



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

Mr. Jeff Schulz, Town Manager
Authorized Representative
Northfield, Town of
51 South Main Street
Northfield, VT 05663

November 24, 2020
Expiration Date: November 24, 2025

**Re: MAIN STREET STORMWATER SEPARATION AND CSO ABATEMENT Project
Vermont/ USEPA Clean Water Revolving Loan Number RF1-217**

Notice of Intent to Issue a Finding of No Significant Impact

Dear Jeff Schulz:

The Department of Environmental Conservation intends to issue a Finding of No Significant Impact (FNSI) for the MAIN STREET STORMWATER SEPARATION AND CSO ABATEMENT Project.

The Department of Environmental Conservation has reviewed these documents:

- Environmental Information Document, dated February 26, 2020, by Dufresne Group
- Preliminary Engineering Report, dated January 28, 2019, by Dufresne Group

The Water Investment Division (WID) issued its request for review to the Division for Historic Preservation (DHP), in its letter dated April 15, 2020. The Division for Historic Preservation has requested additional information. WID and DHP will also review the anticipated Addendum Memo, from Dufresne Group, in response to the request for supplemental information.

The project has positive environmental impacts consisting of the separation of stormwater and sewer, to comply with the 2016 CSO Overflow Rule. The Town of Northfield is under a 1272 Order issued April 5, 2019 by the Watershed Management Division Wastewater Program, for the combined sewer overflow outfalls, regarding Discharge Permit No. 3-1158.

This project additionally involves the potential to transect impacted areas of subsurface soils and groundwater, in the vicinity of an unpermitted automobile junkyard (parcel span# 441-139-10109), on 63 Houston Street, inspected by the Division of Waste Management and Prevention. The project will have several new stormwater discharge points.

**Jeff Schulz, Authorized Representative, Northfield, Town of
MAIN STREET STORMWATER SEPARATION AND CSO ABATEMENT
Finding of No Significant Impact**

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, then 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 contact Hugo Martínez Cazón, P.E. at 802 522-5564, if you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,



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

Enclosures

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, <https://dec.vermont.gov/water-investment/water-financing/srf/environmental-review>

**Jeff Schulz, Authorized Representative, Northfield, Town of
MAIN STREET STORMWATER SEPARATION AND CSO
ABATEMENT Finding of No Significant Impact**

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 02/26/2020, by Dufresne Group.
<https://anrweb.vt.gov/DEC/IronPIG/DownloadFile.aspx?DID=182584&DVID=0>
5. Preliminary Engineering Report entitled "*MAIN STREET STORMWATER SEPARATION AND CSO ABATEMENT*," and dated January 28, 2019, by Dufresne Group.
<https://anrweb.vt.gov/DEC/IronPIG/DownloadFile.aspx?DID=179712&DVID=0>

COPY LIST

Amy Polaczyk and Kathleen Parish, Wastewater Program, VT-DEC
Shannon Morrison, Wetlands Biologist
Carl Fuller, Regional Engineer, VT-DEC, DWGWPD
Elizabeth Peebles, Division for Historic Preservation, ACCD
Scott Dillon, Division for Historic Preservation, ACCD
Patrick Demasi, Town of Northfield
Brian Baker, Office Director, Dufresne Group
Kevin Burke, Stormwater Program, VT-DEC



Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation

Agency of Natural Resources

Department of Environmental Conservation
Facilities Engineering Division
1 National Life Drive, Davis 3
Montpelier, VT 05620

802 522-5564

Notice of Intent to Issue a Finding of No Significant Impact

**Northfield, Town of
MAIN STREET STORMWATER SEPARATION AND CSO ABATEMENT**

Vermont/ USEPA Clean Water Revolving Loan Number: RF1-217

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 MAIN STREET STORMWATER SEPARATION AND CSO ABATEMENT Project. This project involves separation of the combined sewers on and adjacent to South Main Street, which may allow closure of the last remaining CSO. This action addresses health, sanitation and security needs. Each overflow event represents an environmental and water quality concern that can be addressed by abatement of the CSO. The combined sewers in the project planning area are the last known municipally owned combined sewers in town.

