



Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation

Agency of Natural Resources

47WATER INVESTMENT DIVISION
National Life Building, DAVIS 3
1 National Life Drive
Montpelier, VT 05620-3510

William Sheets, Village Manager & Authorized Representative
Village of Swanton
120 First Street
Swanton, Vermont 05488

4/29/2024
Expiration Date: 4/29/2029

Re: Village of Swanton Wastewater Treatment Facility Upgrade
Vermont/USEPA Clean Water Revolving Loan Number RF1-250

Notice of Intent to Issue a Finding of No Significant Impact

Dear Mr. Sheets:

The Department of Environmental Conservation intends to issue a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) for the Village of Swanton Wastewater Treatment Facility (WWTF) Upgrade Project.

The Department of Environmental Conservation has reviewed these documents:

- Environmental Information Document dated March 8, 2023, by Aldrich + Elliot.
- Twenty Year WWTF Evaluation dated December 2019, by Aldrich + Elliot.
- Phosphorus Elimination/Reduction Plan dated April 2020, by Aldrich + Elliot.
- Pilot Test/Preliminary Engineering Report dated September 2021, by Aldrich + Elliot.
- Basis of Final Design dated February 2023 updated November 2023, by Aldrich + Elliot.
- Individual Wetland Permit No. 2023-0150 dated April 15, 2404.

The project has positive environmental impacts consisting of continued water quality improvement through refurbishment of existing treatment processes and infrastructure at the Swanton Wastewater Treatment Facility and Foundry Street Pump Station; and increased phosphorus removal at the wastewater treatment facility to meet new permit limits.

This project will improve reliability of wastewater operations by replacement of aged process equipment including the solids contact clarifier components, aeration system components, sludge wasting pumps, and centrifuge. Additionally, the project will improve phosphorus removal capacities by adding reactive sand filters to the process train, upgrade phosphorus precipitation chemical systems, and construct necessary support infrastructure. At the WWTF and Foundry Street Pump Station, the aged motor control centers will be replaced with new electrical panels and variable frequency drives. A new effluent weir plate will be installed as part of the project to improve the

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accuracy of the effluent flow measurements. No increase in capacity is proposed. The Town of Swanton has Discharge Permit No. 3-1292 for its wastewater treatment facility, issued by the Watershed Management Division Wastewater Program.

Wetland

A wetland and its adjacent 50-foot buffer zone have been identified within the project area on the northwest side of North Street and to the southeast of the wastewater treatment pond. The Wetland Program issued permit No. 2023-150 on April 15, 2024. The findings determined the project will comply with the Vermont Wetland Rules (VWR) and will have no undue adverse effect on protected functions and values of the wetland.

Floodplain and River Corridor

The Foundry Street Pump Station is located within the river corridor, the 100-year flood plain, and potentially the 500-year flood plain. The pump station is an existing structure with all proposed upgrades located within the structure. The pump station structure is equipped with flood-proof doors which will provide protection for newly installed equipment above the 500-year flood evaluation.

Migratory Bird Treaty Act

Encountering nesting migratory birds has the potential to be located within the project area. Construction impacts to the taking of a migratory bird, egg, and nest will be minimum. Where disturbance or tree removal is unavoidable between April 15th and September 30th, appropriate best practices mitigation measures will be implemented.

Historical and Archaeological

There is a known culturally sensitive area outside the perimeter of the wastewater treatment facility. Proposed mitigation measures are to prohibit work within the area as designated on the project design drawings and install a snow fence along the wastewater treatment facility perimeter fence where the sensitive area is located during construction. The existing structures at the facility are not considered historically significant.

Otherwise, this project may have been eligible for a 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 FONSI will become effective.

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.

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Please contact me (802) 261-0288 (emily.hackett@vermont.gov) if you have questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

DocuSigned by:

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Emily Hackett, EI
Environmental Engineer
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 of Engineering, Water Investment Division, enclosed)
2. Evaluation of Eligibility for Finding of No Significant Impact (Approved by Eric Blatt, P.E., Director of Engineering, Water Investment Division, enclosed.)
3. State Environmental Review Procedures for Projects Funded Through the Vermont/ EPA Revolving Loan Program, <https://dec.vermont.gov/water-investment/water-financing/srf/environmental-review>

Additional Documents Needed for Finding of No Significant Impact Public Comment Period (30 days)

