



**Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation**

Water Investment Division  
1 National Life Drive  
Davis Building, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor  
Montpelier, VT 05620-3520

*Agency of Natural Resources*

Mr. William Ahearn, P.E.  
Authorized Representative  
Public Works and Engineering  
City of Barre  
6 North Main Street, Suite 1  
Barre, Vermont 05641

February 12, 2020

**Re: City of Barre, Barre WWTF Biosolids Improvements Project  
Vermont/USEPA Clean Water Revolving Loan Number RF1-253**

**Categorical Exclusion from Detailed Environmental Review**

Dear Mr. Ahearn:

The Department of Environmental Conservation has determined that the City of Barre's proposed Biosolids Improvements Project may be excluded from the detailed environmental review procedures that are required for projects that have environmental effects. The Department's (Clean Water) environmental review procedures require a 30-day public comment period following the issuance of a Notice of Determination of Eligibility for Categorical Exclusion. If no public comments received during that period demonstrate that this Determination is in error, then the Categorical Exclusion exempting the project from detailed review will become effective.

Copies of documents supporting a Categorical Exclusion are enclosed. Please keep copies of the enclosed documents available for public inspection during a public comment period of 30 days. A full listing of the documents that must be available for public inspection is attached.

If you have any concerns or questions, please do not hesitate to contact Jeff Fehrs at (802) 798-2094 or [jeff.fehrs@vermont.gov](mailto:jeff.fehrs@vermont.gov).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Eric Blatt".

Eric Blatt, P.E.  
Director of Engineering  
Water Investment Division

Documents Enclosed for Categorical Exclusion Public Comment Period (30 days)

1. "Notice of Determination of Eligibility for Categorical Exclusion"  
(Signed by Eric Blatt, P.E., Director of Engineering, Water Investment Division.)
2. "Evaluation of Eligibility for Categorical Exclusion"  
(Approved by Eric Blatt, P.E., Director of Engineering, Water Investment Division.)

Additional Documents Needed for Categorical Exclusion Public Comment Period (30 days)

1. "Environmental Review Procedures for Projects Funded Through the Vermont/EPA Revolving Loan Program", <https://anrweb.vt.gov/DEC/IronPIG/DownloadFile.aspx?DID=129684&DVID=0>
2. Preliminary Engineering Report (PER) titled " City of Barre WWTF, Biosolids Improvements Project, Preliminary Engineering Report " and dated July 29, 2019, prepared by DuBois & King, Inc. of Randolph, Vermont. <https://anrweb.vt.gov/DEC/IronPIG/DownloadFile.aspx?DID=180277&DVID=0>
3. Environmental Information Document (EID) prepared by Galen Hagen, P.E. of DuBois & King, Inc. of Randolph, Vermont on 11/5/2019 and reviewed by William Ahearn, Director, City of Barre Public Works and Engineering on 11/21/2019.  
<https://anrweb.vt.gov/DEC/IronPIG/DownloadFile.aspx?DID=180278&DVID=0>

**COPY LIST**

Galen Hagen, P.E., Project Engineer, DuBois & King, Inc.

Amy Polaczyk, Program Manager, Wastewater Management Program, Watershed Management Division, Vt DEC

John Merrifield, Environmental Analyst, Wastewater Management Program, Watershed Management Division, Vt DEC

Tom Brown, CWSRF Program Lead, Financial Management Section, Water Investment Division, Vt DEC

Notice of Determination of Eligibility for Categorical Exclusion

City of Barre  
Barre WWTF Biosolids Improvements Project

Vermont/ USEPA Clean Water Revolving Fund Loan Number RF1-253

In accordance with section VII of the Department's *"Environmental Review Procedures for Projects Funded Through the Vermont/EPA Revolving Loan Program"*, the City of Barre has requested that its proposed Barre WWTF Biosolids Improvements Project be evaluated for eligibility for a Categorical Exclusion from the detailed environmental review that is described in the Procedures and required for projects with significant environmental effects.

Consideration of the request for Categorical Exclusion included a review of the following documents:

- Preliminary Engineering Report (PER) titled " City of Barre WWTF, Biosolids Improvements Project, Preliminary Engineering Report " and dated July 29, 2019; prepared by DuBois & King, Inc. of Randolph, Vermont
- Environmental Information Document (EID) prepared on 11/5/2019 by Galen Hagen, P.E. of DuBois & King, Inc. of Randolph, Vermont and reviewed by William Ahearn, Director, City of Barre Public Works and Engineering on 11/21/2019.

Upon completion of its independent evaluation, the Department has determined that the proposed project meets the criteria for issuance of a Categorical Exclusion.

Specifically, the project will not increase the permitted annual average flow (hydraulic) capacity of the existing City of Barre WWTF and it will not increase permitted pounds of pollutants that may be discharged by that plant. Also, the project will not increase the design organic (equivalent population) treatment capacity of the wastewater treatment plant. The project will not add a new permanent discharge of stormwater or treated wastewater to surface waters or groundwater. Further, the project does not involve (create) serious local or environmental issues or meet any of the criteria that would result in denial of an Exclusion, nor does the project meet the definition of sewer extension.

