

**Categorical Exclusion and Extraordinary Circumstances Review Form**

United States Environmental Protection Agency

Region 1

**I. General Information**

<b>Project Name</b>	<b>Program / Funding Authority</b>	<b>Grant ID Number (if known)</b>
Wastewater Infrastructure Improvements	FY2024 Congressionally Directed Spending	00A01581-0

**Grant Applicant Organization**

Corinna Sewer District

**Project Location Description (street address/city/state/ZIP code; site characteristics)**

**55 GREENBUSH RD. CORINNA, ME 04928**

**Project Description (summary of project scope and project components)**

Corinna, Maine treats wastewater using two facultative biological treatment lagoons, an effluent storage lagoon, and a spray irrigation land application system. The system has been operating for approximately two decades, and sludge has accumulated to a depth that requires removal to maintain treatment effectiveness. The Wastewater Infrastructure Improvements Project will rehabilitate the three lagoons in the wastewater treatment system so by removing the accumulated sludge, so that it can continue to serve the population of Corinna.

**II. EPA Contact for Environmental Review on this Project (If different from Responsible Official, EPA Use Only)**

<b>Name/Title</b>	<b>Email</b>	<b>Phone Number</b>
Danny Ross, Project Officer	<a href="mailto:Ross.danny@epa.gov">Ross.danny@epa.gov</a>	617-918-1178

**Complete Section III on Categorical Exclusion Eligibility.**

<b>III.A. Categorical Exclusion Eligibility (Check YES or NO) Complete the following questions in their entirety to determine if the project is eligible for a Categorical Exclusion (CATEX) pursuant to 40 CFR § 6.204(a)(1)(ii). Additionally, supporting statements and documentation must be included in Attachment 1.</b>																			
<b>40 CFR § 6.204(a)(1)(ii)</b>																			
<b>Question 1a:</b>  If yes to any, proceed to Question 1b.	<b>Does the project involve actions relating to existing infrastructure systems (e.g., sewer systems; drinking water supply systems; and stormwater systems, including combined sewer overflow systems) and involve:</b>  <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="width: 10%; text-align: left; padding: 2px;">YES</th> <th style="width: 10%; text-align: left; padding: 2px;">NO</th> <th style="padding: 2px;"></th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td style="text-align: center; padding: 2px;"><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td style="text-align: center; padding: 2px;"><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></td> <td style="padding: 2px;">Minor upgrading</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center; padding: 2px;"><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></td> <td style="text-align: center; padding: 2px;"><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td style="padding: 2px;">Minor expansion of system capacity or rehabilitation (including functional replacement) of the existing system and its components (such as the sewer collection network and treatment system; the system to collect, treat, store and distribute drinking water; and stormwater systems, including combined sewer overflow systems)</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center; padding: 2px;"><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td style="text-align: center; padding: 2px;"><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></td> <td style="padding: 2px;">Construction of new minor ancillary facilities next to or on the same property as existing facilities</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	YES	NO		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Minor upgrading	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Minor expansion of system capacity or rehabilitation (including functional replacement) of the existing system and its components (such as the sewer collection network and treatment system; the system to collect, treat, store and distribute drinking water; and stormwater systems, including combined sewer overflow systems)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Construction of new minor ancillary facilities next to or on the same property as existing facilities						
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<b>III.B. Categorical Exclusion Eligibility (Check YES or NO) Complete the following questions in their entirety to determine if the project is eligible for a Categorical Exclusion (CATEX) pursuant to 40 CFR § 6.204(a)(1)(iii). Additionally, supporting statements and documentation must be included in Attachment 1.</b>																			
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<b>Question 2a:</b>  If yes, proceed to Question 2b.	<b>Does the project involve actions in unsewered communities involving:</b>  <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="width: 10%; text-align: left; padding: 2px;">YES</th> <th style="width: 10%; text-align: left; padding: 2px;">NO</th> <th style="padding: 2px;"></th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td style="text-align: center; padding: 2px;"><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td style="text-align: center; padding: 2px;"><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></td> <td style="padding: 2px;">Replacement of existing onsite systems</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	YES	NO		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Replacement of existing onsite systems												
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**Complete Sections IV.A. and IV.B. on Extraordinary Circumstances. Attach Supporting Statements and Documentation.**

**IV.A. Extraordinary Circumstances** (*Check YES or NO*) Complete the following questions in their entirety to determine if the project involves any of the following extraordinary circumstances which would make it ineligible for a CATEX pursuant to 40 CFR § 6.204(b)(1) through (b)(10). Additionally, supporting statements and documentation must be included in Attachment 1.