Under the Procedure, the project is ineligible for Categorical Exclusion (CATEX) from detailed environmental review. The project involves impacts to the Dog River 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.

Northfield, Town of
MAIN STREET STORMWATER SEPARATION AND CSO ABATEMENT
Notice of Intent to Issue a Finding of No Significant Impact

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

- **Environmental Information Document (EID)** signed 02/26/20, by Dufresne Group, of Barre VT.

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

Jeff Schulz, Town Manager
Northfield, Town of
51 South Main Street
Northfield, VT 05663

tel. 802 485-9822
jschulz@northfield.vt.us

hugo martínez cazón, p.e.
Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation
Facilities Engineering Division
1 National Life Drive, Davis 3
Montpelier, VT 05620-3510

tel. 802 522-5564
hugo.martinez.cazon@vermont.gov

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

Brian Baker
Dufresne Group
297 South Main Street
Barre, VT 05641

tel. 802.479.3698
bbaker@dufresnegroup.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

November 24, 2020

Date

Department of Environmental Conservation
Vermont Agency of Natural Resources



Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation

Agency of Natural Resources

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

FROM: Hugo Martínez Cazón, P.E.
Pollution Control Design Engineer, Water Investment Division

SUBJECT: Northfield, Town of
MAIN STREET STORMWATER SEPARATION AND CSO ABATEMENT Project

Evaluation of Eligibility for Finding of No Significant Impact

DATE: November 16, 2020

A. Project Identification

Project Name: Northfield, Town of
MAIN STREET STORMWATER SEPARATION AND CSO ABATEMENT

Address: Jeff Schulz, Authorized Representative
Northfield, Town of
51 South Main Street
Northfield, VT 05663

Project Location: Northfield, Town of, Vermont

The project involves two specific areas: North Main Street project area and the South Main Street project area. The North Main Street project is located along the Houston Street and Sherman Avenue loop. The South Main Street project area is delineated by Slate Avenue, Highland Avenue, and Prospect Street, and includes Elm Street. The project, located in the Dog River drainage area, is identified in the Water Investment Division's Winooski River Tactical Basin Plan, adopted in 2018.

**Jeff Schulz, Authorized Representative, Northfield, Town of
Evaluation of Eligibility for Finding of No Significant Impact
MAIN STREET STORMWATER SEPARATION AND CSO ABATEMENT
Vermont/ USEPA Clean Water Loan Number RF1-217**

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 02/26/20, by Dufresne Group.
- Preliminary Engineering Report entitled “MAIN STREET STORMWATER SEPARATION AND CSO ABATEMENT,” and dated January 28, 2019 by Dufresne Group.

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 the Dog River. 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 Northfield is located in Washington County, Vermont in the Winooski River Basin.

This project involves separation of the combined sewers on and adjacent to South Main Street which may allow for closure of last remaining CSO. This action addresses health, sanitation and security needs. Overflow events represent an environmental and water quality concern that can be addressed by abatement of the CSO. The combined sewers in the project planning area are the last known municipally owned combined sewers in town.

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.

**Jeff Schulz, Authorized Representative, Northfield, Town of
Evaluation of Eligibility for Finding of No Significant Impact
MAIN STREET STORMWATER SEPARATION AND CSO ABATEMENT
Vermont/ USEPA Clean Water Loan Number RF1-217**

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 a new discharge of stormwater to the Dog River. This project may have historical resource impacts and may involve management of hazardous materials in contaminated soils.

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 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 does not include sewer extensions.

The project will 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.

A public hearing will be held at 6:30 PM on November 24, 2020 via the Town's online meeting platform and as part of a normal Selectboard meeting to meet the hearing requirements of this FNSI process.