



VERMONT

ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION

EnvRep-103

Drinking Water and Groundwater Protection Division

Environmental Report

Water System Name _____ WSID No. _____

State Assigned Loan Number _____ Date _____

I.) Please provide below a brief description of the project including the purpose and need as detailed in the Preliminary Engineering Report.

The level of detail and the amount of information provided in this environmental report should be commensurate with the magnitude of construction activities and their potential impact on environmental and historical resources. If, for example, a project is likely to have no or very minimal effects, the project representative needs to formally request a Categorical Exclusion in Section V, make simple statements in the spaces provided in Section VI, and attach any additional information like a qualified consultant assessment or determination letters and permits from regulatory authorities. Projects limited to the existing footprint of a building (e.g., a UV disinfection project) will not need to submit an environmental report at all (not applicable to USDA funding).

A more involved and complex project will go through the same review checklist but there will need to be more analysis, explanation, and documentation provided before DWSRF staff can issue a Categorical Exclusion or a Finding of No Significant Impact (FNSI). Please note that if the project doesn't meet the Categorical Exclusion criteria mentioned in VII.d.1 of the State Environmental Review Process the project representative shall describe the consequences of a specific activity on a specific resource and establish and discuss any mitigation measure(s) necessary to avoid or minimize any adverse impacts to an environmental or historical resource (see Section VII of this report).

Even though applicants are required to integrate and consider environmental and historical values during a proposed project's planning and design, it is the DWSRF's ultimate responsibility to independently evaluate and verify accuracy of information supplied in this environmental report. The DWSRF takes final responsibility for the scope and content of this environmental report. In order to expedite the application process and DWSRF review and approval of a proposed project, applicants are strongly encouraged to consult early and frequently with our staff to ensure that all environmental issues are described, evaluated, and impacts appropriately considered. If a determination is made that an Environmental Impact Statement is required, the DWSRF will be responsible for initiating the preparation of this document by a third-party.

Through a memorandum of understanding between United States Department of Agriculture-Rural Development and the Vermont Agency of Natural Resources this environmental report format is acceptable to both funding agencies. However, please note that Categorical Exclusion eligibility, public comment, and public notice requirements may differ between the two funding agencies.

II.) Will the project expand capacity to serve more than 500 additional users or a 30% increase in the existing population, whichever is greater? YES NO

III.) Will the project take place in an area designated by the Environmental Protection Agency as a Sole Source Aquifer? YES NO

IV.) Does the project call for a new withdrawal of groundwater or surface water? YES NO

V.) Will the project result in a 30% increase in groundwater or surface water withdrawal at an existing site? YES NO

VI.) Do you believe your project qualifies for a Categorical Exclusion in accordance with the Environmental Review Procedures for projects funded through the Vermont/EPA Drinking Water Revolving Loan Program based on the following environmental information and documentation?
 YES NO

If yes, please fill out only Section VI below. If no, you must fill out Sections VI and VII for all affected environmental and historical considerations (essentially if you answer "yes" in Section VI you will need to follow-up with mitigation measures or an alternative action plan in Section VII)

VI.) Environmental and Archeological Checklist

<u>Considerations</u>	<u>Yes or No</u>	<u>*Basis for Determination and Documentation</u>
A.) <u>Wetlands/Water Resources</u> Will there be construction in Class II or III wetlands?		<i>A qualified consultant's assessment and/or the regulatory authority's determination must be attached for any construction in wetlands. For any new construction please provide the wetlands classification/delineation.</i>

<p>B.) <u>Floodplains</u> Will the project involve construction in a floodplain or impact floodplain development?</p>		<p><i>A detailed description of floodplain construction and a qualified consultant's assessment and/or the regulatory authority's determination must be attached. Show locations of all utility infrastructure on the Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM).</i></p>
<p>C.) <u>Stream Alterations</u> Will the project involve construction in a stream?</p>		<p><i>A qualified consultant's assessment and/or the regulatory authority's determination must be attached for construction in streams.</i></p>
<p>D.) <u>Endangered Species</u> Is the project likely to adversely affect an endangered or threatened species?</p>		<p><i>A qualified consultant's assessment and/or the regulatory authority's determination must be attached demonstrating compliance with US Fish & Wildlife guidance.</i> (http://www.fws.gov/newengland/EndangeredSpec-Consultation.htm)</p>
<p>E.) <u>Historic Preservation</u> Will the project adversely affect cultural resources such as archeological or historic sites?</p>		<p><i>A qualified consultant's assessment and/or the State Historic Preservation Officer's determination must be attached. Please include copies of archeological reports and subsequent phases as needed.</i></p>

