

Categorical Exclusion and Extraordinary Circumstances Review Form

United States Environmental Protection Agency

Washington, DC 20460

I. General Information

Project Name	WIFIA Id Number
Field's Point Resiliency Improvements Project	N21141RI
Borrower Name	
Narragansett Bay Commission	
Project Description	
The Field's Point Resiliency includes the Field's Point Wastewater Treatment Facility Improvements, Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO) Tunnel Odor Control Improvements, and Lincoln Septage Receiving Station Replacement project components. Please see Attachment 2 for a detailed project description.	
Project Location Description (<i>street address/city/state/ZIP code; site characteristics</i>)	
Please see attachment 2 for project location information.	

II. EPA Contact for Environmental Review on this Project (If different from Responsible Official)

Name	Title	Phone Number
Ashley Longrie	Environmental Engineer	202-564-1935

III.A. Categorical Exclusion Eligibility (*Check YES or NO*) Complete the following questions in their entirety to determine if the project is eligible for a Categorical Exclusion (CATEX) pursuant to 40 CFR § 6.204(a)(1)(ii). Additionally, supporting statements and documentation can be included in Attachment 1.

If yes to any, CATEX applies		Does the project involve actions relating to existing infrastructure systems (e.g., sewer systems; drinking water supply systems; and stormwater systems, including combined sewer overflow systems) and involve:			
			YES	NO	
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Minor upgrading
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Minor expansion of system capacity or rehabilitation (including functional replacement) of the existing system and its components (such as the sewer collection network and treatment system; the system to collect, treat, store and distribute drinking water; and stormwater systems, including combined sewer overflow systems)
			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Construction of new minor ancillary facilities next to or on the same property as existing facilities
If yes to any, CATEX does not apply		Will the project include actions that:	YES	NO	
			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Involve new or relocated discharges to surface or ground water
			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Will likely result in the substantial increase in the volume or the loading of pollutant to the receiving water
			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Will provide capacity to serve a population 30% greater than the existing population
			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Are not supported by the state, or other regional growth plan or strategy
			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Directly or indirectly involve or relate to upgrading or extending infrastructure systems primarily for the purpose of future development

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III.B. Extraordinary Circumstances (Check YES or NO) Complete the following questions in their entirety to determine if the project involves any of the following extraordinary circumstances which would make it ineligible for a CATEX pursuant to 40 CFR § 6.204(b)(1) through (b)(10). Additionally, supporting statements and documentation can be included in Attachment 1.

YES	NO	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	1) Is the action known or expected to have potentially significant environmental impacts on the quality of the human environment either individually or cumulatively over time?
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	2) Is the action known or expected to have disproportionately high and adverse human health or environmental effects on any community, including minority communities, low-income communities, or federally-recognized Indian tribal communities?
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	3) Is the action known or expected to significantly affect federally listed threatened or endangered species or their critical habitat?
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	4) Is the action known or expected to significantly affect national natural landmarks or any property with naturally significant historic, architectural, prehistoric, archaeological, or cultural value, including but not limited to, property listed on or eligible for the National Register of Historic Places?
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	5) Is the action known or expected to significantly affect environmentally important natural resource areas such as wetlands, floodplains, significant agricultural lands, aquifer recharge zones, coastal zones, barrier islands, wild and scenic rivers, and significant fish or wildlife habitat?
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	6) Is the action known or expected to cause significant adverse air quality effects?
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	7) Is the action known or expected to have a significant effect on the pattern and type of land use (industrial, commercial, agricultural, recreational, residential) or growth and distribution of population, including altering the character of existing residential areas or may not be consistent with state or local government, or federally-recognized Indian tribe approved land use plans or federal land management plans?
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	8) Is the action known or expected to significantly cause significant public controversy about potential environmental impacts of the proposed action?
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	9) Is the action known or expected to be associated with providing financial assistance to a federal agency through an interagency agreement for a project that is known or expected to have potentially significant environmental impacts?
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	10) Is the action known or expected to conflict with federal, state, or local government, or federally-recognized Indian tribe environmental resource-protection, or land-use laws or regulations?

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III.C. Extraordinary Circumstances Statement (*Check ONLY ONE box*) If the responses to Section III.A indicate the project is CATEX eligible, and if a **NO** response was recorded for each of the questions in Section III.B, then no Extraordinary Circumstances are present pursuant to 40 CFR § 6.204(b) and one of the following statements should be selected.

<input type="checkbox"/>	1) No extraordinary circumstances apply to the proposed action pursuant to 40 CFR §§ 6.204(a)(1) and 6.204(b). This statement is based on either past experience with similar actions at the proposed action site resulting in a CATEX and/or information gathered as part of previous NEPA or environmental due diligence review conducted at the proposed action site . Provide any supporting documentation or references in Attachment I.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	2) A statement and supporting documentation is attached explaining why no extraordinary circumstances exist or apply to the proposed action pursuant to 40 CFR §§ 6.204(a)(1) and 6.204(b).

