



Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation

Agency of Natural Resources

EC7 WATER INVESTMENT DIVISION
National Life Building, DAVIS 3
1 National Life Drive
Montpelier, VT 05620-3510
FAX: (802)828-1552

Melissa Manka
Planning Coordinator & Authorized Representative
Town of Westford
1713 VT Rte 128
Westford, Vermont 05494

1/13/2023
Expiration Date: 1/13/2028

**Re: CWSRF Finding of No Significant Impact and Approval of Facilities Plan
Westford Community Wastewater System Project
Vermont/USEPA Clean Water Revolving Loan Number RF1-267**

Dear Ms. Manka:

The Water Investment Division has completed its review of the following facilities planning documents:

- Environmental Information Document, “*Environmental Information Document and Environmental Report, Westford Community Wastewater Disposal System,*” and dated 10/5/2022, prepared by Amy Macrellis of Stone Environmental, and signed 10/7/2022 by the Town of Westford.
<https://anrweb.vt.gov/DEC/IronPIG/DownloadFile.aspx?DID=196794&DVID=0>
- Environmental Report, titled “*Westford Community Wastewater Disposal System Environmental Information Document, CWSRF Loan Number RF1-267-1.0,*” and dated 5/20/2021, amended 9/2022, prepared by Amy Macrellis of Stone Environmental.
<https://anrweb.vt.gov/DEC/IronPIG/DownloadFile.aspx?DID=196795&DVID=0>
- Preliminary Engineering Report entitled “*Westford Community Wastewater Disposal System,*” and dated 5/21/2021, signed by Brad Washburn, PE, of Green Mountain Engineering.
<https://anrweb.vt.gov/DEC/IronPIG/DownloadFile.aspx?DID=196797&DVID=0>
- Draft Supplemental Preliminary Engineering Report titled “*Community Wastewater Disposal System,*” and dated 2/2022 prepared by Brad Washburn, PE, of Green Mountain Engineering.
<https://anrweb.vt.gov/DEC/IronPIG/DownloadFile.aspx?DID=196796&DVID=0>
- Project Review Sheet 8/5/2021.
<https://anrweb.vt.gov/DEC/IronPIG/DownloadFile.aspx?DID=196793&DVID=0>

On 10/14/2022, the Water Investment Division determined that this project qualifies for a Finding of No Significant Impact (FNSI) from Detailed Environmental Review that is required for federally funded projects. A public hearing regarding the FNSI was held during a planning commission meeting on 10/17/2022. The 30-day public comment period for the FNSI for this project ended on 11/13/2022, and comments regarding the *To preserve, enhance, restore, and conserve Vermont's natural resources, and protect human health, for the benefit of this and future generations.*

environmental effects of the project were received by this Division. On 1/13/2023, the Division prepared the *FNSI Public Comment Responsiveness Summary* in response to the comments received and posting summary to the Division's website.

Based on the Division's review of the above-mentioned documents and in consideration of the public comments received, the Division will require the Town implement the following mitigation requirements as part of the Westford Community Wastewater System Project:

