



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. Todd Odit, Town Manager  
Town of Hinesburg  
10632 VT Route 116  
Hinesburg VT 05461

April 30, 2021  
Expiration Date: April 30, 2026

**Re: Hinesburg WWTF Upgrade and Expansion Project  
Vermont/ USEPA Clean Water Revolving Loan Number RF1-229**

**Notice of Intent to Issue a Finding of No Significant Impact**

Dear Todd:

The Department of Environmental Conservation intends to issue a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) for the Hinesburg WWTF Upgrade and Expansion Project.

The project has positive environmental impacts including continued water quality improvement through wastewater treatment; increased wastewater treatment for phosphorus and nitrogen removal to meet new permit limits; and restoration of floodplain through the demolition of several lagoon cells.

This project additionally involves floodplain impacts with the construction; wetland impacts; increased volume of treated wastewater discharge (but no additional pollutant loading); stream alterations through the outfall refurbishment work; and increased length to the waste management zone in the La Platte River.

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.

Todd Odit, Town Manager, Town of Hinesburg  
Hinesburg WWTF Upgrade and Expansion  
Finding of No Significant Impact  
April 30, 2021

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

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 I, Water Investment Division, enclosed.)
2. Evaluation of Eligibility for Finding of No Significant Impact (Approved by Eric Blatt, P.E., Director I, 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 PENDING, by Aldrich + Elliott, PC.  
<https://anrweb.vt.gov/DEC/IronPIG/DownloadFile.aspx?DID=189967&DVID=0>
5. Preliminary Engineering Report entitled "*Town of Hinesburg, Vermont Wastewater Treatment Facility Upgrade/Expansion Study Preliminary Engineering Report*," and dated April 2020, by Aldrich + Elliott, PC.  
<https://anrweb.vt.gov/DEC/IronPIG/DownloadFile.aspx?DID=182447&DVID=0>
6. ARA. <https://anrweb.vt.gov/DEC/IronPIG/DownloadFile.aspx?DID=189496&DVID=0>
7. Comments from SHPO.  
<https://anrweb.vt.gov/DEC/IronPIG/DownloadFile.aspx?DID=189968&DVID=0>
8. NPDES Preliminary Reasonable Potential Determination.  
<https://anrweb.vt.gov/DEC/IronPIG/DownloadFile.aspx?DID=189969&DVID=0>

**Todd Odit, Town Manager, Town of Hinesburg**  
**Hinesburg WWTF Upgrade and Expansion**  
**Finding of No Significant Impact**  
**April 30, 2021**

**COPY LIST**

**Amy Polaczyk and Jamie Bates**, Wastewater Program, VT-DEC  
**Jaron Borg**, Stream Alternation Engineer  
**Tina Heath**, Wetland Biologist  
**Scott Dillon and Elizabeth Peebles**, Division for Historic Preservation, ACCD  
**Erik Bailey**, Chief Operator, Town of Hinesburg  
**Wayne Elliot, PE**, Aldrich + Elliott, PC

Department of Environmental Conservation  
Water Investment Division  
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 Hinesburg  
Hinesburg WWTF Upgrade and Expansion**

Vermont/ USEPA Clean Water Revolving Loan Number: RF1-229

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 Hinesburg WWTF Upgrade and Expansion Project. This project involves Phase 1: Cleaning of Lagoon 1 and wick drain consolidation over a year; Phase 2 construction of a new dual sequenced batch reactor wastewater treatment facility and tertiary filtration process, demolition of the existing lagoons and floodplain restoration. The new facility will increase the equivalent population served, but hold the existing permitted levels of pollutant loading. The waste management zone will increase in length as a result of the additional hydraulic loading.

Under the Procedure, the project is ineligible for Categorical Exclusion (CATEX) from detailed environmental review. The project involves impacts to floodplains, wetlands, and will increase the equivalent population served by the Hinesburg WWTF 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.

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

1. Environmental Information Document titled *"Environmental Report and Environmental Information Document,"* and dated PENDING, by Aldrich + Elliott, PC.  
<https://anrweb.vt.gov/DEC/IronPIG/DownloadFile.aspx?DID=189967&DVID=0>
2. Preliminary Engineering Report entitled *"Town of Hinesburg, Vermont Wastewater Treatment Facility Upgrade/Expansion Study Preliminary Engineering Report,"* and dated April 2020, by

**Town of Hinesburg  
Hinesburg WWTF Upgrade and Expansion  
Notice of Intent to Issue a Finding of No Significant Impact  
4/30/2021**

Aldrich + Elliott, PC.

<https://anrweb.vt.gov/DEC/IronPIG/DownloadFile.aspx?DID=182447&DVID=0>

3. ARA. <https://anrweb.vt.gov/DEC/IronPIG/DownloadFile.aspx?DID=189496&DVID=0>

4. *Comments from SHPO.*

<https://anrweb.vt.gov/DEC/IronPIG/DownloadFile.aspx?DID=189968&DVID=0>

5. *NPDES Preliminary Reasonable Potential Determination.*

<https://anrweb.vt.gov/DEC/IronPIG/DownloadFile.aspx?DID=189969&DVID=0>

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

Joy Dubin Grossman, Assistant Town Administrator  
Town of Hinesburg  
10632 VT Route 116  
Hinesburg VT 05461

tel. 802-482-2281  
jdubingrossman@hinesburg.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.)*

Wayne Elliot, 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.

