



Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation
Water Investment Division
1 National Life Drive
Davis Building, 3rd Floor
Montpelier, VT. 05620-3520

Agency of Natural Resources

Mr. Eugene Martin
Director of Utilities
Sugarbush Mountain Resort Inc.
1840 Sugarbush Access Road
Warren, Vermont 05674

March 5, 2020

**Re: Mountain Wastewater Treatment, Inc., WWTF Tertiary Filter Replacement Project
Vermont/USEPA Clean Water Revolving Loan Number RF1-245
Categorical Exclusion from Detailed Environmental Review**

Dear Mr. Martin:

The Department of Environmental Conservation has determined that Mountain Wastewater Treatment, Inc.'s proposed WWTF Tertiary Filter Replacement 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.

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 from Detailed Environmental Review"
(Signed by Eric Blatt, P.E., Director of Engineering, Water Investment Division.)
2. "Evaluation of Eligibility for Categorical Exclusion from Detailed Environmental Review"
(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 "Mountain Wastewater Treatment Facility, Tertiary Filter Replacement Project, Addendum Letter to Preliminary Engineering Report" and dated December 3, 2019, prepared by DuBois & King, Inc. of Randolph, Vermont.
<https://anrweb.vt.gov/DEC/IronPIG/DownloadFile.aspx?DID=180404&DVID=0>
3. Environmental Information Document (EID) prepared by Galen Hagen, P.E. of DuBois & King, Inc. of Randolph, Vermont on 10/17/2019 and reviewed by Eugene J. Martin, Authorized Representative on 10/22/2019. <https://anrweb.vt.gov/DEC/IronPIG/DownloadFile.aspx?DID=180405&DVID=0>

COPY LIST

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

Bryan Harrington, Indirect Discharge and UIC Supervisor, Drinking Water & Groundwater Protection Division,
Vt DEC

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



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Agency of Natural Resources

Notice of Determination of Eligibility for Categorical Exclusion from Detailed Environmental Review

Mountain Wastewater Treatment, Inc.
WWTF Tertiary Filter Replacement Project

Vermont/USEPA Clean Water Revolving Fund Loan Number RF1-245

In accordance with section VII of the Department's *"Environmental Review Procedures for Projects Funded Through the Vermont/EPA Revolving Loan Program"*, Mountain Wastewater Treatment, Inc. has requested that its proposed WWTF Tertiary Filter Replacement 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 "Mountain Wastewater Treatment Facility, Tertiary Filter Replacement Project, Addendum Letter to Preliminary Engineering Report" and dated December 3, 2019, prepared by DuBois & King, Inc. of Randolph, Vermont.
- Environmental Information Document (EID) prepared by Galen Hagen, P.E. of DuBois & King, Inc. of Randolph, Vermont on 10/17/2019 and reviewed by Eugene J. Martin, Authorized Representative on 10/22/2019.

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 Mountain Wastewater Treatment, Inc. 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 a Categorical Exclusion, nor does the project meet the definition of sewer extension.

Mountain Wastewater Treatment, Inc.
WWTF Tertiary Filter Replacement 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:

Eugene Martin
Director of Utilities
Sugarbush Mountain Resort Inc.
1840 Sugarbush Access Road
Warren, Vermont 05674

telephone: (802) 583-6714
e-mail: gmartin@sugarbush.com>

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

March 4, 2020

Date



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

Agency of Natural Resources

TO: Eric Blatt, P.E., Director of Engineering 
FROM: Jeff Fehrs, P.E., Supervisor 
Design & Construction Engineering Section
SUBJECT: Mountain Wastewater Treatment, Inc., WWTF Tertiary Filter Replacement Project
Evaluation of Eligibility for Categorical Exclusion from Detailed Environmental Review
DATE: March 4, 2020

A. Project Identification

Project Owner: Mountain Wastewater Treatment, Inc.

Project Name: WWTF Tertiary Filter Replacement Project

Project Location: The entire project is located at the Mountain Wastewater Treatment, Inc. WWTF located at 185 Sports Center Drive, Warren, Vermont.

Authorized Representative: Mr. Eugene Martin
Director of Utilities
Sugarbush Mountain Resort Inc.
1840 Sugarbush Access Road
Warren, Vermont 05674

Vermont/USEPA Clean Water Revolving Loan Number: RF1-245

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*", Mountain Wastewater Treatment, Inc. has requested that the proposed WWTF Tertiary Filter Replacement 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.

Mountain Wastewater Treatment, Inc.
WWTF Tertiary Filter Replacement Project
Evaluation of Eligibility for Categorical Exclusion from Detailed Environmental Review
March 4, 2020

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

- Preliminary Engineering Report (PER) titled "Mountain Wastewater Treatment Facility, Tertiary Filter Replacement Project, Addendum Letter to Preliminary Engineering Report" and dated December 3, 2019, prepared by DuBois & King, Inc. of Randolph, Vermont.
- Environmental Information Document (EID) prepared by Galen Hagen, P.E. of DuBois & King, Inc. of Randolph, Vermont on 10/17/2019 and reviewed by Eugene J. Martin, Authorized Representative on 10/22/2019.

1. Project Description

The Mountain Wastewater Treatment, Inc. WWTF is located in Washington County, Vermont.

The proposed project will replace the existing single tertiary effluent filter at the WWTF with new duplex filters and ancillary equipment. The tertiary filter is over 45 years old, has reached the end of or has exceeded its useful life, and needs to be replaced. Of greatest concern is the deterioration of the steel tank walls which could rupture. Due to space limitations and age, the existing lagoon aeration blowers will be replaced and relocated from the existing filter building to a new small blower building. By replacing the single tertiary filter with duplex filters, this project will increase the WWTF's redundancy and reliability. Without this project, Mountain Wastewater Treatment, Inc.'s ability to effectively and reliably treat wastewater and maintain compliance with the WWTF's Indirect 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.

Mountain Wastewater Treatment, Inc.
WWTF Tertiary Filter Replacement Project
Evaluation of Eligibility for Categorical Exclusion from Detailed Environmental Review
March 4, 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.

