

State of Vermont
Agency of Natural Resources
Department of Environmental Conservation
Notice of Determination of Eligibility for Categorical Exclusion

Mount Holly School Water System, WSID #VT0006075
Mount Holly, VT
Mount Holly School PFAS Water System Improvements
DWSRF Loan RF3-543



In accordance with Section VII of the Department's Environmental Review Procedures for projects funded through the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) Program, the Mount Holly School Water System, located in Mount Holly, VT has requested its proposed Mount Holly School PFAS Water System Improvements project be evaluated for eligibility for a categorical exclusion exempting the project from detailed environmental procedures required for projects having a significant environmental impact.

The proposed project involves the construction of a new interconnection and treatment system to address per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) contamination detected in the Mount Holly School well and Mount Holly Town Garage. The project will consolidate the Mount Holly School water system with the adjacent Mount Holly Town Garage water system (Source Number: WL002) to provide a long-term, reliable source of potable water in compliance with Vermont Water Supply Rule standards.

Project components include installation of 1-inch and 1.5-inch high-density polyethylene (HDPE) water main via horizontal directional drilling (HDD). The water main will extend from the Town Garage well to the Mount Holly School property, and the finished water will return to the Town Garage. HDD will minimize surface disturbance and avoid sensitive environmental and potential historical resources identified. The installation of 2-inch HDPE water main extending to the Mount Holly School from the finished water will be constructed in previously disturbed areas.

A new water treatment building will be constructed on the school property for the treatment of raw water for PFAS from the town garage well and will include a finished water storage tank and booster pumps. Construction will occur within previously disturbed or developed lands to minimize environmental and historical resources impacts. Backwash from the cation exchange system will be discharged to a newly constructed settling tank and subsurface absorption trench. The trench will be designed to accommodate the low-volume, periodic discharge without risk of surfacing or groundwater contamination. The project also includes the removal of outdated infrastructure at the Mount Holly School.

This project qualifies for a Categorical Exclusion (CatEx) under the Vermont Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) Environmental Review Procedures, as it involves minor construction within previously developed areas and no known significant environmental impacts are anticipated.

Our consideration of Mount Holly School's request included reviewing environmental information and documentation completed and submitted by their engineering consultant, Otter Creek Engineering. At the completion of this independent evaluation, the Department has determined the project meets the criteria for receiving a Categorical Exclusion. The project will correct water system deficiencies and does not meet any of the criteria resulting in denial of an Exclusion. Should the proposed work be altered to expand beyond the current scope of work and/or APE, further review will be required due to potential environmental and cultural sensitivity of undisturbed areas.

Further information on the project and this determination are available for inspection by contacting the DWSRF Program at (802) 585-4904. In addition to the applicant, a copy of this determination will be sent to a list of stakeholders and posted on the Water Infrastructure Financing Program's [Environmental Review Determination Notice](#) page.

Agency of Natural Resources
Department of Environmental Conservation
Jason Batchelder, Commissioner

By  Dated 5/2/2025
Eric Blatt, P.E., Director of Engineering
Water Investment Division

cc: Craig Jewett, P.E., MSK
Amy Galford, Drinking Water Project Lead, VT DEC