

Holly Delisle

From: NBRC Admin <admin@nbrc.gov>
Sent: Friday, March 1, 2024 8:34 AM
To: TownAdmin; Bill Cleary
Cc: selectboard; Ron Rodjenski; Holly Delisle; Kristie Farnham
Subject: RE: NBRC21GEDA06 - Town of Westford VT - Request for NEPA Status update

Good morning,

I have updated our project file with this correspondence.

As this project is approaching the end of its initial period of performance (ends September 30, 2024), it will be important to finalize a game plan for moving these dollars forward this spring/early summer, with an updated timeline for completing NEPA and the project within the next couple of years. We cannot continue to give this project extensions with no true gameplan for these valuable dollars. Currently, due to there being no movement on this project, the town is not currently eligible to seek additional funding from NBRC.

While we want to work with our grantees when project challenges occur, there has been no movement on this project for almost three years. If a path forward for this project cannot be finalized this spring/early summer, it will be NBRC's recommendation the town return the award. There will be no penalty for doing so and the town remains an entity eligible to pursue NBRC funding at a future date. NBRC has flagged this grant for further follow-up this spring with the explicit goal of finalizing a plan to move this project forward.

As a reminder, even if no project activity is occurring, the project is still required to timely file its quarterly progress reports and the annual federal financial reports. Our records indicate the progress report for the period October-December 2023, due January 2024, has not yet been filed. Please complete and submit the report at your earliest convenience to get the project back in compliance. While we understand determining next steps forward is pending, it is important the project stay in programmatic compliance.

Take care,

Andrea

NBRC Team (admin@nbrc.gov)
NORTHERN BORDER REGIONAL COMMISSION
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Please visit us at www.nbrc.gov

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From: Farnham, Kristie <Kristie.Farnham@vermont.gov>
Sent: Thursday, February 29, 2024 2:51 PM
To: TownAdmin <townadmin@westfordvt.us>; Bill Cleary <bill.cleary@westfordvt.us>
Cc: NBRC Admin <admin@nbrc.gov>; selectboard <selectboard@westfordvt.us>; Ron Rodjenski <RRodjenski@westfordvt.us>; Holly Delisle <hdelisle@westfordvt.us>
Subject: RE: NBRC21GEDA06 - Town of Westford VT - Request for NEPA Status update

Thank you,

I appreciate the reply and the robust discussion from the meeting. I look forward to an update after the vacant seats are filled and the committee reconvenes.

Keep care,

Kristie Farnham (she, her) | Director of Business Support
Vermont Department of Economic Development
1 National Life Dr, Davis Bldg, 6th Floor | Montpelier, VT 05620-0501
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From: TownAdmin <townadmin@westfordvt.us>
Sent: Thursday, February 29, 2024 1:08 PM
To: Farnham, Kristie <Kristie.Farnham@vermont.gov>; Bill Cleary <bill.cleary@westfordvt.us>
Cc: NBRC Admin <admin@nbrc.gov>; selectboard <selectboard@westfordvt.us>; Ron Rodjenski <RRodjenski@westfordvt.us>; Holly Delisle <hdelisle@westfordvt.us>
Subject: RE: NBRC21GEDA06 - Town of Westford VT - Request for NEPA Status update

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Hi Kristie – thank you for your patience while Westford works through our next steps on a wastewater project. I fully understand that you're operating on tight deadlines and that there are other towns waiting to make use of NBRC funds.

During the 2/8/2024 Selectboard meeting the board discussed whether to pull back our requests for funds and the answer, at this time, is no. I am including a [link to the meeting](#) where you can review the relevant discussion that took place from timestamp 1:01 – 1:40. This was a long conversation, but will provide you with insights into how the SB is thinking.

Westford has a wastewater problem, and we want to find a solution that most of the town can support. To that end, we have created a new Committee to recommend paths forward, the results of which may present the opportunity for economic growth and development in our Town Center.

Another major factor is that Westford will elect 4 new Selectboard members this Town Meeting Day. As you know, this will likely have significant impact on the trajectory of any projects in town. We're working very hard to come to a conclusion on this matter, and with so much in the works right now, we respectfully ask for more time. Again, we understand your deadlines, and if more time simply isn't possible, we understand.

Thank you again for sticking with Westford through this process.

Holly Delisle (She/her)

Town Administrator, Westford

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From: Farnham, Kristie <Kristie.Farnham@vermont.gov>

Sent: Monday, February 26, 2024 3:15 PM

To: Bill Cleary <bill.cleary@westfordvt.us>

Cc: NBRC Admin <admin@nbrc.gov>; selectboard <selectboard@westfordvt.us>; Ron Rodjenski <RRodjenski@westfordvt.us>; Holly Delisle <hdelisle@westfordvt.us>

Subject: RE: NBRC21GEDA06 - Town of Westford VT - Request for NEPA Status update

Good morning team Westford,

I am following up for a status request. Any updates after our 1/9/24 meeting and/or in response to NBRC's inquiry below?

Thanks much!

Kristie Farnham (she, her) | Director of Business Support

Vermont Department of Economic Development

1 National Life Dr, Davis Bldg, 6th Floor | Montpelier, VT 05620-0501

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From: NBRC Admin <admin@nbrc.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, February 7, 2024 12:21 PM
To: bill.cleary@westfordvt.us
Cc: Farnham, Kristie <Kristie.Farnham@vermont.gov>
Subject: NBRC21GEDA06 - Town of Westford VT - Request for NEPA Status update
Importance: High

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Good day,

NBRC is following up on our guidance relative to satisfying NEPA for the above-referenced project. Our records indicate that it has been some time since we have heard from your project so are circling back for a status update.

Please provide a status update on the progress of the required Environmental Assessment (EA) for this project.

As you know, completion of NEPA is required for the project to receive a Notice to Proceed. No NBRC funds nor funds serving as match/cost share to the NBRC award may be committed or expended prior to receiving authorization for the project to commence. For NBRC, that is the issuance of a Notice to Proceed.

At your earliest convenience, please respond to our request for a NEPA status for this project.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this email.

Andrea

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53 Pleasant Street, Concord, New Hampshire 03301
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