



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

Aaron Martin, Public Works Director
Authorized Representative
Town of Essex, Vermont
81 Main Street
Essex Junction, VT 05452-3209

February 3, 2025
Expiration Date: February 3, 2030

**Re: Center Road Force Main Replacement Project Project
Vermont/ USEPA Clean Water Revolving Loan Number RF1-343**

Notice of Intent to Issue a Finding of No Significant Impact

Dear Aaron:

The Department of Environmental Conservation intends to issue a Finding of No Significant Impact (FNSI) for the Center Road Force Main Replacement Project Project.

The project has positive environmental impacts consisting of the maintenance of existing wastewater infrastructure that protects public health and water quality.

This project additionally involves impacts construction in and near a wetland buffer area. 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.

Aaron Martin, Authorized Representative, Town of Essex, Vermont
Center Road Force Main Replacement Project
Finding of No Significant Impact
February 3, 2025

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, 802-490-6229, if you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

DocuSigned by:

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Lynnette Claudon, PE
Senior Water Infrastructure Program 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, Water Investment Division, enclosed.)
2. Evaluation of Eligibility for Finding of No Significant Impact (Approved by Eric Blatt, P.E., Director, 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*", signed and dated 10/2/24, revised 2/3/2025.
<https://anrweb.vt.gov/DEC/IronPIG/DownloadFile.aspx?DID=211694&DVID=0>
And Appendices, <https://anrweb.vt.gov/DEC/IronPIG/DownloadFile.aspx?DID=211695&DVID=0>
5. Preliminary Engineering Report entitled "*Center Road Sewer Force Main Replacement Study*", and dated December 2023, by Aldrich + Elliott, PC.
<https://anrweb.vt.gov/DEC/IronPIG/DownloadFile.aspx?DID=205118&DVID=0>

Aaron Martin, Authorized Representative, Town of Essex, Vermont
Center Road Force Main Replacement Project
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February 3, 2025

COPY LIST

Heather Collins and Aaron Krymkowski, Wastewater Program, VT-DEC

Tina Heath, Wetland Biologist

Allison Lowry & Denise Johnson-Terk, DWGPD, VT-DEC

Scott Dillon and Elizabeth Peebles, Division for Historic Preservation, ACCD

Michael Mainer, PE, Aldrich + Elliott, PC



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

802-490-6229

Notice of Intent to Issue a Finding of No Significant Impact

**Town of Essex, Vermont
Center Road Force Main Replacement Project**

Vermont/ USEPA Clean Water Revolving Loan Number: RF1-343

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 Center Road Force Main Replacement Project Project. This project will improve the reliability of the sanitary sewer system by replacing the original ductile iron sewer force main where leaks have occurred and to make some improvements to the Heritage Estates Pump Station.

Under the Procedure, the project is ineligible for Categorical Exclusion (CATEX) from detailed environmental review. The project involves impacts to protected wetland areas and 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. The project will not increase the current permitted flow capacity of the treatment plant, and the project will not include sewer extensions.

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

- Environmental Information Document titled *"Environmental Report and Environmental Information Document"*, signed and dated 10/2/24, revised 2/3/2025,
- and Appendices.

Town of Essex, Vermont
Center Road Force Main Replacement Project
Center Road Force Main Replacement Project
Notice of Intent to Issue a Finding of No Significant Impact
8/21/2024

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

Aaron Martin, Public Works Director
Town of Essex, Vermont
81 Main Street
Essex Junction, VT 05452-3209

tel. (802) 878-1344
amartin@essex.org

Lynnette Claudon, PE
Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation
Water Investment Division
1 National Life Drive, Davis 3
Montpelier, VT 05620-3510

tel. 802-490-6229
Lynnette.Claudon@Vermont.gov

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

Michael Mainer, PE
Aldrich + Elliott, PC
6 Market Place, Suite 2
Essex Junction, VT 05452

tel. 802-879-7733
mmainer@Aeengineers.com

No significant administrative action will be taken on this project for thirty (30) days from the issuance of this Notice of Determination, to allow for public response.

DocuSigned by:

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

2/3/2025

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, Water Investment Division ^{DS} EB

FROM: Lynnette Claudon, PE,
Senior Water Infrastructure Program Engineer, Water Investment Division ^{DS} U

SUBJECT: Town of Essex, Vermont
Center Road Force Main Replacement Project Project
Environmental Assessment
evaluation of eligibility for Finding of No Significant Impact

DATE: February 3, 2025

A. Project Identification

Project Name: Town of Essex, Vermont
Center Road Force Main Replacement Project

Address: Aaron Martin, Authorized Representative
Town of Essex, Vermont
81 Main Street
Essex Junction, VT 05452-3209

Project Location: Town of Essex, Vermont, Vermont
This project aims to replace the existing 8" ductile iron sewer force main along VT-15, beginning at 65 Chelsea Road at the existing pump station and then along Route 15 from the intersection with Saybrook Rd to 90 Center Road. Additionally, there will be some minor improvements to the Heritage Estates pump station.

Vermont/ USEPA Clean Water Revolving Loan Number: **RF1-343**

Aaron Martin, Authorized Representative, Town of Essex, Vermont
Evaluation of Eligibility for Finding of No Significant Impact
Center Road Force Main Replacement Project
Vermont/ USEPA Clean Water Loan Number RF1-343
February 3, 2025

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*”, signed and dated 10/2/24, revised 2/3/2025 & Appendices.
- Preliminary Engineering Report entitled “Center Road Sewer Force Main Replacement Study”, and dated December 2023 by Aldrich + Elliott, PC.

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 protected wetlands areas. Also, the project’s direct and indirect environmental effects do not necessitate the 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 Essex, Vermont is located in Chittenden County, Vermont in the Winooski River Basin major watershed.

This project will replace the existing 8" ductile iron sewer force main along VT-15, beginning at 65 Chelsea Road at the existing pump station and then along Route 15 from the intersection with Saybrook Rd to 90 Center Road. Additionally, there will be some minor improvements to the Heritage Estates pump station. The project is needed due to increasingly frequent breaks in the forcemain causing leakage.

The project involves mitigation in the form of a Vermont Wetlands Permit.

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

Aaron Martin, Authorized Representative, Town of Essex, Vermont
Evaluation of Eligibility for Finding of No Significant Impact
Center Road Force Main Replacement Project
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The contract documents will contain standard requirements to limit hours of construction and to control noise, dust, and discharges of stormwater runoff of pollutants during construction, traffic control measures, and coordination with public transportation entities.

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 construction in and near a protected wetlands buffer area which will be mitigated by a Vermont Wetlands 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).

Specifically, the project will not increase the design hydraulic capacity of the wastewater treatment plant by more than 20 percent, and it will not increase the design organic treatment capacity (equivalent population served) by more than 30 percent. The project does not include sewer extensions.

The project will not create a new permanent discharge of stormwater or treated wastewater to surface waters or groundwater, and there will be no increase of effluent pollutant loadings (pounds per day) permitted to be discharged from associated wastewater treatment plant.

A public hearing will be held during the February 3, 2025 Selectboard meeting at 6:30 pm at the Town of Essex Municipal Office, 81 Main St., Essex Junction, VT 05452 as part of this FNSI process.