

Dana Bisbee

From: Adams, Collis <Collis.Adams@des.nh.gov>
Sent: Thursday, May 19, 2016 11:38 AM
To: Dana Bisbee
Cc: Lee E. Carbonneau (lcarbonneau@normandeau.com); Jake Tinus (jtinus@burnsmcd.com)
Subject: RE: DES's Progress Report on NPT

Hi Dana –

Thank you for sharing your concerns and your request for clarification.

The Progress Report is a request for additional information only. DES will not make a final determination until the information submitted in response to the request has been fully evaluated. This is clearly stated in the introductory sentences in the Progress Report.

No final determination relative to the proposed route or any alternative route(s) has been made at this time.

Regards;

Collis G. Adams, CWS, CPESC
NH Department of Environmental Services
Land Resources Management
Wetlands Bureau Administrator

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From: Dana Bisbee [mailto:dbisbee@devinemillimet.com]
Sent: Tuesday, May 17, 2016 3:09 PM
To: Adams, Collis
Cc: Lee E. Carbonneau (lcarbonneau@normandeau.com); Jake Tinus (jtinus@burnsmcd.com)
Subject: DES's Progress Report on NPT

Hi Collis,

We have received the DES progress report on its review of the Northern Pass applications that have been filed with your agency. It obviously is the result of a tremendous amount of work, and we appreciate the effort and thoughtfulness that went into your review. We are already at work reviewing the comments in all program areas. We look forward to working with you to address the requests for more information relating to the wetlands program.

We will be in touch with you, Craig and Lori soon on this, but the first two items in the Wetlands Bureau progress report are ones that we'd like clarification on right away. For both of those comments, the language that confuses us is the suggestion that DES has already made a finding on the avoidance and minimization requirement in Wt 302.04. We expect that DES has not in fact made any such findings, notwithstanding the words in the first two comments that would suggest otherwise. Rather, we take your comments to mean what you state in the first two introductory sentences prior to the first numbered comment – that we must provide the information DES is seeking before the agency will be able to render a final decision. Given how those first two items are worded, however, we would appreciate your clarifying your intent. For the first item, we assume that you are requesting more information from Northern Pass to explain how NPT has avoided and minimized wetlands impact to the maximum extent practicable in the northern section of the route. Similarly, we read DES's second comment on the wetlands application as a request for more information on wetlands avoidance on a landscape scale along the 32 miles of new overhead construction in Coos County.

We will have questions on other aspects of the DES progress report, and we will be reaching out to you soon for that. In the meantime, please let me know whether we have read your intention on the first two comments in the Wetlands Bureau report accurately.

Thank you.

Dana

George Dana Bisbee

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