

# *Mount Ascutney River Subcommittee*

New Hampshire – Plainfield, Cornish, Claremont, Charlestown  
Vermont – Hartland, Windsor, Weathersfield, Springfield, Rockingham



January 18, 2019

New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services  
Wetlands Bureau  
29 Hazen Drive  
Concord, NH 03301

RE: NHDES Wetland Rules Changes

Dear Ms. Mary Ann Tilton,

The Mount Ascutney Local River Subcommittee of the Connecticut River Joint Commissions (Subcommittee) has reviewed the proposed changes and would like to submit the following for consideration in the review process.

The subcommittee representatives agree that the proposed rules are unacceptable. We would like to highlight 3 items that concerned us most.

1. Review bodies and time given for PBN review. The removal of time for local review is of significant concern as it is unrealistic. Review time has been shortened from 10 to 5 days. This is inadequate for state staff that has a large workload and there is concern that permits will be approved without proper review. In addition, the conservation commission is a valuable commenter on local issues and should be kept in this process.
2. Removal of the notification on abutters. Property owners have a right to be made aware of changes that affect their property. Since property owners are not always on site, it is likely that some would not become aware until the work is already completed. This could create a lengthy legal process by trying to short-step the permit process.
3. Elimination of LACs from the expedited permit process. LACs provide critical advice, input and support to property owners and should not be removed from these permit reviews.

Thank you the opportunity to comment on the proposed changes to the NH Wetlands Rules.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Nancy Heatley in black ink.

Nancy Heatley  
Committee Chair



*a local subcommittee of the Connecticut River Joint Commissions*  
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