

### **Construction of \$7.8M Brighton Wastewater Treatment Facility Upgrades Underway**

The Town of Brighton has commenced a \$7.8 million upgrade to its Wastewater Treatment Facility (WWTF), serving the Island Pond Village area. This significant project aims to modernize the 0.150 MGD facility, which discharges into the Pherrins River within the Lake Memphremagog Watershed, a valuable natural ecosystem and recreational area. Originally constructed in 1977, the WWTF has had only as-needed equipment replacements over the years and many of its components have reached the end of their service lives.

Because the facility's effluent feeds into the river and watershed, it plays a critical role in the health and safety of the ecosystem. More technically, the WWTF upgrade will include process improvements to comply with the Phosphorus Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) for Lake Memphremagog, replacement of outdated process equipment, and improvements to plant performance and operator access to ensure treatment reliability.

The proposed upgrades prioritize water and energy efficiency, operational resiliency, and long-term sustainability. This project also takes potential future total phosphorus (TP) limits into consideration to stay ahead of changing permit requirements. The new WWTF will feature:

- Sludge removal: Lagoon dredging and dewatering of accumulated sludge using a centrifuge will restore treatment capacity, reducing the risk of permit exceedance.
- A new Headworks with mechanical fine screening, to improve screenings capture and enhance operator access.
- Lagoon aeration system upgrades featuring fine-bubble partial-mix aeration system with floating laterals and new aeration blowers, to replace older aeration equipment.
- A new chlorine contact tank and chemical feed and storage facilities, to provide improved disinfection treatment capacity and operational flexibility for chemical addition and mixing.

The Town of Brighton qualified for grants and loans through several state and federal funding programs, including United States Department of Agriculture Rural Development, American Rescue Plan Act, Clean Water State Revolving Fund, and Northern Borders Regional Commission, all of which recognize the project's significance in addressing critical environmental and public health issues.

The Town of Brighton is committed to ensuring the long-term sustainability and resiliency of its wastewater treatment infrastructure. These upgrades to the Brighton WWTF will not only enhance environmental and public health but also position the town as a leader in water and energy efficiency. As the project progresses, the community can look forward to a modernized facility that meets current and future regulatory requirements, ultimately contributing to the well-being of the residents, the community's economic vitality, and the surrounding ecosystem.