



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

JUN 25 2008

To All Interested Government Agencies and Public Groups:

In accordance with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) procedures for the preparation of environmental impact statements (EIS), an environmental review has been performed on the proposed agency action below:

Project Name: Town of Plattsburgh Champlain Park Pump Station.

Purpose of Project: The Town of Plattsburgh is proposing to construct a pump station and force main to replace the aging Champlain Park Wastewater Treatment Plant and meet New York State phosphorus discharge limits to Lake Champlain.

Project Originator: Town of Plattsburgh

Project Location: Clinton County, New York

Project Description: This project will include installation of a new sewer force main and a new sewage pump station. The pump station will be located at the site of an existing wastewater treatment facility, which will be abandoned. Sewage will be pumped into the City of Plattsburgh's wastewater collection system, which will provide a better level of treatment than the Champlain Park facility. The new main will run from the pump station across agricultural fields within an existing water line corridor, under Kensington Road, along the edge of Cumberland Head Road and through portions of Curnberland Bay State Park. The new main will be approximately 8,900 feet long, and will impact a corridor up to 10 feet wide.

Estimated Eligible Project Costs: \$2,000,000

EPA Grants: \$ 288,700

Our environmental review of this project indicates that no significant adverse environmental impacts will result from the proposed action. Consequently, we have made a decision not to prepare an EIS on the project. This decision is based on a careful review of the project's environmental information document, a site visit to the project area and other supporting information. All of these documents, along with the Environmental Assessment (copy enclosed), are on file at the offices of the EPA Region 2 and the Town of Plattsburgh, New York, where they are available for public scrutiny upon request. The EA is also available on EPA Region 2's website at <http://www.epa.gov/region02/spmm/r2nepa.htm#r2docs>.

Comments supporting or disagreeing with this decision may be submitted to EPA for consideration. All comments must be received within 30 calendar days of the date of this finding of no significant impact (FNSI). Please address your comments to: Grace Musumeci, Chief, Environmental Review Section, at the above address. No administrative action will be taken on the project for at least 30 calendar days after the date of this FNSI.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Alan J. Steinberg". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "A".

Alan J. Steinberg
Regional Administrator

Enclosure

Environmental Assessment

I. Project Identification

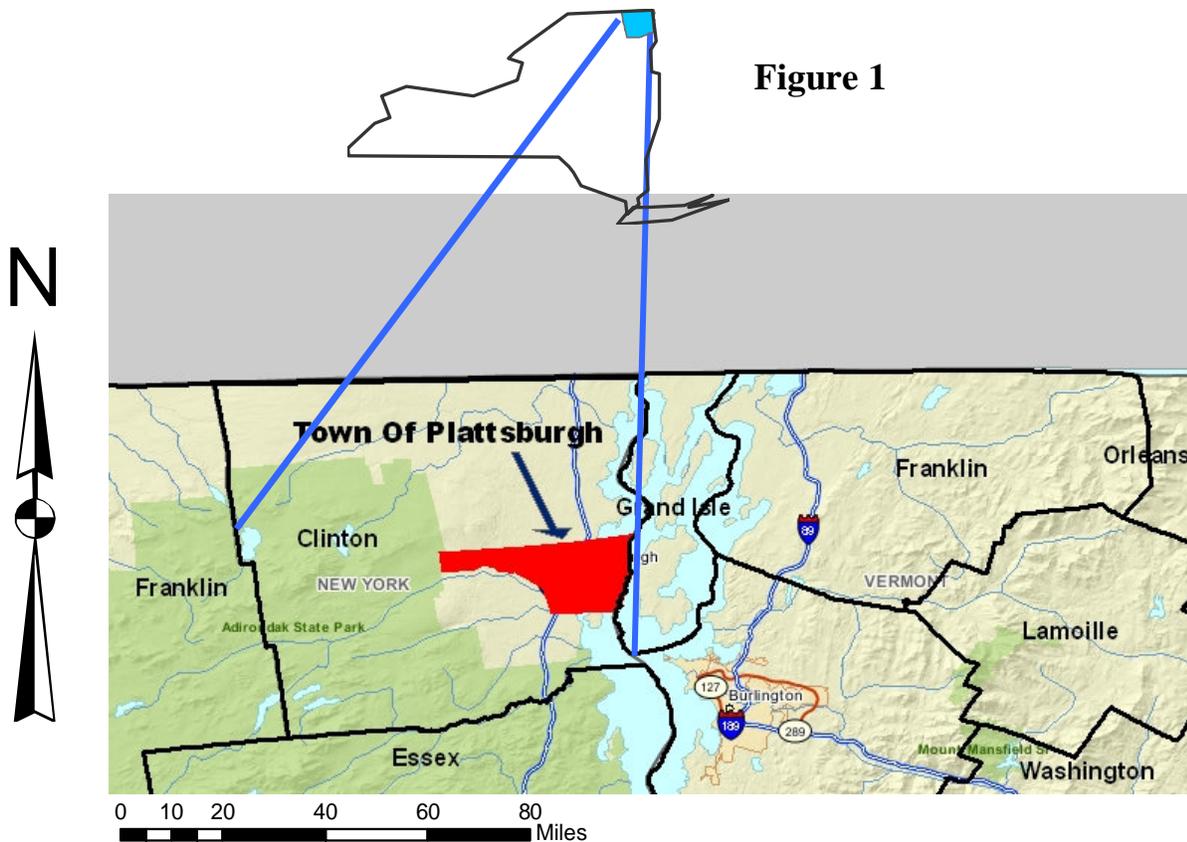
Project Name: Champlain Park Pump Station

