

New England Environmental, Inc. Newsletter

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NEE, Inc. Opens a New Office in Concord, NH



New England Environmental, Inc. (NEE) of Amherst, MA is pleased to announce the opening of a new office in Concord, New Hampshire. We are also pleased to announce that Randall Shuey will be managing this office. Randall brings to NEE over 20 years of experience working in New Hampshire and northern New England. He has a B.S degree in Environmental Conservation along with graduate courses in soils from the University of New Hampshire. Randall is a Certified Soil Scientist (NH, ME and ARCPAC), a Certified Wetland Scientist (NH), and a Certified Professional in Erosion and Sediment Control.

Randall has expertise in all aspects of environmental assessment and permitting for public and private projects. Randall's expertise includes: Wetland Delineation and Assessment; Environmental Permitting; Sediment & Erosion Control Plans (including SWPPP plans); Stormwater Design, Low Impact Design, and Ecological Restoration. Randall's experience includes permitting projects with State and Federal regulators in Maine, New Hampshire and Vermont.

Randall is well known throughout New England for seminars and training he has provided in stormwater management and sediment & erosion control. Randall is an approved Instructor for the International Erosion Control Association.

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U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and U.S. EPA issue new regulations for wetland mitigation areas



New regulations regarding compensatory wetlands were issued by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency earlier this year and became effective on June 9, 2008. Compensatory mitigation for wetland impacts is required for projects to meet the federal standard of no net loss of wetlands. Under this new regulation, the Army Corps plans to take a watershed approach to review proposed wetland mitigation plans, which may include mitigation banking and "in lieu of" fees (options that are not available in Massachusetts under the Wetlands Protection Act). The primary objective of the watershed approach is "to maintain and improve the quantity and quality of wetlands and other aquatic resources through strategic selection of compensatory mitigation project sites." Applicants proposing to mitigation

wetland impacts are required to use the best available science for wetland mitigation area design and then assessment of their success. In addition, mitigation projects approved under an Army Corps permit now require a minimum of 5 years of compliance monitoring. A longer period of compliance monitoring may be required for slow growing aquatic communities, such as forested wetlands and bogs.

For more information, see <http://frwebgate3.access.gpo.gov/cgi-bin/waisgate.cgi?WAISdocID=63268421475+0+0+0&WAISaction=retrieve>

Or Contact: Karro Frost, Professional Wetland Scientist kfrost@neeinc.com

New Hampshire's Comprehensive Shoreland Protection Act - Rules, Changes, and Basics



Revisions to the New Hampshire Comprehensive Shoreland Protection Act (CSPA) took effect July 1, 2008. A State of New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (DES) shoreland permit is now required for construction, excavation or filling activities within the Protected Shoreland area. This is a major change in the regulations and it now has a formal application process. This permit is required for additions, redevelopment and new construction within the CSPA.

The CSPA applies to all land within 250 feet of waters listed in the *Official List of Public Waters* and fourth order and larger streams. Projects and activities located in the protected shoreland are subject to Minimum Shoreland Protection Standards as set forth in the CSPA. For the complete list of NH public waters on the DES website, see http://www.des.state.nh.us/Dam/DamRemoval/List_of_Public_Waters.pdf

The Protected Shoreland covers all land and land uses within 250 feet of the reference line, the definition of which varies depending on the water body, but can be viewed as the high water or official lake level. Within the jurisdictional limit of the CSPA, there are setbacks from the reference line that vary according to activity type including the Primary Building Setback (50 feet), Accessory Building Setback (20 feet), Waterfront Buffer (50 feet), and the Natural Woodland Buffer (150 feet). Restrictions within these various areas include building locations, tree and vegetative clearing, overall impervious area and the use of fertilizers and chemicals.

These activities can be viewed at the New Hampshire General Court Revised Statutes Authority (RSA) Minimum Shoreland Protection Standards link <http://www.gencourt.state.nh.us/rsa/html/L/483-B/483-B-9.htm>.

Penalties are associated with failure to comply with State CSPA regulations. The superior court may levy upon any person violating this chapter a civil penalty in an amount not to exceed \$20,000 for each day of each continuing violation, and violators are also subject to an administrative fine up to \$5,000, for each offense. See RSA 483-B:18; Penalties for additional information.

For more information Please visit the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services website at www.des.nh.gov/cspa
New Hampshire General Court. Title L: Water Management and Protection Chapter 483.
<http://www.gencourt.state.nh.us/rsa/html/indexes/>

For More Information Contact: Jessica J. Day, Certified Wetland Scientist jday@neeinc.com

Snake Friendly Construction Tip



New England Environmental, Inc. has been fortunate to work in areas with rare snake populations. In order to complete work in these areas, we had to modify our usual methods for soil stabilization. Snakes are easily entrapped in mesh products and then are helpless to protect themselves when attacked by birds or small mammals. Many erosion control blankets are created with mesh on one or both sides. This includes both the bio-degradable and permanent blankets. The rule provided to us by Massachusetts Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program was “if a pencil could fit through the mesh, a snake could become entrapped.” Instead of using erosion control blankets, NEE opted to hydro-seed using a native plant seed mix to stabilize the soil. In addition, geo-textiles used to add strength to roadways when buried within the substrate are sometimes left exposed at the edges of a roadway and need to be trimmed or covered. These larger grid products also present a similar hazard to our larger bodied snakes.

For more information: http://www.srs.fs.usda.gov/pubs/ja/ja_barton007.pdf

Or Contact Christin McDonough, Wildlife Biologist cmcdonough@neeinc.com

NEE provides expert environmental services to a wide group of private, corporate, and municipal clients, as well as to State and Federal agencies. Our clients range from individual homeowners to Fortune 500 corporations. We provide sound, integrated environmental solutions to complex site assessment, design, permitting and construction projects. For more information about NEE, visit our web site at www.neeinc.com.

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