



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

Ron Redmond, City Manager
Authorized Representative
City of Vergennes
120 Main Street
Vergennes, VT, 05491

1/15/2026
Expiration Date: 1/15/2031

**Re: Wastewater Treatment Facility Upgrade Project
Vermont/ USEPA Clean Water Revolving Loan Number RF1-255**

Notice of Intent to Issue a Finding of No Significant Impact

Dear Ron Redmond:

The Department of Environmental Conservation intends to issue a Finding of No Significant Impact (FNSI) for the Wastewater Treatment Facility Upgrade Project.

The project has positive environmental impacts including increasing the hydraulic treatment capacity in order to meet the requirements of the Vergennes Wastewater Treatment Facility NPDES Discharge Permit. This will ultimately help prevent contaminants from entering local water sources.

This project additionally involves impacts including an increase in the influent flow hydraulic capacity. Part of the wastewater treatment facility is additionally within the 100-year and 500-year floodplains, including the chlorine disinfection tank which must be raised in order to be above flood 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).

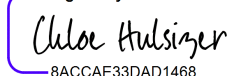
The Department's environmental review procedures require a 30-day public comment period following the issuance of a Notice of Intent to Issue a Finding of No Significant Impact. If no public comments received during that period demonstrate that this Notice of Intent is in error, then the Finding of No Significant Impact will become effective.

Ron Redmond, Authorized Representative, City of Vergennes
Wastewater Treatment Facility Upgrade
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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:


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1/16/2026

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 1/13/26, by Jeff Mercer, PE.
<https://anrweb.vt.gov/DEC/IronPIG/DownloadFile.aspx?DID=216934&DVID=0>
5. Environmental Information Document appendices, by Wright Pierce.
<https://anrweb.vt.gov/DEC/IronPIG/DownloadFile.aspx?DID=216579&DVID=0>
6. Preliminary Engineering Report entitled "*City of Vergennes Phase 3 Interim Preliminary Engineering Report*", and dated 10/16/20, by Tata & Howard.
<https://anrweb.vt.gov/DEC/IronPIG/DownloadFile.aspx?DID=188056&DVID=0>

Ron Redmond, Authorized Representative, City of Vergennes

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7. Preliminary Engineering Report amendment entitled "*Vergennes Wastewater Treatment Facility Upgrade*", and dated 2/14/22, by Hoyle Tanner.

<https://anrweb.vt.gov/DEC/IronPIG/DownloadFile.aspx?DID=209344&DVID=0>

COPY LIST

Heather Collins and Jamie Bates, Wastewater Program, VT-DEC

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

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

Victor Chaput, Jr., Chief Operator, City of Vergennes

Jennie Auster, PE, Wright Pierce

Jeff Mercer, PE, Wright Pierce

John Helgren, PE, Dianne Drown, and Thomas Lacko, USDA Rural Development

Lynnette Claudon, PE, Design Engineer, VT-DEC

Initial


1/16/2026



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 Vergennes
Wastewater Treatment Facility Upgrade**

Vermont/ USEPA Clean Water Revolving Loan Number: RF1-255

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 Wastewater Treatment Facility Upgrade Project. This project involves a hydraulic upgrade project to accommodate an increase in influent flow hydraulic capacity, and an upgrade of aging infrastructure at the existing Vergennes wastewater treatment facility. The hydraulic upgrade project includes upgrades to the headworks, intermediate pumping, and pre-equalization tanks for the Sequenced Batch Reactor (SBR). Age-related upgrades include upgrades to liquid stream and solid stream components downstream of the pre-equalization tanks.

Under the Procedure, the project is ineligible for Categorical Exclusion (CATEX) from detailed environmental review. The project involves impacts, which include an increase in the influent flow hydraulic capacity, and part of the existing wastewater treatment facility remaining within the 100-year and 500-year floodplains.

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 include sewer extensions.

