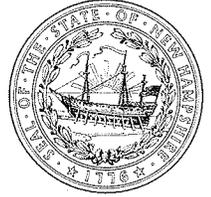




The State of New Hampshire  
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES



Thomas S. Burack, Commissioner

March 12, 2014

The Honorable Russell Prescott  
Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee  
Legislative Office Building, Room 101  
Concord, N.H. 03301

**RE: SB 267, An Act extending the effective date for integrated land development permits.**

Dear Chair Prescott and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on SB 267 which would change the implementation date for the integrated land development permitting program to July 1, 2017 from January 1, 2015. The Department of Environmental Services (DES) supports this bill.

In 2013, RSA 489 (Senate Bill 124) was enacted to establish an integrated land development permit that applicants could choose, at their discretion, as an alternative to obtaining separate permits from up to four DES programs specified in the bill (Wetlands, Alteration of Terrain, Subdivision and Individual Sewage Disposal, and Shoreland Water Quality Protection). RSA 489 also set the stage for improvements in the coordination of permitting efforts between DES and municipalities by strongly encouraging collaboration of project reviews from the pre-application stage through final permitting. It is expected that integrating permitting will ultimately provide a more streamlined permitting process and improved environmental outcomes for large projects.

RSA 489 also authorized DES to establish two positions in the DES Land Resources Management Program but these positions were unfortunately not funded for the FY 2014-2015 biennium. These positions are critical to provide adequate staff expertise to startup, implement and effectively operate this program. SB 267 would authorize delay of program implementation until July 1, 2017 (instead of January 1, 2015) in order to allow time for the Legislature to consider options to fund this program during the FY 2016-2017 budget session that will begin January 2015.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter. If you have questions or need additional information, please contact either Rene Pelletier, Assistant Director ([rene.pelletier@des.nh.gov](mailto:rene.pelletier@des.nh.gov)), 271-2951 or me at [tom.burack@des.nh.gov](mailto:tom.burack@des.nh.gov), 271-2958.

Sincerely,

Thomas S. Burack  
Commissioner

cc : Senators Odell, Waters, Carson, Reagan, Rausch, Stiles, Fuller Clark, Woodburn, Boutin, and Bradley  
Representatives Grenier, Sad, and Gottling