

**DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Rural Development**

Lower Bartlett Water Precinct: Notice of Finding of No Significant Impact

AGENCY: Rural Development, USDA

ACTION: Notice of Finding of No Significant Impact.

SUMMARY: USDA Rural Development has made a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) with respect to a request for possible financing assistance to **Lower Bartlett Water Precinct (LBWP)** for the construction of the FY 23 Sewage Collection project in Carroll County, New Hampshire.

FURTHER INFORMATION: To obtain copies of the EA and FONSI, or for further information, contact: Andrea Ansevin-Allen, Community Programs Specialist, 603-223-6057. The EA and FONSI are also available for public review at USDA Rural Development, 10 Ferry Street, Concord Center Suite 218, Concord, NH 03301-5004.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The proposed project consists of **the design and construction of a centralized sewer collection system to the North Conway Water Precinct WWTF with a conventional gravity system focused on the well head protection area including the northwest area of the Precinct (Route 16/302, Fox Run Road, BirchLea Loop, Intervale Lane, Meadowood Ln, and Rte. 16A)**. Alternatives considered by Horizons Engineers and LBWP include: No action; Alternatives - STEP, Low Pressure, Conventional Gravity/Force Main. The alternatives are discussed in the FY 23 Sewage Collection project EA. The USDA has reviewed and approved the EA for the proposed project.

The availability of the EA for public review was announced via notice in the following: Lower Bartlett Water Precinct on 3/20/23 through 4/4/23 and Conway Daily Sun on March 23-25, 2023. A 14-day comment period was announced in the public notices. The EA was also available for public review at the USDA Rural Development office and website as well as LBWP offices. No comments were received, one request for the EA and a clearer map was addressed.

Based on its EA, commitments made by LBWP, and no public comments received, USDA RD has concluded that the project would have no significant impact (or no impacts) to water quality, wetlands, floodplains, land use, aesthetics, transportation, or human health and safety.

USDA RD has invoked use of the National Programmatic Agreement to complete Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act. The Agency has also concluded that the proposed project is not likely to affect federally listed threatened and endangered species or designated critical habitat thereof. The proposed project would not disproportionately affect minority and/or low-income populations.

No other potential significant impacts resulting from the proposed project have been identified. Therefore, USDA Rural Development has determined that this FONSI fulfills its obligations under the National Environmental Policy Act, as amended (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.), the Council on Environmental Quality Regulations (40 CFR §§ 1500-1508), and USDA Rural Development's Environmental Policies and Procedures (7 CFR Part 1970) for its action related to the project.

USDA Rural Development is satisfied that the environmental impacts of the proposed project have been adequately addressed. USDA Rural Development federal action would not result in significant impacts to the quality of the human environment, and as such it will not prepare an Environmental Impact Statement for its action related to the proposed project.

Dated: April 5, 2023