



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

John Haverstock, Town Manager
Town of Hartford
171 Bridge Street
White River Junction, VT 05001

2/12/2025

Expiration Date: 2/12/2030

**Re: Town of Hartford, CSO Abatement Project
Vermont/ USEPA Clean Water Revolving Loan Number RF1-271**

Notice of Intent to Issue a Finding of No Significant Impact

Dear Mr. Haverstock:

The Department of Environmental Conservation intends to issue a Finding of No Significant Impact (FNSI) for the Hartford, CSO Abatement Project.

The project has positive environmental impacts consisting of the separation of stormwater catch basins from the combined sewer system thereby reducing the likelihood over Combined Sewer Overflow events.

This project additionally involves impacts of new stormwater discharge at the location of the existing catch basins. The stormwater will be discharged to groundwater via sand filtered drywells, which will mitigate potential impacts from the new stormwater discharge to groundwater.

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.

**John Haverstock, Authorized Representative, Hartford
Hartford, CSO Abatement Project
Finding of No Significant Impact
2/12/2025**

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) 490-8019, if you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,



Winn Willson
Environmental Engineer
Water Investment Division

Enclosures

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

- Notice of Intent to Issue a Finding of No Significant Impact (Signed by Eric Blatt, P.E., Director of Engineering, Water Investment Division, enclosed.)
- Evaluation of Eligibility for Finding of No Significant Impact (Approved by Eric Blatt, P.E., Director of Engineering, Water Investment Division, enclosed.)
- 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)

- Environmental Information Document titled "*Environmental Report and Environmental Information Document*", and dated 10/06/2023, by Wayne Elliott, PE of Alrich + Elliott, Essex, VT.
<https://anrweb.vt.gov/DEC/IronPIG/DownloadFile.aspx?DID=211177&DVID=0>
- Preliminary Engineering Report (PER) titled "*Hartford CSO Abatement Addendum report*" and dated May 2023, by Wayne Elliott, PE of Aldrich + Elliott, Essex, VT.
<https://anrweb.vt.gov/DEC/IronPIG/DownloadFile.aspx?DID=209137&DVID=0>

**John Haverstock, Authorized Representative, Hartford
Hartford, CSO Abatement Project
Finding of No Significant Impact
2/12/2025**

COPY LIST

Eric Blatt, P.E., Director of Engineering, Vermont DEC Water Investment Division

John Merrifield & Michelle Kolb, PE Wastewater Program, Watershed Management Division

Jason Booth, P.E., Aldrich + Elliott

Tom Brown, CWSRF Program Lead, Financial Management Section, VT-DEC-WID



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) 490-8019

Notice of Intent to Issue a Finding of No Significant Impact

Hartford

Hartford CSO Abatement Project

Vermont/ USEPA Clean Water Revolving Loan Number: RF1-271

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 Hartford CSO Abatement Project Project. This project involves separation of stormwater from the combined sewer collection system by disconnecting stormwater catch basins in 5 separate locations across the Town and converting these locations to stormwater drywells. Mitigation of the new stormwater discharge will occur via sand filtration to groundwater in the newly constructed drywells.

Under the Procedure, the project is ineligible for Categorical Exclusion (CATEX) from detailed environmental review. The project involves a new stormwater discharge to groundwater through infiltration from the bottom of the proposed stormwater drywells and therefore is not eligible for Categorical Exclusion from environmental review.

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"*, and dated 10/06/2023, by Wayne Elliott, PE of Alrich + Elliott, Essex, VT.

<https://anrweb.vt.gov/DEC/IronPIG/DownloadFile.aspx?DID=211177&DVID=0>

**John Haverstock, Authorized Representative, Hartford
Hartford, CSO Abatement Project
Finding of No Significant Impact
2/12/2025**

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

John Haverstock, Town Manager
Town of Hartford
173 Airport Road
White River Junction, VT 05001

tel. (802) 295-9353
jhaverstock@hartford-vt.org

Winn Wilson
Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation
Water Investment Division
1 National Life Drive, Main 2
Montpelier, VT 05620-3510

tel. (802) 490-8019
william.wilson@vermont.gov

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

Jason Booth, PE
Aldrich + Elliott
6 Market Pl #2
Essex Junction, VT 05452

tel. (802) 879-7733
jbooth@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:

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

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: Winn Wilson
Environmental Engineer, Water Investment Division

SUBJECT: Town of Hartford
CSO Abatement Project
Environmental Assessment
evaluation of eligibility for Finding of No Significant Impact

DATE: 2/12/2025

A. Project Identification

Project Name: Town of Hartford
CSO Abatement Project

Address: John Haverstock, Town Manager, Authorized Representative
Town of Hartford
171 Bridge Street
White River Junction, VT 05001

Project Location: This project is going to take place at a number of locations across the Town of Hartford where existing catch basin inlets will be separated from the combined system and converted to drywells: 350 Passumpsic Ave, 1217 Maple Street, 1474 Taft Ave, 43 Bullard St, 2 Chambers Lane, 43 Winter St, 329 Lower Hyde Park.

John Haverstock, Authorized Representative, Hartford
Hartford, CSO Abatement Project
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2/12/2025

Vermont/ USEPA Clean Water Revolving Loan Number: **RF1-271**

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 10/06/2023, by Wayne Elliott, PE of Alrich + Elliott, Essex, VT.
<https://anrweb.vt.gov/DEC/IronPIG/DownloadFile.aspx?DID=211177&DVID=0>
- **Preliminary Engineering Report (PER)** titled "*Hartford CSO Abatement Addendum report*" and dated May 2023, by Wayne Elliott, PE of Aldrich + Elliott, Essex, VT.
<https://anrweb.vt.gov/DEC/IronPIG/DownloadFile.aspx?DID=209137&DVID=0>

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 groundwater from the discharge of stormwater via new drywell location in place of existing stormwater catch basins. 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 Hartford is located in Windsor County, Vermont in the Connecticut River major watershed.

The proposed project will separate stormwater catch basins at five locations across the Town of Hartford from the combined sewer system. These catch basins will be converted to drywells and discharge to groundwater after infiltrating through a sand filter, the separation of these catch basins will reduce the inflow to the combined sewer system and therefore reduce the likelihood of combined sewer overflow events. Mitigation of the new stormwater discharge will occur via sand filtration to groundwater in the newly constructed drywells.

This work is expected to be constructed with an American Rescue Plan Act Grant.

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Eligibility for CSO ARPA Grant 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.

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 new stormwater discharges from small residential drainage areas to groundwater via sand filters in drywells.

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.

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 30-day comment period by the Town of Hartford as part of this FNSI process, any public comments received during the hearing or via other acceptable methods will be addressed prior to issuing a Final Decision.