UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 2
290 BROADWAY
NEW YORK, NY 10007-1866

JUN 30 2009

To All Interested Government Agencies and Public Groups:

In accordance with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) procedures for the preparation of environmental impact statements (EIS), an environmental review has been performed on the proposed agency action below:

Project Name:	Village of Bridgewater Public Water Supply Project
Purpose of Project:	The purpose of this project is to connect homes in the Village of Bridgewater to a public water supply, thereby alleviating the health risks associated with the usage of individual onsite wells which are being contaminated by onsite septic systems and other surface and groundwater influences.
Project Originator:	Village of Bridgewater
Project Location:	Oneida County, New York
Project Description:	The Village of Bridgewater is proposing to construct 20,000 feet of water mains along several roads located within the Town and Village of Bridgewater
Estimated Eligible Project Costs:	$3,304,000
EPA Grants:	$ 192,400

Our environmental review of this project indicates that no significant adverse environmental impacts will result from the proposed action. Consequently, we have made a decision not to prepare an EIS on the project. This decision is based on a careful review of the project's environmental information document, as well as other supporting information. All of these documents, along with the Environmental Assessment (copy enclosed), are on file at the offices of EPA Region 2 and the Village of Bridgewater, where they are available upon request for public scrutiny. The EA is also available on EPA Region 2's website at http://www.epa.gov/region02/spmm/r2nepa.htm#r2docs.

Comments supporting or disagreeing with this decision may be submitted to EPA for consideration. All comments must be received within 30 calendar days of the date of this finding of no significant impact (FNSI). Please address your comments to: Grace Musumeci, Chief, Environmental Review Section, at the above address. No administrative action will be taken on the project for at least 30 calendar days after the date of this FNSI.

Sincerely,

George Pavlou
Acting Regional Administrator

Enclosure

Environmental Assessment

I. Project Identification

Project Name: Village of Bridgewater Public Water Supply Project

Grant Applicant: Village of Bridgewater
PO Box 396
9703 Route 20
Bridgewater, N.Y. 13313

Project Location: Village of Bridgewater
Oneida County, New York

II. Description of the Facility Planning Area

The study area for this project includes the Village of Bridgewater, which is a small, rural community located in the Town of Bridgewater, Oneida County, New York (see Figure 1). Specifically, construction will include 20,000 feet of water main running along several roads located within the Town and Village, including Cottage Street, Mill Street, Horseshoe Drive, Circle Drive, Angelia Drive, Gulf Road, South Street, Cherry Valley Turnpike, North Street, and Mapledale Road (see Figure 2).

