

The Clean Water Act and Agriculture

R. Scott Sanderson
Staff Attorney, Director of Farm & Food
Conservation Law Foundation

January 21, 2025

Vermont farm regulation violates the Clean Water Act.



“ANR’s program operations are clearly failing to meet the requirements of the Clean Water Act.”



REGION 1 ADMINISTRATOR

BOSTON, MA 02109

September 9, 2024

Julie Moore
Secretary
Vermont Agency of Natural Resources
1 National Life Drive, Davis 2
Montpelier, VT 05620-3901

RE: Joint petition from the Conservation Law Foundation, the Vermont Natural Resources Council, and the Lake Champlain Committee

Dear Secretary Moore,

On March 16, 2022, EPA Region 1 received a joint petition from the Conservation Law Foundation (“CLF”), the Vermont Natural Resources Council (“VNRC”), and the Lake Champlain Committee (“LCC”) (collectively “Petitioners”) pursuant to 40 C.F.R. §§ 123.63, 123.64. The Petitioners raised issues with Vermont’s administration of the State’s National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (“NPDES”) program as it relates to the regulation of the State’s Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations (“CAFOs”) and requested that EPA Region 1 take corrective action or withdraw its authorization of Vermont’s NPDES program, which is administered by the Vermont Agency of Natural Resources (“ANR”).

Region 1 recognizes that two agencies, ANR and the Agency of Agriculture, Food, and Markets (“AAFAM”), each have a role in the regulation of agriculture water pollution in Vermont. Region 1 also recognizes AAFM’s critical role in providing support to the agricultural community in Vermont: agriculture is an important part of the state’s economy and is integral to Vermont’s identity. We also know that like the tourism, food and beverage, and outdoor recreation sectors, the agriculture sector depends on clean water for its operations and success. We understand the importance of AAFM’s mission and role in Vermont, *and* it is also vital to recognize that the current division of responsibilities between ANR and AAFM is interfering with the regulation of Vermont’s CAFOs and preventing Vermont from adequately addressing agricultural water quality.

1 Clean Water Act: Key Concepts

2 Clean Water Act: Delegation and De-delegation

3 Agricultural Water Quality Regulation in Vermont

4 The 2022 De-delegation Petition and EPA's 2024 Response

5 Questions

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What does the Clean Water Act do?



The Clean Water Act prohibits any farm from adding a pollutant to a jurisdictional water from a **point source** without a **NPDES permit**.

What is a point source?

“The term ‘**point source**’ means any discernible, confined and discrete conveyance, including but not limited to

any pipe, ditch, channel, tunnel, conduit,
well . . . container . . .

concentrated animal feeding operation”

33 U.S.C. § 1362(14)

187

FEDERAL WATER POLLUTION CONTROL ACT

Sec. 402

applicable provisions of section 301, 302, 303, 306, or 307 of this Act.

(6) Except with respect to a permit issued under section 402 of this Act, in any case where actual construction of a facility has been lawfully commenced prior to April 3, 1970, no certification shall be required under this subsection for a license or permit issued after April 3, 1970, to operate such facility, except that any such license or permit issued without certification shall terminate April 3, 1973, unless prior to such termination date the person having such license or permit submits to the Federal agency which issued such license or permit a certification and otherwise meets the requirements of this section.

(b) Nothing in this section shall be construed to limit the authority of any department or agency pursuant to any other provision of law to require compliance with any applicable water quality requirements. The Administrator shall, upon the request of any Federal department or agency, or State or interstate agency, or applicant, provide, for the purpose of this section, any relevant information on applicable effluent limitations, or other limitations, standards, regulations, or requirements, or water quality criteria, and shall, when requested by any such department or agency or State or interstate agency, or applicant, comment on any methods to comply with such limitations, standards, regulations, requirements, or criteria.

(c) In order to implement the provisions of this section, the Secretary of the Army, acting through the Chief of Engineers, is authorized, if he deems it to be in the public interest, to permit the use of spoil disposal areas under his jurisdiction by Federal licensees or permittees, and to make an appropriate charge for such use. Moneys received from such licensees or permittees shall be deposited in the Treasury as miscellaneous receipts.

(d) Any certification provided under this section shall set forth any effluent limitations and other limitations, and monitoring requirements necessary to assure that any applicant for a Federal license or permit will comply with any applicable effluent limitations and other limitations, under section 301 or 302 of this Act, standard of performance under section 306 of this Act, or prohibition, effluent standard, or pretreatment standard under section 307 of this Act, and with any other appropriate requirement of State law set forth in such certification, and shall become a condition on any Federal license or permit subject to the provisions of this section.

(33 U.S.C. 1341)

NATIONAL POLLUTANT DISCHARGE ELIMINATION SYSTEM

SEC. 402. (a)(1) Except as provided in sections 318 and 404 of this Act, the Administrator may, after opportunity for public hearing, issue a permit for the discharge of any pollutant, or combination of pollutants, notwithstanding section 301(a), upon condition that such discharge will meet either (A) all applicable requirements under sections 301, 302, 306, 307, 308, and 403 of this Act, or (B) prior to the taking of necessary implementing actions relating to all such requirements, such conditions as the Administrator determines are necessary to carry out the provisions of this Act.

What is a point source?

“The term ‘**point source**’ means any discernible, confined and discrete conveyance, including but not limited to

any pipe, ditch, channel, tunnel, conduit,
well . . . container . . .

concentrated animal feeding operation”



Drainage Ditches
Manure Lagoons
Silage Bunkers
Manure Spreaders
Pesticide Sprayers



Fields
Overland Runoff

What is a CAFO?