YES	NO	
<input type="checkbox"/> Y	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N	1) Is the action known or expected to have potentially significant environmental impacts on the quality of the human environment either individually or cumulatively over time?
<input type="checkbox"/> Y	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N	2) Is the action known or expected to have disproportionately high and adverse human health or environmental effects on any community, including minority communities, low-income communities, or federally-recognized Indian tribal communities? <sup>1</sup> <b>Describe effects to any Community in Attachment 1</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> Y	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N	3) Is the action known or expected to significantly affect federally listed threatened or endangered species or their critical habitat? <b>Resources Present:</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No [If yes, describe in Attachment 1]
<input type="checkbox"/> Y	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N	4) Is the action known or expected to significantly affect national natural landmarks or any property with naturally significant historic, architectural, prehistoric, archaeological, or cultural value, including but not limited to, property listed on or eligible for the National Register of Historic Places? <b>Resources Present:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No [If yes, describe in Attachment 1]
<input type="checkbox"/> Y	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N	5) Is the action known or expected to significantly affect environmentally important natural resource areas such as wetlands, floodplains, significant agricultural lands, aquifer recharge zones, coastal zones, barrier islands, wild and scenic rivers, and significant fish or wildlife habitat? <b>Resources Present:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No [If yes, describe in Attachment 1]
<input type="checkbox"/> Y	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N	6) Is the action known or expected to cause significant adverse air quality effects? <b>Describe Air Quality and Resources in Attachment 1</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> Y	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N	7) Is the action known or expected to have a significant effect on the pattern and type of land use (industrial, commercial, agricultural, recreational, residential) or growth and distribution of population, including altering the character of existing residential areas or may not be consistent with state or local government, or federally-recognized Indian tribe approved land use plans or federal land management plans? <b>Describe Land Use in Attachment 1</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> Y	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N	8) Is the action known or expected to cause significant public controversy about potential environmental impacts of the proposed action?
<input type="checkbox"/> Y	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N	9) Is the action known or expected to be associated with providing financial assistance to a federal agency through an interagency agreement for a project that is known or expected to have potentially significant environmental impacts?
<input type="checkbox"/> Y	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N	10) Is the action known or expected to conflict with federal, state, local government, or federally-recognized Indian tribe environmental resource-protection, or land-use laws or regulations?

<sup>1</sup> This extraordinary circumstance criterion may be modified pending further Administration guidance.

**IV.B. Extraordinary Circumstances Statement** (*Check ONLY ONE box*) If the responses to Section III.A. or III.B. indicate the project is CATEX eligible, and if a **NO** response was recorded for each of the questions in Section IV.A, then no Extraordinary Circumstances are present pursuant to 40 CFR § 6.204(b) and one of the following statements should be selected.

1) **No extraordinary circumstances apply** to the proposed action pursuant to 40 CFR §§ 6.204(a)(1) and 6.204(b). This statement is based on either (1) past experience with similar actions **at the proposed action site** resulting in a CATEX and/or (2) information gathered as part of a **previous** NEPA review or environmental due diligence review conducted **at the proposed action site**.  
**A statement and supporting documentation is attached (e.g., SERP, prior CATEX determination, or other NEPA review and environmental documentation).**

2) **No extraordinary circumstances apply** to the proposed action pursuant to 40 CFR §§ 6.204(a)(1) and 6.204(b). This statement is based on information gathered as part of this NEPA evaluation.  
**A statement and supporting documentation is attached explaining why no extraordinary circumstances exist or apply to the proposed action pursuant to 40 CFR §§ 6.204(a)(1) and 6.204(b).**

**EPA Use Only:**

**V. NEPA Review Determination and Responsible Official Signature (EPA Use Only)**

Sections I through IV must be completed to satisfy EPA's documentation requirements for CATEX eligibility. If completion of this form indicates that a CATEX *does apply*, the Responsible Official must sign below.

