

TOWN OF SUTTON
Pillsbury Memorial Town Hall
93 Main Street Sutton Mills, NH
Sutton Mills, NH 03221

January 17, 2019

Mary Ann Tilton, Wetlands Bureau Assistant Administrator
N. H. Department of Environmental Services
P.O. Box 95
Concord, NH 03302-0095

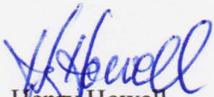
Re: Env-Wt 100-900 Initial Proposals

Dear Assistant Administrator Tilton:

The Sutton Conservation Commission (SCC) has reviewed proposed rules Env-Wt 100 – 900 and commends the NHDES for undertaking this much-needed update of the rules. Our primary concerns with the proposed rules are the addition of 12 projects to the Permit by Notification (PBN) process and the reduction of review time for all PBN projects from 10 days to 5 days. We endorse the comments made by the New Hampshire Association of Conservation Commissions (NHACC) in this regard. The SCC suggests that a condition be added to the PBN process: pre-application notification of and opportunity to meet with the local conservation commission. If a PBN applicant does not accept this condition, the applicant must then choose either the standard or expedited permit process for that project.

The SCC is committed to protecting the natural resources in Sutton and recently updated its Strategic Conservation Plan, mapping wetlands, floodplains, habitats, aquifers, streams, and forests, among other valuable resources. Based on this updated mapping, we learned that only 16% of our wetlands are protected by conservation grants or easements. Because of the importance of wetlands to our eco-culture, the continued involvement of the SCC in the DES wetlands application process is critical to our conservation goals. We therefore request that the proposed rules be amended so that they do not reduce that involvement. Thank you.

Sincerely,


Henry Howell
SCC Co-chairman