



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 2
290 BROADWAY
NEW YORK, NY 10007-1866

JAN 11 2006

Honorable Richard Platten, Mayor
Village of Jordan
P.O. Box 561, 7 Mechanic Street
Jordan, New York 13080

Dear Mayor Platten:

This is to inform you that the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has determined that the proposed improvements to the Village of Jordan wastewater treatment plant in Onondaga County, New York are categorically excluded (CATEX) from substantive environmental review requirements, pursuant to 40 CFR Part 6. The project is being partially funded through a federal Special Appropriation Act grant (Grant No. XP972927.)

Based on our review of the supporting documentation, EPA approves the request for the CATEX. Please be reminded that EPA may revoke this CATEX if any of the following conditions occur:

- changes in the proposed action render it ineligible for exclusion;
- new evidence indicates that serious local or environmental issues exist; or
- federal, state, or local laws would be violated.

Should you have any questions regarding this decision, please address them to John Filippelli, Chief, Strategic Planning and Multi-Media Programs Branch, at the above address.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Alan J. Steinberg".

Alan J. Steinberg
Regional Administrator

Enclosure

cc: P. Pastella, P.E. (w/enclosure)

ENCLOSURE

**Village of Jordan
Wastewater Treatment Plant Improvements
Onondaga County, New York
Special Appropriation Grant Project No. XP972927**

Background

The Village of Jordan owns and operates a wastewater treatment plant with a capacity of 160,000 gallons per day that has been in service since 1983. The plant discharges to Skaneateles Creek, a C(T) classified stream, indicating that it supports fisheries and is suitable for non-contact activities. In recent years, the plant has failed to maintain compliance with its New York State Pollution Discharge Elimination System (SPDES) permit discharge limits. As such, the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) placed the Village under a Consent Order in June 2003. The Consent Order requires the Village to restore the plant's performance to comply with its SPDES permit.

Proposed Action

The proposed improvements consist of replacement of the media and appurtenances (shafts and drives) in the two existing, 20 year-old rotating biological contactors (RBC) with an improved non-clogging design. In addition, a new 25,000 gallon concrete sludge storage tank will be constructed on the existing treatment plant grounds, with half of the tank's 16.5 foot height being below grade.

Alternatives Considered

The following alternatives were evaluated:

Alternative 1: No action - This was rejected because it will not provide for compliance with the NYSDEC's SPDES requirements, as the discharge permit limits cannot be met.

Alternative 2: Clean existing RBC's - Past attempts to clean the media in-place did not restore performance or result in compliance with the SPDES discharge permit limits.

Alternative 3: Proposed Action - The proposed action calls for replacement of the media and appurtenances in the two RBC's, as well as adding a new 25,000 gallon concrete sludge storage tank. Construction of a new sludge storage tank would facilitate the storage and handling of bio-solids in the plant. Currently, the Village uses one of its two clarifiers for sludge storage, resulting in overload to the second clarifier during periods of high flow. The new tank will enable the plant to use both clarifiers for their original purpose.

Eligibility for Granting a Categorical Exclusion

The project meets the general Categorical Exclusion (CATEX) eligibility criteria found in 40 CFR 6.107(d)(1). The regulations allow CATEXs for activities involving “actions which are solely directed toward ... functional replacement of equipment, or ... construction of new ancillary facilities adjacent or appurtenant to existing facilities.”

Additionally, the available information on the proposed action indicates that the specific criteria for not granting a CATEX, found in 40 CFR 6.107(e), are not present. Specifically, the project will not result in a new or relocated discharge to surface or ground waters; will not increase the amount of pollutants discharged to receiving waters; nor will it provide capacity to serve a population significantly greater than the existing population. Furthermore, there will be no significant adverse effects on cultural resources, endangered or threatened species, environmentally sensitive areas, or other environmentally important natural resource areas.

Conclusion

The proposed action conforms to the category of actions eligible for exclusion under 40 CFR 6.107(d)(1). Accordingly, EPA approves this request for a CATEX from detailed environmental review pursuant to our procedures for implementing the National Environmental Policy Act.