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# Guidelines to the Regulatory Requirements for Dam Removal Projects in New Hampshire

**2003**

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New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services  
Water Division - Dam Bureau  
Dam Removal and River  
Restoration Program

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<sup>1</sup>2018 edits consist of updates to website links, updated contact information, updated submittal requirements and document titles.

## **State Dam Removal Plan Development Advisory Team**

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The development of this publication and review of its contents were advised by the State Dam Removal Plan Development Advisory Team. The makeup of the Advisory Team was deliberately intended to provide a *balanced* and *representative* diversity of interests related to selective dam removal in New Hampshire.

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## **Introduction**

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The New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (NHDES) has developed these guidelines to provide dam owners, communities, regulatory agencies and other interested parties with information about the regulatory process of removing a dam.

### **Why Consider Dam Removal?**

During the 18<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries, New Hampshire relied heavily on the innovative use of waterpower (e.g., saw and grist mills, woolen mills, etc.), the ready availability of irrigation water, and a means to transport finished products to market via state waterways. Our rivers were heavily dammed during this period to serve societal needs. Modern manufacturing methods and practices have, in most cases, diminished our reliance on rivers. Nevertheless, many New Hampshire dams and their associated buildings, landscapes, and archaeological features may be considered historical and cultural resources.

According to the state's dam database there are more than 4,800 dams in New Hampshire (2003). More than 1,600 of them are considered "inactive" because they no longer impound enough water to be regulated by the State. Most of these inactive dams have fallen into disrepair, been abandoned and/or are now ruins.

Although they aren't considered subject to current state dam regulations, some of these structures still pose threats to the safety of people who swim, fish, paddle, or otherwise enjoy New Hampshire's rivers. Ice and floating debris can become trapped at these dams, raising water levels behind them during flood events, which could cause a sudden, uncontrolled release of water downstream. These conditions are not only dangerous to people, they can cause streambank erosion, downstream flooding and other impacts to public and private property. Also, dams don't have to be large to impact the environment. Even relatively small dams can prevent the movement of fish and other aquatic species, impair water quality and generally degrade riverine habitat.

There are more than 3,200 "active" dams in New Hampshire that are regulated by the NHDES Dam Bureau. The majority of these dams are more than 100 years old and they have far exceeded their design life expectancy. Many of these active dams are no longer serving their intended purpose and have fallen into disrepair. The deteriorating condition of many dams in New Hampshire poses public safety concerns, as well as long-term financial and legal burdens to their owners — that are often communities and taxpayers. These dams also impact rivers because they disrupt the natural flow of water, sediment and nutrients, fragment aquatic species from important habitats (e.g., spawning, nursery, feeding), and affect water quality (e.g., temperature, dissolved oxygen, turbidity). However, some dams may be significant features in New Hampshire's cultural and historical landscape, and may have value to local residents, historians, cultural geographers, and industrial archaeologists.

As an increasing number of dam owners and others seek to remove dams in New Hampshire, the NHDES Wetlands and Dam bureaus have collaborated to develop a permit application process for dam removal projects that addresses the needs of both bureaus, and streamlines the process for the applicant. This process is outlined in this document.

In 2001, the NHDES created the [Dam Removal and River Restoration Program](#). The program provides assistance to dam owners, and helps coordinate the involvement of multiple interests throughout the dam removal decision-making, planning, regulatory and implementation processes. The goal of the program is to develop and implement an efficient and effective means of restoring rivers and eliminating public safety hazards through selective dam removal.

## **State Laws and Rules Affecting Dam Removal Projects**

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There are five sections of New Hampshire's Revised Statutes Annotated (RSA) that are particularly relevant to the regulation of dam removal.

- 1) [RSA-482 \(Dams, Mills, and Flowage Act\)](#) grants regulatory authority to the [NHDES Dam Bureau](#) for activities related to dams, such as dam construction, repair, removal, registration and safety inspections. Administrative rules promulgated under [RSA-482](#) are found in [Env-Wr 100-700 \(Dam Bureau Administrative Rules\)](#). It is important to note that the NHDES Dam Bureau cannot order the removal of a dam if: 1) there is an identifiable owner of the dam, and 2) the dam meets state dam safety requirements.
  
- 2) [RSA-482-A \(Dredge and Fill in Wetlands\)](#) grants regulatory authority to the [NHDES Wetlands Bureau](#) for activities conducted within their jurisdiction (e.g., lakes, ponds, streams, wetlands, sand dunes, tidal buffer zone, etc.). Rules promulgated under these laws are found in [Env-Wt 100-900 \(Wetlands Bureau Administrative Rules\)](#). [RSA-482-A](#) and the rules promulgated under it require that projects be designed to avoid and minimize impacts to areas under the jurisdiction of the NHDES Wetlands Bureau.
  
- 3) [RSA-483 \(Rivers Management and Protection Program\)](#) was established to recognize and designate rivers to be protected for their outstanding natural and cultural resources. The program is administered by NHDES. After a river is designated to the program, a management plan is developed so that the outstanding qualities of the river may be protected for future generations. The plan is developed and implemented by a volunteer local river advisory committee that also coordinates activities affecting the river on a regional basis. The [NHDES Rivers Management and Protection Program](#) assists with the development and implementation of the management plan and enforces regulations concerning the quality and quantity of flow in protected river segments.
  
- 4) [RSA-483-B \(Shoreland Water Quality Protection Act\)](#) established "protected shoreland" adjacent to public water bodies in New Hampshire. The protected shoreland is all land located within 250 feet of a "reference line" of public waters. Within the protected shoreland, certain activities are restricted or prohibited, and others require a permit from the NHDES [Shoreland Program](#). All activities that are regulated by the NHDES must comply with applicable local, state, and federal regulations. Rules promulgated under [RSA-483-B](#) are found in [Env-Ws 1400](#).
  
- 5) [RSA-227-C \(Historic Preservation\)](#) reserves to the State of New Hampshire, acting through the Commissioner of the Department of Cultural Resources, ownership of all historical resources lying on the bottom of navigable waters in the state, great ponds, and three miles seaward from the New Hampshire shore in the territorial tidal waters of the state. The law directs the [Division of Historical Resources](#) to cooperate with federal, state, regional, and local government agencies in the planning and conduct of undertakings that affect historic properties and preservation objectives, and directs all other state agencies to cooperate with the Division in the identification and management of historic resources.

### **NOTE:**

This publication describes the State of New Hampshire's regulatory process for removing a dam. **Local permits** may be necessary in some communities. These permits are not discussed in this publication.

The removal of **federally-regulated dams** involves additional regulatory processes (e.g., projects licensed by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission). A description of these processes is beyond the scope of this publication. If you would like more information please contact the [NHDES River Restoration Coordinator](#) at (603) 271-8870.

## **Removing a Dam in New Hampshire: A Four-Step Process**

This publication walks potential applicants through the four general steps that are required to receive the necessary state regulatory authorization to remove a dam in New Hampshire.