City of Vergennes

Wastewater Treatment Facility UpgradeWastewater Treatment Facility Upgrade

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

- **Environmental Information Document** (EID) signed 1/13/26, by Jeff Mercer, PE, of Burlington, VT. <https://anrweb.vt.gov/DEC/IronPIG/DownloadFile.aspx?DID=216934&DVID=0>
- **Environmental Information Document Appendices**, by Wright Pierce. <https://anrweb.vt.gov/DEC/IronPIG/DownloadFile.aspx?DID=216579&DVID=0>

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

Ron Redmond, City Manager
City of Vergennes
120 Main Street
Vergennes, VT, 05491

tel. 802-877-3637
manager@vergennes.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

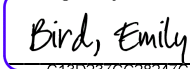
(Note: National Life requires photo identification to obtain an access badge for entry.)

Jennie Auster, PE
Wright Pierce
431 Pine Street
Burlington, VT, 05401

tel. 802-860-1331
jennifer.auster@wright-pierce.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:



Emily Bird, Director
Water Investment Division

1/16/2026

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}  1/16/2026

FROM: Chloe Hulsizer,
Environmental Analyst IV, Water Investment Division ^{Initial}  1/16/2026

SUBJECT: City of Vergennes
Wastewater Treatment Facility Upgrade Project

Evaluation of Eligibility for Finding of No Significant Impact

DATE: 1/15/2026

A. Project Identification

Project Name: City of Vergennes
Wastewater Treatment Facility Upgrade

Address: Ron Redmond, Authorized Representative
City of Vergennes
120 Main Street
Vergennes, VT, 05491

Project Location: City of Vergennes, Vermont
Vergennes is located in the Otter Creek watershed. This project will take place at the existing Vergennes Wastewater Treatment Facility, which is located at 84 Canal Street.

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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 1/13/26, by Jeff Mercer, PE.
<https://anrweb.vt.gov/DEC/IronPIG/DownloadFile.aspx?DID=216934&DVID=0>
- Environmental Information Document appendices, by Wright Pierce.
<https://anrweb.vt.gov/DEC/IronPIG/DownloadFile.aspx?DID=216579&DVID=0>
- Preliminary Engineering Report entitled “City of Vergennes Phase 3 Interim Preliminary Engineering Report”, and dated 10/16/20, by Tata & Howard.
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- Preliminary Engineering Report amendment entitled “*Vergennes Wastewater Treatment Facility Upgrade*”, and dated 2/14/22, by Hoyle Tanner.
<https://anrweb.vt.gov/DEC/IronPIG/DownloadFile.aspx?DID=209344&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 an increase in the influent flow hydraulic capacity and part of the existing wastewater treatment facility remaining within the 100-year and 500-year floodplains. 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 Vergennes is located in Addison County, Vermont in the Otter Creek watershed.

This project involves a hydraulic upgrade project to accommodate an increase in influent flow hydraulic capacity, and an upgrade of aging infrastructure at the existing Vergennes wastewater treatment facility. The hydraulic upgrade project includes upgrades to the headworks, intermediate pumping, and pre-equalization tanks for the Sequenced Batch Reactor (SBR). Age-related upgrades include upgrades to liquid stream and solid stream components downstream of the pre-equalization tanks. The project will increase the wastewater treatment facility’s ability to treat larger hydraulic flows, preventing Sewer

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System Overflow occurrences. The increase in hydraulic flow capacity will also help to meet the requirements of the Vergennes Wastewater Treatment Facility NPDES Discharge Permit, which will ultimately help prevent contaminants from entering local water sources.

This work is expected to be constructed with Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) loan and U.S. Department of Agriculture Rural Development funding.

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 an increase in the influent flow hydraulic capacity and part of the wastewater treatment facility remaining within the 100-year and 500-year floodplains. The existing chlorine disinfection tank is within the floodplains, and the walls of the tank are currently below flood elevation. Mitigation for this project which includes upgrading a wastewater treatment facility that is partially within the 100-year and 500-year floodplains, is as follows:

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 floodproofing measures as required by the project. The disinfection tank walls will be raised to be above flood elevation. 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).

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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 on January 27, 2026 in Vergennes, VT as part of this FONSI process.