

2019 NETC Symposium – June 19, 2019

Environment Topic - NHDOT Update

- NHDOT/BOE attendees: Stephanie Monette, Kevin Nyhan, Sarah Chase, Meg Gordon (both interns), Jill Edelmann, Sheila Charles, Arin Mills, Rebecca Martin
- The Bureau of Environment's principal role is to advance the Department's mission of *"Transportation excellence enhancing the quality of life in New Hampshire,"* and Environmental Policy (ENV 1), by evaluating transportation construction projects and maintenance activities and making recommendations on ways to avoid, minimize, and/or mitigate impacts on natural, cultural and socioeconomic resources. The Bureau also acts as a liaison among the Department and applicable federal, state, local and private environmental organizations, as well as the general public. Coordinated interagency efforts address such issues as water quality, air quality, noise, wetlands, wildlife, historic resources, archeological sites, cemeteries, stonewalls, landscapes, farmlands, solid waste, hazardous waste, environmental permitting, and regulatory compliance.
- Major efforts:
 - In the last year, the Bureau of Environment expanded to include a section devoted to assisting the Division of Operations with environmental compliance.
 - Wetlands Program:
 - Worked with NHDES to develop/refine new permitting rules
 - Working with NHDES to develop a Stream Passage Improvement Program (SPIP). The goal is for DOT, working with communities, to identify problem culverts/bridges in need of repair but that also present a current barrier to aquatic organism passage/sediment transport and upgrade/replace them as mitigation for NH DOT projects
 - Contamination Program:
 - Managing Limited Reuse Soils – soils that are impacted by PAHs and other metals at low concentrations within transportation corridors. Goal to prevent unrestricted reuse, and keep within our operational control (within the right-of-way). Working with Project Development, Operations, and Local Public Agency projects.
 - PFAS – Working closely with NHDES to develop management strategies for this emerging contaminant when encountered in our Projects or Maintenance efforts.
 - Cultural Resources Program:
 - Section 106 Programmatic Agreement update – NHDOT has coordinated with the NH Division of Historic Resources and Federal Highway to develop a new Programmatic Agreement that encompasses more types of projects and allows NHDOT more autonomy with review of those projects for compliance with Section 106 and State laws.
 - Project Management Section:
 - Coastal Zone Consistency Findings - A Routine Program Change was requested by the NH Coastal Program (NHCP) and approved on March 4, 2019 by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). The change involves modification of the NHCP's list of federal assistance programs subject to federal consistency review, pursuant to 15. C.F.R. Part 930, Subpart F (Consistency for Federal Assistance to State and Local Governments). As a result, only those activities authorized under the Highway Planning and Construction (HPC) Program that are likely to have reasonably foreseeable coastal effects, as deemed by the in tidal waters or tidal wetlands to mitigate the impacts of an existing transportation facility

- need a consistency review. Pavement marking is an activity that does not have reasonably foreseeable effects on any coastal use or resource and does not warrant further review by the NH Coastal Program.
- Water Quality Program:
 - MS4 Permit Compliance – Working through an internal committee, and with the help of a consultant, DOT submitted our NOI last June, and are in the process of finalizing our Storm Water Management Plan. Focus is on the 6 minimum measures, with 2020 objectives being internal document control, development of SWPPPs for thirteen DOT facilities, annual reporting, IDDE
 - Air Quality and Noise Program:
 - Type II Noise Program implemented and we're now in the process of completing a type II noise study for Portsmouth, NH.
- Hope to learn what other states are doing in the environmental realm, network, and gain exposure to other issues, and help craft innovative solutions.