The following two pages graphically describe the process.

Detailed explanations of the process are provided in remainder of this document, and further expanded upon via provided web links to additional resources.

**Step One: Obtain Necessary Information**

- Contact NHDES River Restoration Coordinator at (603) 271-8870 Obtain necessary permit application materials
- Discuss potential funding sources
- Discuss regulatory process

**Step Two: Research, Plan and Design Project**

- Data collection
- Identify key issues to address early (e.g., sediment, historical resources)
- Identify and consult with stakeholders
- Consult with the river's Local Advisory Committee, if applicable
- Develop conceptual design plan

**DATA COLLECTION**

Each of the following categories should inform each other as the project is planned (See [Data Collection: Researching Dams and Rivers](#) for information on resources)

Baseline Research

- Multiple site visits, photographs (old and new)
- Tax maps, FEMA data, aerial photos
- Utilities and nearby infrastructure
- Dam ownership and flowage rights
- Dam safety inspections
- Current and historic upstream pollution sources

Site Survey

- Property boundaries, utilities, infrastructure
- Preliminary channel survey, limits of impoundment
- Access and easement issues, deed research
- Presence, location and type of wetlands

Hydrology and Hydraulics

- Hydrology (gage data or hydrologic model)
- Hydraulics (FEMA profiles and models, HEC-RAS model or alternative) Impacts to wells and groundwater levels
- Analysis of infrastructure upstream (stability) and downstream (capacity)
- Need to amend FEMA floodplain maps?
- Need to assess ice regime impacts?

Historic Resources

- Consult local historical society
- Contact NHDES River Restoration Coordinator Determine lead Federal agency
- Need to hire an historical consultant?
- Initiate contact with interested members of the public and consult during project design

Sediment Issues

- Sediment probes to determine depth and physical characteristics
- Need to perform sediment transport analysis?
- Need to develop plan for sediment sampling and analysis?
- Physical lab analysis
- Chemical lab analysis

Fisheries and Wildlife

- Presence, type, and location of rare species and/or habitats
- Fish, wildlife and their habitats that will be impacted
- Determine positive and negative impacts
- Need to perform post-dam removal site restoration?
- Need to conduct pre- and post-dam removal monitoring?



Conceptual/Draft Design  
Develop design recommendations (consultation with NHDES recommended)  
Develop conceptual design plans  
Draft design plan  
Confirm access agreements  
Preliminary cost estimates  
Pursue funding opportunities  
Design report  
Consult with local Board of Selectmen and Conservation Commission  
Consult with river's Local Advisory Committee, if applicable



**Step Three: Permit Application Package Preparation**  
Prepare the following required forms and their supporting materials:  
[Wetlands Permit Application and associated documents, formerly known as the "Standard Dredge and Fill Application"](#), and  
[Attachment to the Wetlands Permit Application for Dam Removal Projects](#)  
Obtain dam owner signature  
Obtain Town Clerk signature  
Submit permit application package to Town Clerk to be forwarded to NHDES Wetlands Bureau



**Step Four: Permit Review and Issuance**  
NHDES Wetlands Bureau has 75 days to review permit application (for projects with less than one acre of impact). *Please note the review time may be reduced to 30 days if the project qualifies as a restoration project [per [Env-Wt 303.04\(t\)](#)]* and the application signed by the local conservation Commission before submitted to the NHDES Wetlands Bureau  
A Memorandum of Agreement on mitigating effects to historic resources may be required  
Public information meeting(s) or public hearing may be required  
For most projects, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers must also approve the project after NHDES Wetlands Bureau approval

## Step One: Obtain Necessary Information

Estimated time to complete: Two weeks

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Potential applicants are encouraged to begin the process by contacting the [NHDES River Restoration Coordinator](#) at (603) 271-8870 for information, including:

- Copies of the required forms for the permit application package.
- Information about potential funding opportunities to offset the dam owner's costs of removal.
- General information about dam removal and river restoration.
- Assistance in proceeding through the necessary regulatory process, which involves coordination with several state and federal agencies.

To be considered for receiving regulatory approval to remove a dam in New Hampshire, the NHDES Wetlands and Dam bureaus require the submittal of a permit application package that includes two completed forms and their supporting materials:

- 1) The [Wetlands Permit Application and associated documents, formerly known as the "Standard Dredge and Fill Application"](#).

The applicant must provide this application and supporting materials in order for the NHDES Wetlands Bureau to consider granting a permit for a project in the surface waters of the State.

For copies of this form:

Web: [NHDES Wetlands Bureau](#)

Phone: NHDES Wetlands Bureau at (603) 271-2174

- 2) The [Attachment to the Wetlands Permit Application for Dam Removal Projects](#).

This form is specific to dam removal projects. It should be submitted at the same time that the *Standard Dredge and Fill Application* is submitted. It requests additional information that the Dam Bureau must review in order to grant approval for a dam removal project. The *Attachment* also includes a series of questions. Note that these are the same questions that are required to be answered on the *Standard Dredge and Fill Application*, but on the *Attachment*, they are asked in the context of a dam removal project. **Providing one set of complete answers to the questions listed on the Attachment will be sufficient for answering the questions on the Standard Dredge and Fill Application. However, the applicant must still complete and submit the Standard Dredge and Fill Application form.**

For copies of this form:

Web: [NHDES Dam Bureau](#)

Phone: NHDES Dam Bureau at (603) 271-3406

### Permit and approvals that you must receive from the State

The complete submittal and successful review of the application package described above will result in the granting of two items that are required by the State to conduct a dam removal project:

1. *Wetlands and Non-Site Specific Permit* from the Wetlands Bureau, and
2. Written approval from the NHDES Dam Bureau.

NOTE: Local permits (e.g., disposal, zoning) may be required in certain communities. Applicants are encouraged to [contact the Town or City Office](#) in the community where the project will take place.

The remainder of this publication provides detailed information about researching, planning and signing a dam removal project (Step Two), preparation of permit application and supporting materials (Step Three) and the permit review process (Step Four).

## **Step Two: Research, Plan and Design the Project**

Estimated time to complete: Months to years. Highly variable, site-specific.

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The length of time needed to complete Step Two is largely dependent upon the scale and scope of the project, as well as the resources available for the project. Applicants of any dam removal project are encouraged to contact the [NHDES River Restoration Coordinator](#) at (603) 271-8870 as early in the planning process as possible for additional information about the many facets of these projects.

The flow chart included at the beginning of this document provides general guidelines to the process of researching, planning and designing a dam removal project in New Hampshire. It is **not** intended to be a comprehensive guide, as the details of each project are determined by the unique site and overall project context. Note also that this flow chart should not be interpreted as a rigidly chronological process. Parts of the project planning are usually directly or indirectly related to other parts. This lends itself to a meandering flow of information, rather than a rigid path to planning and designing the project.

