Notice of Environmental Review Determination

The City of Dover, New Hampshire has applied for a Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) loan through the State of New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services in accordance with provisions of Chapter Env-Wq 500 rules of the department.

As the proposed project constitutes only a minor project, where all work will take place in existing City streets, rights-of-way, or utility easements, it has been determined by the Department that the proposed project qualifies for a Categorical Exclusion (CE).

Questions regarding this project can be directed to Christopher Norton, P.E. at (603) 606-4422 or at the mailing address below.

Please address any comments to the following locations:

Wright-Pierce (Attn: Chris Norton)
250 Commercial St.
Suite 4014
Manchester, NH 03101

and

Tracy Wood
NHDES
Wastewater Engineering Bureau
PO Box 95
Concord, NH 03302

The deadline for submitting comments is August 3rd, 2020.
III. BACKGROUND

The City of Dover owns, operates, and maintains wastewater collection and treatment facilities that serve the City’s more than 31,000 residents. Its collection system includes almost 115 miles of sanitary sewer and 23 pumping stations. In 2018, the City completed an Infiltration and Inflow (I/I) Study to identify potential areas of excessive I/I in its collection system. As part of the study, field work was completed, including CCTV and manhole inspections in multiple areas. The field work and subsequent I/I analysis identified two areas where improvements were identified as high-priority: The City’s Downtown sewer shed and the Stark Avenue area. The City intends to rehabilitate these specific areas of the collection system as they provide an essential service to the community.

The following documents concerning the Downtown and Stark Avenue sewer have been developed and are available for public review:

- Phase II Infiltration/Inflow Study for the City of Dover, City of Dover, New Hampshire. Wright-Pierce, April 2019 on file with the City of Dover, New Hampshire.

christina.buckman@des.nh.gov or phone (603) 271-0734
PO Box 95, Concord, NH 03302-0095
www.des.nh.gov
IV. PURPOSE AND NEED

The Downtown and Stark Avenue sewers are a critical part of the City of Dover’s collection system infrastructure. Portions of the existing collection system are vulnerable to peak flows caused by wet weather events through stormwater infiltration and inflow. Infiltration and inflow reduce collection system design life, increases collection system maintenance cost, and can negatively impact the treatment capacity and operations of the receiving wastewater treatment facility. The proposed improvements will address these issues, along with reinforcing the collection system’s continuity of service.

V. ALTERNATIVES ANALYSIS

This project is being requested for Categorical Exclusion per 40 CFR 6.204(a)(1)(ii) as the project scope is considered an upgrade to an existing sewer infrastructure system. The project scope will not involve providing capacity to serve a population 30% greater than the existing population and will not result in the substantial increase in the volume of the loading of pollutant to the receiving sewer.

VI. DETAILS OF PROJECT

The project scope consists of 4,500 feet of sewer lining, grouting, and sealing within the Downtown area and 2,200 feet of sewer lining, grouting, and sealing along Stark Avenue and Elliot Park. The project scope also consists of 750 feet of sewer replacement along Stark Avenue and Elliot Park (including the replacement of six existing sewer manholes), and the replacement of approximately 220 feet of directionally buried sewer that crosses the Spaulding Turnpike (between Elliot Park and Mill Street).

Much of the project will occur within previously disturbed State and City rights-of-way. The scope of work includes a short section of sewer replacement (approximately 300 linear feet) which is proposed through an existing utility easement located between Elliot Park and the Spaulding Turnpike. The project also includes sewer lining, grouting, and sealing of a small section of existing sewer, from within, that crosses underneath the Cocheco River.

Temporary construction impacts anticipated during Spaulding Turnpike and Elliot Park sewer replacement portions of the project scope will be approximately 22,356 square feet or 0.51 acres. Replacement of the short section of sewer routing through the existing utility easement located between Elliot Park and the Spaulding Turn Pike will require tree removal. Tree removal will occur during construction (anticipated January 2021 through May 2021) and will be conducted within the City and State easements only, as needed to perform the sewer replacement work. The quantity of these additional trees to be removed is unknown at this time and the estimated square footage of vegetated area that will be impacted by the Spaulding Turnpike sewer replacement portion of the project scope is approximately 10,642 square feet or 0.25 acres.

