

GSDI
Annual Meeting
 March 17, 2015
 Radisson Hotel
 Manchester, NH





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NH Department of Environmental Services

Wetlands Program
Rulemaking and Process Improvement



Where were you in '92?

- Washington Redskins defeated Buffalo Bills 37 – 24 in Super Bowl XXVI
 - After the game Bills filed a complaint that Redskins were altering air pressure inside the Minneapolis Metrodome when they had possession and this caused deflation of footballs
- Gas cost \$1.05 per gallon
- Clinton/Gore elected to office
- WorldWideWeb widely deployed for public use
- **LAST COMPREHENSIVE REWRITE OF RULES**

Wetlands Program Rulemaking & Process Improvement Effort

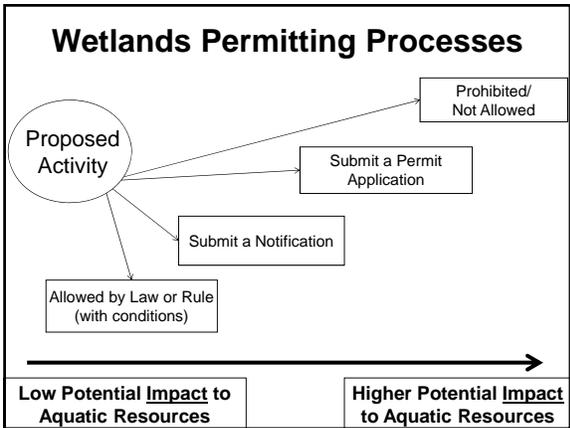
GOALS

- Enhance predictability and transparency
- Increase consistency and standardization
- Ensure scientifically-based decisions that are protective of New Hampshire's important natural resources

Wetlands Program Rulemaking & Process Improvement Effort

Overall Schedule

Oct 2014 – Feb 2015 Phase 2A DES Review of Comments & Develop Rule Concepts We Are Here!	March 2015 – Oct 2015 Phase 2B Stakeholder Review Incorporate suggestions & Draft Rules and New process	Nov 2015 – Dec 2016 Phase 3 Prepare Initial Proposal & Commence Formal Rulemaking
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Process Simplification

- A new review process is being contemplated with 2 (or 3) categories:
 - 1) Notification/minimum impact: streamlined process for low level projects that do not impact sensitive resources using simplified forms and checklists
 - 2) Permit: for complex projects requiring a full application & assessment.

Notifications

- Forestry Notification
- Recreational Mineral Dredging Notification
- Routine Roadway and Railway Maintenance Activities Notification
- Seasonal Dock Notification
- Trails Notification
- Utility Maintenance Notification
- Permit By Notification – 14 project types



Standard Permit

- Improved application form and other documents
- Functional Assessment/Analysis of Impacts
 - How much is enough?
- Clarify Terms
 - "Need"
 - "Avoidance"
 - "Minimization"
 - "Least Impacting Alternative"



Specific Topics

Potential stakeholder groups

- Coastal Resources
- Freshwater Shoreline Structures (e.g., docks)
- Bank Stabilization
- Water Quality Improvement
- Maintaining & Modifying Past Projects
- Best Management Practice Manuals
- Consistency between Wetlands and Shoreland regulations



See our webpage for more information or to submit a comment!

<http://des.nh.gov/organization/divisions/water/wetlands/process-improvement.htm>

Hampton Salt Marsh – Motel Construction

Winter 1973

Questions?