



# CITY OF PORTSMOUTH

## *PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT*

680 Peverly Hill Road  
Portsmouth, NH 03801  
(603) 427-1530 FAX (603) 427-1539

March 26, 2020

Town of Madbury  
Mark Avery  
Planning Board Chair  
13 Town Hall Road  
Madbury, NH 03823

RE: Construction Project: Backwash Tank and Pumping Station Upgrade at the Portsmouth Water Treatment Facility, 60 Freshet Road

Dear Mr. Avery:

The City of Portsmouth NH – Water Division is planning to upgrade the Water Treatment Facility located at 60 Freshet Road in Madbury NH with the construction of a below-grade backwash tank and pumping building, and a backwash recycle water pumping station. These upgrades are necessary to improve the operations of the treatment system and provide resilience to potential source water quality issues. The area of the construction is in close proximity to existing water treatment buildings and the purpose of this construction project is to improve treatment operations with respect to raw water quality management, and pressure and flow stabilization. The areas in which the facilities will be constructed are areas that have been used and disturbed previously as part of the water treatment facilities on this property since the Army Corps of Engineers built the original treatment plant in the 1950s.

Although this project does not substantially change the use of the property, the City is submitting plans and specifications in conformance with RSA 674:54. As you know that statute is triggered when the use is a substantial change, which this project is not. We understand however that the Planning Board wishes to hold a public hearing for purposes of receiving public comment and providing a vehicle for its own comments on the project. City staff will be happy to accommodate and describe the work at a Planning Board meeting when conditions allow for Madbury to hold public meetings again safely. As you know, comments even under RSA 674:54 are non-binding.

This project is a critical upgrade that cannot be delayed. Bids for construction have been received and the City is currently in the process of awarding the project. Consequently, the City is prepared to review any comments once they are received but the work will commence as soon as possible. We support any means to provide a summary of the project via video or to accept public or Planning Board comment in alternative means during these times.

Feel free to call me directly at (603) 520-0622.

Thank you.  
Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A. Pratt', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Albert Pratt, P.E., Water Supply Operations Manager  
(603) 520-0622  
anpratt@cityofportsmouth.com

cc: Eric Fiegenbaum, Town of Madbury Administrator  
Brian Goetz, Deputy Director of Portsmouth Public Works  
Terry Desmarais, Portsmouth City Engineer  
Suzanne Woodland, Portsmouth Deputy City Attorney  
Alberto Angles, Hazen & Sawyer