



JANET T. MILLS  
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MAINE  
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION



MELANIE LOYZIM  
COMMISSIONER

## A. PROJECT IDENTIFICATION

Project Name: High Street Pump Station Upgrades

Address: 1 City Hall Plaza, Ellsworth, ME 04605

Project Location: 213 High Street Ellsworth, Maine.

EPA or CWSRF Project No.: C230127-05

## B. SUMMARY OF ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

The applicant's Facilities Plan, Environmental Information Document, all other supporting documentation (give specific references), and associated comments submitted in regard to this project have been reviewed, and in accordance with EPA regulations, the findings of our environmental review are summarized below.

### 1. Project Description

The City of Ellsworth, Maine (City) is located in Hancock County along Route 1, just north of Acadia National Park. With a population of approximately 8,400, the City is considered one of the fastest growing cities in Maine over the past two decades. To accommodate the growing population and economy, the City built a new wastewater treatment facility (WWTF) in 2012 and is continuing to improve its sewer collection system. The City operates eight pump stations to convey sanitary sewage to the Bayside Road WWTF. One of the City's major pump stations is the High Street Pump Station (See Figure 1). The High Street Pump Station receives sewer flows from highly developed areas of High Street and the growing Route 1 and Route 3 commercial corridor. The pump station receives sanitary sewer flow from several of the City's largest lodging facilities and businesses. The nearly 50-year-old pump station (built in 1974) is at the end of its useful life, and the station is near full capacity. This project is part of a larger phased pumpstation and collection system upgrade project. The estimated construction cost for the upgrades is \$1,852,500 with a project start date anticipated to be April 1, 2024. The project duration is anticipated to be 12 months; therefore, the substantial completion is expected to be on April 1, 2025. The pumpstation is currently owned by the City of Ellsworth and will continue to be owned by the city after completion of this project. Describe planning area and outline the proposed project (length and diameter of sewers and force mains; number, size and location of pumping stations; location and description of treatment facilities; alternately, areas where on-site septic system rehabilitation and cluster systems will be utilized, etc.). Use maps and figures.

AUGUSTA  
17 STATE HOUSE STATION  
AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333-0017  
(207) 287-7688 FAX: (207) 287-7826

BANGOR  
106 HOGAN ROAD, SUITE 6  
BANGOR, MAINE 04401  
(207) 941-4570 FAX: (207) 941-4584

PORTLAND  
312 CANCO ROAD  
PORTLAND, MAINE 04103  
(207) 822-6300 FAX: (207) 822-6303

PRESQUE ISLE  
1235 CENTRAL DRIVE, SKYWAY PARK  
PRESQUE ISLE, MAINE 04769  
(207) 764-0477 FAX: (207) 760-3143

## **2. Purpose and Need**

In addition to the pumpstation nearing/exceeding its useful life and limiting the opportunities for economic developments in the area, the pumpstation has a history of sewer system overflows (SSO) into businesses and into Card Brook itself. The pumpstation is at risk of system failures that could also cause SSO's or service interruptions. The pumpstation is currently within the FEMA 100-year flood boundary. The new pumpstation will still be within the flood boundary but will be designed to be floodproofed and elevated out of the assumed base flood elevation for the 100-year flood event. In addition, the new pumpstation will allow for business development, improve system reliability, and reduce the risk of SSO events.

A summary discussion and demonstration of the need for the proposed facilities in the planning area and how the project will solve the problem, with particular emphasis on existing public health or pollution problems that exist, including air, surface water (note water quality classification) and groundwater, stating their severity and extent. Outline sources of information used to document the need. Note conformity with local Comprehensive Development Plan, the 303(e) Basin Plan, the NPDES permit and the 208 Plan.

## **3. Discussion of Alternatives**

This discussion shall include a brief description and a comparative analysis of all the feasible alternatives studied (highlight proposed alternative), as well as including the no-action alternative, for wastewater collection, treatment process, site location, effluent disposal and sludge disposal throughout the study area. Land application alternatives must be fully discussed. The alternatives shall be compared with respect to capital and operating costs (these costs should be summarized in an attached table, as appropriate).

