



Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation

EC7 Water Investment Division

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

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

Agency of Natural Resources

6/30/2026

**Re: City of Vergennes, McDonough Drive Contract No. 1, Pump Station Project
Vermont/ USEPA Clean Water Revolving Loan Number RF1-368**

Categorical Exclusion from Detailed Environmental Review

Dear Ron:

The Department of Environmental Conservation has determined that the City's proposed City of Vergennes, McDonough Drive 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 handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Chloe Hulsizer".

6/30/2026

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Chloe Hulsizer

Environmental Analyst IV
Water Investment Division

City of Vergennes, Vermont

Page 2 of 7

Macdonough Drive Contract No. 1, Pump Station Project**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 "Preliminary Engineering Report for the City of Vergennes Macdonough Drive Pump Station and Force Main Refurbishment" and dated August 10, 2023, by Hoyle Tanner of Burlington, VT.
<https://anrweb.vt.gov/DEC/IronPIG/DownloadFile.aspx?DID=209342&DVID=0>
3. **Environmental Information Document (EID)** signed 6/12/2026, by Jeff Mercer, PE, of Burlington, VT.
<https://anrweb.vt.gov/DEC/IronPIG/DownloadFile.aspx?DID=220470&DVID=0>
4. **Environmental Information Document Appendices**, by Wright-Pierce.
<https://anrweb.vt.gov/DEC/IronPIG/DownloadFile.aspx?DID=220654&DVID=0>
5. **Project Review Sheet** dated 8/14/2023.
<https://anrweb.vt.gov/DEC/IronPIG/DownloadFile.aspx?DID=219641&DVID=0>

COPY LIST**Jennie Auster, PE, Jeff Mercer, PE & Emily Hall**, Wright-Pierce**Heather Collins & Jamie Bates**, Wastewater Management Program, Watershed Management Division**Tom Brown**, CWSRF Program Lead, Financial Management Section, VT-DEC-WID**Don Haddox**, Design and Construction Engineering Program Manager**Winn Wilson & Lynnette Claudon, PE**, Design Engineering Section, VT-DEC-WID

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6/30/2026



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

Notice of Determination of Eligibility for Categorical Exclusion

City of Vergennes

City of Vergennes, McDonough Drive Pump Station Project

Vermont/ USEPA Clean Water Revolving Fund Loan Number RF1-368

In accordance with section VII of the Department's *"Environmental Review Procedures for Projects Funded Through the Vermont/ EPA Revolving Loan Program"*, the City of Vergennes has requested that its proposed McDonough Drive 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 6/12/2026, by Jeff Mercer, PE.
<https://anrweb.vt.gov/DEC/IronPIG/DownloadFile.aspx?DID=220470&DVID=0>
- **Environmental Information Document Appendices**, by Wright-Pierce.
<https://anrweb.vt.gov/DEC/IronPIG/DownloadFile.aspx?DID=220654&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 City of Vergennes Wastewater Treatment Facility (WWTF), 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 equivalent population 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.



Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation

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EC7 Water Investment Division

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

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

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

telephone (802) 877-3637
manager@vergennes.org

Chloe Hulsizer
Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation
Water Investment Division
1 National Life Drive, Main 2
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, Suite G01
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:

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Emily Bird".

Emily Bird, Director

Water Investment Division

7/1/2026

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
EB 7/1/2026

FROM: Chloe Hulsizer
Environmental Analyst IV, Water Investment Division Initial
CH 6/30/2026

SUBJECT: City of Vergennes
McDonough Drive Pump Station Project

Evaluation of Eligibility for Categorical Exclusion
from Detailed Environmental Review

DATE: 6/30/2026

A. Project Identification

Project Name: McDonough Drive Pump Station Project

Address:

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

Project Location: This project involves the relocation and decommissioning of the McDonough Drive Pump Station, which is located on McDonough Drive in Vergennes, VT. The new pump station structure will be located further from the river on the same site. The project is located in the Otter Creek watershed.

Vermont/ USEPA Clean Water Revolving Loan Number RF1-368

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

City of Vergennes, Vermont**Page 6 of 7****Macdonough Drive Contract No. 1, Pump Station Project****Notice of Determination of Eligibility for Categorical Exclusion from Detailed Environmental Review****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 City of Vergennes has requested that the proposed McDonough Drive 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 document have been reviewed, and our findings are summarized below:

- Environmental Information Document (EID) signed 6/12/2026, by Jeff Mercer, PE.
<https://anrweb.vt.gov/DEC/IronPIG/DownloadFile.aspx?DID=220470&DVID=0>
- Environmental Information Document Appendices, by Wright-Pierce.
<https://anrweb.vt.gov/DEC/IronPIG/DownloadFile.aspx?DID=220654&DVID=0>

1. Project Description

The City of Vergennes is located in Addison County, Vermont.

This project involves the construction of a new pump station structure and the demolition and decommissioning of the existing pump station. This includes the installation of Gorman-Rupp suction lift dry weather pumps and flooded-suction dry pit submersible wet weather pumps within the new pump station. The existing pump station is located just outside of the 100-year floodplain, and the new pump station will be located further outside of the 100-year and 500-year floodplains. The pump station needs to be upgraded due to the large number of CSO events contaminating the lower segment of the Otter Creek. The project will allow the Pump Station to handle larger volumes of wastewater and prevent sewer overflow events.

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.

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

City of Vergennes

McDonough Drive Pump Station

Evaluation of Eligibility for Categorical Exclusion from Detailed Environmental Review

6/30/2026

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.