Grant Applicant: Town of Plattsburgh
Town Hall
151 Banker Road
Plattsburgh, New York 12901

Project Location: Cumberland Head
Town of Plattsburgh
Clinton County, New York

II. Description of the Facility Planning Area

The planning area for this project is the Town of Plattsburgh, Clinton County, New York (Figure 1). The Town of Plattsburgh is located in the northeastern portion of Clinton County, on the New York/Vermont border.



III. Purpose and Need for the Project

The existing Champlain Park Wastewater Treatment Plant (CPWTP) is in need of refurbishment as it is reaching the end of its life expectancy. In addition, the plant as currently designed and operated is unable to meet the New York State phosphorus discharge limits to Lake Champlain. Accordingly, the CPWTP must either be improved or replaced.

IV: Evaluation of Alternatives

A. No Action Alternative

The No Action alternative was considered, but since the existing facility would not be in compliance with its State Pollution Discharge Elimination System (SPDES) permit, this alternative was not pursued.

B. Installation of New Pump Station

This alternative includes the installation of a pump station and force main to allow for the elimination of the Champlain Park Wastewater Treatment Plant. The project includes the demolition of most of the existing facility. The new pump station will utilize the existing control building at the site, pumping through a new ten-inch force main that will discharge into the City of Plattsburgh's wastewater collection and treatment system. The City treatment plant has a capacity of 16 million gallons a day (MGD), but currently operates at 7 MGD; the plant discharges treated effluent to Lake Champlain and is currently meeting its discharge limits. The force main will follow existing utility easements and roadways where possible.

C. Complete Upgrade of Existing Treatment Plant

This alternative assumes the existing treatment plant would operate into the future at an increase in daily average flow up to the rated capacity of 162,000 gallons per day. The design of the upgraded Champlain Park Treatment Plant would be required by New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) SPDES permit to include phosphorus removal. In addition, components of the facility that are reaching the end of their useful life will need to be replaced such as the trickling filter arms and cover, clarifier, influent pump station, outfall disinfection and electrical components.

The Town of Plattsburgh has decided that the best course of action is to replace the aging CPWTP with a pump station and transport sewage to the City of Plattsburgh for treatment. Toward this end, the City and Town recently entered into a 33-year agreement for the treatment of Town wastewater at the city owned and operated wastewater treatment facility.