4. Environmental Information Document, “*Environmental Information Document and Environmental Report, Village of Swanton Wastewater Treatment Facility Upgrade*,” and dated 12/5/2023, prepared and signed by Jeffrey Lewis, PE, of Aldrich + Elliot, and signed 12/5/2023 by William Sheets, Swanton Village Manager.
<https://anrweb.vt.gov/DEC/IronPIG/DownloadFile.aspx?DID=208261&DVID=0>
 5. Twenty Year WWTF Evaluation entitled “*Village of Swanton, Vermont Wastewater Treatment Facilities Engineering Inspection and Evaluation Report*”, and dated December 2019, by A+E Engineers.
<https://anrweb.vt.gov/DEC/IronPIG/DownloadFile.aspx?DID=193105&DVID=0>
 6. Phosphorus Elimination/Reduction Plan entitled “*Village of Swanton, Vermont Wastewater Treatment Facilities Engineering Inspection and Evaluation Phosphorus Elimination/Reduction Plan*”, and dated April 2020, by A+E Engineers.
<https://anrweb.vt.gov/DEC/IronPIG/DownloadFile.aspx?DID=193104&DVID=0>
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7. Pilot Test/Preliminary Engineering Report (PER) entitled "*Village of Swanton, Vermont Wastewater Treatment Facilities Phosphorus Removal Pilot Test Summary and Preliminary Engineering Report*", and dated September 2021, by A+E Engineers.
<https://anrweb.vt.gov/DEC/IronPIG/DownloadFile.aspx?DID=193103&DVID=0>
8. Addendum Preliminary Engineering Report (PER) entitled "*Village of Swanton, Vermont Wastewater Treatment Facility Preliminary Engineering Report Dewatering Amendment*," and dated October 2023, by A+E Engineers.
<https://anrweb.vt.gov/DEC/IronPIG/DownloadFile.aspx?DID=208235&DVID=0>

Copy List

Amy Polaczyk, Wastewater Program, VT-DEC

Jamie Bates, Wastewater Program, VT-DEC

Elizabeth Peebles, Division for Historic Preservation, ACCD

Scott Dillon, Division for Historic Preservation, ACCD

Jeffrey Lewis, PE, Aldrich + Elliott



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

Notice of Intent to Issue a Finding of No Significant Impact

**Village of Swanton
Swanton Wastewater Treatment Facility Upgrade Project**

Vermont/USEPA Clean Water Revolving Loan Number: RF1-250

In accordance with section VII of the Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation's *Environmental Review Procedures for Projects Funded Through the Vermont/EPA Revolving Loan Program*, the Department intends to issue a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) for the proposed Swanton Wastewater Treatment Facility Upgrade Project. This project will improve reliability of wastewater operations by replacement of aged process equipment including the solids contact clarifier components, aeration system components, sludge wasting pumps, and centrifuge. Additionally, the project will improve phosphorus removal capacities by adding reactive sand filters to the process train, upgrade phosphorus precipitation chemical systems, and construct necessary support infrastructure. At the WWTF and Foundry Street Pump Station, the aged motor control centers will be replaced with new electrical panels and variable frequency drives. A new effluent weir plate will be installed as part of the project to improve the accuracy of the effluent flow measurements.

Under the Procedure, the project is ineligible for Categorical Exclusion (CATEX) from detailed environmental review. The project involves work to be within the wetland and wetland buffer, floodplain/river corridor, and improvement to phosphorus removal, and therefore exceeds the threshold of CATEX.

Also, the direct and indirect environmental effects of the project are not significant enough, however, 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 wastewater treatment facility and the project will not include sewer extensions.

**William Sheets, Authorized Representative, Village of Swanton
Wastewater Treatment Facility Upgrade
Notice of Intent to Issue a Finding of No Significant Impact
5/1/2024**

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

1. Environmental Information Document, “*Environmental Information Document and Environmental Report, Village of Swanton Wastewater Treatment Facility Upgrade*,” and dated 12/5/2023, prepared and signed by Jeffrey Lewis, PE, of Aldrich + Elliot, and signed 12/5/2023 by William Sheets, Swanton Village Manager.
<https://anrweb.vt.gov/DEC/IronPIG/DownloadFile.aspx?DID=208261&DVID=0>
2. Twenty Year WWTF Evaluation entitled “*Village of Swanton, Vermont Wastewater Treatment Facilities Engineering Inspection and Evaluation Report*”, and dated December 2019, by A+E Engineers.
<https://anrweb.vt.gov/DEC/IronPIG/DownloadFile.aspx?DID=193105&DVID=0>
3. Phosphorus Elimination/Reduction Plan entitled “*Village of Swanton, Vermont Wastewater Treatment Facilities Engineering Inspection and Evaluation Phosphorus Elimination/Reduction Plan*”, and dated April 2020, by A+E Engineers.
<https://anrweb.vt.gov/DEC/IronPIG/DownloadFile.aspx?DID=193104&DVID=0>
4. Pilot Test/Preliminary Engineering Report (PER) entitled “*Village of Swanton, Vermont Wastewater Treatment Facilities Phosphorus Removal Pilot Test Summary and Preliminary Engineering Report*”, and dated September 2021, by A+E Engineers.
<https://anrweb.vt.gov/DEC/IronPIG/DownloadFile.aspx?DID=193103&DVID=0>
5. Addendum Preliminary Engineering Report (PER) entitled “*Village of Swanton, Vermont Wastewater Treatment Facility Preliminary Engineering Report Dewatering Amendment*,” and dated October 2023, by A+E Engineers.
<https://anrweb.vt.gov/DEC/IronPIG/DownloadFile.aspx?DID=208235&DVID=0>

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

William Sheets, Village Manager
Village of Swanton
120 First Street
Swanton, VT 05488

tel. (802) 868-3397 x208
wsheets@swanton.net

Emily H. Hackett, EI
Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation
Water Investment Division
1 National Life Drive, Davis 3
Montpelier, VT 05620 3510

tel. (802) 261-0288
Emily.Hackett@Vermont.gov

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

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Jeffrey Lewis, PE
Aldrich + Elliott, PC
6 Market Place, Suite 2
Essex Junction, Vermont 05452

tel. (802) 879-7733 x117
jlewis@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 a public response.

