



Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation

EC7 Water Investment Division

1 National Life Drive, Davis 3
Montpelier, VT 05620-3510

Agency of Natural Resources

Emmalee Cherington, Department of Public Works Director of Engineering
Authorized Representative
Town of Middlebury
77 Main Street
Middlebury, VT, 05753

6/4/2026

**Re: Town of Middlebury, WWTF Upgrade SBR Controls and Main Pump Station Project
Vermont/ USEPA Clean Water Revolving Loan Number RF1-361**

Categorical Exclusion from Detailed Environmental Review

Dear Emmalee Cherington:

The Department of Environmental Conservation has determined that the Town's proposed Town of Middlebury, WWTF Upgrade - SBR Controls and Main Pump Station Project may be excluded from the detailed environmental review procedures that are required for projects that have environmental effects. The Department's Clean Water environmental review procedures require a 30-day public comment period following the issuance of a Notice of Determination of Eligibility for Categorical Exclusion. If no public comments received during that period demonstrate that this Determination is in error, then the Categorical Exclusion exempting the project from detailed review will become effective.

Copies of documents supporting a Categorical Exclusion are enclosed. Please keep copies of the enclosed documents 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.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to send an email to Chloe.Hulsizer@Vermont.gov.

Sincerely,

Signed by:
A blue ink signature of Chloe Hulsizer.
8ACCAE33DAD1468...

6/4/2026

Chloe Hulsizer
Environmental Analyst IV
Water Investment Division

Town of Middlebury, Vermont

Page 2 of 2

WWTF Upgrade - SBR Controls and Main Pump Station

Notice of Determination of Eligibility for Categorical Exclusion from Detailed Environmental Review

Documents Enclosed for Categorical Exclusion Public Comment Period (30 days)

1. *"Notice of Determination of Eligibility for Categorical Exclusion"*
(Signed by Emily Bird, Director, Water Investment Division.)
2. *"Evaluation of Eligibility for Categorical Exclusion"*
(Approved by Emily Bird, Director, Water Investment Division.)

Additional Documents Needed for Categorical Exclusion Public Comment Period (30 days)

1. *"Environmental Review Procedures for Projects Funded Through the Vermont/EPA Revolving Loan Program"*, <https://anrweb.vt.gov/DEC/IronPIG/DownloadFile.aspx?DID=129684&DVID=0>
2. **Preliminary Engineering Report (PER)** entitled "Wastewater Treatment Facility Preliminary Engineering Report Peer Review and Amendment" and dated July 2025, by Wright-Pierce of Burlington, VT.
<https://anrweb.vt.gov/DEC/IronPIG/DownloadFile.aspx?DID=214179&DVID=0>
3. **Environmental Information Document (EID)** signed 6/4/2026, by Sarah Viola, PE, of Burlington, VT.
<https://anrweb.vt.gov/DEC/IronPIG/DownloadFile.aspx?DID=220359&DVID=0>
4. **Environmental Information Document Appendices**, by Wright-Pierce of Burlington, VT.
<https://anrweb.vt.gov/DEC/IronPIG/DownloadFile.aspx?DID=219167&DVID=0>
5. Project Review Sheet dated 8/19/2025.
<https://anrweb.vt.gov/DEC/IronPIG/DownloadFile.aspx?DID=219168&DVID=0>

COPY LIST

Jennie Auster, PE & Sarah Viola, PE, Wright-Pierce

Heather Collins & Jamie Bates, Wastewater Management Program, Watershed Management Division

Tom Brown, CWSRF Program Lead, Financial Management Section, VT-DEC-WID

Kenneth Bisceglia, PE & Lynnette Claudon, PE, Design Engineering Section, VT-DEC-WID

Initial


6/4/2026



Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation

Agency of Natural Resources

EC7 Water Investment Division

1 National Life Drive, Davis 3
Montpelier, VT 05620-3510

Notice of Determination of Eligibility for Categorical Exclusion

Town of Middlebury

Town of Middlebury, WWTF Upgrade SBR Controls and Main Pump Station Project

Vermont/ USEPA Clean Water Revolving Fund Loan Number RF1-361

In accordance with section VII of the Department's *"Environmental Review Procedures for Projects Funded Through the Vermont/ EPA Revolving Loan Program"*, the Town of Middlebury has requested that its proposed WWTF Upgrade - SBR Controls and Main Pump Station Project be evaluated for eligibility for a Categorical Exclusion from the detailed environmental review that is described in the Procedures and required for projects with significant environmental effects.

Consideration of the requests for Categorical Exclusion included a review of the following documents:

- **Environmental Information Document (EID)** signed 6/4/2026, by Sarah Viola, PE, of Burlington, VT.
<https://anrweb.vt.gov/DEC/IronPIG/DownloadFile.aspx?DID=220359&DVID=0>
- **Environmental Information Document Appendices**, by Wright-Pierce of Burlington, VT.
<https://anrweb.vt.gov/DEC/IronPIG/DownloadFile.aspx?DID=219167&DVID=0>

Upon completion of its independent evaluation, the Department has determined that the proposed project meets the criteria for issuance of a Categorical Exclusion.

