



Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation

Agency of Natural Resources

WATER INVESTMENT DIVISION
National Life Building, DAVIS 3
1 National Life Drive
Montpelier, VT 05620-3510
FAX: (802)828-1552

Gig Zboray, Selectboard Administrator
Authorized Representative
Town of Whitingham
P.O Box 529
Jacksonville, VT 05342

October 19, 2020
Expiration Date: October 19, 2025

**Re: Jacksonville and Whitingham WWTFs Refurbishment Project Project
Vermont/ USEPA Clean Water Revolving Loan Number RF1-231**

Notice of Intent to Issue a Finding of No Significant Impact

Dear Gig Zboray:

The Department of Environmental Conservation intends to issue a Finding of No Significant Impact (FNSI) for the Jacksonville and Whitingham Wastewater Treatment Facilities (WWTFs) Refurbishment Project Project.

The project has positive environmental impacts consisting of maintaining water quality through permitted discharge from the two wastewater treatment facilities.

This project additionally involves potential impacts to the mapped floodplains at each facility.

Otherwise, this project may have been eligible for Categorical Exclusion from detailed environmental review. Additionally, the direct and indirect environmental effects of the project are still not significant enough to necessitate an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS).

The Department's environmental review procedures require a 30-day public comment period following the issuance of a Notice of Intent to Issue a Finding of No Significant Impact. If no public comments received during that period demonstrate that this Notice of Intent is in error, the Finding of No Significant Impact will become effective.

Copies of documents supporting a Finding of No Significant Impact are enclosed. Please keep copies of the enclosed documents, along with any pertinent reports by your consulting engineers, 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, 802-490-6226, if you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

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

**Gig Zboray, Authorized Representative, Town of Whitingham
Jacksonville and Whitingham WWTFs Refurbishment Project
Finding of No Significant Impact
10/7/2020**

Documents Posted 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 of Engineering, Water Investment Division, enclosed.)
2. Evaluation of Eligibility for Finding of No Significant Impact (Approved by Eric Blatt, P.E., Director of Engineering, Water Investment Division, enclosed.)
3. State Environmental Review Procedures for Projects Funded Through the Vermont/ EPA Revolving Loan Program, <http://dec.vermont.gov/facilities-engineering/water-financing/srf/environmental-review>

Additional Documents Needed for Finding of No Significant Impact Public Comment Period (30 days)

4. Environmental Information Document titled "*Environmental Report and Environmental Information Document*," and dated 7/16/20, by Weston & Sampson Engineers, Inc.
<https://anrweb.vt.gov/DEC/IronPIG/DownloadFile.aspx?DID=186236&DVID=0>
5. Preliminary Engineering Report entitled "*Town of Whitingham Vermont Whitingham & Jacksonville Wastewater Treatment Facilities 20-Year Evaluation and Preliminary Engineering Report*," and dated January 2020, by Weston & Sampson Engineers, Inc.
<https://anrweb.vt.gov/DEC/IronPIG/DownloadFile.aspx?DID=177915&DVID=0>

COPY LIST

Amy Polaczyk and Katheen Parish, Wastewater Program, VT-DEC
Rebecca Pfeiffer, Rivers Program, VT-DEC
Scott Dillon and Elizabeth Peebles, Division for Historic Preservation, ACCD
David DiCantio, Chief Operator, Town of Whitingham
Michael A. Smith, PE, and **Shane Mullen, PE** Weston & Sampson Engineers, Inc.



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1 National Life Drive, Davis 3
Montpelier, VT 05620

802-490-6226

Notice of Intent to Issue a Finding of No Significant Impact

**Town of Whitingham
Jacksonville and Whitingham WWTFs Refurbishment Project**

Vermont/ USEPA Clean Water Revolving Loan Number: RF1-231

In accordance with section VII of the Department's *"Environmental Review Procedures for Projects Funded Through the Vermont/EPA Revolving Loan Program,"* the Department of Environmental Conservation intends to issue a Finding of No Significant Impact (FNSI) for the proposed Jacksonville and Whitingham WWTFs Refurbishment Project. This project involves full refurbishment of the two wastewater treatment plants and spot repairs to manholes and pipes within the collection systems.

Under the Procedure, the project is ineligible for Categorical Exclusion (CATEX) from detailed environmental review. The project involves potential impacts to mapped floodplains and therefore exceeds the threshold for CATEX.

Also, the direct and indirect environmental effects of the project are not significant enough to necessitate an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) under the Department's environmental review procedures. The project will not increase the current permitted flow capacity of the treatment plant, and the project will not include sewer extensions.

Consideration of the FNSI included a review of the following documents:

- **Environmental Information Document** (EID) signed 7/16/20, by Weston & Sampson Engineers, Inc., of Waterbury, Vermont.

