



Land Resources Management Program

Wetlands Permitting and Tidal Shoreline Stabilization

DES Organization



Land Resources Management Program

- Has united:
- -Wetlands Bureau
- -Shoreland Section
- -Sub-Surface Bureau
- -Alteration of Terrain Bureau

Regional Inspectors



PERMITTING



Wetlands Bureau

- Authorized by RSA 482-A & Env-Wt 100-900
- Regulates :
 - dredge /excavation
 - fill
 - structure construction

Jurisdiction Areas:

- Tidal Wetlands & Surface Waters
- Sand Dunes
- Upland Tidal Buffer Zone
- Freshwater Wetlands & Surface Waters
- Vernal Pools
- Uplands Adjacent to Prime Wetlands

Banks or Shoreline

Permit Project Classification Levels

- EXEMPT from permitting
- MINIMUM Impact
- MINOR Impact
- MAJOR Impact

Types of Application Processes

Permit by Notification "PBN"

- Expedited Minimum Review
- Standard Review

Criteria for Review

Protection Goals:

- Resource
 - Public Purpose
- Property
 - Ownership
 - Abutters

Criteria for Review

3 "ACID TESTS":

- DEMONSTRATED NEED
- AVOIDANCE/MINIMIZATION
- LEAST IMPACTING ALTERNATIVE

Criteria for Review

- Technical Spec's & other Requirements
 - Administrative Requirements
 - Applicable "20 questions" qualitative
 - Project-specific requirements

External Comments

- Can come from:
 - Conservation Commissions statutory comment period
 - Municipal & Other Elected officials;
 - State Partners NHB; NHFG; DPH
 - Federal Partners PGP Joint Processing Review
 - Abutters
 - Interested members of the public

Process Constraints

- Mandatory Statutory Time Frames
 - 75 days to first review -> Standard Applications
 - 30 days to first review -> Expedited Minimum
 - 30 days to review add'l info requested by DES
 - 20 days PBN not signed by Con. Com.
 - IO days PBN signed by Con. Com.
- SOP 201 Expedited Review approved by Commissioner
- Stay within Agency Authority under statute

Decision Outcomes

- Request More Information
- Approval
- Denial
- Governor & Executive Council Approval
- Appeals -> Wetlands Council
- Wetland Council decision appeal-> Supreme Court
- Where do you find the basis for the permit approval or denial or other info?

Myth-buster Session

I always heard that....

Project Types:

BANK & SHORELINE STABILIZATION



Shoreline Jurisdiction



Permitting Shoreline Stabilization

Shoreline/ Shoreland Jurisdiction : Overlap





Project Classification ?

- MINIMUM

Or

MAJOR

Minimum Impact

- Permitted by PBN or Expedited Review:
 - REPAIR
 - In-kind no change in footprint, nature of material
 - No work in the water means work done above MHW or can be done during low tide where MLW is seaward of the repair
 - Above the Highest Observable Tide Line in the Developed upland Tidal Buffer Zone.
 - NEW
 - Above the Highest Observable Tide Line in the Developed upland Tidal Buffer Zone.

Major Impact

NEW

- Where artificial stabilization has never been used
- NEED is the impact justified by a threat to the resource or property?
- If work will occur below Mean High Tide then Governor & Council approval will be needed also
- Compensatory Mitigation may be required but NOT if bio-engineering is only method used

Replacement in-kind, almost



Water quality protection



Technical Criteria

- Resource Protection:
 - Protect the integrity of the bank & its vegetation for functions of shading, prevent sediment loading into the water, maintain this transitional interface of the system in a natural & selfsustaining manner.

Technical Criteria ...

- Bank Stabilization Hierarchy:
- I. Vegetative Stabilization
- 2. Rip Rap
- 3. Walls

Or a combination of the above = Least Impacting

Who's got vegetation? Who will be protected?











Why walls are not the best...



PHOTO #5 (of 12)



PHOTO #6 (OF 12)







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Least Impacting Alternative? Self-sustaining? Providing Shoreline functions?



Technical Criteria

- Must OWN the property or receive written permission to work on land of others
- Cannot negatively affect the abutting property
- Must be 20' from abutting property line unless written authorization is received from abutter or a waiver to that Rule is granted.



available distance for dune const/ passage space it wall remains.







Crose ups of damage to vegetation & erosion of dune sand despite extensive root systems of the amonophile due to wave energy from deflection off adjacent wall.

Tech Criteria...

- If a rip rap slope of 50' or more, must have PE stamp
- Must meet the relevant review criteria in Rules:
 - The potential of a proposed project to cause or increase flooding, erosion, or sedimentation;
 - The extent to which a project that is located in surface waters reflects or redirects current or wave energy which might cause damage or hazards

Challenges that we face:

ABUTTERS

- Property protection, from storms, from each other
- How to get people to work together

 Long-term, low-maintenance, selfsustaining solutions



- Education: protect the resource and the resource will protect you
- How do we design resilient shorelines that will handle sea level rise
- Participate in change: engage in on-going tidal wetlands rule writing effort.

For More Information..

- <u>des.nh.gov</u>
- Tidal Resources
 Rulemaking Effort
- Wetlands Permit Process Improvement Effort