A typical dam removal project requires data collection on a wide variety of issues. The multidisciplinary nature of dam removal naturally allows for the integration of information from a variety of fields of knowledge. This can enrich the applicant's understanding of the site conditions, leading to an effective design for the project. Due to the complexity of dam removal and river restoration many projects will require the expertise and knowledge of a professional engineer and/or environmental consultant. A growing number of [consultants in the region](#) have experience with dam removal and river restoration projects.

### **Key Technical Issues to Address Early**

Any type of project that involves a diversity of issues, like dam removal, can experience unexpected delays due to technical challenges or procedural issues. Based upon projects in New Hampshire and elsewhere NHDES recommends that applicants address three key issues as early as possible to avoid delays in timelines for project completion.

#### **1. Sediment Management** (see [Guidance for Assessing and Managing Sediment Behind Dams/Barriers](#))

One of the primary roles of rivers is to transport sediment, nutrients and woody debris. Dams and their impoundments can block these materials from moving downstream, causing them to accumulate behind the dam. Accumulated sediment behind a dam can be a major concern with a proposed dam removal. The quality and quantity of the sediment must be evaluated early in the process in order to properly determine the impacts of the proposed removal project. Because these materials may move downstream due to a dam removal, informed consideration of sediment quality and sediment quantity is a significant component of properly evaluating the impacts of a proposed dam removal project.

**Quality** — The Sediment Impacts section of the [Attachment to the Wetlands Permit Application](#) form asks applicants to provide information about known current and/or historic sources of potential pollution from points upstream. These sources could be wastewater dischargers, existing and former manufacturing facilities, former tanneries, hazardous waste sites, etc. NHDES can assist applicants in researching this question, therefore it is recommended that applicants contact the [NHDES River Restoration Coordinator](#) on sediment issues. This early coordination can reduce or eliminate delays in a project or a permit application review.

After a variety of factors are taken into consideration (e.g., dam location and condition, pollution source type and location, sediment load characteristics of river) NHDES may determine that chemical analysis of the river sediment is necessary, and the agency will work with the applicant to determine the range of constituents that must be tested for, in addition to the number of samples required, their location and

sampling method. NHDES has an official policy on the [Evaluation of Sediment Quality](#). This policy clearly links [New Hampshire's Surface Water Quality Standards \(Env-Wq 1700\)](#) to freshwater, estuarine, and marine sediments because the chemical, physical, and biological qualities of the overlying water are intimately related to the chemical, physical, and biological qualities of the sediment. In certain cases, this can eventually affect aquatic life, wildlife, and even humans.

This policy outlines the sediment quality triad approach, a methodology that integrates both chemical and biological data in order to assess ecological resource risk due to sediment quality. If a project is required to conduct chemical analyses of river sediment, the applicant must collect samples in accordance with standard protocols described in the policy and have the samples analyzed by a [New Hampshire-certified laboratory](#) that will compare the samples to published, peer-reviewed screening level contaminant lists. Further sampling and analysis may be required if the initial analysis warrants further review.

**Quantity** -- The amount of sediment that has accumulated behind a dam is another issue. The quantity of sediment likely to be transported downstream can be a concern even if the sediment is not contaminated because of its potential effects to infrastructure, public and private property, fish and aquatic life and wildlife. To address these concerns, applicants are asked to describe the extent of sediment that has accumulated above the dam by providing information on 1) the estimated volume of impounded sediment that might move downstream due to the dam's removal, and 2) the physical characteristics of the impounded sediment.

Certain projects, due to their scale and scope, may sufficiently answer these questions with qualitative data, such as a description of the location of sediment that is impounded behind the dam (e.g., Is it directly behind the dam? What is the elevation behind the dam in comparison to the streambed downstream of the dam? Is there visible impounded sediment near the streambank? Is it primarily on one or both sides of the river?). A qualitative description of the type of impounded sediment may also be sufficient for some projects (e.g., Is it fine-grained and muddy or silty? Sandy? Gravelly? Are there lots of cobbles, boulders or ledge and bedrock?). Other projects will require conducting a hydraulic water surface computer model and sediment transport analysis utilizing model, such as HEC-RAS. These models are commonly used by consultants working on dam-related issues and can help predict the amount of sediment that could be scoured if the dam is removed. If a chemical analysis of the sediment will be conducted, a physical analysis of the grain size distribution of the samples should also be done. More detailed sediment transport models may also be used on particularly complex dam removal projects.

## **2. Historical Resources**

Projects that require a federal permit or that are receiving federal funding must coordinate with the [State Historic Preservation Office](#) (SHPO), in accordance with the [National Historic Preservation Act](#). This coordination is necessary to determine whether any properties that could be affected by the dam removal project are eligible for listing to the National Register of Historic Places. It should be noted that meeting the requirements of the *National Historic Preservation Act* is a federal requirement, not a state requirement.

Compliance with the *National Historic Preservation Act* is required of most dam removal projects because the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Army Corps) requires permits for activities that involve placing fill in waters of the United States<sup>2</sup>. Including evidence of this required coordination in the permit

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<sup>2</sup> The NHDES Wetlands Bureau has a coordinated permitting process with the Army Corps through the [New Hampshire State Programmatic General Permit](#). The project's degree of impact determines the Army Corps' approval process: Minimum Impact = automatic approval from the Army Corps; Minor Impact = no work shall be done without Army Corps authorization unless 30 days have passed after NHDES Wetlands Bureau approval; Major Impact = no work shall be until the applicant receives notice from the Army Corps.

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application materials to NHDES may help prevent delays in obtaining the required Army Corps approval for the project.

Projects that have neglected to address this step of the process have experienced delays of several months to more than a year. New Hampshire state laws may also require coordination with the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO). [[see RSA 227-C \(Historic Preservation\)](#)]

**As early as possible during the project planning**, applicants should contact the local historical society or town historian, if one exists, to gather preliminary historical information about the dam, its adjoining properties and/or nearby resources. Many New Hampshire towns have completed [town-wide area forms](#) on their historical resources. These documents could provide valuable information about the history of the site.

The applicant should then contact the [NHDES River Restoration Coordinator](#) at (603) 271-8870 or NHDES, Water Division-Dam Bureau, 6 Hazen Drive, PO Box 95, Concord, NH 03302-0095 with the following information:

- Name(s), address(es) and telephone number(s) of the project's principal contact person.
- Exact location of the proposed dam removal project (e.g., State Dam Identification Number, latitude-longitude coordinates, USGS map with project area clearly identified, etc.)
- Any known history of the dam and surrounding site
- Any known nearby historic resources

Because this component of the dam removal process may take six (6) months to one year, it is important to initiate historic resources review **as early as possible**.

The NHDES River Restoration Coordinator will help identify a lead federal agency for the project, as required by the *National Historic Preservation Act*. The project's lead federal agency will be determined by whether any federal agencies are providing funding or technical assistance in the project (e.g., U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, National Resource Conservation Service, National Marine Fisheries Service), or if the federal involvement is only through the permitting process (i.e., Army Corps of Engineers 404 permit). Once a lead federal agency is determined, the preliminary historical resources information will be provided to the SHPO. The applicant will be copied on this letter when it is sent to the SHPO.