IV. NEPA Review Determination and Responsible Official Signature

Sections I through III must be completed to satisfy EPA's documentation requirements for CATEX eligibility. If completion of this form indicates that a CATEX *does apply*, the Responsible Official must sign below.

Categorical Exclusion Determination. The EPA finds that the proposed action is eligible for exclusion from detailed environmental review under 40 CFR § 6.204(a)(1)(ii), and will not involve any of the extraordinary circumstances delineated under 40 CFR § 6.204(b)(1) through (b)(10). Consequently, the EPA will not prepare an environmental impact statement or an environmental assessment for the proposed project. The EPA may revoke this categorical exclusion if changes in the proposed action render it ineligible for exclusion or if new evidence emerges which indicates that serious local or environmental issues exist or federal, state, or local laws would be violated.

As the Responsible Official, I have determined that **this action is eligible for a Categorical Exclusion** per the substantive environmental review requirements under EPA regulations at 40 CFR § 6.204. Section III.C of this form has been completed providing the required Extraordinary Circumstances Statement.

_____ Signature of Responsible Official	Director, Office of Wastewater Management _____ Title	_____ Date
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Attachment 1. CATEX Eligibility and/or Extraordinary Circumstances Statement(s)	
<p>The space below may be used for a statement and supporting documentation explaining CATEX eligibility why no extraordinary circumstances exist or apply to the proposed action pursuant to 40 CFR §§ 6.204(a)(1) and 6.204(b). Attach additional pages as needed.</p> <p>Four of the five blockgroups that make up the project area have people of color populations that are meaningfully greater than the comparative state or county levels; therefore, EPA considers communities with potential environmental justice concerns to be present. The project does not appear to be in or cause impacts to Indian Country. Implementation of the project would not result in disproportionately high and adverse impacts to people of color or low-income populations and is expected to result in an overall benefit to the larger community, including communities with potential environmental justice concerns. The Field's Point Resiliency Improvements Project is comprised of various subprojects needed to ensure the reliability and efficiency of wastewater infrastructure systems to meet current and future challenges. The project occurs at sites with existing wastewater infrastructure and within existing facilities. Contract documents include provisions to ensure no construction noise, particulates, or odors are allowed to accumulate to harmful levels. Furthermore, the CSO Odor Control Improvements project will address an increase in nuisance odors and community complaints received in the vicinity of the Foundry Shaft. Therefore, implementation of the project is not anticipated to have disproportionately high or adverse impacts on communities with environmental justice concerns and has met the provisions of Executive Orders 12898 and 14008.</p> <p>EPA prepared an official endangered species list using the US Fish and Wildlife Service's (USFWS) Information for Planning and Consultation (IPaC) system on March 22, 2022, which identified the Roseate Tern, Northern Long-eared Bat, and Monarch Butterfly with the potential to occur in the project area. Due to the developed nature of the project area, EPA has determined that the project location does not contain suitable habitat for the Roseate Tern or Monarch Butterfly, as these species are unlikely to occur within the project area. Therefore, EPA made a no effect determination for these species. On April 20, 2022, a verification letter under the January 5, 2016, Programmatic Biological Opinion (PBO) on Final 4(d) Rule for the Northern Long-Eared Bat and Activities Excepted from Take Prohibitions was generated. This verified that the project is consistent with the activities analyzed in the PBO and any take that may occur as a result of the project is no prohibited under the Endangered Species Action Section 4(d) rule adopted for this species at 50 CFR §17.40(o). The species lists were reviewed on June 21, 2022, and no changes were made.</p> <p>On April 8, 2022, EPA sent notification letters to five tribes with potential interest in the project area, including a follow up email on April, 20, 2022. To date one of the contacted tribes responded and did not have any substantive concerns related to the project. EPA initiated consultation with Rhode Island State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) on May 20, 2022, with the determination of "no adverse effect." The SHPO responded on June 17, 2022, concurring with EPA's determination of "no adverse effect."</p>	

Portions of the Field's Point Wastewater Treatment Facility are designated flood Zone X (shaded), located within the 500-year floodplain. The facility is highly developed and consists mostly of hardscapes. The minor increase in surface area or new above-ground structures would not significantly impact, impede, or redirect flood flows. Proposed buildings would be constructed such that they are resilient to flooding events. Additional ground disturbing or excavation activities will be minimal, and the areas will be returned to pre-construction conditions. G-3 is designate Zone VE, a coastal area with at least a 1% chance of flooding and the additional hazard associated with storm waves. G-2 is also designated Zone X (shaded). No impacts to the floodplain are anticipated as the work includes replacement of existing equipment within the existing below grade structure. Based on these considerations, the proposed project is not anticipated to result in a negative impact to the natural and beneficial floodplain values. Therefore, the project is anticipated to conform to the requirements of this executive order.