Figure 1

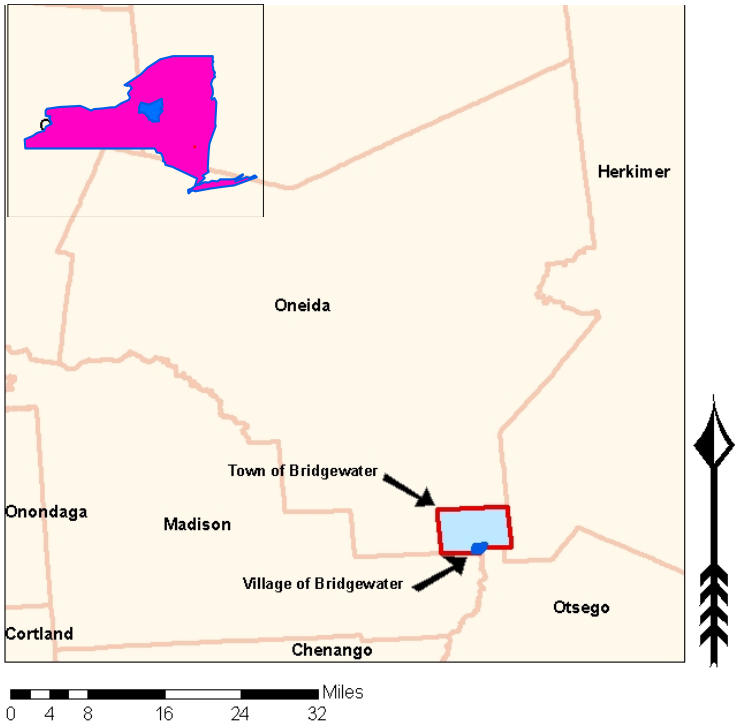
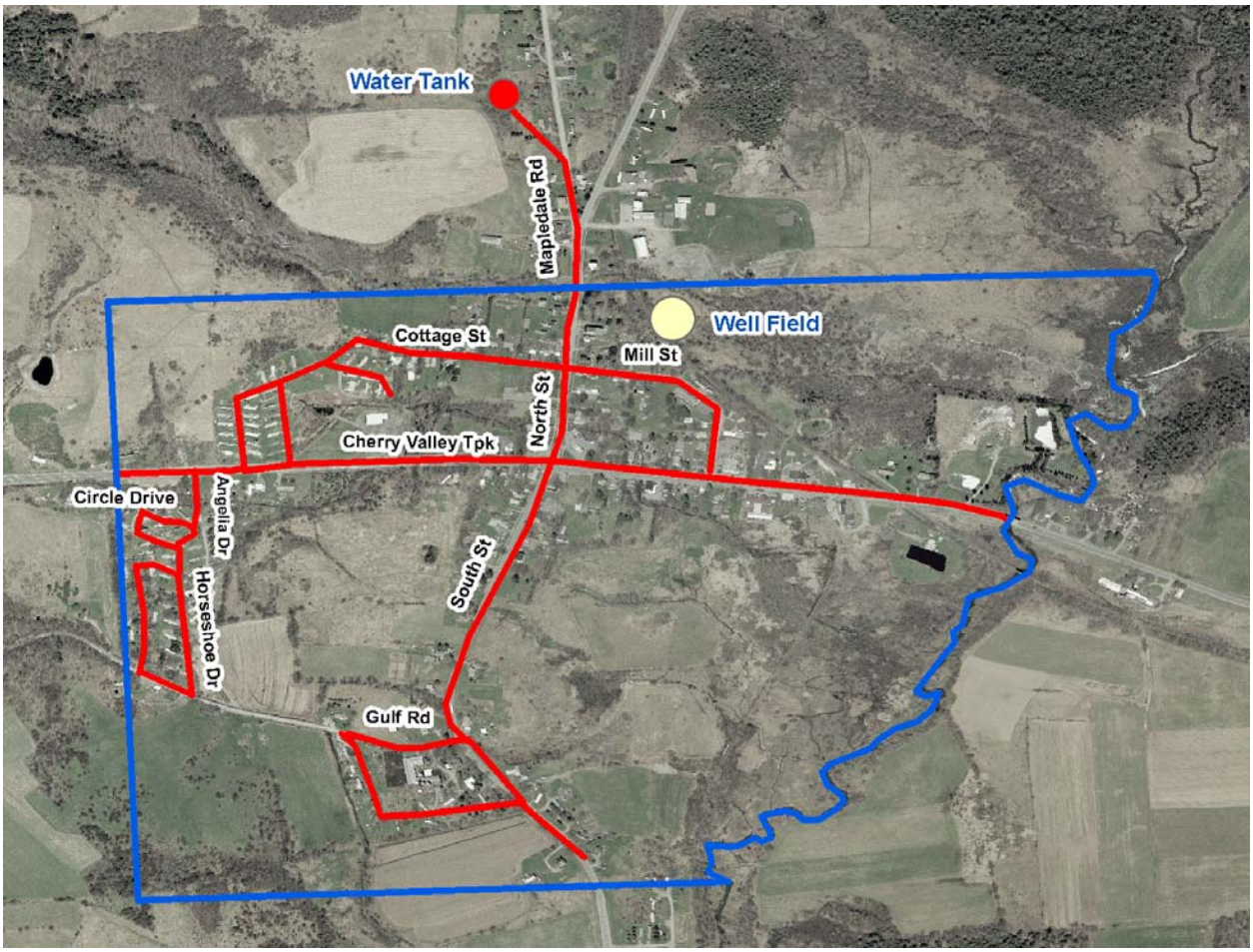


