



Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation

EC7 Water Investment Division

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

Agency of Natural Resources

Mr. Bernier, Director of Public Works
Authorized Representative
City of Newport
900 Union St.
Newport, VT

6/14/2023

Re: Newport City, Bluff Road Pump Station Project
Vermont/ USEPA Clean Water Revolving Loan Number RF1-259

Categorical Exclusion from Detailed Environmental Review

Mr. Bernier:

The Department of Environmental Conservation has determined that the City's proposed Newport, Bluff Road Pump Station 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. If you have any questions or concerns, please call Winn Wilson (802) 490-8019 or alternatively you can e-mail william.wilson@vermont.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Winn Wilson", is written over a faint, light-colored circular stamp.

Winn Wilson
Environmental Engineer
Water Investment Division

Newport City, Vermont
Bluff Road Pump Station

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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 Addendum Report (PER)** entitled "*Bluff Road Pump Station Addendum Report*" and dated May 2023, by Merrick Gillies of Aldrich + Elliott, PC.
<https://anrweb.vt.gov/DEC/IronPIG/DownloadFile.aspx?DID=201156&DVID=0>

COPY LIST

Merrick Gillies, Aldrich + Elliot

Amy Polaczyk & John Merrifield, Wastewater Management Program, Watershed Management Division

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

Yvonne Basque, Historic Resources Specialist, Vermont Dept. of Housing and Community Development



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EC7 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 Newport

City of Newport, Bluff Road Pump Station Project

Vermont/ USEPA Clean Water Revolving Fund Loan Number RF1-259

In accordance with section VII of the Department's *"Environmental Review Procedures for Projects Funded Through the Vermont/ EPA Revolving Loan Program"*, Newport City has requested that its proposed Bluff Road Pump Station 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 6/5/2023, by Wayne Elliot, P.E. of Aldrich + Elliott, PC.

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 Newport City Bluff Road Pump Station, and it will not increase permitted pounds of pollutants that may be discharged. 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.

Newport City, Vermont
Bluff Road Pump Station

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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:

Mr. Bernier, Director of Public Works
Newport City
222 Main Street, 2nd Floor
Newport, Vermont 05855

tel. (802) 334-2124
Thomas.Bernier@newportvermont.org

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.)

Wayne Elliott
Aldrich + Elliott, PC
6 Market Pl #
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.

DocuSigned by:

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

6/16/2023

Date

Department of Environmental Conservation
Vermont Agency of Natural Resource



Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation

EC7 Water Investment Division

1 National Life Drive
Main Building, 2ND Floor
Montpelier, VT 05620-3510

Agency of Natural Resources

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

FROM: Winn Wilson
Environmental Engineer , Water Investment Division

SUBJECT: Newport City
Bluff Road Pump Station Project

Evaluation of Eligibility for Categorical Exclusion
from Detailed Environmental Review

DATE: 6/14/2023

A. Project Identification

Project Name: Bluff Road Pump Station Project

Address: Thomas Bernier, Public Works Director
Authorized Representative
Newport City
222 Main Street, 2nd Floor
Newport, Vermont 05855

Project Location: Intersection of Prouty Drive and Bluff Road, Newport in the Lake Memphremagog watershed.

Vermont/ USEPA Clean Water Revolving Loan Number RF1-259

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 has requested that the proposed Bluff Road Pump Station 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.

**Newport City
Bluff Road Pump Station
Evaluation of Eligibility for Categorical Exclusion from Detailed Environmental Review
6/14/2023**

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

Environmental Information Document (EID) signed 6/5/2023, by Wayne Elliot, P.E., of Aldrich + Elliot, PC.

1. Project Description

Newport City is located in Orleans County, Vermont.

The purpose of this project is to add additional storage capacity at an existing combined sewer overflow location within the City of Newport Bluff Road Pump Station. This project was identified by the City's long term control plan (LTCP). Additional storage at this pump station will allow the City to continue to pursue CSO abatement in accordance with their 1272 Order.

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.