

**NOTICE OF FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT AND NOTICE OF INTENT TO
REQUEST RELEASE OF FUNDS
STATE OF VERMONT**

October 25, 2023
Town of St. Johnsbury, Joe Kasprzak
Town of St. Johnsbury
51 Depot Square
St. Johnsbury, VT 05819
(802) 748-3926 ext. 5

These notices shall satisfy two separate but related procedural requirements for activities to be undertaken by the Town of St. Johnsbury, VT.

Request for Release of Funds

On or about November 13, 2023 the Town of St. Johnsbury 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 Armory Redevelopment Project for the purpose of remediation and abatement of hazardous materials in preparation for construction of a police and regional dispatch center at 1249 Main Street, St. Johnsbury, VT 05819 (referred to as the Armory). The total estimated cost of the remediation and abatement is \$2.5M, with construction to follow for a total project cost of \$11.2M.

Committed funding sources include:

- \$1,200,000 from the Vermont Brownfield Revitalization Fund
- \$162,000 from the Northwest Regional Planning Commission RLF (grant)
- \$500,000 from the EPA Cleanup Fund
- \$251,746 Town of St. Johnsbury (includes \$174,000 loan from the NRPC))
- \$51,127 Town of St. Johnsbury (in-kind)

Anticipated funding sources include:

- \$330,000 from VCDP CDBG Program

A Corrective Action Plan (CAP) has been approved by the Vermont DEC and the EPA. Mitigation measures outlined in the CAP and Addendum 1 of the CAP will be followed during project redevelopment. The corrective actions are designed to remove impacted soil volumes by excavating contaminated soils for offsite disposal and replacing those soils with clean fill. Additional mitigation includes remediation of asbestos containing materials, lead based paint, and PCBs. This shall be completed following any exterior building materials abatement to avoid potential cross-contamination.

Finding of No Significant Impact

The Town of St. Johnsbury has determined that the project will have no significant impact on the human environment. Therefore, an Environmental Impact Statement under the National

Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) is not required. Additional project information is contained in the Environmental Review Record (ERR) on file at the municipal office of the Town of Town of St. Johnsbury at 51 Depot Square, Suite 3, St. Johnsbury, VT 05819, and may be examined or copied Monday – Friday 8:30am – 4pm.

Public Comments

Any individual, group, or agency may submit written comments on the ERR to the Town of St. Johnsbury, Attn: Joe Kasprzak, Assistant Town of St. Johnsbury, 51 Depot Square, St. Johnsbury, VT 05819 or jkasprzak@stjvt.com . All comments received by **November 13, 2023** will be considered by the Town of St. Johnsbury prior to authorizing the submission of a request for release of funds. Comments must specify which Notice they are addressing—the Finding of No Significant Impact or the Request for the Release of Funds.

Environmental Certification

The Town of St. Johnsbury is certifying to the Agency that Joe Kasprzak, in his official capacity as Assistant Town Manager and Armory Project Administrator, 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 Town of St. Johnsbury to use the CDBG funds.

Objections to Release of Funds

The Agency will accept objections to its release of funds and the Town of Town of St. Johnsbury’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, Joe Kasprzak; (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: James Brady, 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.