

State of Vermont
Agency of Natural Resources
Department of Environmental Conservation
Notice of Determination of Eligibility for Categorical Exclusion

Bethel Water Department, WSID # VT0005315

Bethel, VT
Bethel Water System Improvements Phase II
DWSRF Loan RF3-423

In accordance with Section VII of the Department's Environmental Review Procedures for projects funded through the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) Program, the Bethel Water Department, located in Bethel, VT has requested its proposed Phase II Improvements Project be evaluated for eligibility for a categorical exclusion exempting the Project from detailed environmental procedures required for projects having a significant environmental impact.

"The purpose of this Project is to replace aging and unreliable water system infrastructure.... The proposed Project will include four primary components: Water Main Replacements; Railroad Crossing #2 Replacement; Krystal Drive Booster Pump Station; and Gaiko Well House Replacement" [from: Environmental Information Document and Environmental Report]. The design documents and Public Water System Construction Permit provide further details of the scope as follow:

- Water distribution piping and service lines will be replaced on Graham St., Highland Avenue, Sand Hill Road, Bicentennial Lane, and Krystal Drive. A total of approximately 1,020 linear feet of 8-inch mains and two fire hydrants will be installed; approximately 2,950 linear feet of 4-inch main; approximately 1,250 linear feet of 2-inch main along with appurtenances including flushing hydrants will be constructed.
- Replacement of the existing water main at Railroad Crossing #2 with a 10-inch nominal diameter HDPE line within a 16-inch steel sleeve will be accomplished using horizontal directional drilling.
- Construction of a new Booster Pump Station to serve Krystal Drive. The Pump Station will include three 158-gallon hydropneumatic tanks and two booster pumps with a capacity of 50 gallons per minute at 90 feet of total dynamic head.
- The Gaiko Wellhouse will be expanded to accommodate a separate chemical feed room and the aging structural elements reconstructed. This facility will be hardened to reduce flooding impacts through pouring a new concrete foundation; raising the concrete walls three (3) feet above the 100-year base flood elevation; and installing watertight doors.

Our consideration of the Bethel Water Department's request included reviewing environmental information and documentation completed and submitted by their engineering consultant, Aldrich + Elliott, PC. The evaluation also included consultation with the Vermont Division for Historic Preservation (VDHP) and Agency departments such as the Drinking Water and Groundwater Protection Division. VDHP requested mitigation during construction for a historic stone wall at the intersection of River St. and Graham St. The final design and bid documents contain a note calling for fencing and shoring as necessary to protect this stone wall during construction. At the completion of this independent evaluation, the Department determined the Project meets the criteria for receiving a Categorical

Exclusion. The Project will correct deficiencies and improve the infrastructure of this Public Water System; and does not meet any of the criteria resulting in denial of an Exclusion. Should the proposed work be altered to expand the current scope of work and/or Area of Environmental Effect, further review will be required.

Further information on the Project and this determination are available for inspection by contacting the DWSRF Program at (802) 585-4904. In addition to the Applicant, a copy of this determination will be sent to a list of stakeholders and posted on the Water Infrastructure Financing Program's [Environmental Review Determination Notice](https://dec.vermont.gov/water-investment/water-financing/srf/environmental-review) page at (<https://dec.vermont.gov/water-investment/water-financing/srf/environmental-review>) .

Agency of Natural Resources
Department of Environmental Conservation
Jason Batchelder, Commissioner

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

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