Figure 2: Proposed Sewer & Water Mains



Legend
Proposed Water Lines
Village Boundary

III. Purpose and Need for the Project

The purpose of this project is to connect homes in the Village of Bridgewater to a public water supply. Currently, there is no public water supply system serving the Village; all properties rely on private wells. In 2002, the Oneida County Health Department completed a sanitary survey of private wells. Findings indicated that 4 percent of the wells sampled tested positive for total coliform bacteria; 14 percent tested positive for fecal coliform bacteria. In addition, one or more wells serving mobile home parks in the Village were determined to be a ground water source subject to surface water influence. Surface influenced groundwater supplies may harbor *Giardia* or *Cryptosporidum*, two water borne pathogens not removed by ordinary disinfection methods. Finally, there is an issue with some wells that are currently too close to existing septic systems.

IV. Detailed Description of Selected Plan

This project proposes to create a public water supply system for the Village; serving roughly 205 single family homes, as well as ten businesses, including a gas/convenience store, a grocery/convenience store, an antique retail business, a diner, a bed and breakfast, the Village office, and an auto repair business. The project will include 20,000 lineal feet of eight inch diameter water distribution main, a 300,000 gallon capacity water tank, a pump control and water treatment building of approximately 24 feet by 24 feet in size, and two or more water supply wells. A well field will be developed near the north end of the Village, on lands currently owned by the Town of Bridgewater. A water storage tank will be located on lands northwest and outside the Village. Proposed water mains shall be contained primarily within road rights-of-way, or along private drives, where water mains would service the interiors of three different mobile home parks.

V. Estimated Project Costs

Total Project Cost:	$3,304,000
EPA Grant-Eligible Cost	$3,304,000
EPA Grant XP 972643-05-0	$ 192,400
Ulster County	$1,000,000
New York State Environmental Facilities Corporation	
NYS Drinking Water State Revolving Fund Grant	$1,737,159
NYS Drinking Water State Revolving Fund Loan	$1,373,441
Existing Yearly Household User Charge:	$ 0.00 (no existing system)
Estimated Yearly Charge for Water Usage	$ 300.00

VI: Evaluation of Alternatives

A. No Action Alternative

Under the "No Action" alternative, no water supply system would be created. This would not resolve existing health concerns. Since the need to address these problems has been identified as a community priority, the "No Action" alternative is not considered practicable.

B. Upgrade Individual On-Site Water Supplies

The upgrading of individual wells represents the private solution to meet future household needs for potable water supply. These upgrades could include the establishment of new wells, installation of disinfection devices, and/or the installation of filtration devices. This alternative would not address situations where existing wells and septic systems are too close together. It is assumed that such systems would cost from $1,000-$2,000 to install, with annual costs of $100 or more. The Oneida County Health Department also estimated that annual operation costs for onsite wells (including annualized pump replacement and electrical costs) would run upwards of $400 per year versus $300 per year for a municipal water supply.

C. Upgrade Individual Onsite Septic Systems

This alternative would have a positive impact on sanitary conditions in the Village, but is an incomplete approach, since it does not address water supply contamination due to other surface and groundwater influences, and fails to fully address separation distances between wells and septic systems. This alternative could be combined with Alternative 2 above, but again user costs would be greater than for a municipal system.

D. New Village-wide Public Water Supply

This approach provides every property with the ability to connect to a supply of sanitary potable water, and is the one alternative that eliminates a public health threat that is both chronic and acute. This is the only alternative with comprehensive management and monitoring. By building a public water supply, the Village assures that all water is delivered through a system with ongoing sampling and disinfection, and management through a trained operator and qualified regulators.

VII. Environmental Consequences of the Selected Plan/Mitigation Measures

A. Surface Water and Groundwater Quality

The project area lies in the headwaters of the Unadilla River. The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) has classified the West Branch of the Unadilla River as a C(T) water, meaning this reach of the river is to be

managed and regulated with the goal of sustaining its use as a trout fishery.