NOTE: The applicant should retain this cover letter in order to include a copy of the letter in their permit application package to NHDES Wetlands Bureau. Alternatively, the applicant can send the SHPO a complete copy of their permit application package at the same time it is submitted to the NHDES Wetlands Bureau. If the applicant chooses this method, the applicant must include a statement that they have provided their application package to the SHPO.

The SHPO will review the information and determine whether additional study may be warranted to learn more about the historic resources of the site. The type of study that is recommended may require the services of a [professional historical consultant](#) and/or [archaeologist](#).

Applicants for dam removal projects with the potential to impact sites that are found eligible for listing to the National Register of Historic Places, or with the potential to impact sites that are already listed on the National Register, are required to consult with members of the public to determine project alternatives to avoid, minimize or mitigate these impacts. This public information and consultative phase leads to the development of a Memorandum of Agreement among the relevant federal and state agencies, describing the roles each will play in avoiding, minimizing or mitigating the project's impacts to historic resources.

This process has been successfully completed for dam removal projects in New Hampshire, and early coordination is the key for a successful and timely process.

### **3. Effects to Infrastructure**

Throughout time public infrastructure has been constructed in and around rivers. Bridge piers, retaining walls, water and sewer mains, dry hydrants, storm sewer outfalls and telecommunication cables are just a few of the things that have been placed in and around rivers. The infrastructure may currently be providing a service, such as bridge piers or a dry hydrant. Or, it could have been long since abandoned and forgotten, such as old water mains or other pipes.

Infrastructure located both upstream and downstream of the dam can be affected by the dam's removal in a variety of ways. Effects to infrastructure tend to be most associated with the resulting decrease in the water surface elevation behind the dam and/or the change in sediment transport and streambed scour due to the restoration of a free-flowing river. These effects may require a range of alternatives from allowing natural processes post-dam removal, to relocating or removing the infrastructure, to deciding not to remove the dam but to install a fish passage device instead. This emphasizes the importance of early investigation of nearby infrastructure and designing the specific project with the infrastructure in mind.

Early in the planning process, projects should determine whether there is any infrastructure in the area that could be affected by the dam's removal. Critical visual investigations of the area in the vicinity of the dam and the length of impoundment, both upstream and downstream of the dam are recommended, as well as talking with the local public works department for information about infrastructure that may not be apparent.

Methods of preventing effects on, or stabilizing infrastructure for, post-dam removal conditions will vary with the project and the site. Any proposed methods to address infrastructure must be described in full detail in the permit application package.

### **Additional Items of Note**

A few additional issues to keep in mind when planning a dam removal project:

1. **Minimization and Avoidance** – The basis for permit review by the NHDES Wetlands Bureau is minimization and avoidance. It is understood that some impacts are necessary and may need to be permitted. All dam removal projects, however, should be designed to minimize short-term impacts to the environment and maximize long-term benefits of ecological restoration.
2. **Timing of Project** – The NHDES Wetlands Bureau typically requires that dam removal projects be conducted during annual low flow conditions (July, August, September). In the coastal zone, however, it may be preferable to conduct the project at a different time of year. This will be largely dependent on the New Hampshire Fish and Game Department's recommendation for avoiding and minimizing impacts to particular species of fish and wildlife.
3. **Public Participation** – During recent years, state and federal agencies have provided public informational sessions about dam removal projects regardless of whether they are required by rule or law. The agencies have chosen to hold these meetings due to the fact that dam removal and river restoration projects are a relatively recent occurrence in New Hampshire. These meetings have served as valuable opportunities for the public to become informed about projects and have provided important feedback to the relevant agencies.

There are situations, however, where public meetings or hearings are required and therefore, must be considered when planning a dam removal project. The following selected list provides examples of

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public participation requirements:

- *Early in the planning process and after information has been compiled regarding historic resources:* Federal agencies are required to inform the public of a project's potential effects to historic resources, per the [National Historic Preservation Act](#). The project's lead federal agency shall provide the public an opportunity to express views on resolving adverse effects of the project [*per* 36 CFR §800.6(4)].
- *During the NHDES permit review process:*
  - Any project that takes place in, or contiguous to, a [designated prime wetland](#) will require a public hearing [*per* [revision-Exception RSA 482-A:11](#) ], held by the NHDES Wetlands Bureau, prior to approval of any permit [*per* [Rule Env-Wt 703.03](#)].
  - Any project that would result in significant environmental impact, as defined by the NHDES Wetlands Bureau, requires a public hearing [*per* [Rule Env-Wt 202.01](#)].
- *After the project has been permitted:*
  - Dam owners cannot lower the level of an impoundment equal to or greater than 10 surface acres without first notifying the local governing body at least 30 days prior to lowering the impoundment. The local government must provide for a public informational meeting within 15 days of receiving notice from the dam owner [*per* [RSA 482:13](#)].
  - Dam owners must contact the New Hampshire Fish and Game Department in writing at least two weeks prior to lowering the level of an impoundment so that the Department can remove fish from the affected waters, if necessary [*per* [RSA 211:11](#)].

## **Step Three: Prepare Permit Application Package**

Estimated time to complete: One month

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The data for the project has been collected and the conceptual designs have been developed. With this information as the foundation of the project, the preparation of the permit application package is typically fairly straightforward.

Applicants will find there is a small amount of repetition in the cover sheets for the two required forms. This is due to the overlapping jurisdictions of the NHDES Wetlands and Dam Bureaus for dam removal projects.

### **COMPLETING THE APPLICATION FORMS**

#### **Dam Owner Information**

Provide the name, mailing address and daytime phone number of the dam owner. When a permit is issued, the owner will receive the permit. The mailing address and phone number should be appropriate for the duration of the permitting process. If the address or phone number is used seasonally, please provide a permanent phone number and/or second address. If the address or phone number changes during the permitting process, please contact the Wetlands Bureau with updated information.

#### **Applicant Information, if different than dam owner**

If the owner wishes to designate an agent to act on his or her behalf, that person should be indicated as the applicant on the application, and their contact information should be provided. A written and signed statement from the dam owner must also be attached to the application indicating the owner's wish that another person be considered their authorized agent for the duration of the project. The applicant/authorized agent will be considered the primary contact for the project.

#### **Location of Dam**

Provide the tax map number and lot number where the dam is located. This information is available at the [local government office](#)(s). Provide the five-digit (or updated seven-digit) State Dam Identification number, if known (e.g., 144.02, D144002, 067.09, D067009). For assistance in determining this identification number, contact the [NHDES Dam Bureau](#) at (603) 271-3406 and tell them the location of the structure. Provide the name of the city or town in which the dam structure is located, and the name of the river or waterbody in which the dam is located. Indicate "unnamed" if the waterbody is not named. If the dam is located on a tributary to a named river or stream, indicate "as tributary to" the name of the larger body of water.