V. Detailed Description of Selected Plan

The Town of Plattsburgh is proposing to construct a pump station and force main to allow for the elimination of the CPWTP. The new pump station will utilize the existing control building located at the site, and will pump through a new ten-inch force main which in turn will discharge into the City of Plattsburgh’s wastewater collection system. The new main will run from the proposed pump station across agricultural fields (within an existing water line corridor), under Kensington Road, along the edge of Cumberland Head Road (CR 57 and NYS Route 314), then continue through portions of the Cumberland Bay State Park before connecting with an existing 12 inch sanitary sewer gravity main near NYS Route 9 (see Figure 2). It will be approximately 8,900 feet long and will impact a corridor of up to ten feet wide, temporarily impacting a total of approximately 2 acres. The City of Plattsburgh’s treatment plant has a capacity of 16 MGD, but is currently operating at 7 MGD; the plant is currently meeting its SPDES discharge limit (SPDES No. NY-0026018).

Figure 2



0 0.125 0.25 0.5 0.75 1 1.25 Miles

Legend	
	Proposed New 10" Force Main

VI. Estimated Project Costs

Total Project Cost:	\$2,000,000
Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Grant-Eligible Cost	\$2,000,000
EPA Grant No. XP972746-05	\$ 288,700
Other Grant/Loan Amount	\$1,711,300
Existing Yearly Household User Charge:	\$ 460
Estimated Future Annual Household User Charge:	\$ 460

VII. Environmental Consequences

A. Surface Water and Groundwater Quality

The project area is located along the shores of Cumberland Bay, Lake Champlain. Elimination of the existing CPWTP discharge into Cumberland Bay will have a positive effect upon surface water resources. There will be no increase in impermeable areas that would increase runoff; long term adverse impacts to surface water quality are not anticipated. In addition, the project is not located over a Federally-designated sole source aquifer. Finally, storm water quality will be addressed during construction with temporary measures such as silt fences and other necessary practices to control storm water.

B. Wildlife/Vegetation

The NYSDEC and United States Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) were contacted for input on any rare, threatened or endangered species and/or critical habitat in the project area.

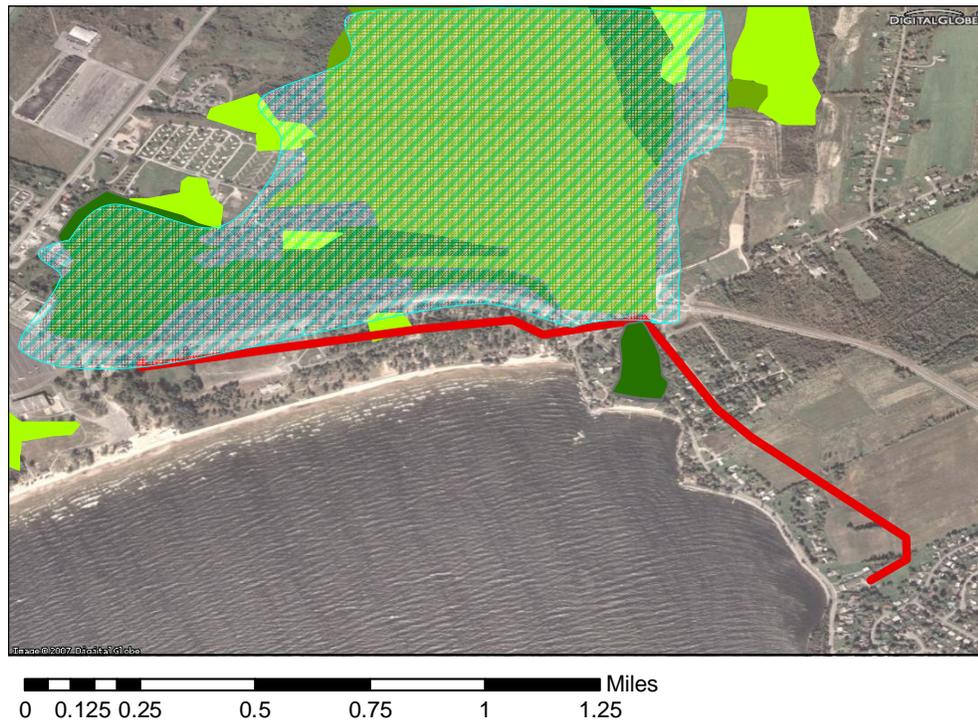
According to the NYSDEC, Division of Environmental Permits, Region 5 for the Natural Heritage Program, the only state listed species located in the project vicinity is Champlain beach grass (*Ammophila champlainensis*). The FWS has identified the Bald eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*) and the Indiana bat (*Myotis sodalis*) as existing in the project vicinity.

