



Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation

Agency of Natural Resources

FACILITIES ENGINEERING DIVISION
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May 22, 2019

Hannah Tyler, Director of Public Works
Town of Hartford
173 Airport Road
White River Junction, VT 05001

**RE: South Main, North Main, and Gates Street Water, Sewer, and Stormwater Improvements Project
Town of Hartford, VT
Vermont/USEPA Clean Water Revolving Loan: RF1-222
Vermont/USEPA Drinking Water Revolving Loan: RF3-XXX
Environmental Review
Notice of Intent to Issue a Finding of No Significant Impact**

Dear Ms. Tyler:

The Department of Environmental Conservation intends to issue a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) for the proposed Town of Hartford, South Main, North Main, and Gates Street Water, Sewer, and Stormwater Improvements Project. To address existing system deficiencies, the Town proposes to replace existing water mains, rehabilitate or replace gravity sewer collection lines, and replace stormwater collection systems within the project alignment. The above also includes all service connections and appurtenant structures. Further, the Town proposes to construct bioretention and biofiltration cells as green stormwater infrastructure and install additional catch basins. Finally, the Town plans to restore the affected road surfaces.

The project does not qualify for a Categorical Exclusion from Environmental Review as the biofiltration cells create new discharges to groundwater. The Department, however, has determined that 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. **Preliminary Engineering Report**, titled “*Town of Hartford, Vermont, White River Junction South Main, North Main, & Gates Street Sewer & Stormwater Improvements,*” dated March 2019, and prepared by Wayne A. Elliott, P.E. from Aldrich + Elliott Water Resource Engineers of Essex Junction, Vermont.
5. **Environmental Information Document**, titled “*Environmental Report,*” executed September 7, 2018, and prepared by Aldrich + Elliott Water Resource Engineers of Essex Junction, Vermont.

COPY LIST

Amy Polaczak, Environmental Analyst, Wastewater Program, Watershed Management Division, VT DEC

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

Michael Nahmias, Hazardous Site Manager, Sites Management and Brownfields Response Program, Waste Management and Prevention Division, VT DEC

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

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

Ashley Lucht, DWSRF Project Lead, Facilities Engineering Division, VT DEC



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

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

SUBJECT: Town of Hartford
South Main, North Main, and Gates Street Water, Sewer, and Stormwater Improvements Project
Evaluation of Eligibility for a **Finding of No Significant Impact**

DATE: May 22, 2019

A. Project Identification

Project Name: Town of Hartford, Vermont
South Main, North Main, and Gates Street Water, Sewer, and Stormwater
Improvements Project

Address: Hannah Tyler, Director of Public Works
Town of Hartford
173 Airport Road
White River Junction, VT 05001

Project Location: The Town of Hartford, Vermont has proposed to replace existing water mains, rehabilitate or replace gravity sewer collection lines, and replace stormwater collection systems along South Main Street, Gates Street, and a portion of North Main Street. These improvements also include service connections and appurtenant structures. Further, the Town proposes to construct bioretention and biofiltration cells as green stormwater infrastructure and install additional catch basins. Finally, the Town plans to restore the affected road surfaces.

Funding: Vermont/USEPA Clean Water Revolving Loan Number RF1-222
Vermont/USEPA Drinking Water Revolving Loan: RF3-XXX

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 South Main, North Main, and Gates Street Water, Sewer, and Stormwater Improvements Project.

To make this decision, the Department has reviewed the following [planning documents](#):

- **Preliminary Engineering Report**, titled "*Town of Hartford, Vermont, White River Junction South Main, North Main, & Gates Street Sewer & Stormwater Improvements*," dated March 2019, and prepared by Wayne A. Elliott, P.E. from Aldrich + Elliott Water Resource Engineers of Essex Junction, Vermont.
- **Environmental Information Document**, titled "*Environmental Report*," executed September 7, 2018, and prepared by Aldrich + Elliott Water Resource Engineers of Essex Junction, Vermont.

A **Finding of No Significant Impact** (FONSI) is the appropriate environmental review response for this project. The project is ineligible for Categorical Exclusion from detailed Environmental Review as the biofiltration cells create new discharges to groundwater. However, 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 Hartford is in Windsor County, Vermont.