#### **Description of Dam**

Provide the dam's hazard classification, as determined by the Dam Bureau (i.e., high hazard, significant hazard, low hazard, non-menace). Indicate the current use of the dam, if one exists (e.g., recreational, hydropower, milling, water supply). Provide the length of the dam and the structural height of the dam. Indicate a basic description of the dam's construction type (e.g., timber, concrete, earthen, masonry). Provide an estimate of the surface area of the impoundment in acres. If you are unsure about any of these questions, simply contact the [NHDES Dam Bureau](#), they probably have a file on the dam.

#### **Person(s) Proposing to Perform the Work**

Provide the name, mailing address and daytime phone number of the engineering consultant or contractor that will be performing or supervising the actual removal of the dam.

**Explanation of the need for the proposed project and why the approach has less environmental impact on the NHDES Wetlands Bureau's jurisdiction than other reasonable alternatives**

This question **The following questions are provided as a guide to address the Requirements for Application Evaluation** ([NH Administrative Rule Env-Wt 302.04](#)), requires the applicant to illustrate or demonstrate why the proposed dam removal is the least impacting alternative by stating how the reason or need for the project (e.g., dam safety, public safety, ecological restoration) is the least impacting alternative. The response must also state how wetland impacts have been avoided or minimized wherever possible. It may be necessary to attach an additional sheet to the application to provide a more detailed response. For both minor and major projects, include a discussion of the analysis of alternatives done for the project.

Some brief examples of statements that illustrate this concept are offered in the table below:

<b>Purpose or Need for Project</b>	<b>Least Impacting Alternative</b>	<b>Avoidance and Minimization</b>
To eliminate the possibility of a dam failure.	Dam requires significant repair to meet safety requirements, and would necessitate long-term maintenance resulting repeated impacts to the environment.	Minimize impacts by doing removal under low flow conditions if possible, given dam safety concerns. Water control and turbidity control may be necessary.
To eliminate a navigational or recreational hazard.	Dam needs full reconstruction to meet safety requirements, and would necessitate long-term maintenance with repeated impacts to the environment.	Minimize impacts by removing dam under low-flow conditions. Minimize direct impacts to streambed by removing most of dam from stream bank.
To improve fish passage and restore a 5-mile portion of a coastal river.	Existing fish ladder is not effective. Further improvements to ladder would perpetuate long-term maintenance of both the dam and the ladder causing repeated impacts to the environment.	Minimize impacts by removing dam during non-spawning or migratory periods. Remove dam to streambed elevation so future work at site is unnecessary.

**Desired Starting Date and Estimated Completion Date**

Allow sufficient time for permit review by the local conservation commission and the NHDES Wetlands and Dam bureaus. Keep in mind the need to complete the historic resources review and associated process, if applicable. Also remember that in-stream projects may need to be conducted under low flow conditions (typically July – October on inland streams and under conditions as determined by N.H. Fish and Game Department Marine Division on coastal streams).

**Determining Area and/or Linear Impact of Proposed Work**

This section guides the applicant in filling out the Wetlands Impact *Application*. It is necessary to provide an estimate of the total area of impacts to NHDES Wetlands Bureau jurisdictional areas in order to conduct the proposed project.

Note that the area of impact does not include the surface area or number of linear feet of stream banks that are exposed if water levels decrease due to the dam’s removal. However, they must be included if any work will be done on the exposed stream banks, such as plantings or stream bank stabilization.

When calculating area of impact, use dimensions in appropriate units (see chart below).

<b>Calculating Area of Impact (Differentiate Between Permanent and Temporary)</b>	
Type of impact	Unit(s) of measure
Dredging or removal of material	Cubic yards and square feet
Filling	Cubic yards and square feet
Direct impacts along the course of a perennial stream	Length of impact to one bank + length of impact to second bank + length of impact to thread of channel = total linear feet of impact
Direct impacts to shoreline of impoundment	Area of impact to bank in linear feet and square feet

The following information must be provided in the application:

- **Estimated area to be dredged** includes elements of the project that require digging, excavating or otherwise disturbing the current contour or integrity of the stream bank or streambed. This typically includes:
  - The footprint of the dam structure that is to be removed.
  - Portions of the stream banks or stream bed that will be impacted by the installation and removal of access ramps, roads, paths for equipment and any water control device that may be installed (e.g., cofferdam).
- The **volume of material to be removed from public waters** typically includes:
  - The volume of sediment that will be removed from public waters as part of the dam removal process.
  - The volume of the dam itself.
  - The volume of materials that need to temporarily placed in public waters during the project (e.g., cofferdams) and then removed. Differentiate this amount on the form as “temporary.”
- **Is proposed disposal site in wetlands (yes/no).** It is encouraged to seek disposal sites outside of wetland jurisdiction. Disposal of dam materials in wetlands jurisdiction may require additional permits or approvals, depending upon the type of material and the water quality of the potentially affected waterbody.
- **Estimated area to be filled** including:
  - The permanent deposit of materials in or on the stream bank, streambed, or other areas under the NHDES Wetlands Bureau jurisdiction. This includes rock, soil, gravel, sand or other such material that is deposited by human activity during the project, and will not be removed during the course of the project.
  - The temporary placement of materials for the length of the project (e.g. cofferdam, turbidity control devices). Differentiate this amount on the form as “temporary.”
- **Estimated total area (in NHDES Wetlands Bureau jurisdiction) of all proposed work.** Simply add the estimated area to be dredged and the estimated area to be filled. If there is any upstream infrastructure that will need to be stabilized during the project, include it in the total area of the proposed work.
- **Estimated excavation and/or filling within the upland portion of the Tidal Buffer Zone.** The tidal buffer zone includes the area extending landward 100 feet from the highest observable tide line. This area may contain wetlands, transitional areas, or natural and developed upland areas.
- **If a channel is to be constructed, or a culvert or a bridge is to be installed, give the distance the flow of water is to be impacted.** Dam removal projects rarely involve the construction of a permanent channel, culvert or bridge. If the proposed project does, provide the required information.

- **If the project involves shoreline, indicate the average length of shoreline frontage.** This is calculated as the average of two distances: the actual navigable shoreline frontage and a straight line drawn between property lines, both of which are measured at the normal high water line.
- **If dock or similar structure.** This does not apply to dam removal projects.
- **If wall, rip-rap, or similar project, indicate the proposed shoreline impact.** This does not apply to dam removal projects.

### **Description of Proposed Project and Supporting Materials**

In order for the Wetlands and Dam Bureaus to assess the potential effects of the project, the applicant must provide a detailed description of the proposed method of dam removal, including:

- A sequential list of the steps in the construction project. This document should describe the entire project, beginning with how the site will be accessed (e.g., Does an access road exist? Does one need to be constructed?) and ending with cleaning up the site after the project is completed. Methods to minimize impact to the river and streambank and methods for controlling in-stream turbidity throughout the course of the project should be addressed.
- Detailed and dimensioned plans of the site, as it currently appears, showing the design of the proposed dam removal project and the restoration of the site after the removal is completed. A cross section of the dam structure to be removed must be shown.