<p>F.) <u>Wild and Scenic Recreational Rivers</u> Is the project within a quarter-mile of a river on the National Park Service's Nationwide Rivers Inventory? Will the project impact a wild, scenic or recreational river area and create conditions inconsistent with the character of the river?</p>		<p><i>For a listing of rivers on the Nationwide Rivers Inventory please visit the following website: http://www.nps.gov/ncrc/programs/rtca/nri/states/vt.html)</i></p>
<p>G.) <u>Public Lands</u> Will the project adversely impact formally-classified local, state, and federal lands (e.g., parks, natural areas, wildlife management areas, and wilderness areas)?</p>		
<p>H.) <u>Farmland</u> Will the project convert Agricultural Soils to non-agricultural uses?</p>		<p><i>Projects that convert Agricultural soils will require a determination by both the Vermont State Department of Agriculture and the Natural Resource Conservation Service (Farmland Protection Policy Act; please reference the AD-1006 Farmland Conversion Impact Rating).</i></p>
<p>I.) <u>NEPA</u> Is there a controversy with respect to environmental effects of the project based on reasonable and substantial issues?</p>		

<p>J.) <u>NEPA</u> Is the project significantly greater in scope than normal projects for the area?</p>		
<p>K.) <u>NEPA</u> Does the project have significant unusual characteristics?</p>		
<p>L.) <u>NEPA</u> Does the project establish a precedent for future action or represent a decision in principle about future actions with potentially significant environmental effects (cumulative impact based on current information)?</p>		
<p>M.) <u>NEPA</u> Does the project have significant adverse direct or indirect effects on parkland, other public lands, or areas of recognized scenic or recreational value?</p>		
<p>N.) Will the project provide new water facilities to serve populations of over 2000 persons?</p>		

O.) Is the project known or expected to have a significant negative effect on the quality of the human environment? Is there potential for significant changes to the socio-economic make-up of the area? Is the project cost-effective?		
P.) Is additional Land Use and Development Act (Act 250) review and approval necessary?		<i>A copy of the District Environmental Commission determination on Act 250 permit requirements must be attached.</i>
Q.) Will the project cause other significant environmental impacts?		

VII.) Mitigation Measures and/or Alternative Plans of Action (if applicable, in order to minimize adverse effects)

<u>Affected Environmental or Archeological Resources</u>	<u>Mitigation Measures or Alternative Plan of Action</u>
A.)	

*Basis for Determination and Documentation

The basis for determination and documentation information must be traceable and establish the factual data to support the response to each question. Any environmental concerns that are raised by federal, state, or local agencies or the public must be addressed as completely as possible and resolved before the environmental report will be considered complete. All supporting documentation (e.g., correspondence and exhibits) should be attached and easily cross-referenced back into the main body of the environmental report. Types of information to be included in this column are outlined below.

1. **FIELD OBSERVATION:** A site visit that does not usually involve any testing or measurements. FIELD OBSERVATION is an important method for initial screening of the issues, but for some of the categories it may be inadequate for final evaluation. Support documentation should include date of the site visit and by whom.
2. **PERSONAL CONTACT:** Personal contacts are useful when the individual contacted is an accepted authority on the subject(s) and the interview is documented. Supporting documentation should include the name, organization, and title of the person contacted and the date of the conversation. *Copies of written site inspection reports and determinations by regulatory authorities on applicability of regulations and permit requirements should be attached.*
3. **PRINTED MATERIALS:** These are useful sources of detailed information, materials such as comprehensive land use plans, maps, statistical surveys, and studies. Information must be current, i.e., not so old that changing conditions make them irrelevant and must represent accepted methodologies. Citations for the material should include enough information so that an outside reviewer can locate the specific reference.
4. **SPECIAL STUDY:** This is a study conducted for an individual factor or resource, and should be performed by a qualified person using accepted methodologies. Some tests are relatively simple to perform but others may require elaborate equipment or personnel with additional expertise. The preparer is responsible for obtaining assistance from others in order to have the appropriate test or studies conducted. Copy of the study must be appended or referenced as for Printed Materials.
5. **CONTRIBUTOR EXPERIENCE:** The professional judgment of the persons contributing to this environmental report can be useful provided their expertise is relevant. The contributor may have previous knowledge from familiarity with the area, or may have professional background to make judgments about a specific factor. Provide information of the person's qualification in addition to name, organization and position.

Honorable Peter Shumlin, Governor Deb Markowitz, ANR Secretary David Mears, DEC Commissioner

This guidance and related environmental information are available electronically via the internet. For information visit us through the Vermont Homepage at <http://www.vermont.gov> or visit VT WSD directly at <http://www.vermontdrinkingwater.org>

Drinking Water and Groundwater Protection Division
1 National Life Dr. Main floor 2
Montpelier, VT 05620-3521
Toll free 1-800-823-6500
Fax 1-802-828-1541