Maintenance Projects Environmental Exemptions

This document lists types of District activities that are considered exempt from Environmental Review or permitting. It was developed with the intent to streamline District Maintenance activities. If the activities can be performed in the manner described, no environmental review is needed. All other activities not meeting the criteria shall be submitted for Environmental review as described at the end of this document.

Minor Bridge Repairs - Exempt Work
Minor repairs and maintenance conducted on bridges do not require review by the VTrans Environmental Section if all of the following conditions apply:

1) The project must be one of the activities listed in Appendix A, and meet the following:
2) The work is being conducted from the bridge or roadway and within the road prism;
3) Work will not be conducted in streams or rivers;
4) Ground disturbance is limited to the repair of substructure units; and
5) Construction debris and materials are contained so as not to fall into any watercourses.

Guardrail - Exempt Work
The installation of guardrail does not require review by the VTrans Environmental Section if all of the following conditions exist:

1) The work involves the replacement or repair of existing guardrail; and
2) The work does not involve slope flattening or extending the toe of slope.

Ditching - Exempt Work
The maintenance and cleaning of existing ditches does not require review by the VTrans Environmental Section if all of the following conditions exist:

1) The work will be confined to the existing Right of Way
2) The work does not involve tree removal in village or urban settings;
3) The work will not affect stone walls; and
4) The ditch is not deepened or widened from the original ditch dimensions.

Culvert Repair/Replacement - Exempt Work
The repair and/or replacement of small culverts do not require review by the VTrans Environmental Section if all of the following conditions exist:

1) The waterway is drainage only and not an intermittent or a perennial stream (check USGS StreamStats and/or the ANR Natural Resource Atlas);
2) The work is being conducted from the roadway prism or existing fill slopes (i.e. an access road is not needed);

3) Existing culvert is constructed of corrugated metal and/or plastic pipe with no stone headwalls;

4) The new culvert is not extended; and

5) The work does not include a culvert liner.

Roadway Improvements - Exempt Work
Minor roadway improvements do not require review by the VTrans Environmental Section if all of the following conditions exist:

1) Work within the existing prism of the roadway;

2) The work involves the rehabilitation of existing pavement and/or application of new pavement on existing travel lanes and existing paved shoulders; and

3) The work involves improvement limited to the depth of the existing pavement.

All other activities, not meeting the criteria above shall be submitted for Environmental review via a NERD Environmental Permits-OPS request (instructions in Appendix B), with the following information provided:

- Town
- Route Number
- Location map
- Project Plans with project description
- Project Limits including Temporary and Permanent Easements
- Type of funding (State or Federal)
- Mile Marker (if applicable)
- Limits or amount of fill (if applicable)
- Proposed waste disposal site (if applicable)
- Landowner Agreement (for waste, borrow & staging areas)
- Digital photos recommended
- Longitude/Latitude for remote locations (if applicable)

The request should allow for a 45 day duration and take into consideration the time of year as field work may not occur during winter. The Environmental Section will review projects in a timely manner, however an Environmental Clearance will take longer if a permit is required.
# Appendix A
## Section A: Bridge Repairs/Bridge Maintenance on VTrans Federal Aid Projects

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bridge washing and Cleaning</td>
<td>Includes clean drainage scuppers and drainpipes, as well as removal or vegetation to allow access for inspection team or repairs</td>
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<tr>
<td>Repair/replace bridge expansion-joints</td>
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<tr>
<td>Reset bridge bearings</td>
<td>Strengthening bearings by jacking bridge less than 1-inch and replacing or repairing.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pile encasement for steel bridges</td>
<td>Reinforcement of piles with concrete sheaths including:</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Addition of concrete encasement approximately 6-inches in diameter</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Placement of temporary fill for dewatering activities</td>
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<tr>
<td>Repair/replace portions of approach slabs &amp; bridge deck – In-kind</td>
<td>Includes the following activities:</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Overlay with permanent asphalt</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Filling voids</td>
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<tr>
<td>Post-tension duct repair/internal post-tensioning</td>
<td>Steel strands through ducts formed in the concrete then grouted in place</td>
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<tr>
<td>Repair/replace co-polymer overlay on deck</td>
<td>Replaced with conductive polymer overlay system to protect concrete bridge deck and improve friction</td>
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Appendix B
Environmental Section Project Review
Instructions for electronic submittals via NERD.

NERD Link: http://aotapps/EnvironmentalRequestAdmin/default.aspx
(This link can also be found on the VTrans Environmental Section website, in VPINS, and in VIPER).

1. Under Request Forms, use Agency Request
   a. In the "Environmental Requests - Request Entry Form" chose the District/Other Project Request button for non-programmed projects

2. District/Other Project Request
   a. Under Request Activity, use Environmental Permits – OPS (This will submit a single request for both the resource clearance reviews and for environmental permitting).
   b. The remaining boxes and drop downs should be self-explanatory.
   c. Note: Please be sure to include the following info, which can also be sent via email attachment - location map; photos; sketches/drawings/plans; impact plans/quantities for wetlands, below ordinary high water, streams, etc. Please do not merge documents/files into one pdf.
   d. See screen shot example below.

3. If you have questions, please notify the VTrans Environmental Section.
   a. Link: http://vtransengineering.vermont.gov/bureaus/pdb/environmental

4. The NERD link can also be used to check project status. Under Administration, use Requests By Activity, then in Select Request Activity: chose Resource Specialist for Resource Clearance review dates or chose Environmental Permits for permit dates.