



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

Chad Whitehead
Town Manager
Town of Saint Johnsbury
Pomerleau Building, 51 Depot Square, Suite 3
Saint Johnsbury, Vermont 05819

October 30, 2025
Expiration Date: October 30, 2030

**Re: Town of Saint Johnsbury, Wastewater Treatment Facility Sludge Management Project
Vermont/ USEPA Clean Water Revolving Loan Number RF1-298**

Notice of Intent to Issue a Finding of No Significant Impact

Dear Chad Whitehead:

The Department of Environmental Conservation intends to issue a Finding of No Significant Impact (FNSI) for the Town of Saint Johnsbury Wastewater Treatment Facility Sludge Management Project.

The project has positive environmental impacts. The Saint Johnsbury Wastewater Treatment Facility previously injected sludge produced at the facility into local fields through a sludge land application program. PFAS was found at these sites, so in order to avoid further contamination this project will be replacing the land application program.

This project additionally involves impacts including construction in the 500 year floodplain, construction in the river corridor, and construction in an urban soils background area.

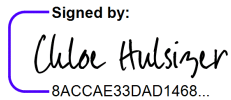
Otherwise, this project may have been eligible for Categorical Exclusion from detailed environmental review; additionally, the direct and indirect environmental effects of the project are still not significant enough to necessitate an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS).

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.

Chad Whitehead, Authorized Representative, Town of Saint Johnsbury
Wastewater Treatment Facility Sludge Management Project
Finding of No Significant Impact
October 30, 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 list of the documents that must be available for public inspection is attached. Please call (802) 522-3562 if you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Signed by:
 10/31/2025
8ACCAE33DAD1468...

Chloe Hulsizer
Environmental Analyst IV
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 I, Water Investment Division, enclosed.)
- Evaluation of Eligibility for Finding of No Significant Impact (Approved by Eric Blatt, P.E., Director I, Water Investment Division, enclosed.)
- State Environmental Review Procedures for Projects Funded Through the Vermont/ EPA Revolving Loan Program, <https://dec.vermont.gov/water-investment/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 September 4, 2025, by Andrea Day, PE.
<https://anrweb.vt.gov/DEC/IronPIG/DownloadFile.aspx?DID=215931&DVID=0>
- Preliminary Engineering Report entitled "*WWTF Sludge Management Improvements*", and dated December 14, 2021, by Dufresne Group.
<https://anrweb.vt.gov/DEC/IronPIG/DownloadFile.aspx?DID=210410&DVID=0>

Chad Whitehead, Authorized Representative, Town of Saint Johnsbury
Wastewater Treatment Facility Sludge Management Project
Finding of No Significant Impact
October 30, 2025

- Preliminary Engineering Report Addendum entitled “*WWTF Sludge Management Improvements*”, and dated September 30, 2024, by Dufresne Group.
<https://anrweb.vt.gov/DEC/IronPIG/DownloadFile.aspx?DID=210413&DVID=0>

COPY LIST

Heather Collins and Sherri Kasten, Wastewater Program, VT-DEC
Eric Deratzian, Regional Engineer, VT-DEC, Drinking Water and Groundwater Protection Division
Scott Dillon and Elizabeth Peebles, Division for Historic Preservation, ACCD
Jim Brimblecombe, Chief Wastewater Operator, Town of Saint Johnsbury
Andrea Day, PE, Dufresne Group



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) 522-3562

Notice of Intent to Issue a Finding of No Significant Impact

**Town of Saint Johnsbury
Wastewater Treatment Facility Sludge Management Project**

Vermont/ USEPA Clean Water Revolving Loan Number: RF1-298

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 Wastewater Treatment Facility Sludge Management Project. This project involves the modification of the existing garage at the wastewater treatment facility, the installation of a screw press, and the addition of a lean-to and associated piping to support dewatering sludge during the warmer months.

Under the Procedure, the project is ineligible for Categorical Exclusion (CATEX) from detailed environmental review. The project involves impacts including construction in the 500 year floodplain, construction in the river corridor, and construction in an urban soils background area 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 (EID)** signed September 4, 2025, by Andrea Day, PE, of Springfield, Vermont.

