



Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation

Water Investment Division
1 National Life Drive, Davis 3
Montpelier, VT 05620-3510

Agency of Natural Resources

Megan Moir, Division Director - Water Resources
Authorized Representative
City of Burlington
234 Penny Lane
Burlington, VT 05401

August 25, 2022

**Re: City of Burlington, WWTF Phase 2 Upgrade Project
Vermont/ USEPA Clean Water Revolving Loan Number RF1-247**

Categorical Exclusion from Detailed Environmental Review

Dear Megan:

The Department of Environmental Conservation has determined that the City's proposed City of Burlington, WWTF Phase 2 Upgrade Project may be excluded from the detailed environmental review procedures that are required for projects that have environmental effects. The Department's (Clean Water) environmental review procedures require a 30-day public comment period following the issuance of a Notice of Determination of Eligibility for Categorical Exclusion. If no public comments received during that period demonstrate that this Determination is in error, then the Categorical Exclusion exempting the project from detailed review will become effective.

Copies of documents supporting a Categorical Exclusion are enclosed. Please keep copies of the enclosed documents 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 802-490-8019 if you have any questions or concerns.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to send an email to William.Wilson@Vermont.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Winn Wilson", with a stylized, cursive script.

Winn Wilson
Environmental Engineer
Water Investment Division

City of Burlington, Vermont

Page 2 of 2

WWTF Phase 2 Upgrade

Notice of Determination of Eligibility for Categorical Exclusion from Detailed Environmental Review

Documents Enclosed for Categorical Exclusion Public Comment Period (30 days)

1. *"Notice of Determination of Eligibility for Categorical Exclusion"*
(Signed by Eric Blatt, PE, Director of Engineering, Water Investment Division.)
2. *"Evaluation of Eligibility for Categorical Exclusion"*
(Approved by Eric Blatt, PE, Director of Engineering, Water Investment Division.)

Additional Documents Needed for Categorical Exclusion Public Comment Period (30 days)

1. ***"Environmental Review Procedures for Projects Funded Through the Vermont/EPA Revolving Loan Program"***, <https://anrweb.vt.gov/DEC/IronPIG/DownloadFile.aspx?DID=129684&DVID=0>
2. **Preliminary Engineering Report (PER)** entitled "Wastewater Infrastructure Improvements Phase 2 Preliminary Engineering Report" and dated September 2021, by Wright-Pierce of Portsmouth, NH.
<https://anrweb.vt.gov/DEC/IronPIG/DownloadFile.aspx?DID=189825&DVID=0>
3. **Environmental Information Document (EID)** signed 9/8/2021, by Wright-Pierce, of Portsmouth, NH.
<https://anrweb.vt.gov/DEC/IronPIG/DownloadFile.aspx?DID=195612&DVID=0>

COPY LIST

Kristen Y. Lemasney, PE, Wright-Pierce

Amy Polaczyk & Michelle Kolb, Wastewater Management Program, Watershed Management Division

Tom Brown, CWSRF Program Lead, Financial Management Section, VT-DEC-WID



Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation

Water Investment Division
1 National Life Drive, Davis 3
Montpelier, VT 05620-3510

Agency of Natural Resources

Notice of Determination of Eligibility for Categorical Exclusion

City of Burlington

City of Burlington, WWTF Phase 2 Upgrade Project

Vermont/ USEPA Clean Water Revolving Fund Loan Number RF1-247

In accordance with section VII of the Department's "*Environmental Review Procedures for Projects Funded Through the Vermont/EPA Revolving Loan Program*", the City of Burlington has requested that its proposed WWTF Phase 2 Upgrade Project be evaluated for eligibility for a Categorical Exclusion from the detailed environmental review that is described in the Procedures and required for projects with significant environmental effects.

Consideration of the requests for Categorical Exclusion included a review of the following documents:

- **Environmental Information Document (EID)** signed 9/8/2021, by Wright-Pierce, of Portsmouth, NH.

Upon completion of its independent evaluation, the Department has determined that the proposed project meets the criteria for issuance of a Categorical Exclusion.