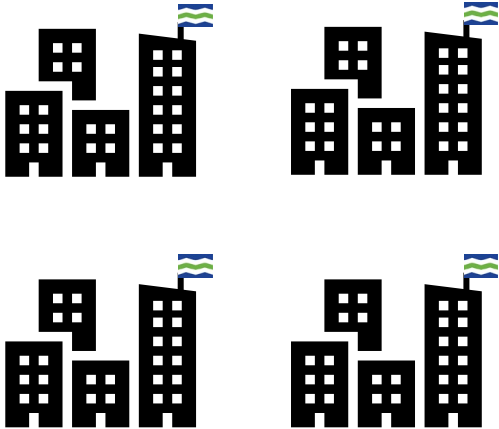


A CAFO is a **farm with livestock** that the Clean Water Act regulates as a **point source** because it presents a **greater risk to water** quality than other farms do.

What is a CAFO?



P N
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<https://blogs.cornell.edu/whatscroppingup/2017/06/21/series-phosphorus-and-the-environment-2-setting-the-record-straight-comparing-bodily-waste-between-dairy-cows-and-people/>

What is a CAFO?



Type. Only farms that raise and confine livestock can be CAFOs.



Size. Larger farms are more likely to be CAFOs than smaller farms.



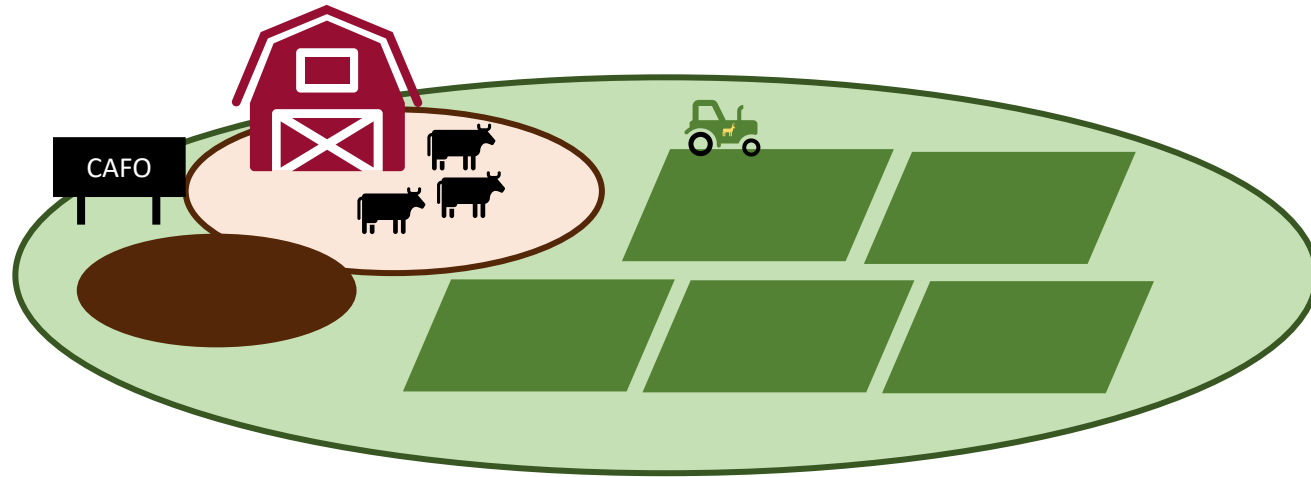
Impact. Farms are more likely to be CAFOs if they significantly impact water quality.

What is a CAFO?



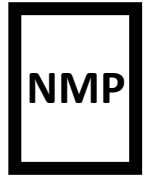
Large Farm Operations in Vermont are Large CAFOs because of their size.

A CAFO is a point source, including its fields.

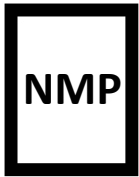


40 C.F.R. § 122.23

What is a nutrient management plan (“NMP”)?



A NMP is a plan to apply manure and fertilizer at the appropriate rate, time, and place to support healthy crops and protect water quality.

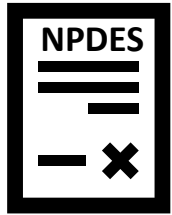


+ Farm Runoff = Nonpoint Source



+ Farm Runoff = Point Source

What is a NPDES permit?



A NPDES permit is a Clean Water Act permit that protects the permit holder from liability for discharges that comply with the permit.



Rigorous terms to protect water quality.



Public process to promote trust and transparency.



Permit holders who comply are shielded from liability when things go wrong.

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What is delegation/program approval?

- EPA may authorize state agencies to administer the Clean Water Act in EPA's place.
- Approved state programs must “at all times” meet the minimum requirements established by the Clean Water Act.
- EPA is required to monitor approved state programs for compliance on an ongoing basis.
- EPA delegated authority to ANR in 1974.



What is de-delegation/program withdrawal?



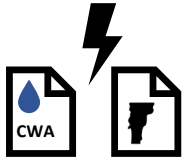
If a delegated state program no longer complies with the Clean Water Act, EPA can take back its authority.



Failure to issue required permits.



Failure to inspect and monitor regulated entities.

