



The State of New Hampshire  
**DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES**



**Thomas S. Burack, Commissioner**

May 21, 2012

SCOTT PIKE  
TOWN OF WOLFEBORO  
PO BOX 629  
WOLFEBORO NH 03894

Re: Environmental Review of State of New Hampshire Revolving Loan Fund project for the Town of Wolfeboro; Water Meter Upgrade Project

Dear Mr. Pike:

Enclosed please find a copy of the Environmental Review for the above referenced project which will be funded by the SRF. This document fulfills the requirement for the environmental review portion of the SRF rules, as outlined in Chapter Env-Dw 1100.

According to these rules, a public notice must now be published by the applicant in two newspapers to run for one day only. A thirty-day comment period must then be allowed for any public comments.

Please have this document published as a public notice in a statewide newspaper (currently, the Union Leader is the only newspaper considered statewide), and a local newspaper of your choice. The document *may be summarized*, but should include sections I, II, V and VII. Also, if you intend to summarize the document, the following statement must appear after the summary: The full document is available at, and comments may be addressed to, the following locations, insert applicant address and DES address, including the name of the Environmental Review Coordinator.

The applicant and DES will receive comments for thirty days from the date of publication. If no significant adverse comments are received, as determined by the Commissioner of DES, after this period, a Finding of No Significant Impact (FNSI) will be issued and the project may proceed.

Please provide us with copies of the notices from the newspapers for our records. If there are any questions concerning this process contact me at 271-0867.

Sincerely,

Allyson L. Gourley  
Environmental Review Coordinator  
Water Division

Enclosure

DES Web site: [www.des.nh.gov](http://www.des.nh.gov)

P.O. Box 95, 29 Hazen Drive, Concord, New Hampshire 03302-0095

Telephone: (603) 271-2513 • Fax: (603) 271-5171 • TDD Access: Relay NH 1-800-735-2964

# ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

I.	WATER SYSTEM NAME	WOLFEBORO WATER SYSTEM
	ADDRESS	9 UNION STREET
		WOLFEBORO, NH, 03894
	PROJECT TITLE	WATER METER UPGRADES
	WATER SYSTEM EPA ID	2561010

## II. INTRODUCTION

The Town of Wolfeboro Water System has applied for funds through the State of New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services Drinking Water State Revolving Loan Fund (DWSRF), in accordance with Chapter Env-Dw 1100. This document addresses the requirements of Env-Dw 1107, the Environmental Review.

## III. BACKGROUND

The Town of Wolfeboro's water system dates back to the 1890's and is currently servicing over 2,000 customers including the regional High/Middle/Vocational Schools, Brewster Academy and Huggins Hospital. The water source for the Town of Wolfeboro is the spring feed Upper Beach Pond, located in the northwest corner of town.

In recent years the Town's water system staff have worked extremely hard at leak detection and implementing a water conservation program. These efforts have resulted in a reduction in the average daily flow from a high of 665,000 gpd in 2005/2006 to 474,000 gpd in 2011; nearly a 30% reduction. However, the Town is still experiencing high unaccounted for water loss (the difference between the flow into the water system and the total metered customer use). Currently, only one third of the meters are read and billed for each month, making it difficult to perform unaccounted-for water calculations. And though, the Town has implemented water meter upgrades in the past, there are still a number of meters in the system that are over 15 years old and are likely not registering water use accurately.

In an effort to identify potential solutions to this issue, the Town contracted with Weston & Sampson to perform a comprehensive Water Meter Study. Enclosed with the Town's application is a copy of Weston & Sampson's Water Meter report, dated September 29, 2011 which is the basis for the proposed project.

## IV. PURPOSE and NEED

The proposed Upgrade to the Towns Water Meters and to a Radio Read System will allow the Town to read all 2,400 +/- water meters in one or two days and enable the Town to eventually bill customers on a monthly basis. This will greatly reduce energy and manpower cost as it now takes an average of 2 weeks per month for one man in a truck to perform only one third of the work. The radio read system will also better assist the Town in its efforts to reduce unaccounted for water. It will also benefit customers in that they will be able to see their bill and use on a monthly basis to better budget for payments, help them conserve water, and see if they possibly have high use as the result of leaks.

## V. DETAILS of PROJECT

All existing meters will be retrofitted and equipped with a radio read unit so that the entire system can be read in 1 or 2 days. Of the approximately 2,400 water meters, about 700 are over 15 years old and those will be replaced. This will improve not only billing, but data management of both supply and demands trends.

The overall cost for the project has been estimated at \$500,000, per the Weston & Sampson report. The Town of Wolfeboro has applied to borrow up to this amount to complete the project.

## VI. ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS and MITIGATION

The following areas of environmental concern summarize the possible impacts from this project. The primary impacts are short-term and will affect the area only during the period of construction.

Air: No impacts to air quality are anticipated with this project.

Noise: No noise impacts are anticipated with this project.

Surface water, groundwater and wetlands: There are no wetland impacts associated with this project. No significant groundwater or surface water impacts are anticipated. All appropriate permits shall be obtained from local, state and federal agencies as necessary.

Wildlife: No impacts to wildlife are anticipated from this project.

Social and Economic: The social and economic impacts from the project are favorable. Water customers will benefit from receiving monthly water bills, which will allow easier budgeting and enable customers to monitor their water use, encouraging conservation. Additionally, the Town will quickly be able to identify leaks, which will reduce operational costs in the long run. The financial impact on the ratepayer will be reduced through the use of low interest rates through the Drinking Water State Revolving Loan Fund.

Recreation and Historic: No impacts to recreational or historic sites are anticipated.

Indirect impacts: There are no indirect impacts anticipated from this project.

Whereas this project constitutes only a minor project and no significant environmental impacts are anticipated, a finding of No Significant Impact (FNSI) is proposed.

## VII. PUBLIC REVIEW

The Town of Wolfeboro voted to authorize funding in the amount of \$500,000 for this project on March 13, 2012.

A public notice will be published by the Town of Wolfeboro, and a 30-day comment period will be held in accordance with the DWSRF rules.