below the Moose River. The existing siphon is currently exposed in the river, lacks the required redundancy of a second barrel, and is a contributing factor to backups in the sewer collection system. Separating the storm system from the sanitary system, replacing the collection mains in poor condition, and replacing the existing inverted siphon will significantly reduce the flow at CSO 016.

The existing water distribution system currently varies in size and includes 6-inch unlined cast iron main, 12-inch lined cast iron and small diameter copper mains. Based on hydrant testing and physical observation, the unlined mains are in very poor condition and hinder water quantity and quality to the project area. The undersized mains also greatly limit fire flows.

The planned project is necessary to address the poor condition of the existing system and provide the municipality with reliable flushing and fire protection flows.

Our consideration of the Town of St Johnsbury's request included reviewing environmental information and documentation completed and submitted by their engineering consultant, Dufresne Group Consulting Engineers. At the completion of this independent evaluation, the Department has determined the project meets the criteria for receiving a Categorical Exclusion. The project will correct deficiencies and does not meet any of the criteria resulting in denial of an Exclusion.

Further information on the project and this determination are available for inspection by contacting the DWSRF Program at (802) 585-4904. In addition to the applicant, a copy of this determination will be sent to a list of stakeholders and posted on the Water Infrastructure Financing Program's <u>Environmental Review Determination</u> <u>Notice</u> page.

Agency of Natural Resources Department of Environmental Conservation Emily Boedecker, Commissioner

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

Dated in Montpelier, Vermont this <u>5th</u> day of <u>October</u>, 2018