



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  
FAX: (802)828-1552

Larry Dupont, Water Board  
Town of North Hero  
PO Box 38  
North Hero, VT, 05474

June 3, 2024  
Expiration Date: June 3, 2029

**Re: North Hero Water Distribution Storage Tank Project, WSID 20562  
Vermont/ USEPA Clean Water Revolving Loan Number RF3-547**

**Notice of Intent to Issue a Finding of No Significant Impact**

Dear Larry Dupont:

The Department of Environmental Conservation intends to issue a Finding of No Significant Impact (FNSI) for the North Hero Water Distribution Storage Tank Project.

The project has positive environmental impacts consisting of redundancy and reliability for the North Hero water service area by providing distribution water storage to maintain domestic supply to the distribution system in the event of a break. The project includes a new ground storage tank, booster pumping and chlorination building, 500 ft of transmission main, and underground electrical services.

This project additionally involves impacts: wetland permitting is currently underway. A wetland site visit by DEC staff was carried out.

Otherwise, this project may have been eligible for 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 Finding of No Significant Impact will become effective.

**Larry Dupont, Authorized Representative, Town of North Hero**  
**North Hero Water Distribution Storage Tank Project**  
**Finding of No Significant Impact**  
**June 3, 2024**

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. Please call, the DWSRF Program at (802) 585-4904, if you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

DocuSigned by:  
  
CDAFC8D7D7E4466...

Hugo Martínez Cazón, PE MS  
Design 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 I, Water Investment Division, enclosed.)
2. Evaluation of Eligibility for Finding of No Significant Impact (Approved by Eric Blatt, P.E., Director I, Water Investment Division, enclosed.)
3. State Environmental Review Procedures for Projects Funded Through the Vermont/ EPA Revolving Loan Program, <http://dec.vermont.gov/facilities-engineering/water-financing/srf/environmental-review>

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

4. Environmental Information Document titled "*Environmental Report and Environmental Information Document*", and dated 8/16/2023, by Wayne Elliott, PE (A+E Engineering).  
<https://anrweb.vt.gov/DEC/IronPIG/DownloadFile.aspx?DID=204110&DVID=0>
5. Preliminary Engineering Report entitled "Water Storage Tank Study Addendum No. 1 Report", and dated January 2023, by Wayne Elliott, PE (A+E Engineering).  
<https://anrweb.vt.gov/DEC/IronPIG/DownloadFile.aspx?DID=204111&DVID=0>
6. Project Review Sheet dated June 15, 2023.  
<https://anrweb.vt.gov/DEC/IronPIG/DownloadFile.aspx?DID=208714&DVID=0>

**Larry Dupont, Authorized Representative, Town of North Hero**  
**North Hero Water Distribution Storage Tank Project**  
**Finding of No Significant Impact**  
**June 3, 2024**

**COPY LIST**

**Andy Alling**, Town of North Hero  
**Elijah Shcumacher**, Wetland Biologist  
**Denise Johnson-Terk**, Regional Engineer, VT-DEC, Drinking Water and Groundwater Protection Division  
**Scott Dillon and Elizabeth Peebles**, Division for Historic Preservation, ACCD  
**Wayne Elliott, PE**, A+E Engineering  
**Austin Rizzo, PhD**, Northern Border Regional Commission- The Clark Group LLC.



Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation

*Agency of Natural Resources*

Department of Environmental Conservation  
Water Investment Division  
1 National Life Drive, Davis 3  
Montpelier, VT 05620  
**802 522-5564**

Notice of Intent to Issue a Finding of No Significant Impact

**Town of North Hero  
North Hero Water Distribution Storage Tank**

Vermont/ USEPA Clean Water Revolving Loan Number: RF3-547

In accordance with section VII of the Department's *"Environmental Review Procedures for Projects Funded Through the Vermont/ EPA Revolving Loan Program"*, the Department of Environmental Conservation intends to issue a Finding of No Significant Impact (FNSI) for the proposed North Hero Water Distribution Storage Tank Project. This project consists of redundancy and reliability for the North Hero water service area by providing distribution water storage to maintain domestic supply to the distribution system in the event of a break. The project includes a new ground storage tank, booster pumping and chlorination building, 500 ft of transmission main, and underground electrical services.

