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## Maine Department of Transportation seeks Corps permit to place fill material to repair bridges, culverts at 10 locations in state

**CONCORD, Mass.** – The Maine Department of Transportation is seeking a permit from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New England District to conduct work in waters of the United States in conjunction with repairing bridges at 10 locations in central Maine.

The applicant proposes to place temporary and permanent fill material below the ordinary high water line of numerous waterways and in their adjacent freshwater wetlands at 10 locations throughout the state of Maine in order to repair, rehabilitate or replace existing deteriorated bridges or culverts. The work is being conducted in response to Federal and state stimulus efforts and is designed to address critical bridges and other structures that need immediate attention to ensure public safety and protect the economic vitality of Maine's transportation network.

This work may impact Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) for Atlantic salmon. This habitat consists of stream and river bottom composed of silt, sand, and gravel mixed with stones. Impacts to this species are expected to be minimal with appropriate erosion control measures, in stream work windows, and other best management practices. Therefore, the Corps has made a preliminary determination that the site-specific adverse effect will be minimal. Further consultation with the National Marine Fisheries Service regarding EFH conservation recommendations is being conducted and will be concluded prior to the final permit decision. Similarly, consultation will be initiated regarding the presence of salmon as they are a Federally-listed endangered species.

The application for the federal permit was filed with the Corps of Engineers in compliance with Section 404 of the Clean Water Act, which regulates the discharge or fill of material in United States waters, including wetlands.

More information on the proposed work is available from the public notice that can be viewed on the Corps website at <http://www.nae.usace.army.mil>. Select Regulatory/Permitting and then weekly public notices.

Public comments referencing this notice (File # NAE-2010-00958) should be forwarded no later than Sept. 2, 2010 to U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New England District, Maine Project Office (ATTN: Jay Clement), 675 Western Ave., #3, Manchester, Maine 04351. Additional information is available from Permit Project Manager Jay Clement at 207-623-8367 or by email to [jay.l.clement@usace.army.mil](mailto:jay.l.clement@usace.army.mil).

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