



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. Jon Jewett, Interim Town Manager
Authorized Representative
Town of Hardwick
20 Church Street
Hardwick, VT 05843

June 8, 2021
Expiration Date: June 8, 2026

**Re: Town of Hardwick, Hardwick Wastewater Treatment Facility Refurbishment Project
Vermont/ USEPA Clean Water Revolving Loan Number RF1-275**

Notice of Intent to Issue a Finding of No Significant Impact

Dear Mr. Jewett:

The Department of Environmental Conservation intends to issue a Finding of No Significant Impact (FNSI) for the Hardwick Wastewater Treatment Facility Refurbishment Project.

The project has positive environmental impacts consisting of the necessary refurbishments to ensure the facility can continue to meet the discharge permit requirements.

This project additionally involves a wastewater treatment facility located within the floodplain of the Lamoille River. The potential for impacts to the floodplain will be minimized by requiring compliance with pertinent rule and law.

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.

**Mr. Jon Jewett, Authorized Representative, Town of Hardwick
Hardwick Wastewater Treatment Facility Refurbishment Project
Finding of No Significant Impact
June 8, 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, 802 522-5564, if you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

E-SIGNED by hugo martinez cazon
on 2021-06-08 15:16:18 EDT



J.F.

Hugo Martínez Cazón, MS, P.E.
Design Engineer, CWSRF
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 05/04/21, by A+E Engineering.
<https://anrweb.vt.gov/DEC/IronPIG/DownloadFile.aspx?DID=190004&DVID=0>
5. Preliminary Engineering Report entitled "Wastewater Treatment Facility Improvements", and dated March 9, 2021, by A+E Engineering.
<https://anrweb.vt.gov/DEC/IronPIG/DownloadFile.aspx?DID=190459&DVID=0>

**Mr. Jon Jewett, Authorized Representative, Town of Hardwick
Hardwick Wastewater Treatment Facility Refurbishment Project
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6. *Comment from the State Historic Preservation office.*
<https://anrweb.vt.gov/DEC/IronPIG/DownloadFile.aspx?DID=190449&DVID=0>

COPY LIST

Amy Polaczyk and Kathleen Parrish, Wastewater Program, VT-DEC
Patrick Ross, Stream Alteration Engineer
Julie Follensbee, Wetland Biologist
Richard A. Wilson, Regional Engineer, VT-DEC, Drinking Water and Groundwater Protection Division
Scott Dillon and Elizabeth Peebles, Division for Historic Preservation, ACCD
Wayne Elliott, PE, A+E Engineering

Department of Environmental Conservation
Water Investment Division
1 National Life Drive, Davis 3
Montpelier, VT 05620
802 522-5564

Notice of Intent to Issue a Finding of No Significant Impact

**Town of Hardwick
Hardwick Wastewater Treatment Facility Refurbishment**

Vermont/ USEPA Clean Water Revolving Loan Number: RF1-275

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 Hardwick Wastewater Treatment Facility Refurbishment Project. This project involves refurbishment of the existing wastewater treatment facility.

Under the Procedure, the project is ineligible for Categorical Exclusion (CATEX) from detailed environmental review. The project involves work within the Lamoille River floodplain 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.

**Mr. Jon Jewett, Authorized Representative, Town of Hardwick
Hardwick Wastewater Treatment Facility Refurbishment Project
Finding of No Significant Impact
June 8, 2021**

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

- **Environmental Information Document (EID)** signed May 4, 2021, by A+E Engineering, of Essex Junction.

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

Jon Jewett, Interim Town Manager
Town of Hardwick
20 Church Street
Hardwick, VT 05843

tel. 802-472-6120
jon.jewett@hardwickvt.org

Hugo Martínez Cazón, MS, P.E.
Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation
Water Investment 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.)

Wayne Elliott, P.E., Principal
A+E Water Resources Engineering
6 Market Place, Suite 2
Essex Junction, Vermont 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.

E-SIGNED by Eric Blatt
on 2021-06-08 16:50:32 EDT

Eric Blatt, P.E., Director I
Water Investment Division

Date

Department of Environmental Conservation
Vermont Agency of Natural Resources

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

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

SUBJECT: Town of Hardwick
Hardwick Wastewater Treatment Facility Refurbishment Project
Environmental Assessment evaluation of eligibility for Finding of No Significant Impact

DATE: June 8, 2021

A. Project Identification

Project Name: Hardwick Wastewater Treatment Facility Refurbishment
Town of Hardwick

Address: Jon Jewett, Authorized Representative
Town of Hardwick
20 Church Street
Hardwick, VT 05843

Project Location: Town of Hardwick, Vermont
The proposed project is a refurbishment of Wastewater Treatment Facility at Treatment Plant Road, that discharges to the Lamoille River which is located in the Lamoille River Tactical Basin.

Vermont/ USEPA Clean Water Revolving Loan Number: **RF1-275**

Mr. Jon Jewett, Authorized Representative, Town of Hardwick
Hardwick Wastewater Treatment Facility Refurbishment Project
Finding of No Significant Impact
June 8, 2021
Vermont/ USEPA Clean Water Loan Number RF1-275

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 dated May 04, 2021, by A+E Engineering.
- Preliminary Engineering Report entitled “**Hardwick Wastewater Treatment Facility Refurbishment Project**”, and dated March 9, 2021, by A+E Engineering.

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 Lamoille River floodplain. 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 Hardwick is located in Caledonia County, Vermont in the Lamoille River major watershed.

The proposed project will refurbish wastewater plant units in the Town of Hardwick, Vermont. The current plant equipment is beyond its useful life. The project will allow the wastewater treatment facility to continue to operate within its discharge permit objectives.

This work is expected to be constructed with 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.

**Mr. Jon Jewett, Authorized Representative, Town of Hardwick
Hardwick Wastewater Treatment Facility Refurbishment Project
Finding of No Significant Impact
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Vermont/ USEPA Clean Water Loan Number RF1-275**

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 within the floodplain of the Lamoille 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).

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 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 plant.

The public informational meeting for the project held February 23, 2021 as part of this FNSI process and no public comments were received or the following public comments were received.