

NOTICE TO PUBLIC OF INTENT TO REQUEST RELEASE OF FUNDS

Town of Rockingham

Shane O'Keefe

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Request for Release of Funds

On or about February 15, 2018 the Town of Rockingham will submit a request to the Vermont Agency of Commerce and Community Development (the Agency) to release the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds under Title I of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974 (PL 93-383), the National Affordable Housing Act, as amended, to undertake a project known as Former Robertson Paper Mill Site for the purpose of demolishing the existing structure and remediating the hazardous building materials and subsurface contamination at the site. The project is located at 21 Island Street, Bellows Falls, Vermont. The total estimated cost of the project is approximately \$1.3 million and up to \$200,000 in CDBG funding.

The site is enrolled in the Brownfields Reuse and Environmental Liability Limitation Act (BRELLA) program, and will be receiving funds capitalized by a Brownfields Cleanup Grant from the USEPA, as well as through the Brownfields Revolving Loan Fund through the Agency. A Corrective Action Plan (CAP) and Corrective Action Feasibility Investigation (CAFI) are in place and include management of contaminated soils at the site, limited soil removal, and installation of engineered barriers. Additional measures, including management of soils during remedial activities and the implementation of land use restrictions, are proposed to properly manage soils within the site both during and following the construction process. A Brownfields Cleanup Alternatives (ABCA) plan also details planned asbestos abatement activities. The Town of Rockingham has entered into a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with the VT Division for Historic Preservation and concludes that the undertaking will have an adverse effect on the Robertson Paper Mill and establishes certain Stipulations to mitigate the adverse effect. Stipulations include preparation of a historic structure report, measured drawings, interpretive panels and wayfinding signage, and roadside historic marker.

The activities proposed are categorically excluded under HUD regulations at 24 CFR Part 58 from National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requirements. An Environmental Review Record (ERR) that documents environmental determinations for this project is on file at the municipal office of the Town of Rockingham at 7 Village Square, Bellows Falls, VT and may be examined or copied Monday through Friday, 8am to 4:30pm.

Public Comments

Any individual, group, or agency may submit written comments on the ERR to the Town of Rockingham, Attn: Shane O'Keefe, Interim Municipal Manager, 7 Village Square, P.O. Box 370, Bellows Falls, VT. All comments received by February 14, 2018 will be considered by the Town of Rockingham prior to authorizing submission of a request for release of funds.

Environmental Certification

The Town of Rockingham is certifying to the Agency that Shane O'Keefe, in his official capacity as Interim Municipal Manager, consents to accept the jurisdiction of the Federal Courts if an action is brought to enforce responsibilities in relation to the environmental review process and that these responsibilities have been satisfied. The Agency's approval of the certification satisfies its responsibilities under NEPA and related laws and authorities and allows the Town of Rockingham to use CDBG funds.

Objections to Release of Funds

The Agency will accept objections to its release of funds and the Town of Rockingham's certification for a period of fifteen days following the anticipated submission date or its actual receipt of the request (whichever is later) only if they are on one of the following bases: (a) the certification was not executed by the Certifying Officer, Shane O'Keefe; (b) the Town has omitted a step or failed to make a decision or finding required by HUD regulations at 24 CFR part 58; (c) the grant recipient or other participants in the development process have committed funds, incurred costs or undertaken activities not authorized by 24 CFR Part 58 before approval of a release of funds by the Agency; or (d) another Federal agency acting pursuant to 40 CFR Part 1504 has submitted a written finding that the project is unsatisfactory from the standpoint of environmental quality.

Objections must be prepared and submitted in accordance with the required procedures (24 CFR Part 58, Sec. 58.76) and shall be addressed to the Attn: Environmental Officer, Agency of Commerce and Community Development, One National Life Drive, Davis Building, 6th Floor, Montpelier, Vermont 05620. Potential objectors should contact the Agency to verify the actual last date of the objection period.