Construction of this project will require the Village to obtain one or more stream disturbance permits. However, the use of directional drilling near wetlands and watercourses will eliminate short and long term impacts to these resources; in addition, a SPDES permit will be needed relative to erosion and sediment control during project construction. Impacts on stormwater will be minor and temporary, associated with the potential transport of disturbed soils during construction; a stormwater pollution control plan will be developed to mitigate any potential short term impacts from stormwater erosion. The project will result in the withdrawal of 60,000 to 90,000 gallons a day of groundwater, which will be regulated by a Water Supply Permit from the NYSDEC. Since existing water users are already withdrawing groundwater from the same aquifer as the proposed facility, the total groundwater withdrawn may be similar to what is currently being experienced. Discharge of the water will be back to the same groundwater and surface drainage systems via existing onsite septic systems. The new water supply wells are expected to be located farther from and upgradient of these existing septic systems.

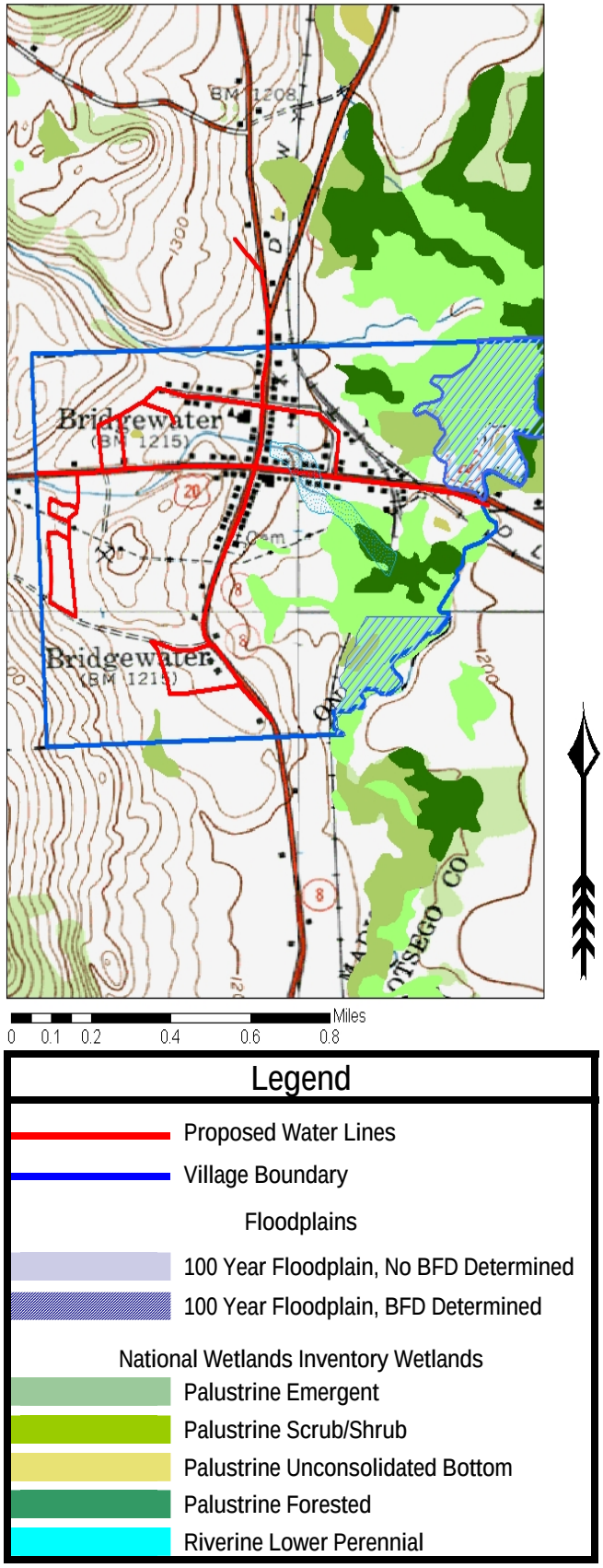
The project area is not designated as a sole source aquifer.

B. Wetlands/Floodplains

Wetlands and floodplain areas are closely associated with a tributary of the Unadilla River that defines the eastern corporate limit of the Village (see Figure 3). In order to assess the potential impacts to wetlands in the project area, the Village of Bridgewater obtained a wetlands delineation of the project impact area. That delineation noted that there will be several linear crossings of wetlands in association with roadside ditches or streams. The major infrastructure components of the project, including the wells, treatment building and storage tanks, are not within any wetland area. In addition, directional boring of water lines will be used when these resources are encountered, thus eliminating short or long term impacts to these resources.

