

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

**North Bennington Water Department  
Public Water System, WSID # VT0005017**

North Bennington, VT  
Standby Power Installation  
DWSRF Loan RF3-447

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 North Bennington Water Department has requested its proposed Standby Power Project to be located at the Water Treatment Plant on Buck Hill Road in Shaftsbury, be evaluated for eligibility for a categorical exclusion exempting the Project from detailed environmental procedures required for projects having a significant environmental impact.

This Public Water System has been determined to be a surface water system with Basin Brook and five wells with Groundwater under the Influence of Surface Water serving as the supply sources. Mandatory filtration preceded by coagulation for particulate removal is practiced along with disinfection and corrosion control. The Public Water System is required to practice continuous chlorination for disinfection. Loss of filtration and/or disinfection resulting from a power outage could create a potential public health risk.


The project scope includes:

- A new emergency generator, mounted on a concrete pad, and exterior to the treatment building. The associated variable-frequency drives for process control and reduced energy consumption are situated inside the building.
- Propane storage tank for fuel, ancillary piping, and an associated concrete pad.
- Appurtenances including automatic transfer switch, conduit, and electrical connections as needed.

Our consideration of the North Bennington Water Department's request included reviewing environmental information and documentation completed and submitted by their engineering consultant, Otter Creek Engineering. 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. At the completion of this independent evaluation, the Department determined the Project meets the criteria for receiving a Categorical Exclusion. The Project will provide auxiliary power to the Water Treatment Plant, which is required to practice filtration and continuous chlorination; 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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