The proposed project is contained within a narrow corridor of maintained areas, including existing utility easements and roadway rights-of-way. Therefore, it is not anticipated that Champlain beach grass is located in the affected area. Additionally, there will be no removal of trees or other habitat for either the Bald eagle or Indiana bat. Consequently, impacts to endangered and/or threatened species or critical habitats are not anticipated as a result of this action.

C. Wetlands/Floodplains

Existing wetland mappings published by the NYSDEC and the FWS were reviewed in relation to the project components. The project does not cross any state or Federal Wetlands. However, it does cross through an area that is adjacent to a New York State-designated wetland for approximately 100 feet; a NYSDEC permit has been applied for to authorize construction within the wetlands buffer. In addition, the proposed project is not located within the 100-year floodplain (see Figure 3).

Figure 3



Legend

-  **Proposed Force Main**
-  **100 Year Floodplain**
- National Wetlands Inventory Wetlands**
 -  **Palustrine Emergent**
 -  **Palustrine Scrub/Shrub**
 -  **Palustrine Forested**

Accordingly, no direct wetlands or floodplains impacts are expected. Impacts to adjacent areas would only be temporary, lasting only during construction phase activities. Any adjacent areas impacted would be restored upon completion of pipeline installation activities. Applicable erosion control and sedimentation control practices will be implemented during construction to minimize potential environmental

consequences. Practices to be implemented include the use of silt fencing and reestablishment of vegetation upon completion of construction activities.

D. Air Quality

The proposed Champlain Park Pump Station project will be funded in part through a Federal grant by the EPA; accordingly, the project is subject to the general conformity regulations (40 Code of Federal Regulations 93 Subpart B). However, since the project is not located within a nonattainment or maintenance area for National Ambient Air Quality Standards, no further action is required in this regard.

Nevertheless, short term construction related impacts to air quality in the project area may include fugitive dust emissions and emissions from construction equipment. Best management practices will be used to mitigate these impacts during the construction period.

E. Noise

Construction phase activities will result in temporary increases in noise caused by operation of construction vehicles and equipment. These impacts will be short term, lasting only during construction phase activities. The contractor will be required to mitigate impacts by providing equipment with mufflers, turning off equipment when not in use, adhering to established working hours, and staging vehicles and equipment in designated areas. No long term noise impacts are expected from facility operation.

F. Coastal Resources

This project is not located within a state-designated coastal zone; consequently, coastal resources will not be impacted.

G. Agricultural Lands

Land use in the project area is mainly residential with some neighborhood commercial development. Permanent impacts are not anticipated to any agricultural land or drainage facilities that will be crossed.

H. Cultural Resources

A Phase I cultural resources investigation and archeological study was completed for the project area. Background information showed the project area to be moderately sensitive for prehistoric archeological deposits and poorly to moderately sensitive for historic remains. Field testing using a pedestrian plowed field survey and standard shovel test pits did not identify any archeological deposits.

Based on the results of this investigation, no further archeological study was recommended for the project area. On September 26, 2006, the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation concurred with this recommendation.

I. Traffic

Sewer lines will be constructed primarily within existing highway right of ways. Installation of pipeline segments may result in temporary disruptions to traffic flow. These impacts will be short term, lasting only during working hours during construction-phase activities. No long term impacts to roadway or traffic patterns are anticipated.

