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. <u>Any federally funded work is not exempt and will require full review for NEPA.</u>

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 VPINS District 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

Activity	Description
Bridge washing and Cleaning	Includes clean drainage scuppers and drainpipes, as well as removal or vegetation to allow access for inspection team or repairs
Repair/replace bridge expansion-joints	
Reset bridge bearings	Strengthening bearings by jacking bridge less than1-inch and replacing or repairing.
Pile encasement for steel bridges	Reinforcement of piles with concrete sheaths including: • Addition of concrete encasement approximately 6-inches in diameter • Placement of temporary fill for dewatering activities
Repair/replace portions of approach slabs & bridge deck – In-kind	Includes the following activities: • Overlay with permanent asphalt • Filling voids
Post-tension duct repair/internal post-tensioning	Steel strands through ducts formed in the concrete then grouted in place
Repair/replace co-polymer overlay on deck	Replaced with conductive polymer overlay system to protect concrete bridge deck and improve friction

Appendix B
Environmental Section Project Review
Instructions for electronic submittals via VPINS.

In VPINS:

1. Under Requests, use Resource Request (see screen shot below)
2. Pick "Other Requests"
3. Select "Environmental Permits – OPS"
   a. 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.
4. If you have questions, please notify the VTrans Environmental Section.
   a. Link: http://vtransengineering.vermont.gov/bureaus/pdb/environmental
5. VPINS can also be used to check project status.
   a. In VPINS, go to the upper left "VPINS Navigation" tab and use the down arrow next to "Requests".
   b. Click on "View Resource Request".
   c. Under "Type" use one of the following drop down options.
   d. "Environmental Review" - view Resource ID, NEPA, or OPS (non-programmed projects) requests.
   e. "Environmental Permits" - view project and OPS Permitting requests.
   f. "Environmental All" - view all requests from a. and b. above at once..