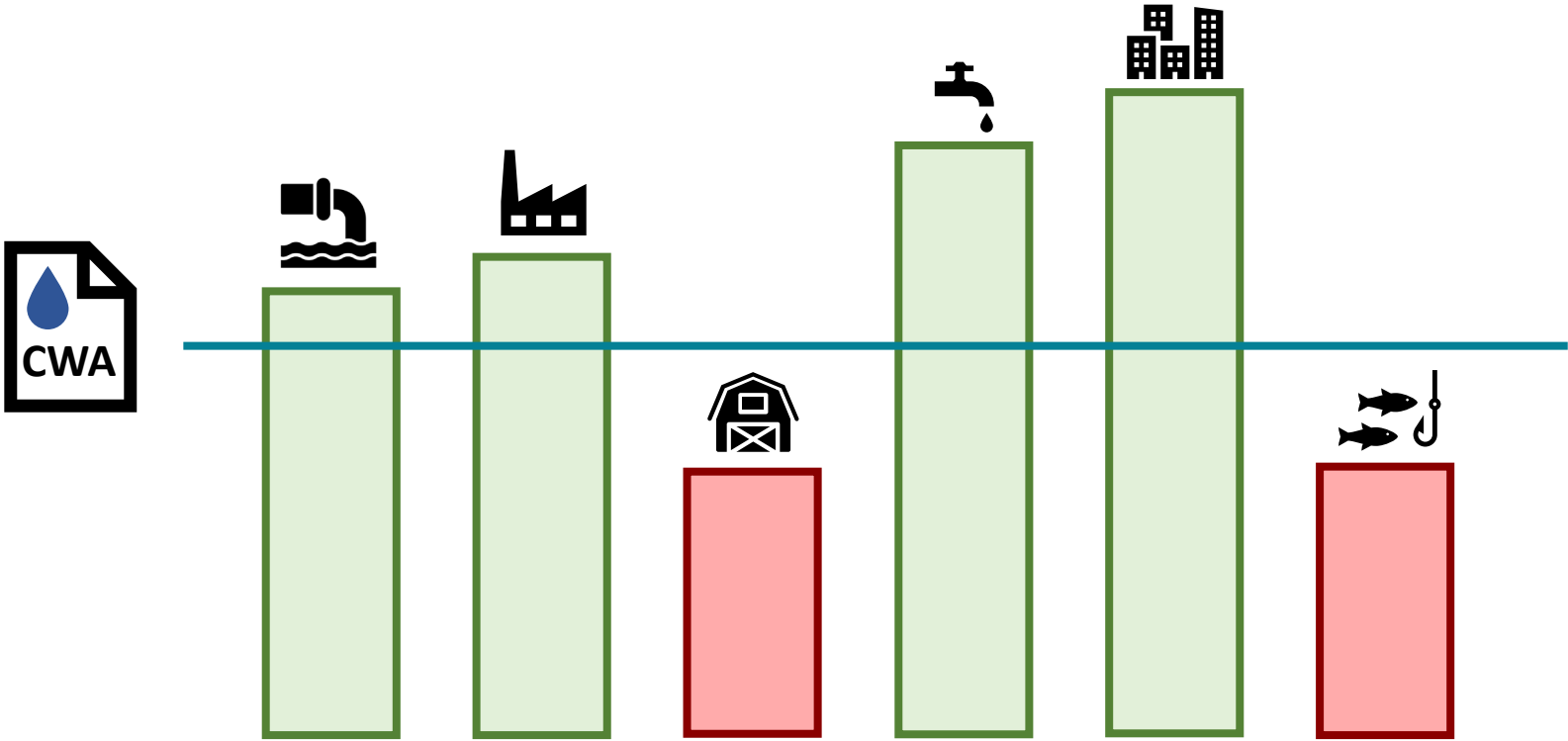


Conflict between state and federal regulations.

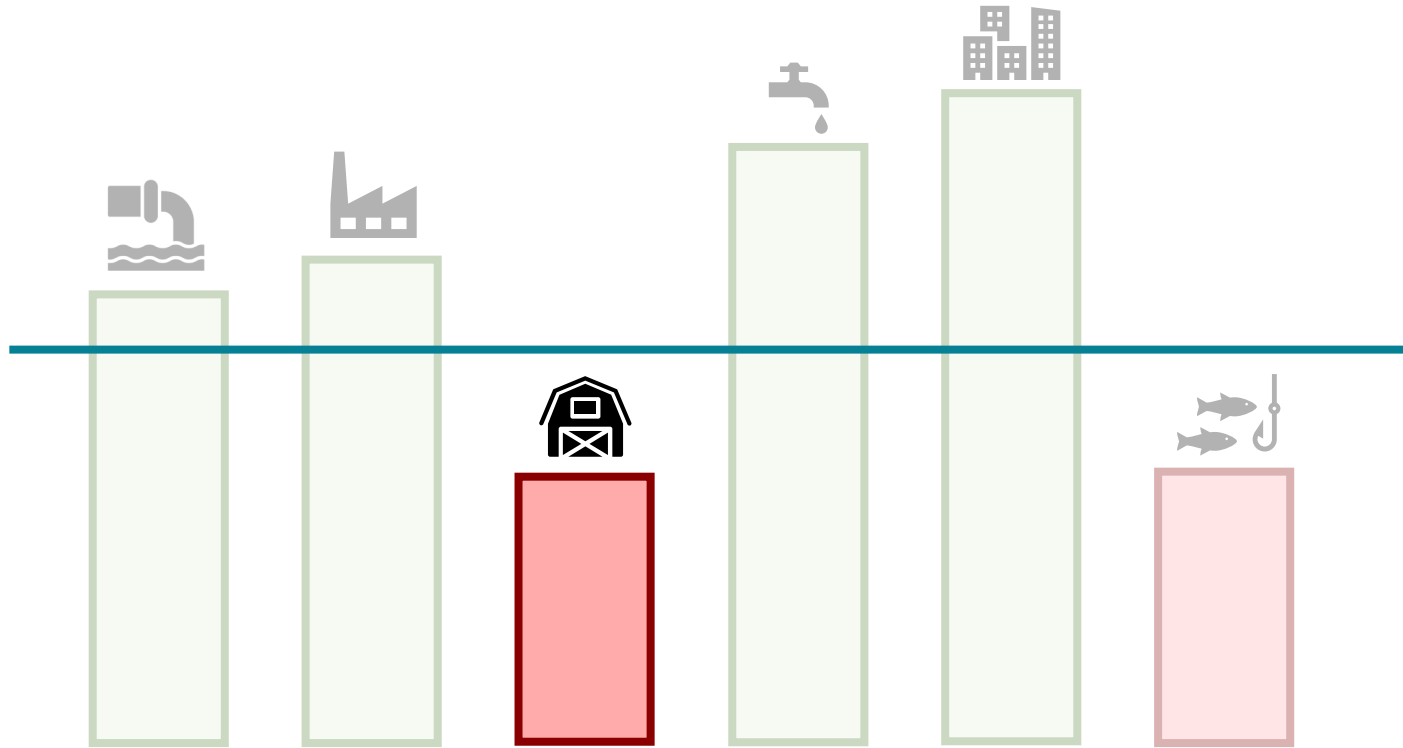


Failure to enforce when violations occur.