As mentioned previously, the Town is proposing improvements to water, sewer, and stormwater infrastructure. The project elements are summarized as:

Water Main Replacement

- Installing 2,200 linear feet of 12" ductile iron waterline on South Main Street;
- Installing 220 linear feet of 12" ductile iron waterline on North Main Street; and
- Installing 920 linear feet of 12" ductile iron waterline on Gates Street;

Sewer Collection System Upgrades

- South Main Street
 - Installing cure-in-place pipe (CIPP) to rehabilitate:
 - 460 linear feet of 12" gravity sewer line;
 - 1,493 linear feet of 15" gravity sewer line; and
 - 30 linear feet of 18" gravity sewer line;
 - Correcting manhole deficiencies by:
 - Replacing 1 manhole;
 - Replacing 8 manhole frames and covers;
 - Reconstructing 2 manhole inverts; and
 - Applying cementitious lining to 7 manholes;

- North Main Street
 - Installing CIPP to rehabilitate 110 linear feet of 12” gravity sewer line;
 - Replacing 2 manhole frames and covers;
 - Reconstructing 1 manhole invert; and
 - Applying cementitious lining to 2 manholes;
- Gates Street
 - Installing cure-in-place pipe (CIPP) to rehabilitate:
 - 15 linear feet of 8” gravity sewer line; and
 - 870 linear feet of 12” gravity sewer line;
 - Correcting manhole deficiencies by:
 - Replacing 2 manhole;
 - Replacing 5 manhole frames and covers;
 - Reconstructing 2 manhole inverts; and
 - Applying cementitious lining to 4 manholes;

Stormwater Collection System Improvements

- South Main Street
 - Replacing 390 linear feet of 18” HDPE stormdrain;
 - Installing 505 linear feet of 15” HDPE stormdrain to connect catch basins;
 - Replacing 7 stormdrain structure frames and covers;
 - Replacing 18 stormdrain structures; and
 - Installing 16 additional catch basins;
- Replacing 1 stormdrain structure on North Main Street;
- Gates Street
 - Replacing 290 linear feet of 18” HDPE stormdrain;
 - Installing 50 linear feet of 15” HDPE stormdrain to connect catch basins;
 - Replacing 5 stormdrain structure frames and covers; and
 - Replacing 9 stormdrain structures;

Green Stormwater Infrastructure

- Installing 6 biofiltration cells proximate to the intersection of South Main and Gates Streets; and
- Installing 5 bioretention bump-outs along South Main Street.

The green stormwater infrastructure improvements are consistent with the 2017 Vermont Stormwater Management Manual Rule and Design Guidance. While the Rule contemplates surface restoration, it does not mandate treatment standards. Instead, by categorizing the surface restoration as major maintenance, the Rule encourages engineers to explore “opportunities for improving runoff quality, control, and reduction through improvements.”

2. Justification for Finding of No Significant Impact

As mentioned previously, the project is not eligible for Categorical Exclusion. However, 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 recognizes that the project creates new discharges to groundwater via the bioretention cells. However, the scope and magnitude of these discharges are such that the direct and indirect environmental effects of the project are not significant. Furthermore, the work is consistent with the 2017 Vermont Stormwater Management Manual Rule and Design Guidance.

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 and there are no proximate rare, threatened, or endangered species present. Finally, after coordination with the State Historical Preservation Office, there are no anticipated effects on historic or prehistoric sites.

The Town held an Environmental Impact Hearing on May 21, 2019 to discuss project details with the public. Attendees did not raise objections or voice concerns about the project.

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Notice of Intent to Issue a Finding of No Significant Impact

**Town of Hartford, Vermont South
Main, North Main, and Gates Street
Water, Sewer, and Stormwater
Improvements Project**

Vermont/USEPA Clean Water Revolving Loan: RF1-222
Vermont/USEPA Drinking Water Revolving Loan: RF3-XXX

The Department of Environmental Conservation intends to issue a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) for the proposed South Main, North Main, and Gates Street Water, Sewer, and Stormwater Improvements Project.

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 project includes five bioretention bump outs (all situated along South Main Street) and six biofiltration boxes (all proximate to the intersection of South Main and Gates Streets) to manage stormwater. Each structure potentially creates a new discharge to groundwater.

The Department has determined that the project does not impact other natural and cultural resources. As evidenced by the Environmental Information Document and the VT ANR Resource Atlas, all construction is proposed outside of delineated wetland buffers and there are no proximate rare, threatened, or endangered species present. Finally, after coordination with the State Historical Preservation Office, there are no anticipated effects on historic or prehistoric sites.

The scope and magnitude of these discharges are such that 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 Town held an Environmental Impact Hearing on May 21, 2019 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 Hartford Public Works Department, 173 Airport Road, White
River Junction, VT 05001**

**Aldrich + Elliott Water Resource Engineers, 6 Market Place, Suite 2, Essex
Junction, VT 05452**

**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.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "E. Blatt", is positioned above a horizontal line.

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

May 22, 2019

Date