- 1. Wetlands have been delineated within the project area. Impact to wetlands will be kept to a minimum during final design. Where activity in a wetland and wetland buffer is unavoidable, mitigation measures will be identified during permitting through the Wetlands Program and implementation will be required. If the wetlands do not require a permit, the minimum mitigation is to flag off the wetland and wetland buffer to help avoid impacts during construction. Wetlands permits and mitigation measures shall be included in the Special Conditions of the construction contract documents.**
- 2. Encountering grassland nesting migratory birds in the disposal field area is a possibility; therefore, a detailed desktop review will be needed during final design. If grassland nesting migratory birds or their habitat are identified, an ornithologist will be required to determine appropriate mitigation measures. The mitigation measures will be implemented and included in the Special Conditions of the construction contract documents.**
- 3. Disturbance within lawn areas will be minimized to limit impacts to historical/archaeological sensitive areas identified during the Phase I evaluation dated January 2021. Where impacts to those identified areas are unavoidable during final design, a Phase IB assessment will be completed and submitted to State Historical Preservation Office (SHPO) for their review. If SHPO requires mitigation measures, those will be included in the Special Conditions of the construction contract documents.**
- 4. A Phase IB assessment will be completed at the north end of the community wastewater disposal area on the Maple Shade Town Forest site and submitted to SHPO for their review. Phase II investigation will be conducted if found warranted by SHPO. If SHPO requires mitigation measures, those will be included in the Special Conditions of the construction contract documents.**
- 5. Prime agricultural soils have been identified in the project area of the Maple Shade Town Forest parcel. Concurrence with USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) will be needed regarding the impacts to prime agricultural soils during final design. Where disturbance within the known area is unavoidable during construction, mitigation measures will be identified by NRCS and must be provided in the Special Conditions of the construction contract documents.**
- 6. One brownfield site, one hazardous site, and urban soils have been identified in the project area. Minimization of impacts to contaminated soil and groundwater will be considered during final design. Where disturbance within the known contamination zones is unavoidable, collaboration between Sites Management Section (SMS), CWSRF staff, and project consultant will be required. Mitigation measures required by SMS, including a soils management plan, shall be developed within the final design, and provided in the Special Conditions of the construction contract documents. Soils management plan shall also include mitigation measures related to soil contaminated with snake worms.**

Additional Requirements


- 7. Ledge removal by blasting methods may be necessary during construction. As part of construction and for drinking water wells determined to be potentially impacted by any blasting zone, pre- and post-blasting surveys, site visits with property owners, and if requested by the property owner, drinking water well sampling and analysis will be conducted. These provisions shall be included within Technical Specifications and noted in the Special Conditions of the construction contract documents.**

The Water Investment Division hereby approves the above referenced documents as a completed facilities plan for the Westford Community Wastewater System Project. This approval is made in conformance with the State (Clean Water) Revolving Fund Operating Agreement between the State of Vermont and the USEPA, Region 1, dated June 29, 2022.

This FNSI and facilities plan approval, along with future approval of final design and construction contract documents, is required to qualify the Town of Westford for CWSRF construction funding. Such funding may or may not be available when the Town of Westford is ready to proceed with construction of this project.

Please call Emily H. Hackett at (802) 261-0288 or Emily.Hackett@vermont.gov if you have any questions regarding this Finding of No Significant Impact and Facilities Plan approval.

Sincerely,

DocuSigned by:

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Eric Blatt, PE
Director of Engineering
Water Investment Division

Electronic copies:

Bryan Harrington, Indirect Discharge Program, VT-DEC-DWGWPD
Achouak Arfaoui, Indirect Discharge Program, VT-DEC-DWGWPD (ARPA)
Allison Lowry, Regional Engineer, VT-DEC-DWGWPD
Scott Dillon and Elizabeth Peebles, Division for Historic Preservation, ACCD
Elijah Schumacher, Wetlands Program, VT-DEC-WMD
Kimberly Caldwell, Sites Management Section, VT-DEC-WMPD
Everett Marshall, Wildlife Division, VT Department of Fish and Wildlife
Andy Wood, Wildlife Division, VT Department of Fish and Wildlife (ARPA)
Kevin Anderson, ARPA Planner, VT-ANR-OP
Amy Macrellis, Stone Environmental
Peter Lazorchak, PE, Stone Environmental
Quin Mann, The Clark Group (NBRC)
Representative Alyssa Black, Chittenden-24 House Representative
Representative Julia Andrews, Chittenden-25 House Representative
Neil Kamman, Director, VT-DEC-WID
Jeff Fehrs, PE, Supervisor, Design and Construction Engineering Section, VT-DEC-WID
Thomas Brown, CWSRF Program Lead, VT-DEC-WID

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