



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS, NEW YORK DISTRICT
JACOB K. JAVITS FEDERAL BUILDING
26 FEDERAL PLAZA
NEW YORK NEW YORK 10278-0090

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

**FEDERAL PARTICIPATION IN EXPANSION OF THE AQUATIC PLANT CONTROL
PROGRAM IN THE STATE OF VERMONT
VERMONT STATE**

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New York District (Corps or USACE) has conducted an environmental analysis in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended. The Final Integrated Letter Report and Programmatic Environmental Assessment (ILR/PEA) dated 2 June 2026, for the Federal Participation in Expansion of the Aquatic Plant Control Program (APCP) in the State of Vermont Project addresses gaps in the current statewide management strategies of aquatic invasive plant species (AIPS) and discusses the Project opportunities and feasibility in the State of Vermont. This Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) summarizes the results of the USACE evaluation and documents the USACE's conclusions.

The Final ILR/PEA, incorporated herein by reference, evaluated various alternatives that would most effectively manage AIPS and their associated negative impacts in the study area. The recommended plan consists of the Federal government cost sharing in the expanded APCP with the State of Vermont to best manage the threat of AIPS throughout the State. The recommended plan includes the following measures: mechanical control, watercraft inspection and decontamination stations, early detection and rapid response measures, and public awareness and education.

In addition to the recommended plan, the ILR/PEA evaluated the No Action Alternative (also referred to as Alternative 1). The No Action Alternative represented the continuation of the current APCP, in which the USACE would not participate in expanding the APCP outside of the Lake Champlain Basin.

For all alternatives, the potential effects were evaluated, as appropriate. A summary assessment of the potential effects of the recommended plan is listed in Table 1:

Table 1: Summary of Potential Effects of the Recommended Plan

Environmental Resource Considered	Less than significant effects	Less than significant effects as a result of mitigation*	Resource unaffected by action
Water Quality	☒	☐	☐
Wetlands and Native Aquatic Vegetation	☒	☐	☐
Fisheries and Aquatic Resources	☒	☐	☐
Wildlife and Terrestrial Resources	☒	☐	☐
Threatened and Endangered Species	☒	☐	☐
Cultural and Historic Resources	☒	☐	☐
Aesthetics and Visual Resources	☒	☐	☐



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Environmental Resource Considered	Less than significant effects	Less than significant effects as a result of mitigation*	Resource unaffected by action
Recreation	☒	☐	☐
Hazardous, Toxic, and Radioactive Waste	☒	☐	☐

All practicable and appropriate means to avoid or minimize adverse environmental effects were analyzed and incorporated into the recommended plan. Best management practices (BMPs) as detailed in Subsection 6.12 of the ILR/PEA will be implemented, if appropriate, to minimize impacts.

No compensatory mitigation is required as part of the recommended plan.

Public review of the Draft ILR/PEA and FONSI was completed on 22 July 2025. All comments submitted during the public review period were responded to in the Final ILR/PEA and FONSI.

Pursuant to Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended, the USACE has determined that the recommended plan may affect but is not likely to adversely affect the following federally listed species or their designated critical habitat: shortnose sturgeon, dwarf wedgemussel, northeastern bulrush, and Jesup's milk-vetch. NOAA-Fisheries concurred with the Corps' determination for shortnose sturgeon on 14 April 2026. USFWS concurred with the Corps' determination for dwarf wedgemussel, northeastern bulrush, and Jesup's milk-vetch on 13 March 2026.

Pursuant to Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended, the USACE determined that the recommended plan will have no effect on Canada lynx, Indiana bat, northern long-eared bat, and tri-colored bat.

Pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) of 1966, as amended, the USACE determined that implementation of the recommended plan is unlikely to adversely affect historic properties in the Area of Potential Effect. However, if additional measures requiring ground-disturbing activities are proposed, supplemental NHPA Section 106 review would be required before approval. The Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New York, and Vermont State Historic Preservation Offices (SHPOs) and the Stockbridge Munsee Community Tribal Historic Preservation Officer (THPO) have elected to participate as Consulting Parties.

Pursuant to the Clean Water Act of 1972, as amended, the discharge of dredged or fill material associated with the recommended plan has been found to be compliant with Section 404(b)(1) Guidelines (40 CFR 230). An Aquatic Nuisance Control permit from the State of Vermont will be obtained prior to installation of any benthic barriers. The Clean Water Act Section 404(b)(1) Guidelines evaluation is found in Appendix F of the ILR/PEA.

Section 402 of the Clean Water Act, the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) program, pertains to the discharge of pollutants. Aquatic pesticide application would require approval for use under a NPDES permit. Pesticide application will continue to be operated under the Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation's NPDES General



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Permit for the Application of Pesticides. A Construction General Permit would not be required for construction of permanent watercraft inspection stations because ground disturbance is expected to be less than an acre.

All applicable environmental laws have been considered and coordination with appropriate agencies and officials has been completed. NOAA-Fisheries confirmed that Atlantic Salmon, and therefore, Essential Fish Habitat, is no longer present in the Connecticut River and its tributaries within Vermont via email on 2 July 2025.

Technical, environmental, and economic criteria used in the formulation of alternative plans were those specified in the Water Resources Council's 1983 Economic and Environmental Principles and Guidelines for Water and Related Land Resources Implementation Studies. All applicable laws, executive orders, regulations, and local government plans were considered in evaluation of alternatives. Based on this report, the reviews by other Federal, State and local agencies, Tribes, input of the public, and the review by my staff, it is my determination that the recommended plan would not cause significant adverse effects on the quality of the human environment; therefore, preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement is not required.

Date

ALEXANDER L. YOUNG
COL, Corps of Engineers
District Commander