



Northern Border Regional Commission

Project Name: Killington Forward Initiative: Road and Water Supply Improvements Project

Applicant: Town of Killington, Vermont

Grant #: NBRC-23-GEDA04

Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI)

In accordance with the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), as amended by the Fiscal Responsibility Act of 2023 (Pub. L. 118-5), and the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations for implementing NEPA (40 CFR Parts 1500-1508), as amended, an Environmental Assessment (EA) was prepared to analyze the potential impacts of the Town of Killington's (Town) proposal to undertake public roadway and water supply infrastructure improvements using federal funds, including the reconstruction and partial realignment of portions of Killington Road, East Mountain Road, and Old Mill Road, along with new road construction (Road H) as well as the first segment (Contract 4) of the Killington South Distribution Water Main. This FONSI was prepared by the Northern Border Regional Commission (NBRC) as the lead agency in cooperation with the Vermont Agency of Natural Resources, Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC), Water Investment Division (WID).

Purpose and Need

The purpose of the Proposed Action is to advance fundamental infrastructure improvements in the Town of Killington through the provision of municipal water services and the reconstruction of Killington Road to address numerous safety concerns and to accommodate multiple modes of transportation. The Proposed Action would balance the needs of the various user groups including motorists, pedestrians, and bicyclists by improving road intersections and by the creation of a multi-use path to enhance general safety and operations for all modes of transportation.

Alternatives

The Northern Border Regional Commission (NBRC) entered into a Memorandum of Understanding with the Vermont Agency of Natural Resources, DEC WID to conduct a coordinated environmental review of the Proposed Action, as the water distribution line is funded in part by the Drinking Water State Revolving Loan Fund, which is implemented by the state with funding from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The NBRC and WID considered two alternatives in this EA: the Proposed Action and the No Action alternative:

- Under the Proposed Action, NBRC would approve funding for the construction of the proposed roadway improvements under Phase 1A and water infrastructure improvements under Contract 4, as described in the EA. WID would fund only the Contract 4 water infrastructure improvements. Phase 1A activities include reconfiguring the southern portion of Killington Road from the Lookout Tavern / Glazebrook intersection south to the proposed two-lane roundabout. Additional improvements include reconfiguring East Mountain Road to the Grand Hotel / Killington Club House and Old Mill Road from East Mountain Road to the proposed location of a new road, referred to as Road H. The Contract 4 distribution line is a component of the proposed new public drinking water system that would be owned and operated by the Town. Contract 4 would consist of a new 12" PVC

distribution main to be embedded in the roadways or adjacent areas for its entire length and is anticipated to be installed simultaneously with roadway improvements.

- Under the No Action alternative, NBRC and WID funds would not be approved and awarded for the Proposed Action.

Public Comment

The Notice of Availability for the draft EA was published in the Mountain Times newspaper, on the Town website, and posted at the Sherburne Memorial Library and Town post office on November 13, 2024. The draft EA was available upon request, and comments were accepted for a period of thirty-one (31) days, from November 14, 2024, to December 15, 2024. Three comments were received by the same individual. Of these, two comments had previously been submitted during the 8-step public comment period associated with the wetlands analysis and were resubmitted during the EA comment period. These comments primarily addressed the transfer of water between two different basins and the potential for impacts on the recharge and replenishment of the existing private water supply wells located near the proposed source for the municipal water supply system (aka the Valley Wells). Additionally, one comment regarding the analysis for Socioeconomics was provided verbally during the public meeting on November 25, 2024. Responses to all comments are included in **Section 1.5.1** of the revised EA.

Potential Impacts

The EA considered the potential environmental impacts of the Proposed Action, including cumulative impacts. The analysis completed in the EA found that no significant impacts on environmental resources would result from the implementation of the Proposed Action.

Findings

NBRC and WID have determined that the Proposed Action would not have a significant impact on the human or natural environment. Therefore, an environmental impact statement will not be prepared. The NBRC and WID have chosen to pursue the Proposed Action Alternative.

The Proposed Action alternative will be implemented in compliance with the Monitoring and Compliance Plan (MCP) for mitigation, including the following measures:

- **Land Use, Zoning, Aesthetics:** Adhere to Amended Act 250 Land Use Permit Conditions, if applicable.
- **Transportation and Parking:** Maintain one lane open for traffic during construction and employ a communications plan to ensure public awareness of the status of construction to optimize travel.
- **Noise:** Adhere to Act 250 permit conditions regarding construction hours.
- **Solid and Hazardous Waste:** Construction activities would cease, and the Resident Engineer would be notified (and DEC Waste Management Division, as needed) if potentially contaminated soils are encountered during construction.
- **Air Quality:** Control dust during construction by applying water or calcium chloride as necessary to prevent dust from affecting adjoining landowners per the conditions of the Act 250 Land Use Permits #1R0980 and #1R0981.
- **Surface Water Quality:** Obtain USACE authorization and coverage under the Vermont Stream Alteration General Permit for in-stream construction activities. Implement EPSC plan measures as required by DEC Individual Construction Stormwater Discharge Permits to protect surface waters from debris or sediment generated during construction activities. Construct stormwater treatment practices as authorized by DEC Operational Stormwater Discharge Permits and inspect such facilities annually in accordance with permit conditions.

- **Wetlands:** The project was designed to avoid and minimize wetland encroachment. Erosion Prevention and Sediment Control (EPSC) measures, such as silt fences and dewatering plans, will be implemented to mitigate soil erosion and sedimentation in wetland areas. The necessary compensatory mitigation fee will be paid to the Ducks Unlimited In-Lieu Fee Program in accordance with the conditions of the Section 404 authorizations issued by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE).
- **Biological Resources:** Implement EPSC measures during construction to limit any potential effects on aquatic and semi-aquatic species. The construction contractor will adhere to the conditions of the Vermont Individual Wetland Permit (VIWP) to prevent the spread of invasive species. The VIWP also requires post-construction monitoring for the nuisance plant species purple loosestrife (*Lythrum salicaria*).

Additionally, the chosen alternative for the project will be implemented in compliance with the following best management practices:

- **Transportation:** Implement recommendations from a Traffic Management Plan to minimize the effects of construction-related activities on vehicular traffic on Killington Road.
- **Utilities: Water Source and Sewer Capacity:** Conduct pumping tests as necessary per the Vermont Water Supply Rule to confirm that new and existing wells (*e.g.*, Valley Wells) do not interfere with nearby wells. Further testing is required for any new wells.
- **Noise:** Ensure construction equipment that uses internal combustion engines is equipped with noise-suppression equipment per the manufacturer's specifications and kept in proper working order.
- **Solid and Hazardous Waste:** Recycle or dispose of construction-related packaging as appropriate and in compliance with applicable regulations.
- **Surface Water Quality:** Adhere to all USACE Section 404 General Permits and Stream Alteration General Permit conditions.
- **Biological Resources:** Minimize tree clearing to preserve wildlife habitat.

Signed:

Andrea K.
Smith

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Andrea K. Smith
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Northern Border Regional Commission

 1-16-2025

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(pertaining to the water infrastructure component of the Proposed Action only)