Discuss significant impacts of alternatives to highlight major differences between that alternative and the proposed alternative.

If the proposed alternative is not the most cost effective one, fully justify the reason(s) for selecting it.

### **1. No Action**

Under the No Action Alternative, the proposed Project would not be constructed. This alternative would not assist the city in providing adequate wastewater collection, wastewater treatment, reduction of SSO discharges and increased climate resiliency for the residents of Ellsworth.

### **2. Action Alternative (Preferred Alternative)**

The only feasible alternative for addressing the aging pumpstation is to replace the existing pumpstation and connect into the existing collection system from a more flood resilient location on the site. While the site will still be within the flood zone A, the BFE will be calculated and the pumpstation will be elevated to be 3 feet above the estimated BFE, for any assets that it is not practical to elevate out of the flood zone they will be floodproofed.

#### **4. Impact of Proposed Project on the Environment**

Point out environmental impacts, with mitigation, for the proposed project.

##### **a. Direct Impacts**

- i. Air Quality – State Implementation Plan (SIP) compliance, odors, dust  
Minor air emissions will be created by construction vehicles and equipment during the completion of the project, which is expected to take one year. No idling procedures for construction vehicles will be in place for the duration of construction to reduce potential air emissions. The pump station upgrades will not be creating any new long-term emissions that would lead to exposure of people or wildlife to ambient air that does not meet the standards established under the CAA or exceeds state ambient air quality standards. The pump station upgrades will have no significant impact on the air quality in the project area.

- ii. Water Quality and Quantity

Surface – sedimentation impacts, beneficial quality improvements.

The High Street Pump Station abuts Card Brook, a Class B freshwater stream on the 303(d) list of impaired waters for not meeting water quality standards for dissolved oxygen, aquatic life use, and bacteria. No construction activities will take place in the brook, and erosion and sediment controls will be used during construction to prevent runoff and sediment from entering the brook. The pump station upgrades will have a positive effect on the nearby surface water quality by preventing SSOs from entering Card Brook.

Groundwater – Groundwater is not expected to be affected by this project.

Drinking water supplies – Drinking water is not expected to be affected by this project. A backflow preventor will be provided on the water service connection. The City's drinking water system has enough capacity to supply the pump station. The pump station is not located near any source of drinking water.

- iii. Environmentally Sensitive Areas

Floodplains and Wetlands – If impacted, prepare "Floodplain and/or Wetland Assessment" and a "Statement of Findings" in accordance with Appendix A of the NEPA Regulations. This need not be a separate, appended document but may be incorporated here. Be sure to include all information required of such an assessment.

Wetlands- A survey of the project area was completed in December 2022 to delineate any wetlands or watercourses found in the area. There are no wetlands listed in the National Wetlands Inventory (NWI) at this site. Card Brook is identified as a watercourse in the NWI. Two wetlands were identified in the survey in the region of the project area. However, no construction activity is

expected to occur within the wetlands. The Stormwater Management Manual will be used to ensure no alterations to the wetlands are made through construction or operations of the pump station.

**Floodplains-** The entire pump station site is located within the 100-year floodplain for Card Brook. The new pump station equipment and buildings will be raised above the flood level per TR-16 Guides for the Design of Wastewater Treatment Works to protect from damage and ensure access during a flood. The pump station upgrades will have no significant effect on the floodplain.

#### **Prime Agricultural Land**

-The Affected Environment does not contain prime or unique farmland or farmland of statewide importance because the existing structures and infrastructure is not available for the use of producing food, feed, forage, fiber, or oilseed crops.

