



Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation

EC7 Water Investment Division

1 National Life Drive, Davis 3
Montpelier, VT 05620-3510

Agency of Natural Resources

Ron Redmond, City Manager
City of Vergennes
120 Main St.
Vergennes, VT 05491

2/12/2025

**Re: City of Vergennes, MacDonough Drive Sewer Rehabilitation Project
Vermont/ USEPA Clean Water Revolving Loan Number RF1-294**

Categorical Exclusion from Detailed Environmental Review

Dear Mr. Redmond

The Department of Environmental Conservation has determined that the City's proposed Vergennes, MacDonough Drive Sewer Rehabilitation Project may be excluded from the detailed environmental review procedures that are required for projects that have environmental effects. The Department's (Clean Water) environmental review procedures require a 30-day public comment period following the issuance of a Notice of Determination of Eligibility for Categorical Exclusion. If no public comments received during that period demonstrate that this Determination is in error, then the Categorical Exclusion exempting the project from detailed review will become effective.

Copies of documents supporting a Categorical Exclusion are enclosed. Please keep copies of the enclosed documents 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. There are no project specific mitigation measures incorporated into this project beyond compliance with standard environmental protections.

If you have any questions, please contact Winn Wilson at (802) 490-8019 or by e-mail at william.wilson@vermont.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "William Wilson". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Winn Wilson
Construction Engineer
Water Investment Division

Vergennes, Vermont

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MacDonough Drive Sewer Rehabilitation Project, RF1-294

Notice of Determination of Eligibility for Categorical Exclusion from Detailed Environmental Review

Documents Enclosed for Categorical Exclusion Public Comment Period (30 days)

1. *"Notice of Determination of Eligibility for Categorical Exclusion"*
(Signed by Eric Blatt, PE, Director of Engineering, Water Investment Division.)
2. *"Evaluation of Eligibility for Categorical Exclusion"*
(Approved by Eric Blatt, PE, Director of Engineering, Water Investment Division.)

Additional Documents Needed for Categorical Exclusion Public Comment Period (30 days)

1. **"Environmental Review Procedures for Projects Funded Through the Vermont/EPA Revolving Loan Program"**, <https://anrweb.vt.gov/DEC/IronPIG/DownloadFile.aspx?DID=129684&DVID=0>
2. **Preliminary Engineering Report (PER)** entitled "Sanitary Sewer Overflow Long-Term Control Plan for the City of Vergennes" and dated May 2022, by Jennifer Auster, P.E. of Hoyle-Tanner Associates.
<https://anrweb.vt.gov/DEC/IronPIG/DownloadFile.aspx?DID=196438&DVID=0>
3. **Environmental Information Document and Categorical Exclusion Request (EID)** signed June 20, 2024, by Jennifer Auster, P.E., of Wright-Pierce.
<https://anrweb.vt.gov/DEC/IronPIG/DownloadFile.aspx?DID=211692&DVID=0>

COPY LIST

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

Jennie Auster, P.E. Wright-Pierce

Jamie Bates and John Merrifield, P.E. Wastewater Management Program, Watershed Management Division

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



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Montpelier, VT 05620-3510

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Notice of Determination of Eligibility for Categorical Exclusion

City of Vergennes

Vergennes, MacDonough Drive Sewer Rehabilitation Project

Vermont/ USEPA Clean Water Revolving Fund Loan Number RF1-294

In accordance with section VII of the Department's *"Environmental Review Procedures for Projects Funded Through the Vermont/ EPA Revolving Loan Program"*, the City has requested that its proposed MacDonough Drive Sewer Rehabilitation Project be evaluated for eligibility for a Categorical Exclusion from the detailed environmental review that is described in the Procedures and required for projects with significant environmental effects.

Consideration of the requests for Categorical Exclusion included a review of the following documents:

- **Environmental Information Document and Categorical Exclusion Request (EID)** signed June 20, 2024, by Jennifer Auster, P.E., of Wright-Pierce.
<https://anrweb.vt.gov/DEC/IronPIG/DownloadFile.aspx?DID=211692&DVID=0>

Upon completion of its independent evaluation, the Department has determined that the proposed project meets the criteria for issuance of a Categorical Exclusion. As a result, there are no project specific mitigation measures incorporated into this project beyond compliance with standard environmental protections.

