

# VERMONT

## Regulator's Update

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# PFAS

- [December 2023 update of VT PFAS Roadmap](#)
  - Reduce or Eliminate PFAS in Commercial Products and Industrial Uses
  - Identify Sources of PFAS Exposure in Vermont
  - Protect Vermonters from Existing Exposures to PFAS
  - Encourage EPA to Provide National Leadership on the Management of PFAS
- Monitoring all 92 POTW discharges
  - Started September 2023
- Pretreatment permit requiring landfill leachate pilot study

# Increased Monitoring in WWTF permits

- Continuing to implement 2021 Permit Quality Review
- WET, metals, aluminum
- Priority pollutants with WET for majors
- Ambient monitoring when low dilution or contributing to impairment
- Goal = science-based decision-making.

# Stormwater

- New Program Manager: [Kevin Burke](#)
- Program will be reissuing the NPDES Multi-Sector General Permit (MSGP) for industrial stormwater discharges.
  - slated for public notice in early 2024, for reissuance in 2024.
- Program continues to implement 3-acre site permit requirements for phosphorus and stormwater-impaired watersheds, which includes the Lake Champlain and Lake Memphremagog watersheds.
- Draft amendments to the Vermont Stormwater Management Manual completed public notice in 2023. Program is reviewing and considering public comments received and anticipates adoption of changes, following review, in 2024.

# 2023 Flooding



Summary of Damages to Wastewater Treatment Plants from July 2023 Flooding.

**Bold Facilities** had similar damage during December 2023 flood.

Impact	Damage	Facilities
High	Facility Flooded	<b>Johnson (not as bad as July)</b> Ludlow Hardwick
High	River Crossing Line Break from Debris in River	Johnson Burlington Springfield
Medium	Flooding or Overflowing Pump Stations	Middlebury Johnson Orleans Barre City Hardwick Waterbury Barton <b>Bethel</b> <b>Richmond</b> <b>Fair Haven</b> <b>Jeffersonville</b> <b>Johnson</b> <b>Montpelier</b>
Medium	Line Break in Collection System	Ludlow Marshfield Cabot

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Impact	Damage	Facilities
Medium-Low	Operate in "Storm Mode" - Reduction of Treatment Due to High Flows	Middlebury Barre City <b>Waterbury</b> <b>Barton</b> Bridgewater <b>Brandon</b> Randolph Quechee Cabot <b>Richmond</b> Poultney Plainfield Montpelier
Low	River Water Backing Up into Facility Through Outfall	Montpelier Orleans Plainfield <b>Wallingford</b>
Low	Equipment Malfunction from Overuse During Flood	Woodstock

# Funding:

Flood Recovery

IUP Schedule

Working with the Engineering Consulting Community



# Flood Response \$

- Treasurer Pieciak and Gov. Scott announced a \$15M bridge funding program supported under the 10% for Vermont program. This provides very low-cost financing, including financing to restructure existing flood-related water infrastructure debt already taken on by affected communities. This is being administered by the Vermont Municipal Bond Bank (VMBB).
- DEC is in the process of making available nearly \$7M in no-cost interim financing to flood affected communities to meet immediate expenses associated with FEMA eligible water infrastructure fixes. These funds will be available in the coming month, also to be administered by VMBB.
  - Funds repaid to VMBB under the DEC program will be subsequently made available to small drinking water systems in the form of grants or 100% subsidized loans.
- Through the State Revolving Loan Funds, DEC is making 100% subsidized loans for water infrastructure engineering studies for recovery available to flood impacted communities
- The USDA's Rural Development Program also provides grants for flood recovery planning.
- USDA-RD is a strong funding partner of DEC, and both organizations are available to meet jointly with any affected municipality, to evaluate and optimize options for long-term funding and financing.
- Further information: [Neil.Kamman@Vermont.gov](mailto:Neil.Kamman@Vermont.gov)

# FY24 Intended Use Plan Schedule

- The FFY25 priority list application window ran 11/17/23 to 1/16/24. The priority list is mechanism by which State Revolving Loan Fund applicants signal their intent to pursue infrastructure projects.
- Draft IUPs release and public hearing notice (public comment begins) - March 2024
- IUPs public hearing (location TBD) - April 2024
- IUPs public comment period closes - April 2024
- Final IUPs release - May 2024
- Loans available beginning July 2024

# Discussion series between consulting engineering community and DEC- Water Investment Division

- *Influx of ARPA and Bipartisan Infrastructure Law funding, WID has seen a record number of applications and record levels of demand*
- *Several municipalities have expressed concerns with the pace of approval of loans, or once a project is underway, review of construction-phase documents or pay requests.*
- *To address this WID has committed to a number of efforts to restore prior levels of service. These include:*
  - *a. A commitment to a reduction in the time needed to assign and review Engineering Service Agreements. This has already been communicated to the engineering community.*
  - *b. Onboarding of three new staff in the Water Infrastructure Finance Program, with one recruitment underway*
  - *c. A wholesale new-build of the database underlying the SRF, which will allow users a consistent portal to submit documents, track loan approvals, and track projects through the construction and loan closeout phases.*
  - *d. Commitment to an ongoing dialogue with the engineering community that supports municipal engagement with SRF, including consideration of standardized scopes of work for Engineering Service Agreements, and reliance on consulting PE's stamps for final design plans and specifications.*

# Workforce Challenges

- **Wastewater Facility Operators, Staffing turnover at State of Vermont, Engineering firms**
- Participating in **Work for Water New England (NEWWA/NEWEA)**
- Coordinating statewide efforts through the **Vermont Water Workforce Workgroup** –creating internship opportunities
- Partnering with **VT Works for Women** on job shadowing, internships, and outreach related to the water industry
- Ramped up efforts to target UVM, VT State University schools, and Tech Centers – likely doing focus groups in next few months
- Encourage systems to do their own outreach in their own communities to promote career opportunities
- Job fairs, career panels, youth environmental days, and anywhere else we might be able to recruit the new generation of operators
- VRWA has 20 registered apprentices and will continue to work with utilities on recruitment and retention of all employees
- Working with local legislators to introduce bills to elevate our industry and label operators as first responders and emergency management personnel

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