



Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation

EC7 Water Investment Division

1 National Life Drive
Davis Building, 3rd Floor
Montpelier, VT 05620-3510

Agency of Natural Resources

Mr. Joseph Gunter, Town Manager
Authorized Representative
Town of Fair Haven
3 North Park Place
Fair Haven, VT 05743-1066

February 14, 2020

**Re: Town of Fair Haven, Wastewater Treatment Facility Upgrade Project
Vermont/ USEPA Clean Water Revolving Loan Number RF1-220**

Categorical Exclusion from Detailed Environmental Review

Dear Mr. Gunter:

The Department of Environmental Conservation has determined that the Town's proposed Town of Fair Haven, Wastewater Treatment Facility Upgrade 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. Please call Lynnette Claudon at 802-490-6226 if you have any questions or concerns.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to send an email to Lynnette.Claudon@Vermont.gov.

Sincerely,

Eric Blatt, PE
Director I
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, PE, Director I, Water Investment Division.)
2. "Evaluation of Eligibility for Categorical Exclusion"
(Approved by Eric Blatt, PE, Director I, 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. **Categorical Exclusion (CatEx) request letter**, Town of Fair Haven, dated January 6, 2020.
<https://anrweb.vt.gov/DEC/IronPIG/DownloadFile.aspx?DID=180203&DVID=0>
3. **Preliminary Engineering Report (PER)** entitled "Town of Fair Haven, Vermont, Wastewater Treatment Facility Upgrade, Preliminary Engineering Report" and dated August 2019, by Aldrich + Elliott, PC of Essex, Vermont.
<https://anrweb.vt.gov/DEC/IronPIG/DownloadFile.aspx?DID=178921&DVID=0>
4. **Environmental Information Document (EID)** signed 6-13-19, by Aldrich + Elliott, PC, of Essex, Vermont.
<https://anrweb.vt.gov/DEC/IronPIG/DownloadFile.aspx?DID=180204&DVID=0>
5. **Act 250 Determination** <https://anrweb.vt.gov/DEC/IronPIG/DownloadFile.aspx?DID=180215&DVID=0>

COPY LIST

Wayne Elliott, PE, Aldrich + Elliott, PC

Amy Polaczyk & Shea Miller, Wastewater Management Program, Watershed Management Division

Tom Brown, CWSRF Program Lead, Financial Management Section, VT-DEC-FED

Town of Fair Haven, Vermont
Wastewater Treatment Facility Upgrade Project
Notice of Determination of Eligibility for Categorical Exclusion from Detailed Environmental Review

Page 2 of 2

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

Joseph Gunter, Town Manager
Town of Fair Haven
3 North Park Place
Fair Haven, VT 05743-1066

telephone (802) 265-3610
fhmanager@comcast.net

Lynnette Claudon, PE
Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation
Water Investment Division
1 National Life Drive, Davis 3
Montpelier, VT 05620-3510

tel. 802-490-6226
Lynnette.Claudon@Vermont.gov

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

Wayne Elliott, PE
Aldrich + Elliott, PC
6 Market Place, Suite 2
Essex Junction, VT 05452

tel. 802-879-7733
welliott@aeengineers.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 I
Water Investment Division

2-14-2020

Date

Department of Environmental Conservation
Vermont Agency of Natural Resources



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Agency of Natural Resources

Notice of Determination of Eligibility for Categorical Exclusion

Town of Fair Haven

Town of Fair Haven, Wastewater Treatment Facility Upgrade Project

Vermont/ USEPA Clean Water Revolving Fund Loan Number RF1-220

In accordance with section VII of the Department's *"Environmental Review Procedures for Projects Funded Through the Vermont/ EPA Revolving Loan Program"*, the Town of Fair Haven has requested that its proposed Wastewater Treatment Facility Upgrade 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:

- **Environmental Information Document (EID)** signed 6-13-19, by Aldrich + Elliott, PC, of Essex, Vermont.

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 Town of Fair Haven Town of Fair Haven Wastewater Treatment Facility, 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.



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Agency of Natural Resources

TO: Eric Blatt, P.E., Director I, Water Investment Division 

FROM: Lynnette Claudon, PE
Chief Pollution Control Design Engineer, Water Investment Division

SUBJECT: Town of Fair Haven
Wastewater Treatment Facility Upgrade Project

Evaluation of Eligibility for Categorical Exclusion
from Detailed Environmental Review

DATE: February 14, 2020

A. Project Identification

Project Name: Wastewater Treatment Facility Upgrade Project

Address:

Joseph Gunter, Town Manager
Authorized Representative
Town of Fair Haven
3 North Park Place
Fair Haven, VT 05743-1066

Project Location: The project is limited to within the fence of the existing Fair Haven Wastewater Treatment Facility site on Montgiven Avenue in Fair Haven, Vermont in the Castleton River Watershed. This WWTF is located west of the Village Green and on a town owned parcel containing a landfill.

Vermont/ USEPA Clean Water Revolving Loan Number RF1-220

**Town of Fair Haven
Wastewater Treatment Facility Upgrade Project
Evaluation of Eligibility for Categorical Exclusion from Detailed Environmental Review
February 14, 2020**

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 Town of Fair Haven has requested that the proposed Wastewater Treatment Facility Upgrade 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.

The applicant's request and the following planning document have been reviewed, and our findings are summarized below:

Environmental Information Document (EID) dated 6-13-19, by Aldrich + Elliott, PC, of Essex, Vermont.

1. Project Description

The Town of Fair Haven is located in Rutland County, Vermont.

The Fair Haven, Vermont Wastewater Treatment Facility Refurbishment project includes: replacements of process equipment at the end of its service life; a new grit removal system; refurbished secondary clarifiers; new sludge pumps; new laboratory equipment; a new in-plant pump station; replacement of the existing oxidation ditch structure with new 2 basin extended aeration system; improvements to the headworks facility by adding mechanical screening unit; and renovations to the control building, headworks, and blower building. Overall, the proposed project will refurbish age and redundancy related project elements. The project will ensure that Fair Haven can continue to treat wastewater to meet water quality standards.

Eligibility for clean water revolving loan (CWSRF) construction funding 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

We have determined that 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 plant 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 associated wastewater treatment plant.

Town of Fair Haven

Wastewater Treatment Facility Upgrade Project

Evaluation of Eligibility for Categorical Exclusion from Detailed Environmental Review

February 14, 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.