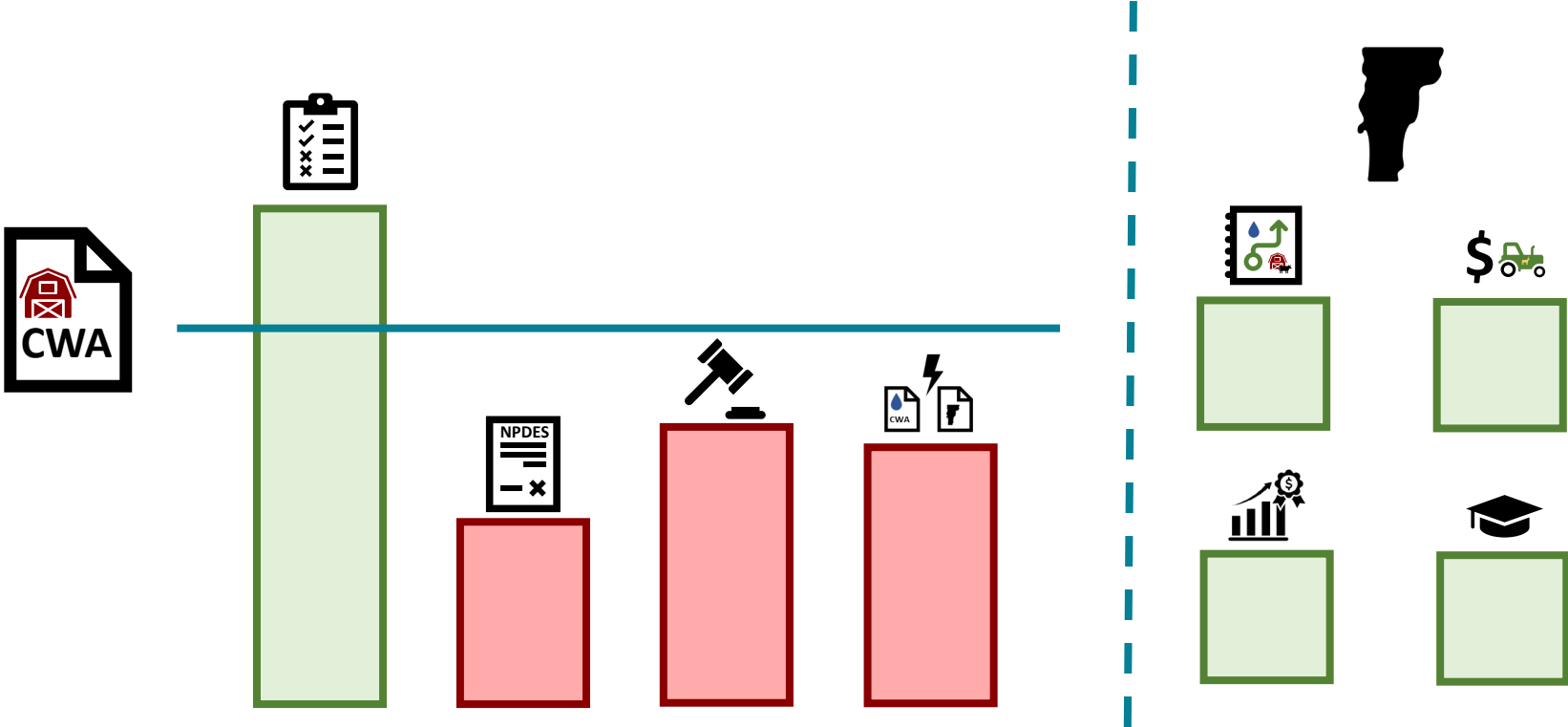
The Clean Water Act is a floor.



The Clean Water Act is a floor.



Independent state programs do not cure deficiencies.



How does the de-delegation process work?

EPA receives a petition. (Often.)



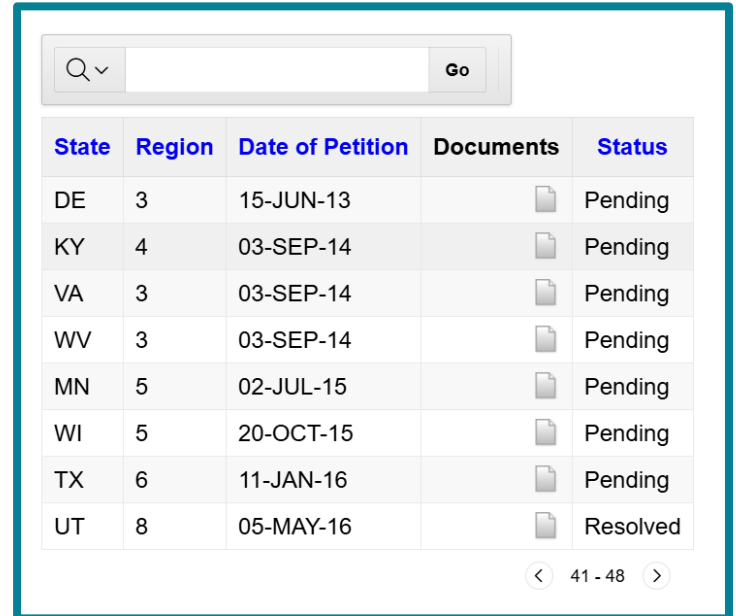
EPA investigates and makes findings.



State corrects deficiencies, **including through legislation.**



EPA dismisses the petition.



The screenshot shows a table titled "NPDES State Program Withdrawal Petitions" with a search bar at the top. The table has five columns: State, Region, Date of Petition, Documents, and Status. The data rows are as follows:

State	Region	Date of Petition	Documents	Status
DE	3	15-JUN-13		Pending
KY	4	03-SEP-14		Pending
VA	3	03-SEP-14		Pending
WV	3	03-SEP-14		Pending
MN	5	02-JUL-15		Pending
WI	5	20-OCT-15		Pending
TX	6	11-JAN-16		Pending
UT	8	05-MAY-16		Resolved

At the bottom right of the table, there are navigation arrows and the text "41 - 48".