#### **Fish & Wildlife Habitat**

-According to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife IPaC, which is included as Appendix E in this report, the endangered species that are identified for the areas surrounding the High Street Pump Station includes the Monarch Butterfly, the Northern Long-Eared Bat, and Atlantic Salmon. The project site along Card Brook falls within the critical habitat range for Atlantic Salmon developed by NOAA. Card Brook is a tributary of the Union River, which is known as a corridor for Atlantic Salmon migration. As part of the Proposed Action, no work will be performed in Card Brook. The brook will be protected from construction debris, sediment, and erosion using stormwater management best practices. No trees or previously unmowed grasslands are expected to be disturbed as a part of this project.

#### **Stream Modification:**

-No stream modifications have been proposed as part of this project.

#### **Army Corps Section 404/Section 10 permits:**

-This project will not take place in any wetlands, nor will any construction be conducted below the ordinary high water elevation of navigable waters of the United States; therefore, Army Corps Section 404 and Section 10 permits are not required for this project.

#### **Natural Resource Protection Act permits:**

-In the process of preparing the city's Environmental Report the city's consultant reviewed the project scope with a member of the Department of Environmental Protection's (DEP) Land Bureau and determined the project needs a PBR. The NRPA permit by rule (PBR) application was submitted to DEP on September 12, 2023. Approval for the NRPA PBR was issued by Maine DEP on October 16, 2023. A Shoreland Zoning Permit has also been obtained from the City in

accordance with City ordinances and regulations. BMP erosion control measures will be implemented to ensure the surrounding environment is not impacted by construction. These requirements will be included in the construction Contract Documents and will be enforced by the on-site inspector.

iv. Socio-Economic Impacts/ Environmental Justice

This project is being 80% funded through an EPA Community Grant for Sustainable Water Infrastructure. The City is required to fund 20% of the project costs which will be provided through either a loan from CWSRF, an OSG grant, an ARPA grant, or a combination of all. The city will repay the loan through the sewer department's userbase. It is not anticipated that this project will have significant impact on employment, multi-use opportunities, uniform relocation and assistance or parks.

The population of the City of Ellsworth, Maine is 8,399 (2020). The median household income of the city is \$58,029 with a poverty rate of 8.4%. Approximately 19% of the city's population is over the age of 65, and 55% of the population is female. The median household income for Maine is \$63,182 and the poverty rate is 11.5 percent. As the median income for the City of Ellsworth is greater than 65% of the statewide household income, Ellsworth is not considered a low-income population.

The population is reported to be over 94% white with the other 6% being comprised of African American, Asian, Hispanic or Latino, American Indian or Alaskan Native. As the minority population of the Affected Environment does not exceed 50 percent, the City of Ellsworth is not considered to be a minority population (Census 2020). Therefore, Ellsworth is not considered an environmental justice population.

v. Historical/Archaeological Sites and National Landmarks

There are no historical monuments, landmarks, or properties that are listed or eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places located within the affected area for the High Street Pump Station. A letter was sent to the State Historic Preservation Office of Maine for comment, and a comment has not yet been received.

vi. Endangered Species

The city's consultant accessed the US Fish & Wildlife Service's Information for Planning and Consultation (IPaC) system to determine whether any threatened, endangered, candidate, or proposed species or designated or proposed critical habitat may be found within the project area. No critical habitats were indicated, except for Atlantic Salmon were indicated. Although critical habitat for Atlantic Salmon has been delineated within the project area there will be no in water work. A no effect determination was found for the Northern Long-eared Bat. The only proposed mitigation measure is erosion control to protect Card Brook. This

requirement will be included in the construction Contract Documents and will be enforced by the on-site inspector.

vii. Coastal Zone Management and CBRIS units

The City of Ellsworth and the project area specifically are outside of the coastal zone and any Coastal Barrier Resources System units; therefore, there will be no environmental impact to coastal barrier resources as part of the proposed project and no mitigation measures have been proposed.

viii. Wild & Scenic Rivers

There are no wild and scenic rivers in the project area.