Larger format plans (typically 24 inch x 36 inch) are often required to provide clear, detailed and legible plans for larger projects. However, **a duplicate set of small format plans should also be submitted to the NHDES Wetlands Bureau for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' review of the project.** The small format plans must be on 8½ inch x 11 inch paper with a ¾ inch margin at the top of the page. A one-page schematic of the entire project may have numbered references to additional detail sheets.

Project plans must be properly formatted and legible, must be dark enough to allow for clear reproduction, must show both existing and proposed conditions and be drawn to scale, or with all dimensions clearly labeled.

To facilitate a timely review of the project, applicants should be sure that site plans include the following:

- Scale or dimensions used on the plan.
- North-pointing arrow indicating orientation.
- An overview of the property and proposed impact areas in relation to property lines. Provide footprints (size, location, configuration) of all existing and proposed structures on the affected property.
- Boundary or delineated edge of all surface waters and wetlands.
- Existing and proposed topography, if changes in grade are proposed.
- Shaded or hatched area(s) to indicate the areas of temporary and permanent impacts to wetlands, surface waters or their banks, or area within 100 feet of the highest observable tide line.
- Labeling of each proposed impact area with the size (square footage) of impact indicated (e.g., Impact Area #1, Impact Area #2). Do not use color shading. Instead, use graphic symbols such as dot shading or cross-hatching to indicate impact areas.
- Distance from existing features and proposed work to abutting property lines. For waterfront projects, show the distance from the imaginary extension of property lines over surface waters. NOTE: any new construction shall be at least 20 feet from any

*Guidelines to Regulatory Requirements for Dam Removal Projects in New Hampshire*

property lines or the imaginary extension over the water, unless written permission, in the form of a notarized letter, is obtained from the affected abutter(s).

- Type of construction and materials to be used.
  - A narrative construction sequence with relative timing, methods and progression of all work, pre-construction through post-construction.
  - Proposed methods of erosion or siltation control indicated graphically on the plan and in narrative format in the construction sequence.
  - Name of the person who prepared the plans and drawings.
  - A cross sectional drawing of the dam to be removed, indicating the design, materials it is composed of and the type of construction.
  - Description of vertical datum (reference elevation) used on all drawings if elevations are not shown. The National Geodetic Vertical Datum is preferred in non-tidal areas, while mean low water is preferred in tidal waters.
  - Include the name of the person who prepared the plans and drawings on the plan, including that person's signature.
- A description of the method and location for disposal of dam materials. Applicants are encouraged to avoid disposing of material in NHDES Wetlands Bureau jurisdictional areas, where possible. Note that these areas may include shorelines, canals, and sluiceways.
  - USGS topographic map (1:24,000 or 1:25,000 scale) with the project area clearly marked. An original map is not necessary; a copy is fine. Only the portion of the map showing the project sites needs to be submitted. In the lower right corner, label the map with the name of the quadrangle as shown on the original map. Adequate maps can be purchased at bookstores, hunting stores, camping stores, gas stations, etc. You may be able to photocopy the map you need at a local library, county conservation district office, regional planning commission or local conservation commission.
  - Tax map(s) showing the property on which the project will take place. Tax map(s) showing all abutting properties must also be included and labeled to correspond with a list of all abutters including their mailing addresses, tax map and lot numbers. Include all abutters to the property on which the dam removal project will take place. Also, list all abutters to the impounded portion of the waterbody (i.e., abutters that will be affected by the decrease in water surface elevation). Note that abutters do not include landowners with property more than one-quarter mile from the limits of the proposed project, nor those who own property across a public roadway from the project site. Tax maps are available from the local government office. Some counties have information on-line. See the [New Hampshire Counties Registry of Deeds](#) for more information. If the proposed project affects properties in more than one town, provide the tax map and property information for each town.

**Note:** If the project (or access to the project) will require work within 20 feet of an abutter's property line, notarized written permission from that abutting landowner must be included in the application.

- Original, dated photographs (print or digital) securely mounted on 8½" x 11" sheets of paper. The photos should clearly illustrate the project impact area. Label each photo with the date it was taken, what it shows and from what direction or area it was taken. It is helpful to label the photograph locations on the site plan.

### **Description of Impacts of Proposed Project**

The questions in this portion of the *Attachment* are provided as a guide for the applicant to adequately address a number of issues as required by the NHDES Wetlands Bureau [*per* [Rule Env-Wt 302.04](#)]. This series of questions are worded in a way that helps the applicant provide information specific to a dam removal project. Answering these questions should be a relatively straightforward process if adequate data collection and analysis were incorporated into the design and planning stage of the dam removal project. Please substantiate any answers provided (i.e., why the project as proposed will minimize impacts based upon site-specific information).

### **Abutter Notification**

Under RSA 482-A, the applicant is required to send a letter to all of the project's abutters to notify them that the applicant is applying for a permit from the NHDES Wetlands Bureau. [Click for an example letter](#)) The applicant must send the letters to the abutters by certified mail. It is not necessary to get a return receipt. Keep the white postal receipts from the postmaster. Include a copy of the letter that was sent to the abutters, and copies of all of the white postal receipts for the mailed letters with the application materials. These must be included in order for the town or city clerk to sign the application and forward it to NHDES Wetlands.

### **Filing Fees**

Attach to the original application materials a check or money order made out to the "State of New Hampshire, Treasurer." Write the amount of the fee enclosed in the space provided on the application. The fee must be included with the application package. Fees for proposed work submitted are based on a rate of \$0.20 per square foot of dredge or fill. Multiply the total area (in square feet) of dredge and fill impact by \$0.20. This is the total filing fee. The minimum application fee is \$200. [\(See current fee scale\)](#). Consult with the [town clerk](#) for any required municipal fees.

### **Applicant Signature**

The signature of the applicant or their authorized agent certifies that the owner or their agent has reviewed all application materials (including all supporting materials) and that the information being submitted is true and accurate. The signature also certifies that the owner or their agent has properly notified abutters as required by [RSA 482-A](#).

### **Town or City Clerk Signature**

The [town or city clerk](#) must sign all 5 copies of the application package. By signing, the clerk certifies that he or she has reviewed the postal receipts from abutter notification and that the original application materials will be mailed to the NHDES Wetlands Bureau ([Note: The clerk no longer mails application please see link for revised process information/Clerk Guidance](#)), and additional copies will be distributed to the selectmen, the planning board, the conservation commission (if applicable) and that one copy will be kept at the municipal office for public viewing. The date of the clerk's signature is used to determine the timeframe allowed for conservation commission review or intervention.