Specifically, the project will not increase the permitted annual average hydraulic capacity of the existing Town of Middlebury Wastewater Treatment Facility, and it will not increase permitted pounds of pollutants that may be discharged by that plant. Also, the project will not increase the design organic treatment capacity of the wastewater treatment plant. The project will not add a new permanent discharge of stormwater or treated wastewater to surface waters or groundwater. Further, the project does not create serious local or environmental issues or meet any of the criteria that would result in denial of an Exclusion, nor does the project meet the definition of sewer extension.

Town of Middlebury, Vermont

Page 2 of 2

WWTF Upgrade - SBR Controls and Main Pump Station

Notice of Determination of Eligibility for Categorical Exclusion from Detailed Environmental Review

Further information on the project and this Determination is available for inspection at the following locations:

Emmalee Cherington, Department of Public Works Director of Engineering telephone (802) 388-4045
Town of Middlebury echerington@townofmiddlebury.org
77 Main Street
Middlebury, VT, 05753

Chloe Hulsizer tel. (802) 522-3562
Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation Chloe.Hulsizer@Vermont.gov
Water Investment Division
1 National Life Drive, Main 2
Montpelier, VT 05620-3510

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

Sarah Viola, PE tel. (603) 570-7129
Wright-Pierce sarah.viola@wright-pierce.com
431 Pine Street Suite G01
Burlington, VT, 05401

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

6/4/2026
Date

Department of Environmental Conservation
Vermont Agency of Natural Resources



Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation

EC7 Water Investment Division

1 National Life Drive
Main Building, 2ND Floor
Montpelier, VT 05620-3510

Agency of Natural Resources

TO: Emily Bird, Director, Water Investment Division ^{Initial}  6/4/2026

FROM: Chloe Hulsizer
Environmental Analyst IV, Water Investment Division ^{Initial}  6/4/2026

SUBJECT: Town of Middlebury
WWTF Upgrade - SBR Controls and Main Pump Station Project

Evaluation of Eligibility for Categorical Exclusion
from Detailed Environmental Review

DATE: 6/4/2026

A. Project Identification

Project Name: WWTF Upgrade - SBR Controls and Main Pump Station Project

Address:

Emmalee Cherington, Department of Public Works Director of Engineering
Authorized Representative
Town of Middlebury
77 Main Street
Middlebury, VT, 05753

Project Location: This project involves upgrades at the Main Pump Station on Lucius Shaw Lane and the Wastewater Treatment Facility on Industrial Avenue in Middlebury, VT. Middlebury is located in the Otter Creek watershed.

Vermont/ USEPA Clean Water Revolving Loan Number RF1-361

To preserve, enhance, restore, and conserve Vermont's natural resources, and protect human health, for the benefit of this and future generations.



Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation

EC7 Water Investment Division

1 National Life Drive

Main Building, 2ND Floor

Montpelier, VT 05620-3510

Agency of Natural Resources

B. Summary of Environmental Review

In accordance with section VII of the Department's *"Environmental Review Procedures for Projects Funded Through the Vermont/EPA Revolving Loan Program"*, the Town of Middlebury has requested that the proposed WWTF Upgrade SBR Controls and Main Pump Station Project be evaluated for eligibility for a Categorical Exclusion from the detailed environmental review that is described in the Procedures and required for projects with significant environmental effects.

The applicant's request and the following planning documents have been reviewed, and our findings are summarized below:

- Environmental Information Document (EID) signed 6/4/2026, by Sarah Viola, PE, of Burlington, VT. <https://anrweb.vt.gov/DEC/IronPIG/DownloadFile.aspx?DID=220359&DVID=0>
- Environmental Information Document Appendices, by Wright-Pierce of Burlington, VT. <https://anrweb.vt.gov/DEC/IronPIG/DownloadFile.aspx?DID=219167&DVID=0>

1. Project Description

The Town of Middlebury is located in Addison County, Vermont.

This project involves upgrades to the SBR controls at the Middlebury Wastewater Treatment Facility and upgrades at the Main Pump Station. Upgrades at the Main Pump Station include replacement of the influent screen; replacement of the emergency generator; the installation of a new control panel; and architectural, HVAC, and electrical upgrades. Upgrades to the SBR controls include the replacement of the decant valve actuators, the installation of new radar level elements, the replacement of the control panel, and the installation of new SCADA servers. The upgrades involved in this project are necessary to meet the requirements of the Middlebury WWTF NPDES effluent permit, and to ensure reliable function of the wastewater treatment processes to protect public health by replacing items that are at the end of their expected useful life. The project will additionally protect environmental health by replacing equipment that is close to failure and therefore preventing the discharge of untreated wastewater.

To preserve, enhance, restore, and conserve Vermont's natural resources, and protect human health, for the benefit of this and future generations.

Town of Middlebury

WWTF Upgrade - SBR Controls and Main Pump Station

Evaluation of Eligibility for Categorical Exclusion from Detailed Environmental Review

6/4/2026

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 Categorical Exclusion

We have determined that the proposed project meets the criteria for issuance of a Categorical Exclusion.

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 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.

The project is not expected to adversely affect wetlands, wetlands buffer zones, floodplains, historic sites, archeological sites, habitats of threatened or endangered species, or other environmentally or culturally sensitive areas.

The project does not involve serious local or environmental issues or meet any of the criteria that would result in denial of a Categorical Exclusion.