

# News from the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services



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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**DATE: March 6, 2008**

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## **Public Meeting Announcement**

### **Independent Evaluation of Recent Flooding in New Hampshire**

*Second Public Information Meeting to be held on March 18, 2008 in Bedford*

Concord, NH – The New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services announced today that a second of three public information meetings will be held to present the status of an independent evaluation to determine the specific causes of recent floods in New Hampshire and provide recommendations for improving water management procedures and dam operations to reduce the impacts from future flooding. The evaluation was requested by Governor Lynch following the floods that devastated Southern New Hampshire last April.

The public meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 18, 2008, at 7:00 PM at The Wayfarer Convention Center, 121 South River Road, Bedford, New Hampshire. The purpose of this meeting will be to present initial results of the independent evaluation into the April 2007 flood. These initial results will include a description of the hydrologic conditions prior to and during the April 2007 flood and a comparison between this event and other recent events including the May 2006 flood. In addition, a review of dam operations at selected dams in the Souhegan, Suncook, Piscataquog, and Salmon Falls river basins during the April event will be presented. Residents from the flood-affected communities are encouraged to attend.

The \$330,000 study is being funded by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and performed by a team led by the URS Corporation, an international engineering firm under contract to FEMA. In addition, an independent panel of national experts in water resources management is overseeing the entire study to ensure that the work and recommendations meet the highest level of professional independence and expertise.

As part of the study, the engineering firm is determining the causes of the flood in the Piscataquog, Souhegan, Soucook, Suncook, Contoocook, Cocheco, Lamprey, Oyster, Salmon Falls and Isinglass river basins. The team is also examining the policies, programs and mechanisms for coordination of flood control operations and notification of flood-prone areas; assessing the effects of dam operations on flood conditions in the Salmon Falls, Souhegan, Piscataquog, and Suncook basins; and determining the differences between the April 2007 flood and other recent flood events in these basins, including the May 2006 flood. Based on the results of these evaluations, the team will provide recommendations for any remedial, protective or management measures that would help mitigate the effects of future flooding.

Additional information on the study, as well as directions to The Wayfarer Convention Center, is available on the Department of Environmental Services website at [www.des.state.nh.us/dam/floods.htm](http://www.des.state.nh.us/dam/floods.htm). For more information, please contact Jim Gallagher, at the Department of Environmental Services Dam Bureau, at 271-1961.

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