

RCAP Project Highlights



Where:
Barnet, VT

Problem:
Assist with water rights/source approval application
Negotiate utility water purchase/wastewater treatment contract
Secure engineering services



Barnet Fire District #2 *Private-to-Public System Purchase*

The village center of Barnet, VT has had a water system for many years. It remains a privately owned system, even though there is a fire district with the same footprint as the service area of population, usually referred to as “The Village.” In preparation for the District purchasing the system from its owner, Fire District # 2 has updated its charter to enable the district to own and operate a water system.

Complicating the situation is the fact that the original source of water for this system was discontinued when Interstate 91 was put through, and a new well site needed to be established. After two failed attempts to locate a new well, a well at a nearby creamery was connected to the Village system to supply the 62 households in the Village. This well is not permitted by the Vermont Agency of Natural Resources Water Supply Division, due to inadequate setback distances. Therefore, the water system users are on a permanent boil water order. This has implications for the valuation of the utility, prior to the purchase from the private owner

During a meeting with representatives with of the Vermont Agency of Natural Resources, Water Supply Division and the State Revolving Loan Fund, a plan to move forward with the system valuation and purchase was developed. With the assistance of RCAP, the Fire District issued a Request for Proposals for Engineering Services for a Preliminary Engineering Study. Engineering firms were asked to evaluate the value of the system, along with the preliminary study designed to bring the system into compliance with the Vermont Agency of Natural Resources' requests. RCAP assisted the District in interviewing interested consultants, and one was hired to complete the necessary reports, so that the Prudential committee can begin to complete the purchase of the water system in 2013.

RCAP Solutions works with communities to address a broad range of needs, including community infrastructure, and to promote public, environmental, and economic health.

RCAP Solutions is a member of the Rural Community Assistance Partnership. RCAP is a national network of regional nonprofit organizations that provide comprehensive, on-site technical assistance and training to help small, rural communities address their drinking water, wastewater, and other community development needs.

For more information

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