

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

Bennington Water Department, WSID #5016
Bennington, VT
Water System Improvements
DWSRF Loan RF3-380

In accordance with Section VII of the Department's Environmental Review Procedures for projects funded through the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) Program, the Bennington Water Department, located in Bennington, 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.

The project includes an extension of the existing Bennington Water Department water system to homes on Chapel Road, Jack's Drive and Walts Way. Proposed mains run from existing main near 2046 Chapel Road south to existing main on North Branch St.

The project's need is driven by the widespread contamination of wells by PFOA in the areas of the proposed expansion. It is acknowledged that large scale development in any of the affected areas is not likely and runs counter to land use planning in Bennington, but it should be noted that without a non-contaminated source of potable water in these areas, even limited development will be restricted or prevented entirely. As it is not known how long the watershed will remain contaminated, the only solution for these areas is an extension of the municipal water system.

Our consideration of Bennington Water Department's request included reviewing environmental information and documentation completed and submitted by their engineering consultant, MSK Engineering and Design, Inc.. 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 water system 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 [Environmental Review Determination Notice](#) page.

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



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

Dated in Montpelier, Vermont this day, Tuesday, August 6, 2019