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

Willian Ahearn, P.E., Director  
Public Works and Engineering  
City of Barre  
6 North Main Street, Suite 1  
Barre, Vermont 05641

telephone: (802) 476-0250  
e-mail: PWDirector@barrecity.org

Jeff Fehrs, P.E.  
Water Investment Division  
Vt Department of Environmental Conservation  
1 National Life Drive, Davis 3  
Montpelier, Vermont 05620-3520

telephone: (802) 798-2094  
e-mail: jeff.fehrs@vermont.gov

*(Note: National Life requires photo identification to obtain an access badge for entry.)*

Galen Hagen, P.E., Project Engineer  
DuBois & King, Inc.  
6 Green Tree Drive  
South Burlington, Vermont 05403

telephone: (802) 878-7661 Ext 7213  
E-mail: ghagen@dubois-king.com

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 of Engineering  
Water Investment Division  
Department of Environmental Conservation  
Vermont Agency of Natural Resources

2-12-2020  
Date



**Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation**  
Water Investment Division  
1 National Life Drive  
Davis Building, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor  
Montpelier, VT 05620-3520

*Agency of Natural Resources*

TO: Eric Blatt, P.E., Director of Engineering *EB*  
FROM: Jeff Fehrs, P.E., Supervisor *Jeff*  
Design & Construction Engineering Section  
SUBJECT: City of Barre, Barre WWTF Biosolids Improvements Project  
Evaluation of Eligibility for Categorical Exclusion from Detailed Environmental Review  
DATE: February 11, 2020

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A. Project Identification

Project Name: Barre WWTF Biosolids Improvements Project

Address:

Mr. William Ahearn, P.E.  
Authorized Representative  
Public Works and Engineering  
City of Barre  
6 North Main Street, Suite 1  
Barre, Vermont 05641

Project Location: The entire project is located at the City of Barre WWTF, 69 Treatment Plant Drive, Barre, Vermont.

Vermont/USEPA Clean Water Revolving Loan Number RF1-253

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 City of Barre has requested that the proposed Barre WWTF Biosolids Improvements Project be evaluated for eligibility for a Categorical Exclusion from the detailed environmental review that is described in the Procedures and required for projects with significant environmental effects.

City of Barre, Vermont  
Barre WWTF Biosolids Improvements Project  
Evaluation of Eligibility for Categorical Exclusion from Detailed Environmental Review  
February 6, 2020

The following planning document have been reviewed, and my findings are summarized below:

- Preliminary Engineering Report (PER) titled " City of Barre WWTF, Biosolids Improvements Project, Preliminary Engineering Report " and dated July 29, 2019, prepared by DuBois & King, Inc. of Randolph, Vermont
- Environmental Information Document (EID) prepared on 11/5/2019 by Galen Hagen, P.E. of DuBois & King, Inc. of Randolph, Vermont and reviewed by William Ahearn, Director, City of Barre Public Works and Engineering on 11/21/2019.

1. Project Description

The City of Barre is located in Washington County, Vermont.

The proposed project will:

- Replace the existing Digester #2 cover,
- Replace the existing digester boiler located in the Digester building, and
- Replace and relocate the existing waste gas (methane) flare to meet required set-back distances.

The equipment listed above have reached or exceeded their useful life and need to be replaced. Without this project, the City's ability to effectively and reliably treat wastewater and maintain compliance with the WWTF's Discharge Permit would be compromised.

Eligibility for a Clean Water State Revolving Loan for construction will be limited to the eligible clean water work as detailed in the Preliminary Engineering Report and to physical areas cleared through this environmental review process.

The contract documents will contain standard requirements to limit hours of construction and to control noise, dust and discharges of stormwater runoff or pollutants during construction.

2. Justification for Categorical Exclusion

I reviewed the EID and determined the proposed project meets the criteria for issuance of a Categorical Exclusion. Specifically, the project will not increase the design hydraulic capacity of the wastewater treatment facility by more than 20 percent, and it will not increase the design organic treatment capacity (equivalent population served) by more than 30 percent.

The project will not create a new permanent discharge of stormwater or treated wastewater to surface waters or groundwater, and there will be no increase of effluent pollutant loadings (pounds per day) permitted to be discharged from the wastewater treatment facility.

**City of Barre, Vermont  
Barre WWTF Biosolids Improvements Project  
Evaluation of Eligibility for Categorical Exclusion from Detailed Environmental Review  
February 6, 2020**

The project is not expected to adversely affect wetlands, wetlands buffer zones, floodplains, historic sites, archeological sites, habitats of threatened or endangered species, or other environmentally or culturally sensitive areas.

The project does not involve serious local or environmental issues or meet any of the criteria that would result in denial of a Categorical Exclusion.

