



The State of New Hampshire
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES



Thomas S. Burack, Commissioner

Commissioner's Declaration:

Adoption of the Water Management Plan for the Souhegan Designated River

Souhegan Designated River Water Management Plan

As stated in RSA 483:2, the New Hampshire General Court established the Rivers Management and Protection Program (RMPP) in order to restore and maintain the scenic beauty and recreational potential of rivers and river segments that are protected under the RMPP, while respecting riparian interests and local zoning authority. As part of the RMPP, the Commissioner is required to establish and enforce instream flows for designated rivers and river segments. (See RSA 483:9-c, I.) The protected instream flow levels established by the Commissioner must be maintained at all times, subject to certain limited exceptions. (See RSA 483:9-c, IV.) The mechanism that has been developed to enforce protected instream flows is a Water Management Plan (Plan). Pursuant to the rules adopted by the Commissioner to implement the RMPP, the Department prepares a Plan for a designated river or segment to specify how the protected instream flows will be maintained. (See NH CODE ADMIN. RULES Env-Wq 1906.) The Plan comprises Conservation Plans and Water Use Plans for each affected water user and a Dam Management Plan for each affected dam owner.

Env-Wq 1906.07 lists the criteria that must be met in order for the Commissioner to adopt a Plan. Specifically:

- (1) The Plan must contain the 3 major elements described in Env-Wq 1906.01(b);
- (2) The Conservation Plans must contain goals and timelines for each affected water user;
- (3) Implementation of the Plan will result in the established protected instream flows being maintained; and
- (4) Implementation of the Plan will meet the intent of the RMPP as stated in RSA 483:2.

The Souhegan Designated River Water Management Plan dated August 30, 2013 meets these requirements and is hereby adopted. The full report is available at the DES Website and at the following locations:

File Review Room
NH Dept. of Environmental Services
29 Hazen Drive
Concord, NH 03301

New Ipswich Town Library
Main Street
New Ipswich, NH 03071

Wadleigh Memorial Library
49 Nashua Street
Milford, NH 03055

Merrimack Public Library
470 Daniel Webster Hwy
Merrimack, NH 03054


Thomas S. Burack, Commissioner
NH Department of Environmental Services

August 30, 2013
Date