**Gig Zboray, Authorized Representative, Town of Whitingham
Jacksonville and Whitingham WWTFs Refurbishment Project
Finding of No Significant Impact
10/7/2020**

Further information on the project and this Notice of Intent is available for inspection at the following locations:

Gig Zboray, Selectboard Administrator
Town of Whitingham
P.O Box 529
Jacksonville, VT 05342

tel. (802) 368-7500
gig@whitinghamvt.org

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.)

Michael A. Smith, PE
Weston & Sampson Engineers, Inc.
98 South Maint St, Suite 2
Waterbury, VT 05676

tel. 802-244-5051
smithm@wseinc.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

10/19/2020

Date



Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation

Agency of Natural Resources

Department of Environmental Conservation

Vermont Agency of Natural Resource

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

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

SUBJECT: Town of Whitingham
Jacksonville and Whitingham WWTFs Refurbishment Project Project

Evaluation of Eligibility for Finding of No Significant Impact

DATE: 10/16/2020

A. Project Identification

Project Name: Town of Whitingham
Jacksonville and Whitingham WWTFs Refurbishment Project

Address: Gig Zboray, Authorized Representative
Town of Whitingham
P.O Box 529
Jacksonville, VT 05342

Project Location: Town of Whitingham, Vermont

Whitingham WWTF is located off Vermont Route 100 south of the intersection with Brick House Road and on the shore of the Harriman Reservoir. Collection system repairs are at spot locations throughout the system.

Jacksonville WWTF is located off Vermont Route 112 near the East Branch of the North River. Collection system repairs are at spot locations throughout the system.

Vermont/ USEPA Clean Water Revolving Loan Number: **RF1-231**

**Gig Zboray, Authorized Representative, Town of Whitingham
Jacksonville and Whitingham WWTFs Refurbishment Project
Finding of No Significant Impact
10/7/2020**

B. Summary of Environmental Review

The Department of Environmental Conservation, Water Investment Division, has reviewed this proposed project in accordance with the Department's State Environmental Review Procedures for Projects Funded Through the Vermont/ EPA Revolving Loan Program.

The Department has reviewed the following planning documents:

- Environmental Information Document titled “Environmental Report and Environmental Information Document,” and 7/16/20, by Weston & Sampson Engineers, Inc.
- Preliminary Engineering Report entitled “Town of Whitingham Vermont Whitingham & Jacksonville Wastewater Treatment Facilities 20-Year Evaluation and Preliminary Engineering Report,” and dated January 2020 by Weston & Sampson Engineers, Inc.

A Finding of No Significant Impact (FNSI) is the appropriate environmental review response for this project if the issues presented can be resolved with mitigation or permits. This project is not eligible for Categorical Exclusion from detailed environmental review due to potential impacts to mapped floodplains. Also, the project’s direct and indirect environmental effects do not necessitate issuance of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), consistent with the criteria as described in section XI of the Department’s environmental review procedures.

1. Project Description

The Town of Whitingham is located in Windham County, Vermont in the North Branch of the Deerfield River major watershed.

The project includes:

1. Complete rehabilitation of both WWTF buildings, including the removal of mold-damaged drywall, new heating systems, additional insulation, new roofing and new plumbing systems; a new water supply system for the Jacksonville WWTF; new emergency generators at each WWTF to provide continual service in the event of a power outage; replacement of the existing RBC and clarifiers with BioMax units, an integrated secondary treatment and filtering process; new ancillary wastewater process equipment, including pumps, ventilation systems, and improved sludge removal; a new consolidated control panel for each WWTF for all process equipment that includes remote viewing capabilities as well as additional alarm types (e.g. email, text message); and appurtenant work.
2. Collection system repairs for the Jacksonville and Whitingham service areas to reduce the effects of groundwater infiltration and stormwater inflow to the WWTFs and appurtenant work.

The proposed project will refurbish the wastewater treatment facility and collection system in each of the villages of Jacksonville and Whitingham in the Town of Whitingham, Vermont. The facilities have reached the end of their useful life and need refurbishment. The project will provide the infrastructure necessary to maintain compliance with their discharge permit.

**Gig Zboray, Authorized Representative, Town of Whitingham
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Both facilities are located in or on the edge of mapped floodplains and will maintain dry or wet floodproofing measures.

This work is expected to be constructed with a Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) loan.

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 Finding of No Significant Impact

We have determined that the proposed project meets the criteria for issuance of a Finding of No Significant Impact.

This project involves potential impacts to mapped floodplains but will use accepted dry and wet floodproofing measures to protect the infrastructure.

Otherwise, this project may have been eligible for Categorical Exclusion from detailed environmental review; additionally, the direct and indirect environmental effects of the project are still not significant enough to necessitate an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS).

Specifically, the project will not increase the design hydraulic capacity of either 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 does not include sewer extensions.

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 plants.

A public hearing was held on July 15, 2020 at 6:30 pm at the regular meeting of the Whitingham Selectboard as part of this FNSI process and no public comments were received.