

## Public Comment Notice

### 2020 State Priority Waters Lists, Part D Addendum

#### Action

The Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation (VTDEC) is proposing an action to its Priority List of Waters, Part D. Impaired Waters with Completed Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs). This action is an addendum to the previously developed and EPA approved 2020 List of Priority Waters. This action proposes to delist the below water segment (as it appears on the Part D List) because the VTDEC now considers it in compliance with the Vermont Water Quality Standards (VTWQS) regarding the pollutant *E. coli*.

Waterbody ID	Code	Waterbody Name	Impaired Use(s)	Pollutant	Problem	Status
VT08-09	02	Winooski River – Cabot Village	CR (contact recreation)	ESCHERICHIA COLI (E. COLI)	Residential direct discharges &/or failed septic systems	EPA approved TMDL March 8, 2001

The deadline for submitting comments regarding this proposed action is **November 4, 2020**.

#### History

The Winooski River in the vicinity of Cabot was originally listed as impaired for *E. coli* in the mid-1990s. The cause for the listing was the discovery of six illicit discharges of residential wastewater and twelve instances of failing septic systems following a sanitary survey conducted by VTDEC in 1992-1993.

A Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) was prepared and approved by EPA Region 1 in 2001 as required by the federal Clean Water Act. Since the cause of the *E. coli* impairment was readily known, the TMDL called for a complete removal of the illicit discharges that would bring the water back into compliance with the VTWQS.

Extensive wastewater management planning was conducted by the Town of Cabot throughout the 1990s to develop a comprehensive wastewater solution for the Town and to eliminate the illicit discharges. Ultimately, a microfiltration treatment system with an ultraviolet light disinfection system were endorsed by the Cabot Selectboard and the VTDEC, and the Town applied for a wastewater discharge permit. In January 2000, the VTDEC determined the basis of final design was acceptable, and the discharge permit application was deemed complete. In April 2000, a discharge permit was issued by VTDEC for the operation of the wastewater treatment facility, upon its completion.

In December 2001, a letter from the Town of Cabot confirmed that the wastewater treatment facility upgrades, including the collection system and connections for the previously illicit discharges and failing septic systems, were complete and operational.

### Status

Recent instream monitoring conducted through the LaRosa Partnership Program indicates this segment of the Winooski River continues to remain in compliance with the VTWQS. In both 2017 and 2018, *E. coli* monitoring data collected at a site immediately downstream of the illicit discharges and below the Village of Cabot indicates the geometric mean for this river section over the entire season was below 126 organisms/100 ml, the VTWQS for *E. coli*.

Written comments can be addressed to:

VTDEC Watershed Management Division  
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One National Life Dr., Davis 3  
Montpelier, VT 05620

or email as an attached Microsoft Word or Adobe PDF sent to Tim Clear ([tim.clear@vermont.gov](mailto:tim.clear@vermont.gov)).