<https://www.epa.gov/npdes/npdes-state-program-withdrawal-petitions>

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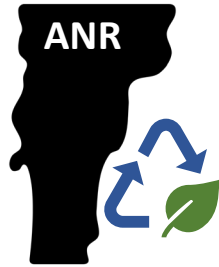
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Two delegations of authority underlie Vermont's program.



10 V.S.A. § 1259(i)

Vermont divides authority between ANR and AAFM.



- Point source pollution.
- NPDES permits for CAFOs.

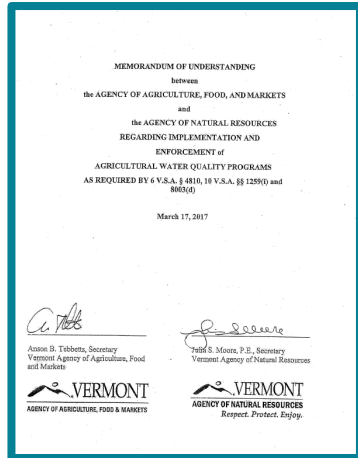
No farm in Vermont has a NPDES permit.



- Nonpoint source pollution on farms.
- State LFO, MFO, and CSFO programs.
- Required Agricultural Practices.

Vermont's program depends on close collaboration.

Challenge: How can ANR control agricultural point source pollution if AAFM conducts the majority of on-farm inspections?



AAFM inspects.



AAFM immediately refers potential point source discharges to ANR and promptly documents.



ANR investigates whether there is a Clean Water Act violation. If so, ANR leads enforcement and permitting.

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De-delegation has a long history in Vermont.

Legislation



EPA Investigation

Environmental and Natural Resources Law Clinic
Vermont Law School
PO Box 96 - Chelsea Street
South Royalton, VT 05588
802.851.1030
Fax: 802.851.1631

August 14, 2008

Stephen Adams
Administrator
United States Environmental Protection Agency
Attn: Risk Building
200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20460

Robert Verney
Regional Administrator
USEPA Region 1
1 Congress Street, Suite 1100
Boston, Massachusetts 02114-2023

Carl DeJor
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Stephan Puklin
Director, Office of Emergency Protection
USEPA Region 1
1 Congress Street, Suite 1100
Boston, Massachusetts 02114-2023

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL & ELECTRONIC MAIL

FEEDBACK FOR WITHDRAWAL OF THE NATIONAL ELIMINATION SYSTEM PROGRAM DELEGATION

Conservation Law Foundation (CLF) hereby notifies the Protection Agency (EPA) to initiate proceedings pursuant to CWA and its implementing regulations at 40 C.F.R. §§ 123.63, 123.65, and 123.66 to withdraw the National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) program in accordance with the Clean Water Act (CWA) and its implementing regulations. CLF is hereby notifying you of the CWA, failed to require concentrated animal feeding operations and implement an anti-degradation implementation

2008

UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
OFFICE OF CLEAN AIR, WATER & SOIL
WASHINGTON, DC 20460

DEC 13 2013

Laura Murphy
Administrative
Environmental and Natural Resources Law Clinic
Vermont Law School
PO Box 96 - Chelsea Street
South Royalton, VT 05588

John DeJor
Regional Administrator
USEPA Region 1
1 Congress Street, Suite 1100
Boston, Massachusetts 02114-2023

RE: Petition to withdraw approval for Vermont to administer the NPDES program

Dear Mr. Murphy and Mr. DeJor:

On August 14, 2008, the Vermont Law School Environmental and Natural Resources Law Clinic ("ENRLC") filed a petition with the United States Environmental Protection Agency ("EPA") to withdraw the National Pollution Discharge Elimination System ("NPDES") program in accordance with the Clean Water Act (CWA) and its implementing regulations. On September 16, 2010, the petition was referred to the Vermont Law School Environmental and Natural Resources Law Clinic ("ENRLC") for review. The ENRLC has now completed its review of the petition and has concluded that the petition should be granted. The ENRLC has now completed its review of the petition and has concluded that the petition should be granted. The ENRLC has now completed its review of the petition and has concluded that the petition should be granted.

2013

clf VNRC VERMONT NATURAL RESOURCES CLINIC

Michael S. Regan
Administrator
Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20460

David Cook
Regional Administrator
USEPA Region 1
2 PricewaterhouseCoopers, Suite 100
Boston, MA 02109-3912

Carl DeJor
Regional Counsel
USEPA Region 1
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Boston, MA 02109-3912

Ken Skoff
Director, Water Division
USEPA Region 1
2 PricewaterhouseCoopers, Suite 100
Boston, MA 02109-3912

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

NOT PETITION FOR CORRECTIVE ACTION OR WITHDRAWAL OF THE NATIONAL POLLUTION DISCHARGE ELIMINATION SYSTEM PROGRAM DELEGATION FROM THE STATE OF VERMONT

Conservation Law Foundation ("CLF"), Vermont Natural Resources Council ("VNRC"), and Lake Champlain Conservancy ("LCC") (collectively, "Petitioners") hereby petition the United States Environmental Protection Agency ("EPA") to initiate proceedings pursuant to CWA and its implementing regulations at 40 C.F.R. §§ 123.63, 123.65, and 123.66 to withdraw the National Pollution Discharge Elimination System ("NPDES") program in accordance with the Clean Water Act (CWA) and its implementing regulations. CLF is hereby notifying you of the CWA, failed to require concentrated animal feeding operations and implement an anti-degradation implementation

2022

REGION 1 ADMINISTRATOR
SEPTEMBER 9, 2024

John Moore
Secretary
Vermont Agency of Natural Resources

RE: Joint petition from the Conservation Law Foundation, the Vermont Natural Resources Council, and the Lake Champlain Conservancy

