

Wetlands Bureau Final Decision Permit Conditions  
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1. Under Project Specific Conditions, No. 7: I agree working with NH F+G with Time of Year Restrictions for protected wildlife. Later on, DES also recommends working with other state agencies (NHB, Wetlands Bureau...). Very important.
2. Under Project Specific Conditions, No. 11: they should notify local Conservation Commissions not less than 5 state business days prior to starting work. You should look for this and make sure it happens. 5 days is not that much time before they begin.
3. Under Project Specific Conditions, No. 16: All temporary controls shall be removed once the area has been stabilized. Often this does not happen. I would hope with the scrutiny of this project, it will happen. It is something to reinforce.
4. Under Project Specific Conditions, No. 25: States: "All in-stream work shall be conducted during low flow or dry conditions **to the extent practicable** and in a manner that will not cause or contribute to any violations of surface water quality standards in RSA 483A or NH Code Admin. Rules Env-Wq 1700". I never like wording that says "...to the extent practicable". It is open to interpretation and, I would argue, abuse. With today's accurate weather forecasts, this should be stated more clearly. (Later on, DES does state the importance of looking at weather forecasts and recommends [accuweather.com](http://accuweather.com) as the one to use).
5. Under Project Specific Conditions, No. 40: "Work shall be done during frozen conditions **whenever possible** to minimize temporary impacts to wetland areas; otherwise timber matting or specialized low ground pressure equipment shall be used." Words whenever possible are vague and open to interpretation and abuse. Should be specified. What circumstances would warrant doing the work when the ground is not frozen?
6. Under Project Specific Conditions, No. 74: "Appropriate barriers and signage shall be placed at locations along the new ROW where it intersects with roads to **discourage unauthorized ATV** activity in jurisdictional areas. Such preventive steps will not be required for existing authorized trails **and for any trails that may be permitted in the future**." Both the bolded statements are again, vague and open to individual interpretation. This is one concern I have with the project. New access roads (even temporary ones) will increase activity throughout the ROW and could negatively impact wetlands to the extent that the proposed temporary impacts could become permanent impacts.
7. Under Project Specific Conditions - FINDINGS, No 14: Last line of section states: "...[temporary impact on] 40 vernal pools, **only** 1 of which is considered to be high quality". Reading the word "only" seems like DES is biased towards Northern Pass.
8. Under Project Specific Conditions - FINDINGS, No. 36: They waived the requirement to provide photographs for all proposed temporary impacts given the size and scale of the project. I would argue that there should be photographs taken of every single wetland impact, whether permanent or temporary. They have to provide photographs of all restoration and revegetation in the area. I think the initial photographs taken prior to work and disturbance, are important as baseline documentation of the wetland. (before, during and after photographs critical, otherwise how can you determine if the wetland has been accurately and appropriately restored).