Rhode Island's coastal zone encompasses the entire state, although the inland extent of the coastal management program's regulatory authority is generally 200 feet inland from any coastal feature. Based on conversations with the Commission, the subprojects do not fall within Rhode Island Coastal Resource Management Council (CRMC) jurisdictional areas; therefore, the projects will not require a CRMC Assent.

An Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) report was created for the project locations. The Field's Point Wastewater Treatment Facility and CSO Odor Control Improvements project areas are located adjacent to the Providence River, which is designated as essential fish habitat for 16 species. Work will be completed within existing facilities. No work within or direct impacts to the Providence River are anticipated and there will not be any increase in the volume, frequency, or nutrient loading of discharges into receiving waters as a result of the project. Additionally, work will be completed in accordance with the Commission's stormwater mitigation plan and incorporate applicable construction Best Management Practices such as, silt screens, soil and sedimentation waddles and hay bales. EPA has determined that an action will not adversely affect EFH, including direct or indirect physical, chemical, or biological alterations; therefore, no consultation is required.

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Attachment 2. Project Description and Location Summary	
<p>Field's Point Wastewater Treatment Facility (FPWWTF) Improvements</p> <p>Improvements at the FPWWTF include various projects described below:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Replacement of the Plant Water System's automatic strainer unit and other related system enhancements 2. Replacement or rehabilitation of process valves and actuators within the aeration tanks 3. Evaluation of the need for rehabilitation or replacement of transformer at the Pretreatment Building 4. Design and construction of three dedicated individual Variable Frequency Drivers to allow simultaneous operation of Return Activated Sludge Pump Nos. 7, 8, 9 5. Provide resilient standby power to the Return Activated Sludge Pump Station No. 2 and Blower Building No. 2 6. Replacement of odor control unit at the Gravity Thickener Building 7. Modifications to the paved area south of the Operations and Maintenance Building, including installation of a stormwater collection system and regrading of the pavement 8. Rehabilitation of the modular precast retaining wall systems at the Water Quality Science Building 9. Rehabilitation of electrical power equipment, motor control center, and transformers at the Screw lift Pumping Station 10. Rehabilitation of the Disinfection System's below grade sodium hypochlorite suction piping network 11. Planning, design, and construction of a new Maintenance Building, Interceptor Maintenance Storage Building, and related support facilities improvements 12. Purchase and implementation of cybersecurity improvements in key areas of the Information Technology infrastructure to mitigate cybersecurity risks 13. Design and construction of a solar carport in the Water Quality Science Building parking lot 14. Replacement of equipment within the Ernest Street Pump Station facility 15. Evaluation and installation of standby power capabilities for critical facilities at the FPWWTF in order to maintain uninterrupted operation of treatment processes 16. Rehabilitation of the modular precast retaining wall systems at the Ernest Street Pump Station 17. Replacement of equipment within the BNR (Biological Nutrient Removal) tanks 18. Corrosion control, improved ventilation, and new HVAC system in the Screw Lift Pump Station and Blower Building 19. Solids Handling area stormwater and pavement improvements 20. Corporate Office Building parking lot resurfacing 21. Provide resilient standby power to the Return Activated Sludge Pump Station No. 1 22. OSHA (Occupational Safety and Health Administration) safety required handrail installation at the Screw Lift Pump Station and Blower Building and the Primary Clarifier Pump Station <p>The Fields Point Wastewater Treatment Facility is located at 2 Ernest Street, Providence, Rhode Island 02905.</p>	

CSO Tunnel Odor Control Improvements

The Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO) Tunnel odor control improvements involve repairs to the odor control system and the replacement of louvers at the foundry shaft odor control facility and gate and screening structures G-1, G-2, G-3, G-4, and G-7. The foundry shaft and gate and screening structures are located throughout the City of Providence, Rhode Island at the following locations:

Foundry Shaft: 41°49'53.4"N, 71°25'21.5"W

G-1: 41°47'42.5"N, 71°23'46.8"W

G-2: 41°48'32.4"N, 71°24'15.5"W

G-3: 41°48'57.5"N, 71°23'59.7"W

G-4: 41°49'05.8"N, 71°24'19.0"W

G-7: 41°49'45.6"N, 71°25'23.0"W

Lincoln Septage Receiving Station Replacement

The existing Lincoln Septage Receiving Station has reached the end of its useful life and needs to be replaced. This project includes design and construction of a new septage receiving station equipped with a screening mechanism and sample collection capabilities. The Lincoln Septage Receiving Station is located in the town of Lincoln, Rhode Island at 41°56'19.4"N, 71°26'14.6"W.