Dear Secretary Moore,

On March 16, 2022, EPA Region 1 received a joint petition from the Conservation Law Foundation ("CLF"), the Vermont Natural Resources Council ("VNRC"), and the Lake Champlain Conservancy ("LCC") (collectively, "Petitioners") pursuant to 40 C.F.R. §§ 123.63, 123.65, and 123.66 to withdraw the National Pollution Discharge Elimination System ("NPDES") program in accordance with the Clean Water Act (CWA) and its implementing regulations. CLF is hereby notifying you of the CWA, failed to require concentrated animal feeding operations and implement an anti-degradation implementation

2024

VERMONT
OFFICE OF NATURAL RESOURCES

SEPTEMBER 9, 2024

John Moore, P.E., Secretary
Vermont Agency of Natural Resources

cc: Thelma Murphy, Deputy Director, EPA Region 1 Water Division
Dana Bilyeu, Vice President and Director, CLF
Laura Cook, Executive Director, VNRC
Laurie Rasmussen, Executive Director, LCC
John DeJor, Regional Administrator, USEPA Region 1
Steven Cook, General Counsel, ANR
Paul Gagnier, Director, CLF
John Rutherford, Commissioner, DEC

Dear Administrator Cook:

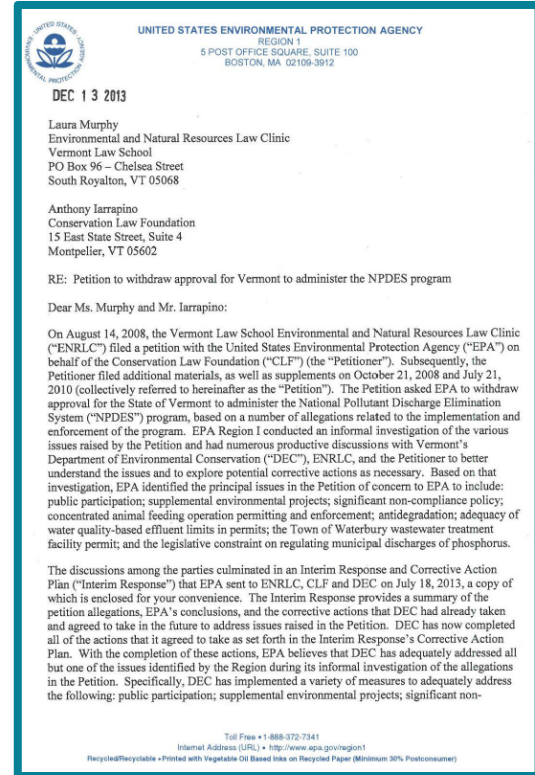
Thank you for allowing the Agency of Natural Resources (ANR) to submit this. The Agency of Natural Resources ("ANR") requests that the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) withdraw the National Pollution Discharge Elimination System ("NPDES") program in accordance with the Clean Water Act (CWA) and its implementing regulations. CLF is hereby notifying you of the CWA, failed to require concentrated animal feeding operations and implement an anti-degradation implementation

2024

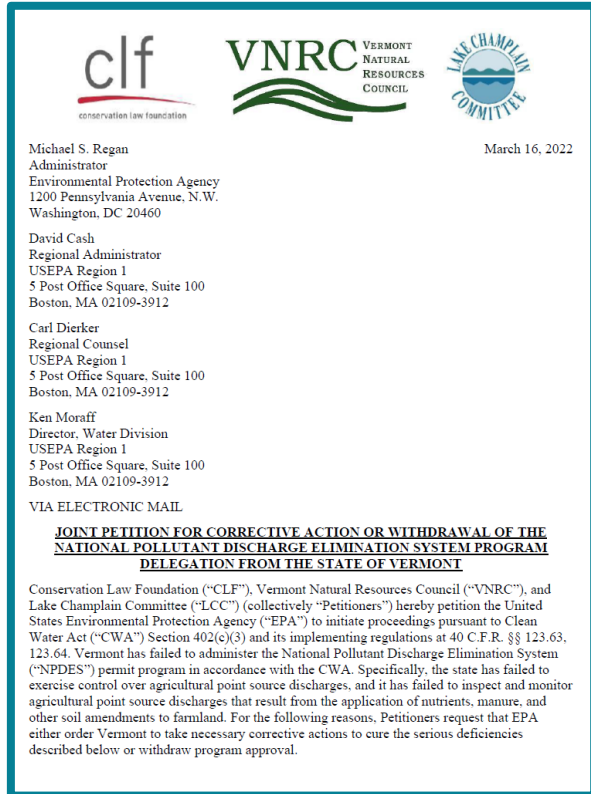
EPA found Vermont's CAFO program inadequate.



“[ANR] has never issued a NPDES permit to any CAFO in Vermont and has not adequately regulated a sector of dischargers that are subject to the NPDES program.”



CLF, VNRC, and LCC filed a de-delegation petition in 2022.

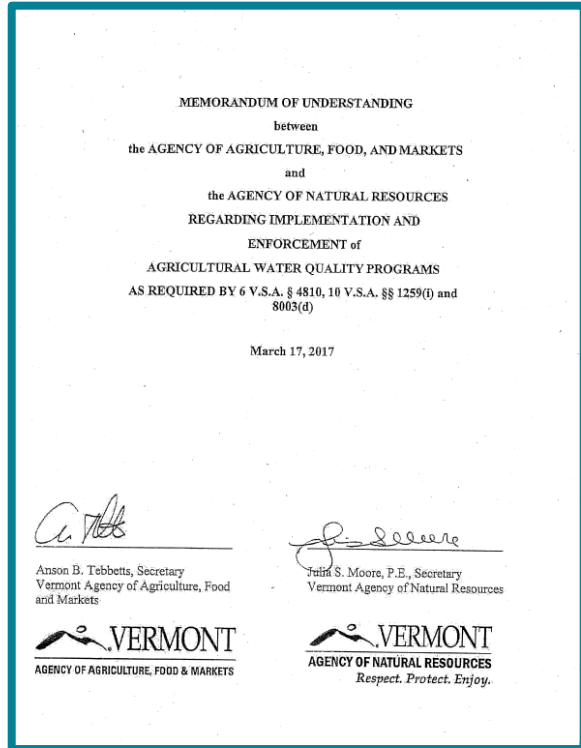


https://www.clf.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/2022_03_11_WithdrawPetition_FINAL84-1.pdf

