Mr. Steven Beveridge  
Town of Rockport  
P.O. Box 10  
Rockport, Maine 04856  

SUBJECT: Town of Rockport  
Route I Northern Sewer Extension Project  
SRF #C230217- 03  

Finding of No Significant Impact  

Dear Mr. Beveridge:  
In compliance with Section C of the "State of Maine Revolving Loan Fund Rules Chapter 595" this office has reviewed the environmental aspects of the proposed sewer project for your community. From this review, we have determined that a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) is required. We have distributed the Finding of No Significant Impact to all known interested parties (See attached list). The Town is required to publish a notice indicating the determination in a local newspaper of community-wide circulation stating the supporting documentation is available for public inspection. 

For your convenience, we have included a suggested format for the legal advertisement. Please advertise as soon as possible to allow a 30 day comment period. Once advertised, please send a copy of the advertisement to this office for our records. Please feel free to call me at 287-7765 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,  

Tim MacMillan, P. E.  
Division of Water Quality Management  
Bureau of Land and Water Quality  

cc. Nathan McLaughlin, Woodard & Curran  
Enc. FONSI  
Environmental Assessment  
Distribution List.
ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT
Town of Rockport Route One Northern Sewer Extension Project

A. PROJECT IDENTIFICATION
Project Name: Town of Rockport Route 1 Northern Sewer Extension
Office Address: 101 Main Street, Rockport, Maine 04856
Project Location: Rockport, Knox County
Project Number: C230217-03

B. SUMMARY OF ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW
The applicant's Environmental Information Document, all other supporting documentation, 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 Town of Rockport currently owns and operates a sewer collection system that serves two different areas of town. Presently, the existing sewer collection system services the Rockport Village area, where an average of 47,400 gallons per day (GPD) of sewage was received in 2012 and pumped to the Camden Wastewater Treatment Facility (WWTF). The southern area of the Town serviced by the sewer collection system, which includes Pen Bay Hospital and Brewster Point, had an average of 57,600 GPD of sewage received and is pumped to the Rockland WWTF.

The Camden WWTF is located on Lions Lane in Camden, and the facility discharges effluent to Penobscot Bay via a gravity main from the WWTF. The Rockland WWTF is located on Penobscot Bay off Tilson Avenue in Rockland, and the facility also discharges effluent to Penobscot Bay.

The proposed project involves the extension of the public sewer infrastructure in the Town of Rockport, Maine; providing approximately 2000’ of gravity sewer along Route 1 (from Elwood Avenue to Sea Light Lane) and connecting via forcemain to the Rockport Village area collection system. The project location is shown on Figure I: Location Plan.

More specifically, the first section of gravity main will extend approximately 1,000’ north from Sea Light Lane to Rockville Street, the second section will extend approximately 550’ south from Park Centre Drive to Rockville Street and the third section will extend approximately 450’ north from Park Centre Drive to the existing sewer gravity main at Elwood Avenue. A new pump station will be located approximately 50’ north of the northern entrance of Rockville Street where the 1,000’ and 550’ sections of gravity main converge. The collected sewage will be pumped via forcemain to the Rockport Village area collection system. This proposed project also includes approximately 1,000’ of 4” force main which will run from the pump station to Sealight Lane in the direction of the Rockland WWTF, specifically to promote future flexibility of the system.

The work is expected to be completed in 2014.
The estimated cost of construction is $700,000.
2. Purpose and Need
The proposed sewer extension along Route 1 will serve existing businesses immediately abutting the proposed sewer main installation. The proposed project is needed to eliminate private subsurface septic disposal systems, as the soils in the area are reportedly poor and unsuitable for long term use of onsite disposal systems. Several businesses in the project area rely on suitable wastewater disposal systems for operations and maintaining viable business. Further, several commercial establishments in the area are unable to expand because of the constraints of their current septic systems. By providing public sewer service to these businesses, they will be able to maintain their daily operations and have the infrastructure to expand them.

The proposed project is also the first step in a broader Town goal of bringing sewer infrastructure to the currently unsewered areas along the Route 1 corridor. A Route 1 corridor that has available public sewer infrastructure allows the Town much greater opportunities for economic development projects and protects the natural resources by eliminating or preventing subsurface discharges into marginal soils. The completed projects will also allow the Town the flexibility of pumping wastewater generated in the area between Elwood Avenue and the Pen Bay Hospital to either Camden or Rockland. This flexibility will provide the Town with the ability to negotiate favorable sewer user agreements with each community and provides the ability shift more of its wastewater to either the Camden or Rockland wastewater treatment plant, should either of those treatment plants have a reduction in their ability to accept Rockport's wastewater.