- b. Indirect Impacts - The purpose of the proposed pumpstation upgrade is to correct environmental and public health problems by replacing the deteriorated High Street Pumpstation and to provide public sewer service for future residential and commercial growth in the area. Providing sewer service for future residential and commercial growth could potentially create indirect impacts, including increasing vehicle traffic, air pollution, and noise and loss of wildlife habitat. Given that the pumpstations collection area is already partially developed and zoned for commercial and residential use it is anticipated that the indirect impacts mentioned above will be minimal in nature.
- c. Cumulative Impacts – incremental impact of project when added to other past, present and reasonably foreseeable future actions.

While this project may lead to subsequent smaller projects along streets that intersect the pumpstations collection area, it is anticipated that any additional incremental impacts from these projects should be minimal in nature.

## 5. Mitigation of Environmental Impacts

The following table provides a summary of the mitigation measures discussed, above and in the Environmental Assessment documents provided by the consultant.

| Resource Area                   | Alternatives                                                                                                                                                                                       | Mitigation Measures/Best Practices for Proposed Action                                                                                                                                  |
|---------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Land Use, Zoning, Aesthetics    | <b>Proposed Action:</b> No impacts identified.                                                                                                                                                     |                                                                                                                                                                                         |
|                                 | <b>No Action Alternative:</b> No impacts identified.                                                                                                                                               |                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| Water Resources                 | <b>Proposed Action:</b> Moderate positive impacts for reduction in SSOs to surface water quality and wetlands. Non-significant potential impacts include the Potential runoff during construction. | <b>Mitigation Measures:</b> Utilize erosion and sediment control measures.<br><b>Best Practices:</b> Refer to Maine Erosion and Sediment Control Practices Field Guide for Contractors. |
|                                 | <b>No Action Alternative:</b> Moderate adverse impacts - SSOs would continue at the pump station and potentially affect Card Brook and nearby wetlands.                                            |                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| Transportation and Parking      | <b>Proposed Action:</b> No significant impacts identified. Non-significant potential impacts include the temporary loss of paved parking during construction.                                      | <b>Mitigation Measures:</b> Set up construction material laydown area in the back of the parking lot, where parking spaces are used infrequently.<br><b>Best Practices:</b> None.       |
|                                 | <b>No Action Alternative:</b> No impacts identified.                                                                                                                                               |                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| Energy                          | <b>Proposed Action:</b> Moderate positive impacts due to reduced energy usage.                                                                                                                     |                                                                                                                                                                                         |
|                                 | <b>No Action Alternative:</b> Moderate adverse impacts – Pump Station would continue to draw energy continuously due to inefficient pumps.                                                         |                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| Water Source and Sewer Capacity | <b>Proposed Action:</b> No significant impacts identified.                                                                                                                                         |                                                                                                                                                                                         |
|                                 | <b>No Action Alternative:</b> Moderate adverse impacts - Pump Station would continue to experience SSOs.                                                                                           |                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| Noise                           | <b>Proposed Action:</b> No significant impacts identified. Non-significant potential impacts include noise generated by construction vehicles and equipment.                                       | <b>Mitigation Measures:</b> Work during normal working hours 7 am- 5 pm.<br><b>Best Practices:</b> None.                                                                                |
|                                 | <b>No Action Alternative:</b> No impacts identified.                                                                                                                                               |                                                                                                                                                                                         |

|                           |                                                                                                                                                           |                                                                                                                                                              |
|---------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Solid and Hazardous Waste | <b>Proposed Action:</b> No significant impacts identified. Non-significant potential impacts include the creation of waste including construction debris. | <b>Mitigation Measures:</b> Dispose of construction debris at local landfill with available capacity; reuse existing generator. <b>Best Practices:</b> None. |
|                           | <b>No Action Alternative:</b> No impacts identified.                                                                                                      |                                                                                                                                                              |

