



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

Thomas Bernier, Public Works Director
Authorized Representative
City of Newport
222 Main Street
Newport City, VT, 05855
12/18/25

12/18/25
Expiration Date: 12/18/30

Re: Gardner Park Siphon Upgrade Project
Vermont/ USEPA Clean Water Revolving Loan Number RF1-384-1.0

Notice of Intent to Issue a Finding of No Significant Impact

Dear Thomas Bernier:

The Department of Environmental Conservation intends to issue a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) for the Gardner Park Siphon Upgrade Project.

The project has positive environmental impacts. The existing Gardner Park Siphon crossing was identified as a priority location to be evaluated for deficiencies in order to avoid a Sewer System Overflow. This project ultimately helps to avoid this public and environmental health threat.

This project additionally involves impacts including work in the floodway, floodplain, and Vermont river corridor; directional drilling under a stream; and construction in an area with a hazardous site.

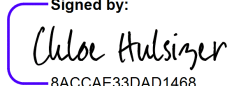
Otherwise, this project may have been eligible for Categorical Exclusion from detailed environmental review; additionally, the direct and indirect environmental effects of the project are still not significant enough to necessitate an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS).

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.

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Gardner Park Siphon Upgrade
Finding of No Significant Impact
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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:
 12/17/2025
8ACCAE33DAD1468...
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)

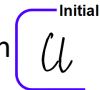
4. Environmental Information Document titled "*Environmental Report and Environmental Information Document*", and dated 10/3/25, by Nathan Pion, PE.
<https://anrweb.vt.gov/DEC/IronPIG/DownloadFile.aspx?DID=216326&DVID=0>
5. Environmental Information Document Appendices, by Aldrich + Elliott, PC.
<https://anrweb.vt.gov/DEC/IronPIG/DownloadFile.aspx?DID=216728&DVID=0>
6. Preliminary Engineering Report entitled "*Gardner Park Siphon Addendum Report*", and dated September 2025, by Aldrich + Elliott, PC.
<https://anrweb.vt.gov/DEC/IronPIG/DownloadFile.aspx?DID=216327&DVID=0>

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7. Project Review Sheet dated 9/26/25.
<https://anrweb.vt.gov/DEC/IronPIG/DownloadFile.aspx?DID=216189&DVID=0>

COPY LIST

Heather Collins and John Merrifield, Wastewater Program, VT-DEC
Christopher Brunelle, Stream Alternation Engineer
Eric Deratzian, Regional Engineer, VT-DEC, Drinking Water and Groundwater Protection Division
Scott Dillon and Elizabeth Peebles, Division for Historic Preservation, ACCD
Jason Booth, PE, Aldrich + Elliott, PC
Nathan Pion, PE, Aldrich + Elliott, PC
Lynnette Claudon, PE, Design Engineer, VT-DEC, Water Investment Division

Initial


12/17/2025



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

**City of Newport
Gardner Park Siphon Upgrade**

Vermont/ USEPA Clean Water Revolving Loan Number: RF1-384-1.0

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 Gardner Park Siphon Upgrade Project. This project involves upgrading the existing 8" Gardner Park Siphon crossing under the Clyde River using cured-in-place pipe (CIPP) lining in addition to an existing downstream section of sewer lines in Gardner Park. The project also involves installing a new siphon under the Clyde River using horizontal directional drilling.

Under the Procedure, the project is ineligible for Categorical Exclusion (CATEX) from detailed environmental review. The project involves impacts including work in the floodway, floodplain, and Vermont river corridor; directional drilling under a stream; and construction in an area with a hazardous site 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 FONSI included a review of the following documents:

- **Environmental Information Document (EID)** signed 10/3/25, by Nathan Pion, PE, of Essex Junction, VT. <https://anrweb.vt.gov/DEC/IronPIG/DownloadFile.aspx?DID=216326&DVID=0>

City of Newport

Gardner Park Siphon UpgradeGardner Park Siphon Upgrade

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- **Environmental Information Document Appendices**, by Aldrich + Elliott, PC.
<https://anrweb.vt.gov/DEC/IronPIG/DownloadFile.aspx?DID=216728&DVID=0>

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

Thomas Bernier, Public Works Director
City of Newport
222 Main Street
Newport City, VT, 05855

tel. (802) 334-2124
Thomas.Bernier@newportvermont.org

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

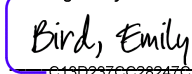
(Note: National Life requires photo identification to obtain an access badge for entry.)

Jason Booth, PE
Aldrich + Elliott, PC
6 Market Place
Essex Junction, VT 05452

tel. (802) 879-1742
jbooth@AEengineers.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

12/23/2025

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} EB 12/23/2025

FROM: Chloe Hulsizer,
Environmental Analyst IV, Water Investment Division ^{Initial} CH 12/17/2025

SUBJECT: City of Newport
Gardner Park Siphon Upgrade Project

Evaluation of Eligibility for Finding of No Significant Impact

DATE: 12/18/25

A. Project Identification

Project Name: City of Newport
Gardner Park Siphon Upgrade

Address: Tom Bernier, Authorized Representative
City of Newport
222 Main Street
Newport City, VT, 05855

Project Location: City of Newport, Vermont
The Gardner Park Siphon crossing is located under the Clyde River near Gardner Park Road in Newport, Vermont. Newport is in the Lake Memphremagog major watershed.

Vermont/ USEPA Clean Water Revolving Loan Number: **RF1-384-1.0**

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Evaluation of Eligibility for Finding of No Significant Impact
Gardner Park Siphon Upgrade
Vermont/ USEPA Clean Water Loan Number RF1-384-1.0
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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 10/3/25, by Nathan Pion, PE.
<https://anrweb.vt.gov/DEC/IronPIG/DownloadFile.aspx?DID=216326&DVID=0>
- Environmental Information Document Appendices, by Aldrich + Elliott, PC.
<https://anrweb.vt.gov/DEC/IronPIG/DownloadFile.aspx?DID=216728&DVID=0>
- Preliminary Engineering Report entitled “Gardner Park Siphon Addendum Report”, and dated September 2025 by Aldrich + Elliott, PC.
<https://anrweb.vt.gov/DEC/IronPIG/DownloadFile.aspx?DID=216327&DVID=0>

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 including work in the floodway, floodplain, Vermont river corridor, directional drilling under a stream, and construction in an area with a hazardous site. 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 City of Newport is located in Orleans County, Vermont in the Lake Memphremagog major watershed.

This project involves upgrading the existing 8” Gardner Park Siphon crossing under the Clyde River using cured-in-place pipe (CIPP) lining in addition to upgrading an existing downstream section of sewer lines in Gardner Park. The project also involves installing a new siphon under the Clyde River using horizontal directional drilling. The Gardner Park Siphon crossing has been identified as a priority location to upgrade to prevent failure. The project will help to avoid potential Combined Sewer Overflow into the river.

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 work in the floodway, floodplain, Vermont river corridor, directional drilling under a stream, and construction in an area with a hazardous site.

Mitigation measures include:

1. The placement of temporary gravel for heavy machinery and construction access is permitted on a temporary (180-day) basis. No staging or temporary storage of any other materials is permitted. Detail the suitable dry and wet flood-proofing measures as required by the project. Measures will preserve or reduce the pre-construction ground elevation. Flood resiliency for directional drilling under the stream will involve installing the new siphon crossing below the streambed and installing new manholes farther away from the river bank than existing structures.
2. 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.

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.

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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 on January 5, 2026, at 6:00 pm at the Newport City Council Meeting as part of this FONSI process.