



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

Lisa Larivee, Town Clerk & Treasurer
Authorized Representative
Town of Franklin
5167 Main Street
Franklin, VT, 05457

12/4/25
Expiration Date: 12/4/30

**Re: New Water Source and Connection Project
Town of Franklin Water System, WSID #5120
Vermont/ USEPA Drinking Water Revolving Loan Number RF3-436**

Notice of Intent to Issue a Finding of No Significant Impact

Dear Lisa Larivee:

The Department of Environmental Conservation intends to issue a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) for the New Water Source and Connection Project.

The project has positive environmental impacts for water system users. The project will add a new water source thereby adding resiliency for the water system and reducing vulnerability of a water shortage during extended drought periods. The loss of drinking water supply can be a severe negative effect caused by drought, and although creating a new water source does not directly decrease the environmental effects of drought, it does mitigate the negative effects on the human population. The Town of Franklin currently uses the Webster Spring as a water source; however, yield from the source is highly variable between 10 to 50 gallons per minute (gpm) during periods of dry and wet conditions. This project will provide a more stable water source for the public community water system by connecting a newly drilled bedrock water supply well, via a transmission main, to a small disinfection building, ultimately connecting to the existing water system.

This project involves limited impacts to wetland soils for the installation of a new water line and access road to the well. Construction crossing the wetland soils is authorized under the Wetland General Permit 3-9025. Mitigation measures in the form of redesign for avoidance were taken during the permitting process to limit impacts to the wetlands. Impacts to wetlands are an automatic trigger for a FONSI review process. Otherwise, this project may have been eligible for Categorical Exclusion from detailed

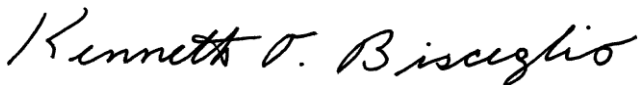
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environmental review; additionally, the direct and indirect environmental effects of the project are still not significant enough to necessitate an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS).

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.

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 listing of the documents that must be available for public inspection is attached. Please call, 802-522-7089, if you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,



Kenneth J. Bisceglia, PE
Senior Design Engineer
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 12/1/25, by Robert M. Clark, PE.
<https://anrweb.vt.gov/DEC/IronPIG/DownloadFile.aspx?DID=216372&DVID=0>
5. Preliminary Engineering Report entitled "*Town of Franklin New Public Water Source Preliminary Engineering Report*", and dated August 2024, by Otter Creek Engineering.
<https://anrweb.vt.gov/DEC/IronPIG/DownloadFile.aspx?DID=216195&DVID=0>

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6. *"Project Review Sheet"* dated 4/28/25.
<https://anrweb.vt.gov/DEC/IronPIG/DownloadFile.aspx?DID=216196&DVID=0>
7. *"Wetland General Permit 3-9025"* dated 11/7/25.
<https://anrweb.vt.gov/DEC/IronPIG/DownloadFile.aspx?DID=216373&DVID=0>

COPY LIST

Robert M Clark, PE, Otter Creek Engineering
Mike Lawyer, Franklin Water Board Chair
Jeremy Barnum, Chief Operator, Town of Franklin
Nathan Callas, VT-DEC Drinking Water and Groundwater Protection Division
Cynthia Parks, VT-DEC, Construction Engineer
Amy Galford, VT-DEC, DWSRF Loan Developer
Krystal Sewell, VT-DEC Wetland Biologist
Scott Dillon and Elizabeth Peebles, Division for Historic Preservation, ACCD



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 Franklin
New Water Source and Connection Project
WSID #5120**

Vermont/ USEPA Drinking Water Revolving Loan Number: RF3-436

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 (FONSI) for the proposed New Water Source and Connection Project. This project involves drilling a new bedrock well and adding it as an additional water source for the town.

Under the Procedure, the project is ineligible for Categorical Exclusion (CATEX) from detailed environmental review. The project involves impacts to a wetland 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.

Consideration of the FONSI included a review of the following documents:

- **Environmental Information Document (EID)** signed by Robert M. Clark, PE (12/1/25), of Otter Creek Engineering in Middlebury, VT, and Mike Lawyer (12/3/25) for the Town of Franklin, VT.

Town of Franklin
New Water Source and Connection Project
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Further information on the project and this Notice of Intent is available for inspection at the following locations:

Lisa Larivee, Town Clerk & Treasurer
Town of Franklin
5167 Main Street
Franklin, VT, 05457

tel. 802-285-2101
townoff@franklinvt.net

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

tel. 802-522-7089
kenneth.bisceglia

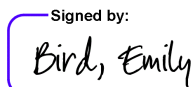
(Note: National Life requires photo identification to obtain an access badge for entry.)

Robert M Clark, PE
Otter Creek Engineering
404 East Main Street
Middlebury, VT, 05753

tel. (802) 382-8522
clark@ottercrk.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

12/8/2025

Date

Department of Environmental Conservation
Vermont Agency of Natural Resources

Initial


12/4/2025



Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation

Agency of Natural Resources

TO: Emily Bird, Director, Water Investment Division
Lynnette Claudon, PE, Sr Water Infrastructure Engineer, WID

FROM: Kenneth Bisceglia, PE
Senior Design Engineer, Water Investment Division

SUBJECT: Town of Franklin, WSID #5120
New Water Source and Connection Project

Evaluation of Eligibility for Finding of No Significant Impact

DATE: 12/4/25

A. Project Identification

Project Name: Town of Franklin
New Water Source and Connection Project

Address: Lisa Larivee, Authorized Representative
Town of Franklin
5167 Main Street
Franklin, VT, 05457

Project Location: Town of Franklin, Vermont
The new well and associated water line and disinfection building will be located off Main St in Franklin, Vermont

Vermont/ USEPA Drinking Water Revolving Loan Number: **RF3-436**

Lisa Larivee, Authorized Representative, Town of Franklin
Evaluation of Eligibility for Finding of No Significant Impact
New Water Source and Connection Project
Vermont/ USEPA Drinking Water Loan Number RF3-436
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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”, by Robert M. Clark, PE (12/1/25) and Mike Lawyer (12/3/25).
- Preliminary Engineering Report entitled “*Town of Franklin New Public Water Source Preliminary Engineering Report*,” and dated August 2024 by Otter Creek Engineering.

A Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) 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 to wetlands. 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 Franklin is located in Franklin County, Vermont.

This project involves drilling a new bedrock well and adding it as an additional water source for the town. This also includes the construction of a well pump and a small control building to house disinfection equipment. This new water source is needed to address vulnerability in Franklin’s water system caused by drought conditions. This project will serve as a new community source of water to provide resilience for the public water supply and reduce or eliminate vulnerability due to extended drought periods.

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

Eligibility for drinking water revolving loan (DWSRF) construction funding will be limited to the eligible 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.

Lisa Larivee, Authorized Representative, Town of Franklin
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2. Justification for Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI)

We have determined that the proposed project meets the criteria for issuance of a Finding of No Significant Impact.

This project involves impacts to wetlands. 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 3-905. For sub-jurisdictional activities, mitigation shall include, at a minimum, buffer demarcation during construction.

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).

A public hearing will be held at a date and location to be determined as part of this FONSI process.