



The State of New Hampshire
Department of Environmental Services

Thomas S. Burack, Commissioner



*Celebrating 25 Years of Protecting
New Hampshire's Environment
March 12, 2012*

The Honorable Andrew Renzullo, Chairman
Resources, Recreation and Development Committee
Legislative Office Building, Room 305
Concord, NH 03301

Re: SB 247 Relative to certifying municipal culvert installers

Dear Representative Renzullo:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on SB 247, as amended by the Senate, relative to certifying municipal culvert installers. The Department of Environmental Services (DES) supports SB 247 as amended.

If enacted, SB 247 would authorize DES to develop a certification program for municipal culvert installers in conjunction with the University of New Hampshire Technology Transfer Center (UNH T-squared Center). And, public works employees certified by DES or who are state-licensed professional engineers would be authorized to repair, replace or modify culverts of up to diameters of 48 inches without prior notification to DES, as currently required by RSA 482-A:3, XVI, if the culvert size is adequate to pass flows without causing damage to upstream or downstream properties. This would result in a more streamlined process for implementation of these projects. In addition, we believe that the overall quality of the front-end hydrologic analysis and culvert replacement construction would improve statewide as more public works employees become certified by DES after training by the UNH T-squared Center on the "state of the art" of culvert replacement and repair.

Since the certification program proposed by SB 247 would be voluntary, all political subdivisions would still have the option to perform culvert repair and replacement work under the existing notification process enabled by RSA 482-A:3, XVI. This process requires submission of a routine roadway notification form to DES and then provides five days for DES review before construction can be started.

Thank you again for this opportunity to comment. Please call Rene Pelletier at 271-2951, or me at 271-2958, if you have any questions or need additional information.

Very truly yours,

Thomas S. Burack
Commissioner

cc: Senators Forrester, Gallus, Merrill, and Sanborn
Representatives Chandler, Greemore, and Worsman

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