



Robert R. Scott
DES Commissioner
NH Dept. of Environmental Services
29 Hazen Drive
Concord, NH 03302

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The Bradford Conservation Commission adds its voice to that of the NH Association of Conservation Commissions in opposing many of the proposed wetland rule changes Env-wt 100-900. In particular, those that accelerate the permitting process for Standard Minimum Impact those that increase use of Permit by Notification, Statutory Permit by Notification, and Expedited Permits.

- The incremental degradation of wetlands, streams, and their buffers serves to favor development over any other values and benefits to the public including water quality and wildlife conservation;
- These rules changes especially impact the fast disappearing smaller and ephemeral wetlands, their hydrological connections, and values as wildlife corridors;
- To pursue policies on the belief that bigger must be better and reserve attention only for larger wetlands and bigger projects in them is scientifically blind and shortsighted;
- In our town, the species and plant communities known to the NHB are either wetland dependent or mobile – and the cumulative impacts of these rule changes can't be easily quantified or predicted;
- The local dedicated volunteers on the ground and the abutters to proposed projects are DES's best and fastest resource of information. Cutting local control or notice would be a grave and demoralizing mistake;
- More efficiency in terms of time and money would be gained by appropriately funding the Wetlands Bureau rather than encumbering the department with costly dispute and restoration.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer input to these potential changes.

J. Ann Eldridge, for the Bradford Conservation Commission.