This project is identified as a growth area in the Towns Comprehensive Development Plan. Figure 2 illustrates the Extension Analysis Area. It will also achieve the long term goal of connecting the Town of Rockport's two separate collection systems.

3. Discussion of Alternatives
The alternatives considered for this project were as follows:
i. Do Nothing and serve future development through Subsurface Disposal Systems
ii. Provide public sewer to connect existing and future developments along the Route 1 corridor.

No-Action Alternative:
This alternative would maintain the existing individual septic systems in the areas. Future development would also depend on localized treatment alternatives to meet their needs. The no-action alternative would not resolve the existing aging subsurface systems that will potentially fail nor the continued health risk of existing and future subsurface systems as time went on Therefore, this is not determined to be a reasonable alternative and will not be addressed for potential environmental impacts.

Sewer Alternative:
This option investigated several sewering options for this 2000’ length along Route 1 however the most viable alternative to sewer this section is discussed above and involves a combination of 3 gravity sections of pipe and a pump station which will pump the collected sewage to a gravity manhole connected to the existing Rockport Village area collection system. This pump station will also be capable of pumping sewage toward Rockland in the future via a forcemain installed at the same time as this project. This sewer alternative is considered the appropriate alternative and will be discussed further as the Proposed Project.
4. Impact of Proposed Project on the Environment

A. Direct Impacts

I. Air Quality
During construction, some dust emissions and exhaust pollution will be inevitable. Standard construction techniques of pavement sweeping, spraying water or spreading calcium chloride will be used to minimize the dust. When construction is complete, there should be minimal air quality impact from the project. There is no mitigation required for this minor impact.

II. Water Quality and Quantity
Best Management Practices (BMP's), including sedimentation and erosion control requirements, will be used to control surface water runoff during construction. Proper de-watering procedures, if needed, will also be used.

Surface water in the vicinity of the project should not be significantly impacted during construction and is expected to benefit as a result of allowing the removal of several subsurface disposal systems used by commercial businesses. Due to the proximity of the ocean to the project, there may also be a benefit to the groundwater quality as a result of decommissioning subsurface disposal systems.

There are no known public drinking wells within the vicinity of the Proposed Project.

The project is expected to improve the water quality in the immediate area by discontinuing the use of subsurface wastewater disposal systems.

iii. Environmentally Sensitive Areas

a. Floodplains
There are no system components of the proposed project that are planned to be constructed within the 100-year flood plain. As a result, there is not expected to be any environmental consequences related to flood plains.

b. Wetlands
There are no Freshwater Forested/Shrub Wetlands or Freshwater Pond Wetlands within the proposed project area. (See Figure 2). The nearest wetland area to the proposed project is approximately 100 feet away and the nearest pond is approximately 600 feet away. All portions of the project will be constructed within the MDOT and Town right-of-ways and are not expected to impact any wetland area. No wetland impacts are anticipated to the area proposed for sewer main installation in 2014. A Natural Resources Protection Act (NRPA) permit may be required for work near a wetland and is presently being confirmed with the Maine DEP. A NRPA permit will be obtained, if required, prior to construction activities.

In order to ensure no environmental consequences occur, Best Management Practices (BMP's), including sedimentation and erosion control requirements, will be used to control surface water runoff during construction.
c. River, Stream, or Brook
The project is located in the existing MDOT and Town owned right—of-ways. There are not expected to be any impacts to any rivers, streams or brooks within the project area. Further, the project will not affect any known wild/scenic rivers in the area.

d. Classified Lands
There are no known Prime Farmlands or Forestland in or near the project area. Beech Hill Preserve is the only known Formally Classified Land within the Northern Extension Analysis Area, however at its nearest point, it is located approximately 500 feet from the work proposed as part of this project. Beech Hill Preserve is locally managed by the Coastal Mountains Land Trust, and any, future work or development that occurs on or impacts the Beech Hill Preserve will require input from the Coastal Mountains Land Trust. The future planning area has been adjusted to avoid potential impacts to the Beech Hill Preserve. (See Figure 2). Development within the Beech Hill Preserve is very restricted, therefore it is unlikely extension of public sewer beyond the preserve’s boundaries will ever occur.