Under the Procedure, the project is ineligible for Categorical Exclusion (CATEX) from detailed environmental review. This project additionally involves these impacts: wetland permitting is currently underway. A wetland site visit by DEC staff was carried out. The project therefore exceeds the threshold for CATEX.

Also, the direct and indirect environmental effects of the project are not significant enough to necessitate an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), under the Department's environmental review procedures.

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

- **Environmental Information Document (EID)** signed 8/16/2023, by Wayne Elliott, PE (A+E Engineering) of Essex.

**Larry Dupont, Authorized Representative, Town of North Hero  
North Hero Water Distribution Storage Tank Project  
Notice of Intent to Issue a Finding of No Significant Impact  
June 3, 2024**

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

Larry Dupont, Water Board  
Town of North Hero  
3541 U.S. Route 2 | P.O. Box 38  
North Hero, VT 05474

tel. 802-372-6926  
watersystem@northherovt.com

Hugo Martínez Cazón, PE, MS  
Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation  
Water Investment Division  
1 National Life Drive, Davis 3  
Montpelier, VT 05620-3510

tel. 802 522-5564  
hugo.martinez.cazon@vermont.gov

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

Wayne Elliott, PE.  
A+E Engineering  
6 Market Place, Suite 2  
Essex Junction, VT

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:  
  
54C2E1676A47428  
Eric Blatt, P.E., Director I  
Water Investment Division

6/4/2024

Date

Department of Environmental Conservation  
Vermont Agency of Natural Resources



Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation

*Agency of Natural Resources*

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

FROM: Hugo Martínez Cazón,  
Design Engineer, Water Investment Division

SUBJECT: Town of North Hero  
**North Hero Water Distribution Storage Tank Project**  
**Environmental Assessment evaluation of eligibility for Finding of No Significant Impact**

DATE: June 3, 2024

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A. Project Identification

Project Name: Town of North Hero  
North Hero Water Distribution Storage Tank

Address: Larry Dupont, Water Board, Chair  
Town of North Hero  
3541 U.S. Route 2 / P.O. Box 38  
North Hero, VT 05474

Project Location: Town of North Hero, Vermont  
This project consists of redundancy and reliability for the North Hero water service area by providing distribution water storage to maintain domestic supply to the distribution system in the event of a break. The project includes a new ground storage tank, booster pumping and chlorination building, 500 ft of transmission main, and underground electrical services.

Vermont/ USEPA Clean Water Revolving Loan Number: **RF3-457**

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**Larry Dupont, Authorized Representative, Town of North Hero**  
**Evaluation of Eligibility for Finding of No Significant Impact**  
**North Hero Water Distribution Storage Tank Project**  
**Vermont/ USEPA Drinking Water Loan Number RF3-547**  
**June 3, 2024**

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.

The Department has reviewed the following planning documents:

- Environmental Information Document titled “Environmental Report and Environmental Information Document”, and dated 8/16/2023, by Wayne Elliott, PE (A+E Engineering).
- Preliminary Engineering Report entitled “Water Storage Tank Study Addendum No. 1 Report”, and dated January 2023, by Wayne Elliott, PE (A+E Engineering).

A Finding of No Significant Impact (FNSI) 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 from detailed environmental review due to potential impacts to wetlands. Also, the project’s direct and indirect environmental effects do not necessitate issuance of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), consistent with the criteria as described in section XI of the Department’s environmental review procedures.

1. Project Description

The Town of North Hero is located in Grand Isle County, Vermont in the Lake Champlain major watershed.

This project consists of redundancy and reliability for the Town of North Hero water service area by providing distribution water storage to maintain domestic supply to the distribution system in the event of a break. The project includes a new ground storage tank, booster pumping and chlorination building, 500 ft of transmission main, and underground electrical services.

The project requires a wetland permit.

This work is expected to be constructed with Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) loan.

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.

**Larry Dupont, Authorized Representative, Town of North Hero**  
**Evaluation of Eligibility for Finding of No Significant Impact**  
**North Hero Water Distribution Storage Tank Project**  
**Vermont/ USEPA Drinking Water Loan Number RF3-547**  
**June 3, 2024**

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.

This project involves need for a wetland permit.

Otherwise, this project may have been eligible for 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).

A public hearing will be held on within 30days of the signed Notice of Intent to FONSI at the Town of North Hero as part of this FONSI process. If no public comments are received or if the public comments require no further mitigation measures, the FONSI will be issued.