**Categorical Exclusion Determination.** EPA finds that the proposed action is eligible for exclusion from detailed environmental review under 40 CFR § 6.204(a)(1), and will not involve any of the extraordinary circumstances delineated under 40 CFR § 6.204(b)(1) through (b)(10). Consequently, EPA will not prepare an environmental impact statement or an environmental assessment for the proposed project. EPA may revoke this categorical exclusion if changes in the proposed action render it ineligible for exclusion or if new evidence emerges which indicates that serious local or environmental issues exist or federal, state, or local laws would be violated.

As the Responsible Official, I have determined that **this action is eligible for a Categorical Exclusion** per the substantive environmental review requirements under EPA regulations at 40 CFR § 6.204. Section III.C of this form has been completed providing the required Extraordinary Circumstances Statement.

Signature of Responsible Official	Title	Date

**NOTE:** Signed Categorical Exclusion Determinations should be uploaded to the EPA NEPA Compliance Database (through Central Data Exchange (CDX)).

**Use Attachment 1 to provide Statements and Supporting Documentation.**

<b>Project Name</b>	<b>Grant ID Number</b>
Wastewater Infrastructure Improvements	00A01581-0

**Attachment 1. CATEX Eligibility and/or Extraordinary Circumstances Statement(s)**

The space below may be used for a statement and supporting documentation explaining CATEX eligibility and why no extraordinary circumstances exist or apply to the proposed action pursuant to 40 CFR §§ 6.204(a)(1) and 6.204(b). Attach additional pages as needed. Material incorporated by reference should briefly describe its content. Provide hyperlinks to the incorporated material, or attached incorporated material to this CATEX, or otherwise indicate how the public can access the material for inspection.

The space below may be used for a statement and supporting documentation explaining CATEX eligibility and why no extraordinary circumstances exist or apply to the proposed action pursuant to 40 CFR §§ 6.204(a)(1) and 6.204(b). Attach additional pages as needed. Material incorporated by reference should briefly describe its content. Provide hyperlinks to the incorporated material, or attached incorporated material to this CATEX, or otherwise indicate how the public can access the material for inspection.

The Corinna Sewer District operates a municipal wastewater collection and treatment system that serves a population of approximately 840 residential, commercial, and governmental users. The treatment system came online in 2006, and consists of two facultative biological treatment lagoons, a treated effluent storage lagoon, and a spray irrigation land application system.

Over time, sludge accumulates in treatment lagoons, and must be removed in order to ensure that the facility continues to provide high quality effluent. The Wastewater Infrastructure Improvements project involves sludge removal activities from all three lagoons, consisting of contractor mobilization, chemical addition, sludge removal, dewatering, disposal, and contractor demobilization.

This project takes place entirely within the footprint of an existing treatment facility. As such, there are no new impacts anticipated on wetlands, farmlands, wildlife, or historic / tribal resources. There are no wetlands located on the property and the facility is not within the FEMA or Maine Flood Hazard mapped areas

On 9/05/24, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Information for Planning and Consultation (IPaC) report was used to identify potential impacts to endangered and threatened species. Three species were identified in the geographic area of the project: the Tricolored Bat, the Monarch Butterfly, and the Atlantic Salmon. There are no critical habitats for these species within the project area and there are no impacts on these species anticipated as a result of this project.

On 9/11/24, the consultant for the recipient reached out to the Maine Historic Preservation Commission for comment on the project. On 9/25/24, the Maine Historic Preservation Commission concurred that there would be no historic properties affected by the project.

On 9/11/24, the consultant for the recipient reached out to the Maine Natural Areas Program, the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife, and the Maine Department of Marine Resources. The Maine Natural Areas program responded on 9/13/24 that there are no rare botanical features that would be impacted by the project.

This project meets the CATEX eligibility criteria found in 40 CFR § 6.204 (a)(1)(ii) since it involves the minor expansion of system capacity or rehabilitation (including functional replacement) of the existing system and its components (such as the sewer collection network and treatment system; the system to collect, treat, store and distribute drinking water; and stormwater systems, including combined sewer overflow systems). In addition, EPA finds that the proposed action is eligible for exclusion from detailed environmental review under 40 CFR § 6.204 (a)(1) and will not involve any of the extraordinary circumstances delineated under 40 CFR § 6.204 (b)(1) through (b)(10).