Specifically, the project will not increase the permitted annual average flow (hydraulic) capacity of the existing Vergennes Wastewater Treatment Facility, and it will not increase permitted pounds of pollutants that may be discharged by that plant. Also, the project will not increase the design organic (equivalent population) treatment capacity of the wastewater treatment plant. The project will not add a new permanent discharge of stormwater or treated wastewater to surface waters or groundwater. Further, the project does not involve (create) serious local or environmental issues or meet any of the criteria that would result in denial of an Exclusion, nor does the project meet the definition of sewer extension.

Vergennes, Vermont
MacDonough Drive Sewer Rehabilitation Project, RF1-294
Notice of Determination of Eligibility for Categorical Exclusion from Detailed Environmental Review

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Further information on the project and this Determination is available for inspection at the following locations:

Ron Redmond, City Manager
City of Vergennes
120 Main St.
Vergennes, VT 05491

tel. (802) 877-3637
manager@vergennes.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.)

Jennie Auster, PE
Wright-Pierce
125 College St.
Burlington, VT 05401

tel. (802) 860-1331
jennifer.auster@wright-pierce.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 of Engineering
Water Investment Division

2/11/2025

Date

Department of Environmental Conservation
Vermont Agency of Natural Resources



Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation

EC7 Water Investment Division

1 National Life Drive
Main Building, 2ND Floor
Montpelier, VT 05620-3510

Agency of Natural Resources

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

FROM: Winn Wilson
Environmental Engineer, Water Investment Division

SUBJECT: City of Vergennes
MacDonough Drive Sewer Rehabilitation Project

Evaluation of Eligibility for Categorical Exclusion
from Detailed Environmental Review

DATE: 2/12/2025

A. Project Identification

Project Name: MacDonough Drive Sewer Rehabilitation Project

Address:

Ron Redmond, City Manager
Authorized Representative
City of Vergennes
120 Main St.
Vergennes, VT 05491

Project Location: The project will take place along MacDonough Drive for approximately 1,050 linear feet from 72 MacDonough Drive to the intersection with Comfort Hill St. all work taking place within the road right-of-way.

**City of Vergennes
MacDonough Drive Sewer Rehabilitation Project
Evaluation of Eligibility for Categorical Exclusion from Detailed Environmental Review
2/12/2025**

Vermont/ USEPA Clean Water Revolving Loan Number RF1-294

B. Summary of Environmental Review

In accordance with section VII of the Department's "*Environmental Review Procedures for Projects Funded Through the Vermont/EPA Revolving Loan Program*", the City has requested that the proposed MacDonough Drive Sewer Rehabilitation Project be evaluated for eligibility for a Categorical Exclusion from the detailed environmental review that is described in the Procedures and required for projects with significant environmental effects.

The applicant's request and the following planning document have been reviewed, and our findings are summarized below:

Environmental Information Document and Categorical Exclusion Request (EID) signed June 20, 2024, by Jennifer Auster, P.E., of Wright-Pierce.

1. Project Description

The City of Vergennes is located in Addison County, Vermont.

The proposed project will rehabilitate a 1,050 foot section of sewer along MacDonough Drive via cure in place pipe (CIPP) lining to prevent infiltration to the separate sewer system. This project will help alleviate excess wet weather flows and as a result help decrease the likelihood of sewer overflows at the MacDonough Drive Pump Station.

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.

2. Justification for Categorical Exclusion

We have determined that the proposed project meets the criteria for issuance of a Categorical Exclusion.

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.

**City of Vergennes
MacDonough Drive Sewer Rehabilitation Project
Evaluation of Eligibility for Categorical Exclusion from Detailed Environmental Review
2/12/2025**

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.

The project is not expected to adversely affect wetlands, wetlands buffer zones, floodplains, historic sites, archeological sites, habitats of threatened or endangered species, or other environmentally or culturally sensitive areas. As a result, there are no project specific mitigation measures incorporated into this project beyond compliance with standard environmental protections.

The project does not involve serious local or environmental issues or meet any of the criteria that would result in denial of a Categorical Exclusion.