The 100-year floodplain exists along the West Branch of the Unadilla River; development and uses are outside of that area. Further, the proposed project does not include above grade structures, fill or other actions that would reconfigure the existing floodplain. No long term significant impacts to the floodplain are anticipated as a result of this project. Significant above ground structures including the water storage tank and pump controls/disinfection building will not be located within, or will be elevated above, the 100-year floodplain. Finally, construction activities could have temporary, minor impacts to the floodplain that cannot be avoided due to excavation for installation of water mains as they cross drainage features in the Village. Once construction is completed, floodplain characteristics will be restored, soils stabilized, and the impacted area revegetated with native plant species.

Figure 3: Floodplain & Wetlands Resources



C. Land Use

Land use in the Village is generally of five types: single family residential lots, privately owned mobile home parks, small road-front businesses, agricultural lands and undeveloped floodplain and wetland areas. The Village has no zoning.

D. Population

The Village of Bridgewater is located in the far southeastern tip of Oneida County, within the Town of Bridgewater. Population growth from 1990 to 2000 was 3.6%, with a village-wide population of 579 recorded in the 2000 census.

E. Air Quality

Since this project will be funded in part through a Federal grant, the project is subject to the general conformity regulations (40 CFR 93 Subpart B). This project is located in Oneida County, NY, which is in attainment of the National Ambient Air Quality Standards; no further conformity analysis is required.

F. Endangered/Threatened Species

NYSDEC was contacted regarding the presence of any endangered or threatened species within the project area. Its response indicated that no state-listed animals or plants, or significant natural communities, are known to exist in the project impact area.

A review of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) website indicates that two Federally-listed endangered or threatened species are known from Oneida County. The Bog turtle (*Clemmys muhlenbergii*), is only found in the Towns of Florence and Camden, which are located in the far northwestern corner of Oneida County, over 35 miles from the project area.

The Indiana bat *(Myotis sodalis)* is also known from Oneida County. However, according to the "Indiana Bat Project Review Fact Sheet," prepared by the New York Field Office of the FWS, 900 feet above sea level is the maximum elevation that FWS has observed Indiana bat maternity colonies use in New York State; accordingly, no further consultation is required if the project area in question is located above this threshold. The Village of Bridgewater lies at an elevation of at least 1,200 feet above sea level; accordingly, no impacts to the Indiana bat or its habitat are expected.

G. Noise

Any minor increase in noise and vibrations during construction will be of a temporary nature and will cease when construction is completed. Accordingly no significant noise related impacts are anticipated.

H. Coastal Resources

This project is not located within a state-designated coastal zone; consequently, coastal resources will not be impacted.

I. Wild And Scenic Rivers

No designated wild or scenic rivers will be affected by this project.

J. Agricultural Lands

There are four agricultural district parcels located in the proposed water project area. Two parcels are located within the village boundaries; two others located outside village boundaries are located along the route of the water transmission lines. If occurring at all, temporary impacts to agricultural activities on these parcels will be limited mostly to very short term property access interruption. There will be no major adverse impacts on farm operations or agricultural resources within the area. Moreover, water mains will be located wholly within road rights-of-way, except where traversing through existing mobile home parks, which are not agricultural properties.

In addition, there are no aspects of the proposed project that would specifically encourage non-farm development or cause adverse impacts to farm viability; there are also no proposed subdivisions or development plans that would be enabled or facilitated by the provision of public water. The project area primarily consists of a mix of residential and commercial properties. No impacts to agricultural land as a result of the implementation of this project are anticipated.

K. Cultural Resources

This project was submitted for review to the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation (OPRHP). In a letter dated November 3, 2008, the OPRHP indicated that the project will have No Impact upon cultural resources on or eligible for inclusion in the State and National Register of Historic Places. Further, the EPA consulted with the Oneida Nation of Indians by way of a letter informing them of this project on May 26, 2005. No comments have been received from the Oneida Nation of Indians.