No temporary or permanent construction impacts are anticipated when performing sewer lining work on Stark Avenue, Elliot Park, and the Downtown area. Sewer lining work is non-invasive and involves lining
existing sewers with epoxy and includes grouting and sealing. This type of work does not involve construction excavation practices and traffic control will be required to perform this work, as it will be performed via existing sewer manholes located within the City rights-of-way.

The total project cost for the proposed project is estimated to be $1,185,000.

VII. ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS AND MITIGATION

The environmental concerns of the project are minimal. No adverse environmental impacts are anticipated from the project. The primary impacts are short-term impacts which will affect the area only during the period of construction. The following categories of impacts will illustrate the potential negative and positive effects anticipated from the project:

**Air:** Air impacts will be limited to some dust created during the construction portion of the project. Dust will be prevented and controlled through the use of water or dust retardant chemicals. No long-term air impacts are anticipated; mitigation measures will be employed if needed.

**Noise:** The noise from construction activities should be limited in duration. Noise impacts, if encountered, will be minimized by scheduling work to reduce effects in the area. No long-term noise impacts are anticipated.

**Surface Water, Groundwater, Wetlands, and Shoreland:** No significant groundwater impacts are anticipated as a result of this project. NPDES Construction General or Dewatering Permits may be required for the proposed Elliot Park and Spaulding Turnpike sewer replacement work.

The Downtown project area occurs within 250 feet of the Cocheco River. However, impacts to surface water and shoreland are not anticipated for this project area as the scope only includes sewer lining, grouting, and sealing work, which will occur inside the extent of the existing sewers. The Spaulding Turnpike portion of the Stark Avenue project area occurs within 250 feet of the Bellamy River. As the scope includes sewer replacement, a Shoreland permit will be required.

A jurisdictional, freshwater wetland survey was performed along the northwest bound land of the Spaulding Turnpike in September 2019. The proposed project area, including contractor access and equipment laydown areas, are outside of the surveyed wetland boundary. No impacts to the wetlands are anticipated, therefore NHDES wetland permitting is not warranted. No prime wetlands recognized by NHDES were identified in or adjacent to this project scope.

Conditional Use permits may be required from the City of Dover Planning Board as a portion of the project scope will occur within a 50-foot buffer of the Dover Zoning Wetland Protection District.

Erosion will be minimized by using proper erosion control methods such as hay bales, silt fences.
and rapid re-seeding of affected areas. Best management practices will be employed in this effort. All appropriate permits shall be obtained from local, state and federal agencies as necessary.

**Floodplain:** Portions of the Downtown project are located within a floodplain. However, there will be no permanent impacts on the floodplain as this portion of the project involves lining existing sewer pipes.

**Designated River:** This project falls within the Designated River corridor of the Cocheco River. The LAC was notified of the project on April 16, 2020 for review and comment at their next meeting.

**Plants & Wildlife:** A Natural Heritage Bureau DataCheck has been conducted (NHB20-1126). The results indicate that the proposed project will not impact any known NHB records.

Voluntary conservation measures will be employed, where appropriate, in order to reduce impacts to the Northern Long-eared Bat as outlined under item 2 on page 3 of this document: https://www.fws.gov/midwest/endangered/mammals/nleb/pdf/S7FrameworkNLEB17Feb2016.pdf

**Recreation and Historic:** The Division of Historical Resources review has been completed. No impacts to recreational or historical areas are anticipated.

**Social and Economic:** The social and economic impacts from the project are expected to be favorable. The financial impact on the ratepayer may be reduced for this project through the use of the State Revolving Loan Fund as opposed to other funding sources.

Whereas this project constitutes only a minor project where all work will take place in the existing Town streets or rights-of-way, a Categorical Exclusion (CE) is proposed.

VIII. INTERGOVERNMENTAL REVIEW

The Intergovernmental Review, coordinated by the New Hampshire Office of Strategic Initiatives, were received on May 19, 2020. The results summary indicates concurrence with the proposed project.

IX. PUBLIC REVIEW

The City Council voted to authorize funding in the amount of $1,185,000 for the Downtown and Stark Avenue Sewer Rehabilitation on June 24th, 2020.

A public notice will be published by the NH Department of Environmental Services and a ten-day public comment period will be held in accordance with the CWSRF rules.