J. Socioeconomic Impacts

This project is not anticipated to have a negative impact upon socio-economic conditions in the proposed district. According to the Town, the existing and future annual household charge will essentially stay the same since the proposed project will eliminate the Town's existing Champlain Park Wastewater Treatment Plant and all flow will be transmitted to the existing City of Plattsburgh Wastewater Treatment Plant.

The total projected first year cost for a typical residential user in the project area is estimated at \$460. This represents 1.1% of the Town of Plattsburgh's median household income of \$41,713 (2000 Census).

K. Environmental Justice

The project area has been reviewed in accordance with EPA's criteria for identifying potential Environmental Justice (EJ) areas. In performing the assessment, the Town of Plattsburgh, New York, was identified as the community of Concern (COC), the geographic area as defined for the purposes of an EJ assessment.

For environmental burden analysis, Region 2 advances the concept of an Environmental Load Profile (ELP)." The profile would provide a representation of the environmental load (i.e., relative environmental burden) within a community. The ELP serves to identify communities that may bear a disproportionate environmental load in comparison to statewide-derived thresholds. Currently, the Environmental Load Profile consists of the following three indicators: Toxics Release Inventory (TRI) Air Emissions, Air Toxics, and Facility Density. The ELP generates a summary report that provides numeric values for state thresholds, indicator of the community of concern

OC Indicator), and the ranking of the community in the state. These calculated values not only identify whether the particular community meets an ELP threshold, but further on exceedance, the indicator value is ranked to provide a measure of magnitude.

Analysis of the Environmental Load Analysis for the Town of Plattsburgh indicates that only one of the indicators evaluated exceeds the respective New York State threshold (see Figure 4). The analysis indicates a risk ranking of five with a facility density indicator of 152.61. While this value is greater than the overall New York State value, the ranking of 5 indicates that the load for the COC is not at the high end of the

spectrum. More importantly, since the proposed project will replace an existing sewage treatment plant with a pump station, it is anticipated that there will be no increase in environmental burden in the COC from this project.

Figure 4: Environmental Load Analysis

Indicators	NY State Threshold	COC Indicator	Ranking
TRI Indicator:	5.67	0	0
Facility Density Indicator:	56	152.61	5
Air Toxics Cancer Indicator:	63.55	25.23	0
Air Toxics Non_cancer Indicator:	11.3	2.42	0

The demographic analysis (see Figure 5) calculates the percent minority and percent poverty for the COC which are then compared to an appropriate statistical reference. Statistical reference for percent minority and percent poverty were calculated for each state in EPA Region 2 using cluster analysis. Separate statistical references for rural and urban settings were developed for evaluating percent minority. The location of the COC determines which statistical reference area is used.

Figure 5: Demographic Analysis

Indicators	NY State Thresholds	COC Indicator	Urban/Rural
Percent Minority:	51.51	5.99	urban
Percent Poverty:	23.59	16.74	urban

Further, analysis of the project area indicates that minorities are 5.99% of the population (compared to 51.5%, the percentage for determining minority areas in urban areas of New York State), and that 16.74% percent of residents have income below the poverty level (compared to 23.6%, which is the percentage that EPA uses in New York State to identify low income areas). Accordingly, the area does not meet the EPA criteria for being classified an EJ area and no additional EJ analysis is necessary.

VIII. Coordination of Environmental Review

A. Tribal Nations and Federal, State and Local Agencies Notified and/or Consulted

Clinton County Health Department

New York State Department of Environmental Conservation
New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Haudenosaunee Environmental Task Force
St. Regis Mohawk Tribe

B. Significant Correspondence

Letter from Ruth L. Pierpont, Director, New York State Department of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation to Ronald J. Laberge, P.E., Laberge Group; September 26, 2006

IX. Reference Documents

A. Town of Plattsburgh, Clinton County, Plattsburgh, New York Champlain Park Pump Station Environmental Assessment, November 2007, Laberge Group; November, 2007

B. Phase I Cultural Resources Survey, Champlain Park Sewer System Improvements, Town of Plattsburgh, Clinton County, New York; Black Drake Consulting, September 2007.