L. Traffic

The project area includes New York State (NYS) Route 20, NYS Route 8, private lanes through mobile home parks, and the limited system of village streets. During construction, there will be minor traffic disruptions due to the operation of construction equipment. No permanent effects on traffic patterns are expected from the proposed project. A permit will be needed from the New York State Department of Transportation, allowing the construction within the state highway rights-of-way. This permit will limit the contractor's activities and will require that procedures be followed to protect the public's safety and maintain traffic flow.

M. Socioeconomic Impacts

This project is not anticipated to have a negative impact upon socio-economic conditions in the proposed water district. The total projected yearly cost for a typical residential user in the project area is estimated at $300.00. This represents 1.08 percent of the Village of Bridgewater's median household income of $27,668 (2000 Census).

N. Environmental Justice

The Region 2 Environmental Justice (EJ) Analysis supports EPA Region 2's Interim Policy for Environmental Justice (IP). The specific community that is under evaluation for inclusion in the Region's EJ program is referred to as the Community of Concern (COC) in the IP. The evaluation process hinges on the comparison of the respective levels of the environmental burden, minority representation, and low-income representation between the COC and its statistical reference area.

For environmental burden analysis, Region 2 advances the concept of an "Environmental Load Profile (ELP)." The profile would provide a representation of the environmental load (i.e., relative environmental burden) within a community.

The ELP serves to identify communities that may bear a disproportionate environmental load in comparison to statewide-derived thresholds. Currently, the Environmental Load Profile consists of the following three indicators: Toxics Release Inventory (TRI) Air Emissions, Air Toxics, and Facility Density. The ELP generates a summary report that provides numeric values for state thresholds, indicator of the community of concern (COC Indicator), and the ranking of the community in the state. These calculated values not only identify whether the particular community meets an ELP threshold, but further upon exceedance, the indicator value is ranked to provide a measure of magnitude.

Application of the Environmental Load Analysis for the Village Of Bridgewater indicates that none of the indicators evaluated exceeds the respective New York State thresholds (see Table 1).

Table 1: Environmental Load Analysis

Indicators	NYS Threshold	COC Indicator	Ranking
TRI Indicator	2.60	.18	0
Facility Density Indicator	56	0	0
Air Toxics Cancer Indicator	63.55	19.51	0
Air Toxics Non-cancer Indicator	11.3	1.5	0

Further, analysis of the project area indicates that minorities are 2.53 percent of the population (compared to 34.73 percent, the percentage for determining minority areas in rural areas of New York State), and that 8.98 percent of residents have income below the poverty level (compared to 23.59 percent, which is the percentage that EPA uses in New York State to identify low income rural areas). Accordingly, the area does not meet the EPA criteria for being classified an EJ area and no additional EJ analysis is necessary.

O. Cumulative Impacts

Cumulative impacts result from the combined impacts of two or more projects on a particular resource such that the environmental impacts are potentially additive. Currently, there are no other projects planned for the project area; cumulative impacts resulting from construction of the proposed water lines are therefore not expected.

P. Induced Growth

This project will provide public water to a number of parcels which currently have to rely on onsite systems. There are no proposed subdivisions or other development plans that would be enabled or facilitated by provision of a public water supply. This project is solely intended to deliver potable water to areas of concentrated existing development in the village, and solve regulatory and supply problems for four mobile home parks within the Village of Bridgewater that are regulated water purveyors. It is unlikely that provision of a public water supply will lead to increased development in the project area.

VIII. Coordination of Environmental Review

A. Parties Consulted

Oneida Nation of Indians
US Army Corps of Engineers
US Environmental Protection Agency
US Fish and Wildlife Service
NYS Department of Environmental Conservation
NYS Department of Health
NYS Department of Transportation
NYS Department of Agriculture and Markets
NYS Environmental Facilities Corporation
NYS Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation
Oneida County Health Department
Village of Bridgewater

B. Reference Documents

1) *"Environmental Information Report, December 2008*
2) *US Census of Population,* 2000
3) *"Indiana Bat Project Review Fact Sheet," July 2006*