

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

Notice of Intent to Issue a Finding of No Significant Impact

**Champlain Water District
Essex West Booster Pump Station & Transmission Main**

Vermont/ USEPA Drinking Water Revolving Loan Number: RF3-410

In accordance with section VII of the Department's *Vermont/EPA Drinking Water State Revolving Fund Loan Program*, the Department of Environmental Conservation intends to issue a Finding of No Significant Impact (FNSI) for the proposed water system improvement Project. This project consists of construction of new Essex West pump station with duplex pumping system, process piping, electrical, and generator, installation of approximately 1,850 linear feet of new 12" ductile iron transmission main from the pump station to the connection with the Essex Town distribution system, and upgrades to the Essex East pump station. Wetlands impacts will be mitigated off-site by planting wetland trees and shrubs with minimal disturbance in a 10,000 sqft buffer enhancement area along Potash Brook at the CWD Main Plant in South Burlington.

A Categorical Exemption (CatEx) from detailed environmental review was issued for this project on 11/18/2020 based on information available at the time. Upon receipt of further information contained in the wetlands permit and determination, the project was found to be ineligible for a CatEx under the State Environmental Review Process (SERP) because the project is known or expected to directly or indirectly affect an environmentally important natural resource areas, specifically, a wetland.

The direct and indirect environmental effects of the project are not significant enough to necessitate an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) under the SERP. The CatEx was revoked on 3/19/2021 and the more extensive review process for a Finding of No Significant Impact (FNSI) begun.

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

- Preliminary engineering report "CWD Essex West Pump Station Preliminary Engineering Study" excerpts: Section 4 "Pump Station Alternatives" and Section 5 "Transmission Main Alternatives" (pages 14-35), dated October 2018, by Aldrich + Elliott, PC.
 - Environmental Information Document titled "Environmental Report and Environmental Information Document," dated 4/2/2021, by Jason Booth, PE, Aldrich + Elliott, PC.
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**Champlain Water District, Essex and South Burlington, Vermont
Essex West Booster Pump Station and Transmission Main Project
Environmental Assessment**

- Design drawings for permit review, “Essex west booster pump station and transmission main and Essex east booster pump station upgrades,” dated December 2019, by Jason Booth, PE, Aldrich + Elliott, PC.
- Phase IB Archaeological Investigation – End-of-Fieldwork Letter, Essex West Booster Pump Station, Route 15 and Turnberry Ridge, Town of Essex, Chittenden County, Vermont, dated 12/2/2019, by Elise Manning Sterling, Project Manager, Hartgen Archaeological Associates.
- §106 Project Review Form for Essex West Booster Pump Station and Transmission Main Project, Vermont Division for Historic Preservation, VDHP comment completed 9/2/2020 by Scott Dillon.
- Individual Wetland Permit and Determination, File #: 2019-680, DEC ID#: EJ19-0352, dated 1/4/2021.
- Approved Site Plan showing wetland impacts for Wetlands Permit, dated February 2020, by Aldrich + Elliott, PC, and approved by DEC Wetlands Program 1/4/2021.
- Vermont Wetlands Program Permit Application, dated 9/8/2020.
- §106 Project Review Form for off-site mitigation project, Vermont Division for Historic Preservation, VDHP comment completed 4/1/2021 by Scott Dillon.
- Wetland Buffer Enhancement Area Plan, Main Plant, South Burlington, dated 3/30/2021, by Fitzgerald Environmental Associates, LLC.

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

Celia Riechel, DWSRF Project Developer
Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation
Water Investment Division
1 National Life Drive, Davis 3
Montpelier, VT 05620-3510
802-585-4904
celia.riechel@vermont.gov

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

Nate Pion, Chief Engineer/Director of Projects & Programs
Champlain Water District
403 Queen City Park Road
South Burlington, VT 05403
802-864-7454
nathan.pion@champlainwater.org

**Champlain Water District, Essex and South Burlington, Vermont
Essex West Booster Pump Station and Transmission Main Project
Environmental Assessment**

Jason Booth, PE
Aldrich + Elliott, PC
6 Market Place, Suite 2
Essex Junction, VT 05452
802-879-7733
jbooth@aeengineers.com

A public hearing is scheduled for Thursday, April 15, 6:00pm. For public health reasons, the hearing will be conducted remotely. Those interested in attending can join here:

[Join Microsoft Teams Meeting](#)

[Learn more about Teams](#)

Those unable to join by computer can use a smartphone to call in to the Teams meeting for audio only (use same link above). Those unable to join online or smartphone may participate in the hearing by calling 802-231-4843. No passcode required.

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

Date

Department of Environmental Conservation
Vermont Agency of Natural Resources