### **Submitting the Application**

Most applicants will simply submit 5 copies of the application package to the town or city clerk, as described above. The clerk will then mail the application package to the NHDES Wetlands Bureau ([The clerk no longer mails application please see link for revised process information/Clerk Guidance](#)).

If the applicant or the authorized agent is an agency of the state they may submit the application forms, supporting materials and fee directly to the NHDES Wetlands Bureau without the signature of the Town or city clerk [*per* [RSA 482-A:3](#)]. Four copies of the complete application package must be filed at the same time with the town or city clerk. State agencies can send the application to: Wetlands Bureau, Water Division, New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services, 29 Hazen Drive, PO Box 95, Concord, NH 03302-0095.

## **PERMIT APPLICATION CHECKLIST**

Is the permit application package complete? The NHDES Wetlands Bureau has the authority to deny incomplete applications [*per* [Rule Env-Wt 501.02](#)]. Confirm that all of the necessary information is included in the permit application materials prior to submitting the application. Please note the following list of information is required for a complete application and review, however, please be aware that your application will not be accepted for review by the NHDES Wetlands Bureau if the *italicized* list of items is not submitted.

Use the following checklist to be sure the application is complete:

*Two completed forms and associated documents:*

1) [Wetlands Permit Application and associated documents, formerly known as the “Standard Dredge and Fill Application”](#)

2) [Attachment to the Wetlands Permit Application for Dam Removal Projects](#)

*Complete project narrative* and answers to application and attachment questions.

Copy of cover letter to State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) or statement that a copy of the complete permit application has been sent to the SHPO.

*Natural Heritage Bureau (NHB) file number (on application) or NHB letter with map*

*USGS map with project location indicated.*

*Copy of tax map(s) identifying the applicant’s property and all abutting properties labeled.*

List of all abutters and their mailing addresses.

Detailed and dimensioned plans and cross sections signed and dated by their author.

A duplicate set of the complete project plans for the US Army Corps of Engineers on 8½ x 11 inch paper with a ¾ inch margin at the top of the page (Check with US Army Corps for alternative formats).

Sequential list of steps involved in the proposed dam removal project.

Original photographs of the project impact area on 8½ x 11 inch paper. Date, location and direction of photo views must be indicated on the photo and/or the site plan.

Copies of certified postal receipts for abutter notification.

*Application fee.*

*Signature of applicant.*

Letter from dam owner giving applicant authorized agent status, if applicant is not the dam owner.

*Signature of town or city clerk.*

Five copies of the applications and all attachments (Original application for submittal to the NHDES Wetlands Bureau and remaining four copies for Town/City).

## **Step Four: Permit Review and Issuance**

Estimated time to complete:

NHDES has a 75-day (potential 30-day review) period to review complete applications

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### **Permit Review**

After receiving the complete application and supporting materials, the NHDES Wetlands Bureau will provide a copy of the application materials to the NHDES Dam Bureau. The Wetlands Bureau has a 75-day review period for complete applications (potential 30-day review if meets restoration rule and signed by conservation commission prior to submittal to NHDES). Either bureau may contact the applicant for additional information during that time. Either bureau may also visit the proposed project during that time.

### **Public Meeting Requirements**

Further public meetings (e.g., informational sessions, hearings) may be required in certain circumstances and therefore, should be considered when planning a dam removal project. The following list provides examples of public participation requirements:

- Dam owners cannot lower the level of an impoundment equal to or greater than 10 surface acres without first notifying the local governing body at least 30 days prior to lowering the impoundment. The local government must provide a public informational meeting within fifteen (15) days of receiving notice from the dam owner [[per RSA 482:13](#)].
- Federal agencies are required to inform the public of a project's potential effects to historic resources, per the [National Historic Preservation Act](#). The project's lead Federal agency shall provide the public an opportunity to express their views on resolving adverse effects of the project [[per 36 CFR §800.6.4](#)]. This must take place prior to the development of the associated Memorandum of Agreement for the project, which is a requirement for obtaining the Army Corps 404 permit.
- Any project that takes place in or contiguous to a [designated prime wetland](#) will require a public hearing, held by the NHDES Wetlands Bureau, prior to approval of any permit [[per Rule Env-Wt 703.03](#)].
- Any project that would result in significant environmental impact, as defined by the NHDES Wetlands Bureau, requires a public hearing [[per Rule Env-Wt 202.01](#)].

### **NHDES Dam Bureau Approval**

The NHDES Dam Bureau will provide written approval ([Env-Wr 604.01](#)) to the applicant for the dam removal project if the Bureau determines that 1) the dam will be removed to such an extent that it will no longer require regulation as a dam and, 2) the dam will be removed in a controlled manner that will not directly cause damage downstream of the dam.

### **NHDES Wetlands Bureau and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Approval and Permit Issuance**

The NHDES Wetlands Bureau will provide permit approval to the applicant for the dam removal project if the permit application is complete and the proposal is determined to be a permissible project. There are three types of permit approvals that dam removal projects may receive from the NHDES Wetlands Bureau. The details of these approvals are described below:

- **Minimum Impact Project Permit.** If the project qualifies as a minimum impact project, the permit is automatically approved under the [Army Corps of Engineers' New Hampshire Statewide Programmatic General Permit \(SPGP\)](#). There is no need to wait for a separate approval from the Army Corps to commence the project.
  - NOTE: The applicant is still responsible for obtaining any necessary local permits.

- **Minor Impact Project Permit.** If the project is considered a minor impact project, the project will be reviewed by the Army Corps of Engineers for possible approval under the Army Corps New Hampshire State Programmatic General Permit (SPGP). The Army Corps will notify the applicant within 30 days after the NHDES Wetlands Bureau approval if they will require additional information or an individual federal permit application. If the applicant does not hear from the Army Corps within 30 days, and the project meets the conditions of the SPGP, the project will automatically be approved under the SPGP.
  - NOTE: No work should be done without authorization from the Army Corps unless 30 days have passed after the NHDES Wetlands Bureau approval, provided that all conditions of the SPGP are met.
  - NOTE: The applicant is still responsible for obtaining any necessary local permits.
  
- **Major Impact Project Permit.** If the project is considered a major impact project, the project will be reviewed by the Army Corps of Engineers for possible approval under the New Hampshire State Programmatic General Permit (SPGP). The Army Corps will notify the applicant within 30 days after the NHDES Wetlands Bureau approval.
  - NOTE: No work should be done in NHDES Wetlands Bureau jurisdictional areas until the applicant is notified by the Army Corps.

