



## The Municipal EcoLink

An e-bulletin from the  
NH Department of Environmental Services

July 2008

Welcome to *The Municipal EcoLink*, a periodic e-bulletin designed to inform you of the latest environmental ideas, trends, grants, rules and more from the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services.

We respectfully request that the following is read into the minutes of your municipal committees, councils and boards. Please feel free to post it on your municipal website as well.

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### **New Amendments to Shoreland Protection Act Effective July 1**

Effective July 1, 2008, new amendments to the Comprehensive Shoreland Protection Act (CSPA), RSA 483-B, took effect across New Hampshire. Permits must be obtained from DES prior to undertaking most types of construction, excavation and filling projects within 250 feet of lakes and ponds greater than 10 acres, tidal waters, fourth order streams and designated rivers. It will be very important for municipal planning boards, zoning boards of adjustment, and code enforcement officers to ensure that municipally-issued permits or approvals for affected properties are coordinated with the CSPA requirements. For further information, contact Jay Aube at 271-8176, or go to [www.des.nh.gov/cspa](http://www.des.nh.gov/cspa).

### **Air Permits Required for Rock Crushing Operations**

Many contractors use either stationary or mobile rock crushing machines to break large rocks into smaller rocks, including gravel. In most instances an air emissions permit for the operation of such facilities must be obtained in advance from the DES Air Resources Division. A list of currently-permitted rock crushing facilities, by town or name of facility, is available for review on the DES website at [www2.des.state.nh.us/OneStop/Air\\_Stationary\\_Source\\_Query.aspx](http://www2.des.state.nh.us/OneStop/Air_Stationary_Source_Query.aspx) (if typing this URL, underscore spaces). For general information, or if you are aware of any rock crushing operations of a permanent or temporary nature that may not currently have such a permit, please contact Todd Moore, 271-6798, or Michele Andy, 271-6793.

### **Prime Wetlands Designation**

Pursuant to RSA 482-A:15, towns are authorized to undertake a study process that can lead to designation of wetlands within their boundaries as "prime wetlands." The majority vote of residents is required to adopt prime wetlands and seek DES's acceptance of the study and maps. The maps must indicate the boundary of any prime wetlands on a tax map base. Once DES accepts the designation, any proposed impacts to prime wetlands and the 100-foot prime wetland buffer are given greater scrutiny in DES's wetlands permitting process. Although the statute and regulations do not require that towns notify the owners or abutters of properties being studied, DES strongly recommends that such notifications be provided at the outset of any prime wetlands designation studies, including when field work is planned. For guidelines, please see [www.des.nh.gov/Wetlands/Guidebook/primewet.htm](http://www.des.nh.gov/Wetlands/Guidebook/primewet.htm). Administrative Rules may be found at Env-Wt 700. For questions about the prime wetlands designation process, please contact 271-2147 or [wetmail@des.nh.gov](mailto:wetmail@des.nh.gov).

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Comments? Please send them to [editor@des.nh.gov](mailto:editor@des.nh.gov), so that we can best serve your needs. To sign up to receive press releases and other publications of the NH Department of Environmental Services, please go to [www.des.nh.gov/enews/](http://www.des.nh.gov/enews/).