

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

North Hero Water System, WSID #20562
North Hero, VT
North Hero Route 2 Waterline Replacement
DWSRF Loan RF3-589

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 North Hero Water System, located in North Hero, VT has requested its proposed North Hero Route 2 Waterline Replacement be evaluated for eligibility for a categorical exclusion exempting the project from detailed environmental procedures required for projects having a significant environmental impact.

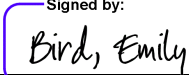
Proposed Project: The project involves replacement of existing aged waterline with a new pipe of similar inside diameter. The existing waterline is ductile iron and approximately 30 years old. Several disruptive leaks have occurred, and the leaks have required shutting down and disrupting service to the downstream users which consist of the majority of North Hero's non-residential consumers (i.e., business and commercial users).

The new high-density polyethylene (HDPE) waterline will be installed in the exact same location on the east side of Route 2 as the existing ductile iron (DI) pipe. Installation utilizes a mix of trenchless technology (pipe bursting) and excavation-remove-replace. The northern segment will be approximately 3,800 linear feet (LF) of 10-inch HDPE installed using pipe bursting and the southern segment will be approximately 2,660 LF of pre-insulated 10-inch HDPE pipe installed using excavation-remove-replace. Though the DR9 HDPE is designated as 10-inch, the internal diameter (ID) is 8.22 inches which is similar to the existing ductile iron pipe, therefore the pipe carrying capacity is essentially not increased.

Our consideration of North Hero Water System's request included reviewing the [Environmental Information Document](#) completed and submitted by their engineering consultant, Aldrich+Elliott. 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 cultural sensitivity of undisturbed areas.

Further information on the project and this determination is 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. This determination is valid for a period of 5 years from the date of signature below.

Agency of Natural Resources | Department of Environmental Conservation
Misty Sinsigalli, Commissioner

Signed by:
By: 
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Emily Bird, Director
Water Investment Division

Dated: 11/26/2025

cc: Amy Galford, Drinking Water Project Lead, VT DEC
Nate Pion, PE, Aldrich+Elliott

Initial

11/25/2025