e. Fish and Wildlife Habitat or Endangered or Threatened Species
The proposed project will not affect any federally listed species, as determined by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Maine Natural Areas Program, and the Maine Department of inland Fisheries and Wildlife. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has determined that the project is within the critical habitat of the Atlantic salmon, however the nearest area inhabited by Atlantic Salmon is Penobscot Bay, which is 960’ from the proposed project at its nearest point. The majority of the work will be within the existing Maine Department of Transportation right—of—way and Town of Rockport right—of-way and will not disturb the Atlantic salmon habitat identified by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The proposed location of the Route I force main does not cross any streams located within the boundaries of the Atlantic salmon habitat as represented in the correspondence from the DIF&W. Therefore, the proposed work will have no effect on protected resources (fish, wildlife habitat or endangered or threatened species) in the project area.

f. Botanical Features
There are no rare or unique botanical features documented within or near the project area.

h. Historical Sites
There proposed project will not affect any historic properties.

i. Archaeological Sites and Cultural Resources
There are no known archeological or cultural resources known to be present in the project area. In the event that an artifact is found during construction, the contractor will be required to stop work in that area and notify the proper local, state, and federal authorities.
j. Coastal Resources
None of the proposed work will occur within a coastal zone. Portions of the
planning area border the coastal zone, but no impacts are expected in that area.
Since no portion of the project lies within any Coastal Zone or Coastal Barrier
Resource System (CBRS) unit, there is no anticipated effect on either resource.

iv. Scenic, Aesthetic, Recreational or Navigational Uses ~
The project will not unreasonably interfere with existing scenic, aesthetic,
recreational or navigational uses adjacent to or within the project area.

v. Noise
To minimize the impacts of noise during construction, the allowable work hours will
be limited to no more than 7:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, unless
the Town permits otherwise. The noise generated during blasting will be short in
duration. Notice of when blasting will occur will be given to local residents prior to
the commencement of blasting. The completed project will not have any noticeable
effect on noise in the area.

vi. Transportation
The completed project will not have any noticeable effect on traffic patterns in the
area. However, because much of the project will be performed within established
right-of-ways within Route 1, there will be impacts on traffic during the construction
phase. Traffic control measures will be required to reduce the impact on traffic flow
during construction. There are no permanent structures of any height that would
affect air transportation, nor any structures proposed in navigable waters. As well,
there are no above ground structures proposed for any transportation routes. These
issues, if presented, are expected to be construction related only and temporary in
nature. It is anticipated that the indirect impacts will be minimal in nature.

vii. Socio-Economic Impacts / Environmental Justice
There will be no disproportionately high or adverse human health or environmental
effect to low income or minority populations as a result of this project.

B. Indirect Impacts
For planning purposes, the area that may potentially connect to the Town’s sewer
collection system within this area over an assumed twenty (20) year planning period was
reviewed. The larger planning area is delineated in Figure 2. At this time, there is no
development planned beyond the properties along the Route 1 corridor immediately
abutting the proposed sewer main extension. For wastewater flow estimation purposes,
it was assumed the future development in the planning area would be largely residential
development (singular lots and multi-lot subdivisions). Future development into this
largely rural and undeveloped area would require local planning board approval,
adherence to sewer use regulations and zoning ordinances, stormwater runoff control
ordinances, protection of environmentally sensitive areas, water conservation programs
and potentially additional State and/or Federal approvals depending on whether Funding
Agencies were participating in the infrastructure development.

The following environmental impacts relate to potential development only of the planning
area.
i. Air Quality V
During future development construction, some dust emissions and exhaust pollution will be inevitable. Standard construction techniques and Best Management Practices would be in place to ensure minimal impact to air quality. There is no mitigation expected for this minor impact.

ii. Water Quality and Quantity
Future development within the Northern Extension Analysis Area has the potential to create additional stormwater runoff, additional pollutant loading and other possible impacts that are difficult to predict presently and might impact water quality. Construction of the proposed project however, provides the basis for additional sewer infrastructure to be installed which will allow future development to connect to the municipal sewer system. This will help avoid installation of new subsurface wastewater disposal systems which have the potential to negatively impact water quality.

If future development is proposed, water quality impacts will be determined during planning stages and mitigation will be determined at that time with the appropriate entities, including the Maine DEP. For any future development, it is expected that Best Management Practices (BMP's), including sedimentation and erosion control requirements, will be used to control surface water runoff during future construction. Proper de-watering procedures, if needed, would also be used to limit impacts to the water quality and quantity.

Environmentally Sensitive Areas
a. Floodplains
The project area is shown on the FEMA Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) as illustrated on Figure 2. A portion of the future planning area is located along the immediate coast is within the Zone VE coastal flood plain.