<https://anrweb.vt.gov/DEC/IronPIG/DownloadFile.aspx?DID=215931&DVID=0>

Town of Saint Johnsbury
Wastewater Treatment Facility Sludge Management Project
Notice of Intent to Issue a Finding of No Significant Impact
October 20, 2025

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

Chad Whitehead, Town Manager
Town of Saint Johnsbury
Pomerleau Building, 51 Depot Square, Suite 3
Saint Johnsbury, Vermont 05819

tel. (802) 748-3926 ext 2
cwhitehead@stjvt.com

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

tel. (802) 522-3562
Chloe.Hulsizer@Vermont.gov

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

Andrea Day, PE
Dufresne Group
459 Portland Street Suite 102
Saint Johnsbury, VT, 05819-0000

tel. (802) 748-8605
aday@dufresnegroup.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.

Signed by:



C13D237CC28247C...
Emily Bird, Director
Water Investment Division

10/31/2025

Date

Department of Environmental Conservation
Vermont Agency of Natural Resources

Initial


10/31/2025



Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation

Agency of Natural Resources

TO: Emily Bird, Director, Water Investment Division ^{Initial}  10/31/2025

FROM: Chloe Hulsizer,
Environmental Analyst IV, Water Investment Division ^{Initial}  10/31/2025

SUBJECT: Town of Saint Johnsbury
Wastewater Treatment Facility Sludge Management Project

Evaluation of Eligibility for Finding of No Significant Impact

DATE: October 30, 2025

A. Project Identification

Project Name: Town of Saint Johnsbury
Wastewater Treatment Facility Sludge Management Project

Address: Chad Whitehead, Authorized Representative
Town of Saint Johnsbury
Pomerleau Building, 51 Depot Square, Suite 3
Saint Johnsbury, Vermont 05819

Project Location: Town of Saint Johnsbury, Vermont
This project is located at the existing wastewater treatment facility in
Saint Johnsbury, Vermont, which is located off Main Street.

Vermont/ USEPA Clean Water Revolving Loan Number: **RF1-298**

Chad Whitehead, Authorized Representative, Town of Saint Johnsbury
Evaluation of Eligibility for Finding of No Significant Impact
Wastewater Treatment Facility Sludge Management Project
Vermont/ USEPA Clean Water Loan Number RF1-298
October 30, 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”, and dated September 4, 2025, by Andrea Day, PE.
<https://anrweb.vt.gov/DEC/IronPIG/DownloadFile.aspx?DID=215931&DVID=0>
- Preliminary Engineering Report entitled “WWTF Sludge Management Improvements”, and dated December 14, 2021 by Dufresne Group.
<https://anrweb.vt.gov/DEC/IronPIG/DownloadFile.aspx?DID=210410&DVID=0>
- Preliminary Engineering Report Addendum entitled “*WWTF Sludge Management Improvements*”, and dated September 30, 2024, by Dufresne Group.
<https://anrweb.vt.gov/DEC/IronPIG/DownloadFile.aspx?DID=210413&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 including construction in the 500 year floodplain, construction in the river corridor, and construction in an urban soils background area. 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 Saint Johnsbury is located in Caledonia County, Vermont in the Passumpsic River major watershed.

This project involves the modification of the existing garage at the wastewater treatment facility, the installation of a screw press, and the addition of a lean-to and associated piping to support dewatering sludge during the warmer months. The proposed project will upgrade the existing garage that houses the sludge press at the wastewater treatment facility in the Town of Saint Johnsbury, Vermont. The Saint

Chad Whitehead, Authorized Representative, Town of Saint Johnsbury
Evaluation of Eligibility for Finding of No Significant Impact
Wastewater Treatment Facility Sludge Management Project
Vermont/ USEPA Clean Water Loan Number RF1-298
October 30, 2025

Johnsbury Wastewater Treatment Facility previously injected sludge produced at the facility into local fields through a sludge land application program. PFAS was found at these sites, so to avoid further contamination, this project will be replacing the land application program by installing mechanical dewatering equipment to support traditional dewatering and disposal.

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

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 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 the 500 year floodplain, construction in the river corridor, and construction in an urban soils background area. In order to minimize effects, on-site excavation will be minimal and any excess soils will be wasted on site.

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 at 6:00 pm on November 24, 2025 in Saint Johnsbury, VT as part of this FNSI process.