DocuSigned by:

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5/1/2024

Eric Blatt, P.E., Director of Engineering
Water Investment Division
Department of Environmental Conservation
Vermont Agency of Natural Resources

Date


Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation
Agency of Natural Resources

TO: Eric Blatt, P.E., Director of Engineering, Water Investment Division ^{DS} **EB**

FROM: Emily Hackett, EI, Environmental Engineer, Water Investment Division ^{DS} **EH**

SUBJECT: Village of Swanton
 Swanton Wastewater Treatment Facility Upgrade
Environmental Assessment
Evaluation of Eligibility for Finding of No Significant Impact

DATE: May 1, 2024

A. Project Identification:

Project Name: Swanton Wastewater Treatment Facility Upgrade

Address: William Sheets, Village Manager & Authorized Representative
 Village of Swanton
 120 First Street
 Swanton, Vermont 05488

Project Location: Village of Swanton, Vermont

The project is refurbishment of the existing wastewater treatment facility (WWTF) and Foundry Street Pump station owned and operated by the Village of Swanton. This project will improve reliability of wastewater operations by replacement of aged process equipment at the WWTF and pump station. Additionally, the project will improve phosphorus removal capacities. No increase in capacity is proposed.

The Town of Swanton has Discharge Permit No. 3-1292 for its wastewater treatment facility, issued by the Watershed Management Division Wastewater Program.

Vermont/USEPA Clean Water Revolving Loan Number: **RF1-250**

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.

William Sheets, Authorized Representative, Village of Swanton
Evaluation of Eligibility for Finding of No Significant Impact
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The Department has reviewed the following planning documents:

1. Environmental Information Document, “*Environmental Information Document and Environmental Report, Village of Swanton Wastewater Treatment Facility Upgrade*,” and dated 12/5/2023, prepared and signed by Jeffrey Lewis, PE, of Aldrich + Elliot, and signed 12/5/2023 by William Sheets, Swanton Village Manager.
<https://anrweb.vt.gov/DEC/IronPIG/DownloadFile.aspx?DID=208261&DVID=0>
2. Twenty Year WWTF Evaluation entitled “*Village of Swanton, Vermont Wastewater Treatment Facilities Engineering Inspection and Evaluation Report*”, and dated December 2019, by A+E Engineers.
<https://anrweb.vt.gov/DEC/IronPIG/DownloadFile.aspx?DID=193105&DVID=0>
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A Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) 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 (CATEX) because the project is known or expected to affect directly or indirectly an environmentally important natural resources area, specifically including, wetland and wetland buffer, floodplain/river corridor, and migratory birds. It is also not eligible for CATEX because of process upgrades for additional phosphorous removal. The project’s direct and indirect environmental effects, however, do not necessitate issuance of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), under the Department’s environmental review procedures.

1. Project Description

The Village of Swanton is in northern Franklin County, Vermont in the Missisquoi River watershed. The Missisquoi River runs through the village and over the Village Dam before entering Lake Champlain through the Missisquoi National Wildlife Refuge. The pump station and treated effluent outlet are located downstream of the dam along the Missisquoi River.

This project will improve reliability of wastewater operations by replacement of aged process equipment including the solids contact clarifier components, aeration system components, sludge wasting pumps, and centrifuge. Additionally, the project will improve phosphorus removal capacities by adding reactive sand filters to the process train, upgrade phosphorus precipitation chemical systems, and construct necessary support infrastructure. At the WWTF and Foundry Street Pump Station, the aged motor control centers will be replaced with new electrical

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panels and variable frequency drives. A new effluent weir plate will be installed as part of the project to improve the accuracy of the effluent flow measurements.

This work is expected to be constructed with a Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) loan. Eligibility for Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) construction loans will be limited to the eligible clean water work as detailed in the Preliminary Engineering Report and Addendum, 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 Finding of No Significant Impact

We have determined that the proposed project meets the criteria for issuance of a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI). This project involves upgrade the treatment process for the increased phosphorus removal to meet new permit limits and is expected to affect directly or indirectly an environmentally important natural resources area, specifically including wetlands, floodplain/river corridor, and migratory birds. The direct and indirect environmental effects of the project are not significant enough, however, to necessitate an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) under the Department's environmental review procedures.

A public hearing was held on June 12, 2023, at 6:50 p.m. as part of this FONSI process. There were no public comments received during the meeting. The recording and meeting minutes are available on the Village of Swanton's website.