It is unlikely that any future development will occur within the portion of the Northern Extension Analysis Area that is within the Zone VE coastal flood plain due to shoreland zoning ordinances and restrictions on building within the coastal flood plain, however, if future development is planned within the flood plan, mitigation will be determined at that time with the appropriate entities, including the Maine DEP, the Army Corps of Engineers, and others defined at the time to have jurisdiction over the work proposed. Possible mitigation measures may include, but are not limited to on-site restoration/enhancement of the flood plain, offsite preservation of the flood plain, and payment of an in-lieu fee.

b. Wetlands
Wetland areas within the future planning area were determined using the National Wetlands Inventory Wetlands Mapper. Several wetland areas (Freshwater Forested/Shrub Wetlands) as well as Freshwater ponds wetlands within the Analysis Area. A NRPA Permit will be obtained, if required, prior to any construction activities near the wetlands. No vernal pools are shown within Analysis Area on the DEP’s NRPA Vernal Pools mapper.
Future development may impact wetland areas within the future planning area depending on the size, scope and location of the future proposed development. Any future development within the project area will independently verify wetland locations and presence of vernal pools, and coordinate any necessary mitigation required with the appropriate agencies, including the Maine DEP.

Potential mitigation measures may include, but are not limited to on-site restoration/enhancement of wetlands, offsite creation/preservation of wetlands, and payment of an in-lieu fee. Further, Best Management Practices (BMP's), including sedimentation and erosion control requirements, will be used to control surface water runoff during construction.

c. River, Stream, or Brook
The future planning area will not affect any known wild/scenic rivers in the area.

Classified Lands
There are no known Prime Farmlands or Forestland in or near the project area. Beech Hill Preserve is the only known Formally Classified Land near the Northern Extension planning Area. Beech Hill Preserve is a locally managed by the Coastal Mountains Land Trust, and any future work or development that occurs on or impacts the Beech Hill Preserve will require input from the Coastal Mountains Land Trust. The future planning area has been adjusted to avoid potential impacts to the Beech Hill Preserve. (See Figure 2). Development within the Beech Hill Preserve is very restricted, therefore it is unlikely extension of public sewer beyond the present boundaries will ever occur.

e. Fish and Wildlife Habitat or Endangered or Threatened Species
The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has determined that the project and the future planning area is within the critical habitat of the Atlantic salmon.

It is unlikely that any future development will occur within the portion of the Northern Extension Analysis Area that is within the habitat of the Atlantic salmon due to shoreland zoning ordinances and restrictions on building within the coastal flood plain, however, if future development is planned within the Atlantic salmon area, mitigation will be determined at that time with the appropriate entities, including the Maine DEP, the Army Corps of Engineers, and others defined at the time to have jurisdiction over the work proposed.

Further, future development is expected to adhere to Best Management Practices (BMP's), including sedimentation and erosion control requirements, in order to control surface water runoff during typical construction practices for land development.

f. Botanical Features
There are no rare or unique botanical features documented within or near the future development area.
h. Historical Sites
There is a registered sod roof stone hut listed on the National Register of Historic Places and located adjacent to the development area on the Beech Hill Preserve. The Maine Historic Preservation Commission (MHPC) has confirmed no expected impact to historic properties from future development. Once future development is defined in more detail, MHPC may be able to comment further.

i. Archaeological Sites and Cultural Resources
There are no known archeological or cultural resources known to be present in the project area. In the event that an artifact is found during construction, the contractor will be required to stop work in that area and notify the proper local, state, and federal authorities.

j. Coastal Resources
Future development may occur within the portion of the future planning area that is within the habitat of the Atlantic salmon. While it is unlikely that any development will occur within the portion of the future planning area that is within the coastal zone due to shoreland zoning ordinances and restrictions on building within the coastal flood plain, if future development is planned within the coastal zone, mitigation will be determined at that time with the appropriate entities, including the Maine DEP, the Maine Coastal Program, the Army Corps of Engineers, and others defined at the time to have jurisdiction over the work proposed. Possible mitigation measures may include, but are not limited to on-site restoration/enhancement of coastal resources, offsite creation/preservation of coastal resources, and payment of an in-lieu fee.

No portion of the future planning area is expected within any Coastal Zone or Coastal Barrier Resource System (CBRS) unit, there is no anticipated effect on either resource.

iv. Scenic, Aesthetic, Recreational or Navigational Uses
The planning area abuts the Beech Hill Preserve, which is considered a scenic conservation property in the Penobscot Bay Region. Future development is not expected to unreasonably interfere with existing scenic, aesthetic, recreational or navigational uses adjacent to or within the project area.

v. Noise
Noise impacts are presently unknown for the planning area development but are expected to be minimal and temporary based on typical construction activities for residential development.

vi. Transportation
Transportation impacts are unknown for the planning area development but are expected to be minimal.

vii. Socio-Economic Impacts / Environmental Justice
There are not expected to be any disproportionately high or adverse human health or environmental effects to low income or minority populations as a result of development in the planning area.
C. Cumulative Impacts
There are no known cumulative impacts in the project area that would result in further environmental impact as a result of the project.