Specifically, the project will not increase the permitted annual average flow (hydraulic) capacity of the existing City of Burlington Burlington Main WWTF, East WWTF, North WWTF, and it will not increase permitted pounds of pollutants that may be discharged by that plant. Also, the project will not increase the design organic (equivalent population) treatment capacity of the wastewater treatment plant. The project will not add a new permanent discharge of stormwater or treated wastewater to surface waters or groundwater. Further, the project does not involve (create) serious local or environmental issues or meet any of the criteria that would result in denial of an Exclusion, nor does the project meet the definition of sewer extension.

City of Burlington, Vermont

Page 2 of 2

WWTF Phase 2 Upgrade

Notice of Determination of Eligibility for Categorical Exclusion from Detailed Environmental Review

Further information on the project and this Determination is available for inspection at the following locations:

Megan Moir, Division Director - Water Resources
City of Burlington
234 Penny Lane
Burlington, VT 05401

telephone (802) 863-4501
mmoir@burlingtonvt.gov

Winn Wilson
Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation
Water Investment Division
1 National Life Drive, Main 2
Montpelier, VT 05620-3510

tel. (802) 490-8019
William.Wilson@Vermont.gov

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

Kristen Y. Lemasney, PE
Wright-Pierce
230 Commerce Way, Suite 302
Portsmouth, NH 03801

tel. (603) 570-7109
kristen.lemasney@wright-pierce.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.

DocuSigned by:

Eric Blatt

54C2E1676A47428...

8/25/2022

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

Date

Department of Environmental Conservation
Vermont Agency of Natural Resources



Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation

Water Investment Division

1 National Life Drive, Davis 3
Montpelier, VT 05620-3510

Agency of Natural Resources

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

FROM: Winn Wilson
Pollution Control Design Engineer, Water Investment Division

SUBJECT: City of Burlington
WWTF Phase 2 Upgrade Project

Evaluation of Eligibility for Categorical Exclusion
from Detailed Environmental Review

DATE: August 25, 2022

A. Project Identification

Project Name: WWTF Phase 2 Upgrade Project

Address: Megan Moir, Division Director - Water Resources
Authorized Representative
City of Burlington
234 Penny Lane
Burlington, VT 05401

Project Location - three locations: Main Plant, East Plant, and North Plant in Burlington, Vermont in the Lake Champlain and Winooski River watersheds.

Vermont/ USEPA Clean Water Revolving Loan Number RF1-247

B. Summary of Environmental Review

In accordance with section VII of the Department's "*Environmental Review Procedures for Projects Funded Through the Vermont/EPA Revolving Loan Program*", the City of Burlington has requested that the proposed WWTF Phase 2 Upgrade Project be evaluated for eligibility for a Categorical Exclusion from the detailed environmental review that is described in the Procedures and required for projects with significant environmental effects.

The applicant's request and the following planning document have been reviewed, and our findings are summarized below:

Environmental Information Document (EID) signed 9/8/2021, by Wright-Pierce, of Portsmouth, NH.

City of Burlington
WWTF Phase 2 Upgrade
Evaluation of Eligibility for Categorical Exclusion from Detailed Environmental Review

1. Project Description

The City of Burlington is located in Chittenden County, Vermont.

The proposed project will refurbish existing WWTF elements located in the three wastewater treatment facilities in the City of Burlington, Vermont. These improvements will include influent screening, grit removal and treatment, primary and secondary clarifiers, aeration blowers, and associated ancillary systems and building system equipment. Refurbishment of the three WWTFs will address aging infrastructure and current and future regulatory requirements, particularly the WWTF's current and future National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit limits. The project will improve that water quality of the facilities effluent.

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 Categorical Exclusion

We have determined that the proposed project meets the criteria for issuance of a Categorical Exclusion.

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 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 project is not expected to adversely affect wetlands, wetlands buffer zones, floodplains, historic sites, archeological sites, habitats of threatened or endangered species, or other environmentally or culturally sensitive areas.

The project does not involve serious local or environmental issues or meet any of the criteria that would result in denial of a Categorical Exclusion.