JOINT PETITION FOR CORRECTIVE ACTION OR WITHDRAWAL OF THE NATIONAL POLLUTANT DISCHARGE ELIMINATION SYSTEM PROGRAM DELEGATION FROM THE STATE OF VERMONT

Conservation Law Foundation (“CLF”), Vermont Natural Resources Council (“VNRC”), and Lake Champlain Committee (“LCC”) (collectively “Petitioners”) hereby petition the United States Environmental Protection Agency (“EPA”) to initiate proceedings pursuant to Clean Water Act (“CWA”) Section 402(c)(3) and its implementing regulations at 40 C.F.R. §§ 123.63, 123.64. Vermont has failed to administer the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (“NPDES”) permit program in accordance with the CWA. Specifically, the state has failed to exercise control over agricultural point source discharges, and it has failed to inspect and monitor agricultural point source discharges that result from the application of nutrients, manure, and other soil amendments to farmland. For the following reasons, Petitioners request that EPA either order Vermont to take necessary corrective actions to cure the serious deficiencies described below or withdraw program approval.

The 2022 petition documented a broken system.



but



Critical disagreements.



Communication problems.



Delayed reporting.

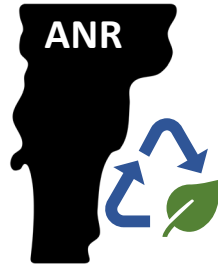


No NPDES permits for CAFOs



Widespread NMP problems.

The 2022 petition documented a broken system.



“It seems pointless to discuss these details anymore when we are both working within such a confusing and highly flawed system.”



“On paper, every definition is clear. In the field, no definition is clear.”

EPA responded to the petition in September 2024.



REGION 1 ADMINISTRATOR
BOSTON, MA 02109

September 9, 2024

Julie Moore
Secretary
Vermont Agency of Natural Resources
1 National Life Drive, Davis 2
Montpelier, VT 05620-3901

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https://www.clf.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/09/JMoore_letter_FINAL_09_06_2024-corrected.pdf



Conservation
Law Foundation
clf.org

Vermont farm regulation violates the Clean Water Act.

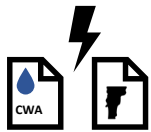


“ANR’s program operations are clearly failing to meet the requirements of the Clean Water Act.”

Vermont farm regulation violates the Clean Water Act.



Inadequate monitoring and enforcement.



Problems with state regulations.



Failure to require NPDES permits on CAFOs.



Failure to require proper manure management.



REGION 1 ADMINISTRATOR
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Julie Moore
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Failure to require proper manure management.



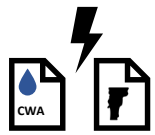
REGION 1 ADMINISTRATOR
BOSTON, MA 02109

“In general, ANR fails to conduct sufficient and timely inspections and fails to take appropriate enforcement actions to deter or mitigate violations. **This is because ANR largely relies on AAFM to be their eyes and ears on the ground. . . .** This arrangement often breaks down.”

Vermont farm regulation violates the Clean Water Act.



Inadequate monitoring and enforcement.



Problems with state regulations.



Failure to require NPDES permits on CAFOs.



Failure to require proper manure management.



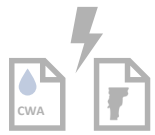
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“Existing ANR CAFO regulations are not consistent with the 2008 Federal CAFO regulations in numerous respects.”

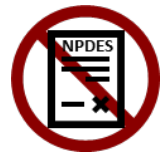
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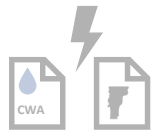
REGION 1 ADMINISTRATOR
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“There is ample evidence in the record that **farms are discharging pollutants** . . . ; thus, these farms require NPDES permits, which ANR is failing to issue notwithstanding a commitment . . . which resolved the 2008 Petition.”

Vermont farm regulation violates the Clean Water Act.



Inadequate monitoring and enforcement.



Problems with state regulations.



Failure to require NPDES permits on CAFOs.



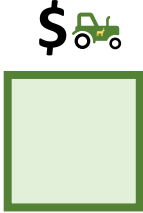
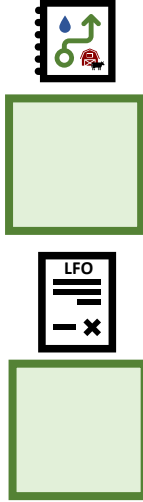
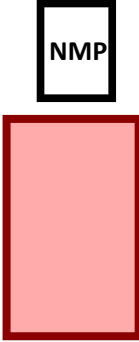
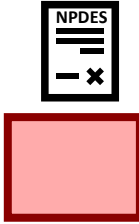
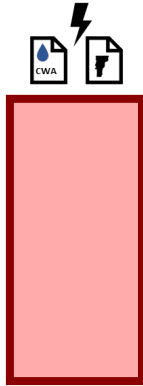
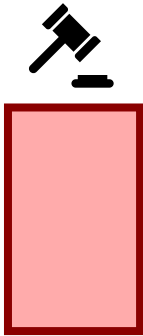
Failure to require proper manure management.



REGION 1 ADMINISTRATOR
BOSTON, MA 02109

“Insufficient review and oversight of NMPs is resulting in **farms applying manure at inappropriate application rates, in fields that are unsuitable . . .** and in locations that are not sufficiently protective” of water quality.

Vermont farm regulation violates the Clean Water Act.



EPA identified two causes of the program's failure.



Requires a legislative fix.

“ANR’s failure is caused by:

- (1) the **division** of Vermont’s agricultural water quality program **between ANR and AAFM**, which has resulted in ANR’s nonperformance of delegated duties; and
- (2) **insufficient resources** allocated to administer ANR’s CAFO permitting and enforcement program.”

EPA identified two causes of the program's failure.

