

EARLY NOTICE AND PUBLIC REVIEW OF A PROPOSED ACTIVITY IN A FLOODPLAIN

To: All Interested Agencies, Groups, and Individuals

This is to give notice that the Vermont Agency of Commerce and Community Development ("the Agency") under 24 CFR Part 58, has determined that the following proposed action funded under FY2025 07110-DR-IG-2025-LCPC-62, is located in the Federal Flood Risk Management Standard (FFRMS) floodplain. The Agency will be identifying and evaluating practicable alternatives to locating the action within the floodplain and potential impacts on the floodplain as required by Executive Order 11988 as amended by Executive Order 13690 in accordance with HUD regulations at 24 CFR 55.20 Subpart C Procedures for Making Determinations on Floodplain Management and Protection of Wetlands. The proposed project is located on a parcel owned by the Morrisville Water & Light Department addressed at 1219 Park Street in Morrisville, Vermont. The extent of the FFRMS floodplain was determined using a 0.2 percent flood approach (0.2 PFA) as depicted on the FEMA Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) Panel 5000640013C, effective July 2, 1987. The base flood elevation (BFE) at the project location is 648 to 650 feet.

The proposed project takes place on an approximately 9.8-acre site adjacent to the Lamoille River, of which 9.2 acres are located within the FFRMS floodplain. The proposed **Wellfield Flood Mitigation Project** will protect a pair of gravel wells that serve as the sole source of potable and fire-protection water in the Village of Morrisville. The project site has flooded multiple times in recent years, and the river channel has gradually shifted toward the wellfield. During flood events the river has been eroding the gravel material that comprises the aquifer supplying groundwater to the wells. Further erosion poses a risk of groundwater contamination with potential surface water pathogens and to the physical integrity of the pumphouse and well infrastructure. The project proposes to mitigate future flooding impacts upon municipal water supply infrastructure by armoring the wellfield and Lamoille River floodplain, and planting trees within the wellfield to slow floodwater velocity, reduce erosion, and stabilize the soil.

The Morrisville Water & Light wells and municipal drinking water infrastructure were previously built in the FFRMS floodplain where the aquifer is located. Since the project involves the protection of an aquifer and associated existing water supply infrastructure within the mapped FFRMS floodplain, project activities within the floodplain would be unavoidable during implementation of proposed mitigation activities.

There are three primary purposes for this notice. First, people who may be affected by activities in floodplains and those who have an interest in the protection of the natural environment should be given an opportunity to express their concerns and provide information about these areas. Commenters are encouraged to offer alternative methods to serve the same project purpose, and methods to minimize and mitigate impacts. Second, an adequate public notice program can be an important public educational tool. The dissemination of information and request for public comment about floodplains can facilitate and enhance Federal efforts to reduce the risks and impacts associated with the occupancy and modification of these special areas. Third, as a matter of fairness, when the Federal government determines it will participate in actions taking place in floodplains, it must inform those who may be affected.

Written comments must be received by the Agency via email by contacting Grace Vinson, Environmental Officer, at Grace.Vinson@vermont.gov or at the following address on or before **June 26, 2026**:

Vermont Agency of Commerce and Community Development
Grace Vinson, Environmental Officer
1 National Life Drive
Montpelier, Vermont 05620
802-622-4336

A full description of the Proposed Action is available electronically.
Please send a request to Grace.Vinson@vermont.gov or cblack@vhb.com.

Date of Publication: June 11, 2026