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

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Date

Department of Environmental Conservation

**Town of Hinesburg  
Hinesburg WWTF Upgrade and Expansion  
Notice of Intent to Issue a Finding of No Significant Impact  
4/30/2021**

Vermont Agency of Natural Resources

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 Hinesburg  
Hinesburg WWTF Upgrade and Expansion Project  
**Environmental Assessment**  
**Evaluation of Eligibility for Finding of No Significant Impact**

DATE: 4/30/2021

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A. Project Identification

Project Name: Town of Hinesburg  
Hinesburg WWTF Upgrade and Expansion

Address: Joy Dubin Grossman, Authorized Representative  
Town of Hinesburg  
10632 VT Route 116  
Hinesburg VT 05461

Project Location: Town of Hinesburg, Vermont

The project is located on the lot of the existing WWTF at Lagoon Road in Hinesburg, Vermont. The project is adjacent to the La Platte River, which is part of the Lake Champlain Basin.

Vermont/ USEPA Clean Water Revolving Loan Number: **RF1-229**

**Evaluation of Eligibility for Finding of No Significant Impact  
Hinesburg WWTF Upgrade and Expansion Project  
Vermont/ USEPA Clean Water Loan Number RF1-229  
4/30/2021**

**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:

1. Environmental Information Document titled "Environmental Report and Environmental Information Document," and dated PENDING, by Aldrich + Elliott, PC.  
<https://anrweb.vt.gov/DEC/IronPIG/DownloadFile.aspx?DID=189967&DVID=0>
2. Preliminary Engineering Report entitled "Town of Hinesburg, Vermont Wastewater Treatment Facility Upgrade/Expansion Study Preliminary Engineering Report," and dated April 2020, by Aldrich + Elliott, PC.  
<https://anrweb.vt.gov/DEC/IronPIG/DownloadFile.aspx?DID=182447&DVID=0>
3. ARA. <https://anrweb.vt.gov/DEC/IronPIG/DownloadFile.aspx?DID=189496&DVID=0>
4. Comments from SHPO.  
<https://anrweb.vt.gov/DEC/IronPIG/DownloadFile.aspx?DID=189968&DVID=0>
5. NPDES Preliminary Reasonable Potential Determination.  
<https://anrweb.vt.gov/DEC/IronPIG/DownloadFile.aspx?DID=189969&DVID=0>

A Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) is the appropriate environmental determination 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 floodplains, wetlands, the La Platte River, and the increase in the equivalent population served by the Hinesburg WWTF. 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 Hinesburg is located in Chittenden County, Vermont in the La Platte River watershed.

The proposed project will upgrade and expand the Hinesburg WWTF to address new phosphorus and nitrogen discharge limits. The Hinesburg WWTF is located on Lagoon Road in Town of Hinesburg, Vermont and discharges to the La Platte River. This project involves Phase 1: Cleaning of Lagoon 1 and wick drain consolidation over a year; Phase 2 construction of a new sequenced batch reactor wastewater treatment facility and tertiary filtration process, demolition of the existing lagoons and floodplain restoration. The proposed WWTF will increase the equivalent population served but will hold the existing permitted levels of pollutants discharged to the LaPlatte River. The waste management zone

**Evaluation of Eligibility for Finding of No Significant Impact  
Hinesburg WWTF Upgrade and Expansion Project  
Vermont/ USEPA Clean Water Loan Number RF1-229  
4/30/2021**

will increase from 1.4 miles to 1.7 miles because of the additional hydraulic loading. The project will allow the Hinesburg WWTF to meet their new NPDES permit limits. Additionally, the project will also restore the floodplain where the existing lagoons are to be demolished.

This work is expected to be constructed with Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) loan and potential other state and federal sources.

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 work in the La Platte River, floodplains, and wetlands; increase in the waste management zone length, and restoration of floodplain. Mitigation measures will be identified during the relevant permitting processes and implementation will be required.

The permitted design flow of the existing WWTF is 0.25 MGD, while the permitted design flow of the proposed WWTF is expected to be 0.33 MGD. The increase in design flow may increase the ability of the WWTF to serve an equivalent population by more than 30%.

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 project will not create a new permanent discharge of stormwater or treated wastewater to surface waters or groundwater. There will be no increase of effluent pollutant loadings (pounds per day) permitted to be discharged from associated wastewater treatment plant. The project does not include sewer extensions.

A public hearing was held Wednesday, April 28, 2021 at 7pm at the regular Selectboard meeting via Zoom as part of this FONSI process. One comment was received from Carl Bohlen requesting additional public posting at the local level beyond what is required under the SERP. The Town will make additional postings.