Cause #1. Dual authority and reliance on AAFM undermine ANR's Clean Water Act program.



- “[T]he current division of responsibilities between ANR and AAFM is interfering with the regulation of Vermont’s CAFOs and preventing Vermont from adequately addressing agricultural water quality.”
- “Vermont’s extensive sub-delegation of authority to AAFM has undermined the state’s NPDES program and rendered it out of compliance with Clean Water Act Requirements.”
- “Dual authority over the regulation of agricultural stormwater has existed in Vermont for decades now and has failed to ensure compliance with the CWA.”

EPA identified two causes of the program's failure.

Cause #2. ANR does not have the resources it needs to implement the Clean Water Act on farms.



- “ANR has not been provided sufficient resources . . . to administer the NPDES program, which has resulted in inadequate monitoring and enforcement activity, among other problems.”
- “[I]t is manifest that ANR is not managing, and currently does not have the staff capacity to manage, its authorized program in a manner that is consistent with the requirements of the CWA”
- “ANR lacks sufficient resources to expeditiously inspect farms in response to complaints from the public or referrals from AAFM.”

EPA outlined two practical solutions.



Cause #1. Dual authority and reliance on AAFM undermine ANR's Clean Water Act program.



Solution #1. “The only viable option of those presented . . . is . . . consolidated agricultural regulatory authority with ANR.”

EPA outlined two practical solutions.



Cause #1. Dual authority and reliance on AAFM undermine ANR's Clean Water Act program.



Solution #1. “ANR . . . must be responsible for CAFO permitting, monitoring, and enforcement [including] conducting routine inspections, enforcing nutrient management planning requirements, and administering discharge permits.”

EPA outlined two practical solutions.



Cause #2. ANR does not have the resources it needs to run implement the Clean Water Act on farms.



Solution #2. “Vermont must provide ANR with sufficient resources to administer the NPDES program to meet CWA requirements.”

ANR responded with a draft corrective action plan.

Legislation



EPA Investigation

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VIA RICHEL AI MAIL & ELECTRONIC MAIL

FEEDBACK FOR IMPROVEMENT OF THE NATIONAL DISCHARGE ELIMINATION SYSTEM PROGRAM DELEGATION AGREEMENT

Conservation Law Foundation (CLF) hereby notifies the Protection Agency (EPA) to initiate proceedings pursuant to CWA and its implementing regulations at 40 C.F.R. §§ 122.63, 122.64, 122.65, 122.66, 122.67, 122.68, 122.69, 122.70, 122.71, 122.72, 122.73, 122.74, 122.75, 122.76, 122.77, 122.78, 122.79, 122.80, 122.81, 122.82, 122.83, 122.84, 122.85, 122.86, 122.87, 122.88, 122.89, 122.90, 122.91, 122.92, 122.93, 122.94, 122.95, 122.96, 122.97, 122.98, 122.99, 122.100, 122.101, 122.102, 122.103, 122.104, 122.105, 122.106, 122.107, 122.108, 122.109, 122.110, 122.111, 122.112, 122.113, 122.114, 122.115, 122.116, 122.117, 122.118, 122.119, 122.120, 122.121, 122.122, 122.123, 122.124, 122.125, 122.126, 122.127, 122.128, 122.129, 122.130, 122.131, 122.132, 122.133, 122.134, 122.135, 122.136, 122.137, 122.138, 122.139, 122.140, 122.141, 122.142, 122.143, 122.144, 122.145, 122.146, 122.147, 122.148, 122.149, 122.150, 122.151, 122.152, 122.153, 122.154, 122.155, 122.156, 122.157, 122.158, 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ANR's draft plan does not incorporate EPA's solutions.



Solution #1. “The only viable option of those presented . . . is . . . consolidated agricultural regulatory authority with ANR.”



Draft Plan #1. Continue divided authority, but with initial joint inspections on LFOs and MFOs.

ANR's draft plan does not incorporate EPA's solutions.



Solution #2. “Vermont must provide ANR with sufficient resources to administer the NPDES program to meet CWA requirements.”



Draft Plan #2. A limited staffing increase based on ANR's proposal, not EPA's solution.

EPA needs proposed legislation to complete its evaluation.

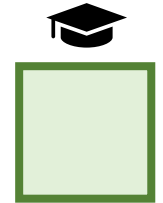
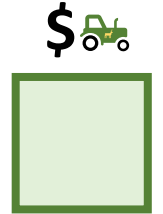
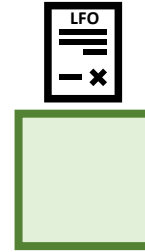
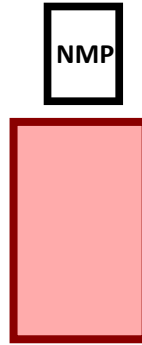
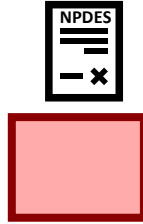
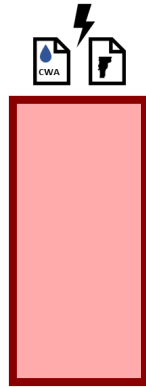
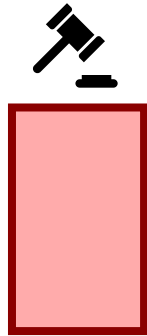


“[B]ecause Plan implementation will hinge on legislative action, EPA will need to comprehensively evaluate draft legislation and proposed implementing regulations related to the Plan prior to approving it.”

How can Vermont reach the Clean Water Act floor?



Requires a legislative fix.



A path forward.



Consolidate authority to regulate agricultural water quality in ANR.



Continue to empower AAFM to provide technical assistance, grants, and support to farmers.



Provide ANR adequate staff and resources to implement the Clean Water Act.



Shift from state LFO and MFO permits to Clean Water Act NPDES permits.

1 Clean Water Act: Key Concepts

2 Clean Water Act: Delegation and De-delegation

3 Agricultural Water Quality Regulation in Vermont

4 The 2022 De-delegation Petition and EPA's 2024 Response

5 Questions