|                               |                                                                                                                                                                                            |                                                                                                                                                                                      |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Air Quality                   | <b>Proposed Action:</b> No significant impacts identified. Non-significant potential impacts include the emissions produced by construction vehicles.                                      | <b>Mitigation Measures:</b> No idling procedures. <b>Best Practices:</b> None.                                                                                                       |
|                               | <b>No Action Alternative:</b> No impacts identified.                                                                                                                                       |                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| Greenhouse Gas Emissions      | <b>Proposed Action:</b> No significant impacts identified. Non-significant potential impacts include the emissions produced by construction vehicles.                                      | <b>Mitigation Measures:</b> No idling procedures. <b>Best Practices:</b> None.                                                                                                       |
|                               | <b>No Action Alternative:</b> No impacts identified.                                                                                                                                       |                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| Geology, Topography, Soils    | <b>Proposed Action:</b> No significant impacts identified. Non-significant potential impacts include the Potential runoff from site during construction                                    | <b>Mitigation Measures:</b> Utilize erosion control measures. <b>Best Practices:</b> Refer to Maine Erosion and Sediment Control Practices Field Guide for Contractors.              |
|                               | <b>No Action Alternative:</b> No impacts identified.                                                                                                                                       |                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| Geologic Hazards              | <b>Proposed Action:</b> No impacts identified.                                                                                                                                             |                                                                                                                                                                                      |
|                               | <b>No Action Alternative:</b> No impacts identified.                                                                                                                                       |                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| Vegetation, Wildlife, Habitat | <b>Proposed Action:</b> No impacts identified.                                                                                                                                             |                                                                                                                                                                                      |
|                               | <b>No Action Alternative:</b> No impacts identified.                                                                                                                                       |                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| Federally Protected Species   | <b>Proposed Action:</b> Moderate positive impacts for improvement of Atlantic Salmon critical habitat. Non-significant potential impacts include the potential runoff during construction. | <b>Mitigation Measures:</b> Utilize erosion and sediment control measures. <b>Best Practices:</b> Refer to Maine Erosion and Sediment Control Practices Field Guide for Contractors. |
|                               | <b>No Action Alternative:</b> SSOs would continue at the pump station and potentially affect critical Atlantic Salmon habitat in Card Brook.                                               |                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| Historical Resources          | <b>Proposed Action:</b> No impacts identified.                                                                                                                                             |                                                                                                                                                                                      |
|                               | <b>No Action Alternative:</b> No impacts identified.                                                                                                                                       |                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| Socioeconomic Resources       | <b>Proposed Action:</b> No impacts identified.                                                                                                                                             |                                                                                                                                                                                      |
|                               | <b>No Action Alternative:</b> No impacts identified.                                                                                                                                       |                                                                                                                                                                                      |

## 6. Summary of Agency & Public Consultation

- a. W&C has presented project plans to the City's Selectboard members at multiple public meetings which are open for public comment. Participants could join in person and over Zoom. W&C last presented High Street Pump Station updates in a public meeting on September 19, 2023.
- b. No objections have been raised

During the development of the city's Environmental Report the following agencies were contacted for comment:

- Maine Historic Preservation Commission July 28<sup>th</sup>, 2023
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service July 12<sup>th</sup>, 2023

No significant comments were received from any of the previously contacted State and Federal agencies listed above.

## 7. List of Agencies and Groups Consulted

The following agencies will receive a copy of the Environmental Assessment and the Finding of No Significant Impact:

- Natural Resources Council of Maine
- Maine Audubon Society
- Maine Emergency Management Agency
- Maine Natural Areas Program
- Maine Inland Fisheries & Wildlife
- Site Location Law and Natural Resource Protection Act
- Maine Department of Environmental Protection (MEPDES Compliance Inspectors)
- Penobscot Indian Nation
- Mi'kmaq Nation

## C. SIGNATURE(S)

Camden Clark  
Camden Clark  
Division of Water Quality Management  
Maine Department of Environmental Protection

10-27-2023

Date