### **General Conditions That Apply to All NHDES Wetlands Permits**

The following conditions are standard conditions that applicants should expect to see included in the NHDES Wetlands Permit:

- A copy of the permit shall be posted during construction in a prominent location visible to inspecting personnel.
- The permit does not convey a property right, nor authorize any injury to property of others, nor invasion of rights of others.
- The NHDES Wetlands Bureau shall be notified upon completion of work.
- The permit does not relieve the applicant from the obligation to obtain other local, state or federal permits that may be required.
- Transfer of this permit to a new owner shall require notification to and approval by the NHDES Wetlands Bureau.
- The permit shall not be extended beyond the stated expiration date.
- The project has been screened for potential impacts to known occurrences of rare species and exemplary natural communities in the immediate area. Since many areas have never been surveyed, or have received only cursory inventories, unidentified sensitive species or communities may be present. The permit does not absolve the permittee from due diligence in regard to state, local or federal laws regarding such communities or species.

### **Permit Length**

Permits issued by the NHDES Wetlands Bureau have a duration of 5 years (note: 5 year extension may be possible).

### **Permit Transferability**

The current dam owner is required to notify both the [NHDES Wetlands Bureau](#) at (603) 271-2147 and the [NHDES Dam Bureau](#) (603) 271-3406 if the property is sold prior to completion of the permitted project. Notification must include new owner's name and current contact information, including phone number.

**Permit Modification**

The current dam owner is required to submit a written request to NHDES Wetlands Bureau describing any changes to the project as originally designed and approved. Upon review, specifications or permit modifications may be required.

**Permit Renewal**

If the dam removal has not been completed within 5 years and the permittee wishes to conduct the project after the project permit has expired, the permittee is required to submit a written request for a two-year permit extension. This request must be received prior to the expiration of the original permit or a new application will be required.

**Discovery of Previously Unknown Historical Resources**

If the applicant, during construction of work authorized by the State of New Hampshire and the Army Corps of Engineers, encounters a previously unidentified archaeological or other cultural resource within the area subject to Corps jurisdiction (e.g., river, riverbed, streambank, wetlands) that might be eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places, the work shall stop immediately and the applicant shall contact the Army Corps District Engineer at (800) 343-4789 and the State Historic Preservation Office at (603) 271-3483.

## Appendix 1

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### Contact Information for Selected State and Federal Agencies

#### **Federal Agencies**

##### **Federal Emergency Management Agency**

Region I  
99 High St.  
Boston, MA 02110 1-877-336-2734  
[www.fema.gov/region-i-ct-me-ma-nh-ri-vt](http://www.fema.gov/region-i-ct-me-ma-nh-ri-vt)

##### **National Marine Fisheries Service**

Greater Atlantic Region Fisheries  
Office  
55 Great Republic Drive  
Gloucester, MA 01930  
(978) 281-9102  
[https://www.greateratlantic.fisheries.noaa.gov/contact\\_us/](https://www.greateratlantic.fisheries.noaa.gov/contact_us/)

##### **National Park Service**

National Wild & Scenic Rivers Program  
Northeast Region  
U.S. Custom House  
200 Chestnut St., Fifth Floor  
Philadelphia, PA 19106  
(215) 597-7013  
[www.nps.gov/rivers/](http://www.nps.gov/rivers/)

##### **Natural Resources Conservation Service**

Federal Building  
2 Madbury Road  
Durham, NH 03824-2043  
(603) 868-7581  
[www.nh.nrcs.usda.gov/](http://www.nh.nrcs.usda.gov/)

##### **U.S. Army Corps of Engineers**

New England District, Regulatory Branch  
696 Virginia Road  
Concord, MA 01742-2751  
(978)-318-8338,  
978-318-8303 (fax)  
[www.nae.usace.army.mil](http://www.nae.usace.army.mil)

##### **U.S. Environmental Protection Agency**

Region 1  
5 Post Office Square - Suite 100  
Boston, MA 02109-3912  
(617) 918-1111  
(617) 918-1809 (fax)  
(888) 372-7341 [www.epa.gov/aboutepa/epa-region-1-new-england](http://www.epa.gov/aboutepa/epa-region-1-new-england)

##### **U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service**

Northeast Region  
70 Commercial Street  
Suite 300  
Concord, NH 02813  
(603) 223-2541  
[www.fws.gov/northeast](http://www.fws.gov/northeast)

## **State Agencies**

### **N.H. Dept. of Environmental Services**

#### **Dam Bureau**

29 Hazen Drive  
Concord, NH 03302  
(603) 271-3406  
(603) 271-7894 (fax)  
[www.NHDES.nh.gov/organization/divisions/water/dam](http://www.NHDES.nh.gov/organization/divisions/water/dam)

### **N.H. Dept. of Environmental Services** **Rivers Management and Protection Program**

29 Hazen Drive  
Concord, NH 03302-0095  
(603) 271-3503  
[www.NHDES.nh.gov/organization/divisions/water/wmb/rivers/](http://www.NHDES.nh.gov/organization/divisions/water/wmb/rivers/)

### **N.H. Dept. of Environmental Services** **Wetlands Bureau**

29 Hazen Drive  
Concord, NH 03302  
(603) 271-2147  
(603) 271-6588  
(fax) [www.NHDES.nh.gov/organization/divisions/water/wetlands](http://www.NHDES.nh.gov/organization/divisions/water/wetlands)

### **New Hampshire Fish and Game Department**

11 Hazen Drive  
Concord, NH 03301 (603) 271-3421  
<http://www.wildlife.state.nh.us/>

### **NH Natural Heritage Bureau**

172Pembroke Rd.  
PO Box 1856  
Concord, NH 03302  
(603) 271-2214  
) [www.nhdfi.org/natural-heritage-and-habitats](http://www.nhdfi.org/natural-heritage-and-habitats)

### **N.H. Department of Safety**

Incident Planning and Operations  
Center  
110 Smokey Bear Blvd  
Concord, NH 03301 (603) 271-2231  
(800) 852-3792  
(603) 223-3609 (fax)  
[www.nh.gov/safety/divisions/hsem/](http://www.nh.gov/safety/divisions/hsem/)

### **State Historic Preservation Office**

N.H. Division of Historical Resources  
PO Box 2043  
19 Pillsbury Street  
Concord, NH 03301  
(603) 271-3483  
<https://www.nh.gov/nhdhr/>

## **Appendix 2**

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### **New Hampshire Communities with Town-Wide Area Forms for Historical Resources**

The following communities have Town-Wide Area Forms completed and on file at the [New Hampshire Division of Historical Resources](#). These area forms can be helpful resources when investigating the history of a dam and associated properties.

Last Updated November 2000

Ashland	Lisbon
Barrington	Litchfield
Bath	Londonderry
Berlin	Manchester
Brentwood	Meredith
Bristol	Merrimack
Chichester	Milan
Colebrook	Nashua
Columbia	Newington
Concord	Newport
Dalton	Newton
Derry	Northumberland
Dover	Northwood
East Kingston	Nottingham
Epping	Pittsburg
Epsom	Plaistow
Errol	Portsmouth
Exeter	Rochester
Gilford	Salem
Goffstown	Seabrook
Gorham	Shelburne
Greenland	Somersworth
Hampton	Stark
Haverhill	Stewartstown
Hudson	Stratford
Keene	Stratham
Kensington	Troy
Landaff	Windham