5. Mitigation of Environmental Impacts

A. Direct Impacts Mitigation measures will be incorporated into the design of the proposed project. All necessary permits will be obtained.

Mitigation measures will be reflected in the construction documents, including providing erosion control measures and DEP’s best management practices (BMPs) to protect water quality, dust control measures to protect air quality, and appropriate blasting techniques to minimize noise and prevent damage to existing structures dining construction.

A summary of mitigation measures proposed for the project are listed below.

• Flood Plains. All work will be conducted outside of flood plains.
• Wetlands. All work will be conducted outside of wetland areas. A NRPA Permit will be obtained, if necessary, from the Maine DEP.
• Cultural Resources. If any artifacts are uncovered during the proposed project construction, then work will be stopped immediately and the State Historic Preservation Commission and Rural Development (Co-funding agency) will be notified.
• Biological Resources. All work will be conducted outside the boundaries of Atlantic salmon habitat.
• Water Quality. During construction, temporary erosion control measures and best management practices will be utilized.
• Air Quality. Contractors will be required to perform pavement sweeping and use water or calcium chloride, or other methods as necessary, to control dust during 1 construction of the proposed project ~
• Transportation. Traffic control measures, such as signage and flaggers, will be used to reduce the impact on traffic flow during construction
• Ledge Removal. A pre-blast survey will be conducted. Monitored limitations on particle velocities of 1.25 in/sec within 300 feet of the blasting site. Seismographic and air—blast recording. Submission of documentation of the blasting operations from the Contractor.
• Noise. The allowable work hours will be limited to no more than 7:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, unless approved otherwise by the Owner.
0 Notice of when blasting will occur will be given to local residents prior to the commencement of blasting.

B. Indirect Impacts
Future development may require mitigation, and determining the impact of future developments and any required mitigation will be completed during the time that the i future project is proposed. Mitigation related to future development within the future planning area which is not directly related to the Proposed Project will be subject to all ` local, state, and federal regulations, and any mitigation required will need to be determined during planning of the future development.
Based on our analysis of the sensitive areas within the future development areas and the input we have received from State and Federal agencies, we anticipate the mitigation measures necessary to include the restoration/enhancement of similar on-site areas, offsite creation/preservation of similar areas, and payment of in-lieu fees.

6. Summary of Agency & Public Consultation
The Town held a public hearing to discuss the Town’s proposed sewer extension project on September 9, 2013 and subsequently approved the project and expenditure of funds through a voter—approved warrant on November 5, 2013. Further, on January 13, 2014, a public hearing was conducted respecting a CDBG application to assist in the sewer extension project. The Town has addressed public comments and concerns to the extent possible while still meeting the goals of the project.

In addition, as the project was being designed, the Town worked with applicable federal, state, and local agencies to address their concerns and comments and to incorporate them into the design where necessary. To date, no agencies have relayed concerns respecting the project.

7. List of Agencies and Groups Consulted To Date
Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry
Maine Department of Environmental Protection
Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife
Maine Historic Preservation Commission
United States Fish and Wildlife Services

C. SIGNATURE

Tim MacMillan, P.E.
Division of Water Quality Management
Bureau of Land & Water Quality

Legal Notice on next page
Legal Advertisement Announcement

STATE OF MAINE
DEPARTMENT or ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

To: All Interested Persons Date Issued: March 25, 2014
Pursuant to the State of Maine Revolving Loan Fund Rules, Chapter 595, Section C.5, we have prepared an Environmental Assessment (EA) for:
Town of Rockport, Knox County
Route 1 Northern Sewer Extension
Project No. 230217-03

A detailed description of the project is contained in the attached EA. A review of the proposed project by the Maine Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) reveals no significant adverse effects and that the quality of the human environment will be improved by the proposed project. Therefore, an Environmental Impact Statement will not be prepared. Comments relative to this decision may be submitted to the DEP for review. No administrative action will be taken for at least thirty (30) calendar days after issuance of this Finding.

Additional information is available for public review at the DEP Augusta address indicated below.

John N. True, Env. Engineering Services Manager
Division of Water Quality Management
Bureau of Land & Water Quality