



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

Michael Harris, Zoning Administrator
Authorized Representative
Town of Burke
212 School Street
West Burke, VT, 05871

11/20/2025
Expiration Date: 11/20/2030

**Re: West Burke Village Wastewater Project
Vermont/ USEPA Clean Water Revolving Loan Number RF1-296**

Notice of Intent to Issue a Finding of No Significant Impact

Dear Michael Harris:

The Department of Environmental Conservation intends to issue a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) for the West Burke Village Wastewater Project.

The project has positive environmental impacts. There is a lack of adequate wastewater treatment facilities in West Burke, and this project could prevent potential water quality impacts due to inadequate wastewater treatment.

This project additionally involves impacts including a new discharge to groundwater, construction in a wetland buffer, construction in a river corridor, and construction in an area with hazardous sites.

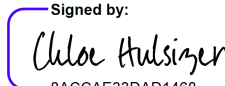
Otherwise, this project may have been eligible for Categorical Exclusion from detailed environmental review; additionally, the direct and indirect environmental effects of the project are still not significant enough to necessitate an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS).

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.

Michael Harris, Authorized Representative, Town of Burke
West Burke Village Wastewater
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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:
 11/18/2025
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Chloe Hulsizer
Environmental Analyst IV
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 Emily Bird, Director, Water Investment Division, enclosed.)
2. Evaluation of Eligibility for Finding of No Significant Impact (Approved by Emily Bird, Director, Water Investment Division, enclosed.)
3. 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)

4. Environmental Information Document titled "*Environmental Report and Environmental Information Document*", and dated October 30, 2025, by Andrea Day, PE.
<https://anrweb.vt.gov/DEC/IronPIG/DownloadFile.aspx?DID=215950&DVID=0>
5. Preliminary Engineering Report entitled "*East Burke and West Burke Villages Water and Wastewater Solutions*", and dated October 4, 2023, by Dufresne Group.
<https://anrweb.vt.gov/DEC/IronPIG/DownloadFile.aspx?DID=204855&DVID=0>

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6. Project Review Sheet dated May 13, 2025.

<https://anrweb.vt.gov/DEC/IronPIG/DownloadFile.aspx?DID=215875&DVID=0>

COPY LIST

Heather Collins, Wastewater Program, VT-DEC

Julie Follensbee, Wetland Biologist

Eric Deratzian, Regional Engineer, VT-DEC, Drinking Water and Groundwater Protection Division

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

Andrea Day, PE, Dufresne Group

Lynnette Claudon, PE, Design Engineer, VT-DEC, Water Investment Division

Initial


11/21/2025



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

**Village of West Burke
West Burke Village Wastewater**

Vermont/ USEPA Clean Water Revolving Loan Number: RF1-296

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 West Burke Village Wastewater Project. This project involves the development of a wastewater treatment collection treatment, and subsurface drip disposal system to serve the core of the Village of West Burke.

Under the Procedure, the project is ineligible for Categorical Exclusion (CATEX) from detailed environmental review. The project involves impacts including a new discharge to groundwater, construction in a wetland buffer, construction in a river corridor, and construction in an area with hazardous sites 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 October 30, 2025, by Andrea Day, PE, of Saint Johnsbury, VT. <https://anrweb.vt.gov/DEC/IronPIG/DownloadFile.aspx?DID=215950&DVID=0>

Village of West Burke

West Burke Village WastewaterWest Burke Village Wastewater

Notice of Intent to Issue a Finding of No Significant Impact

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

Michael Harris, Zoning Administrator
Town of Burke
212 School Street
West Burke, VT, 05871

tel. (802) 376-3706
harris37@yahoo.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

11/21/2025

Date

Department of Environmental Conservation
Vermont Agency of Natural Resources



Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation

Agency of Natural Resources

TO: Emily Bird, Director, Water Investment Division ^{Initial}  11/21/2025

FROM: Chloe Hulsizer,
Environmental Analyst IV, Water Investment Division ^{Initial}  11/18/2025

SUBJECT: Village of West Burke
West Burke Village Wastewater Project

Evaluation of Eligibility for Finding of No Significant Impact

DATE: 11/20/2025

A. Project Identification

Project Name: Village of West Burke
West Burke Village Wastewater Project

Address: Michael Harris, Authorized Representative
Town of Burke
212 School Street
West Burke, VT, 05871

Project Location: Village of West Burke, Vermont
The wastewater treatment system will be developed within the Village of West Burke, which is located in the Passumpsic River watershed. The project will include a collection system running along US Route 5, US Route 5a, Depot Street, High Street, and Church Street.

Vermont/ USEPA Clean Water Revolving Loan Number: **RF1-296**

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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 October 30, 2025, by Andrea Day, PE.
<https://anrweb.vt.gov/DEC/IronPIG/DownloadFile.aspx?DID=215950&DVID=0>
- Preliminary Engineering Report entitled “East Burke and West Burke Villages Water and Wastewater Solutions”, and dated October 4, 2023 by Dufresne Group.
<https://anrweb.vt.gov/DEC/IronPIG/DownloadFile.aspx?DID=204855&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 a new discharge to groundwater, construction in a wetland buffer, construction in a river corridor, and construction in an area with hazardous sites. 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 Village of West Burke is located in Caledonia County, Vermont in the Passumpsic River major watershed.

The project will involve the development of a low-pressure wastewater collection system, treatment, and disposal utilizing subsurface drip disposal. The Village of West Burke currently contains several properties that have inadequate wastewater facilities. There are also multiple properties within the village that cannot fit a traditional wastewater disposal system within their property due to setbacks including lot size limitations. The project will allow for improvement of properties within the village and will prevent any possible impacts to water quality due to inadequate wastewater treatment in the future.

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

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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 impacts including a new discharge to groundwater, construction in a wetland buffer, construction in a river corridor, and construction in an area with hazardous sites. To minimize impacts, the following mitigation measures will be put in place:

- The project work in areas of mapped wetlands or buffers, shall include approved mitigation measures. Mitigation of wetlands impacts will be determined through the Vermont Wetlands Permit. For sub-jurisdictional activities, mitigation shall include, at a minimum, buffer demarcation during construction.
- Contractor will submit a Soils Management Plan to DEC for review and approval for the wasting, transportation, and disposal of any identified contaminated soil materials. Additional measures include: alternative pipe materials to address potential incompatibility. Include the use of bentonite dams, to preclude migration of affected groundwater through pipe bedding.
- The placement of temporary gravel for heavy machinery and construction access is permitted on a temporary (180 days) basis. No staging or temporary storage of any other materials is permitted. Detail the suitable dry and wet floodproofing measures as required by the project. Measures will preserve or reduce the pre-construction ground elevation.

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 by more than 30 percent. The project does not include sewer extensions.

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West Burke Village Wastewater
Vermont/ USEPA Clean Water Loan Number RF1-296
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A public will be held on December 1, 2025, at 6 pm at the selectboard meeting in West Burke, Vermont as part of this FNSI process.