U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS NEW ENGLAND DISTRICT REGULATORY DIVISION

ANGELA REPELLA
PROJECT MANAGER
REGULATORY DIVISION

DECEMBER 5, 2024





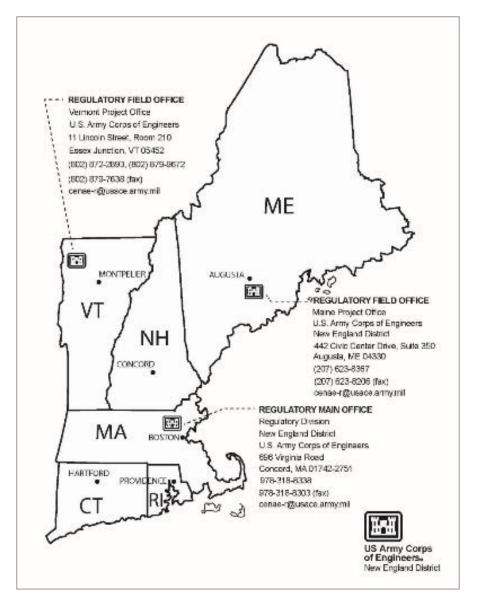






REGULATORY DIVISION OVERVIEW PROFILE





- 6 New England states
- ~64-member interdisciplinary staff: biologists, civil & environmental engineers, planners, physical scientists, administrators

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Vermont Project Office 11 Lincoln Street **Essex Junction, Vermont**

Phone:

802-872-2893

Email:

cenae-r-vt@usace.army.mil



USACE NATIONAL REGULATORY MISSION



Lines of Effort/Investment in.....

Mission:

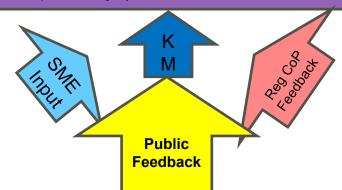
To protect the Nation's aquatic resources and navigation... while allowing reasonable development through fair and balanced decisions.... While striving to be more efficient.

Science & Technology Initiatives

Technical & Leadership Training

Program Efficiencies

Transparency (ORM & Public Website)



End State: Balanced permit decisions that are timely, predictable, consistent, transparent, rooted in sound science and compliant with applicable laws.





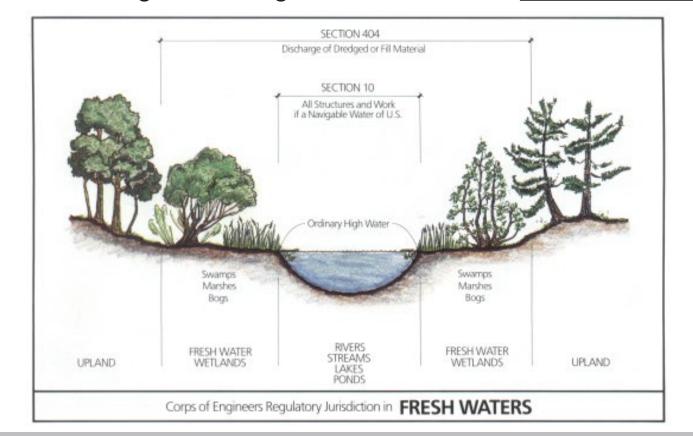


New England District



USACE REGULATORY PROGRAM AUTHORITIES

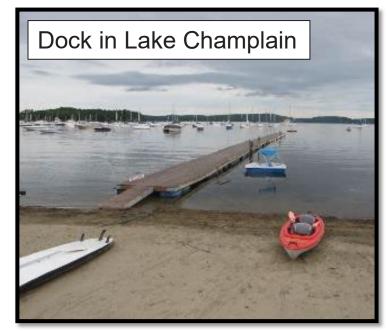
- Section 10 Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899 (RHA)
 - o Regulate work in, over or under <u>navigable waters</u> of the U.S.
- Section 404 Clean Water Act of 1972 (CWA)
 - o Regulate discharges of dredged & fill material in all waters of the U.S.



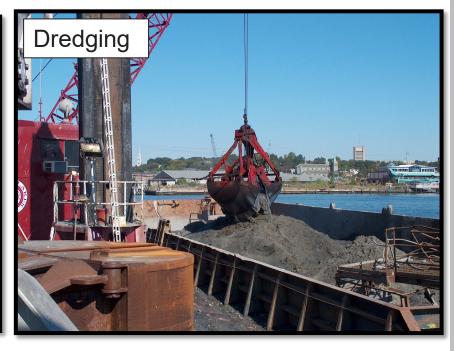
SECTION 10 OF THE RIVERS AND HARBORS ACT



Regulate structures and work that are located <u>in</u>, <u>under</u> or <u>over</u> **navigable waters of the U.S.** that affect the course, location, or capacity of such water; or the excavating from or depositing of material in navigable waters.









SECTION 10 OF THE RIVERS AND HARBORS ACT

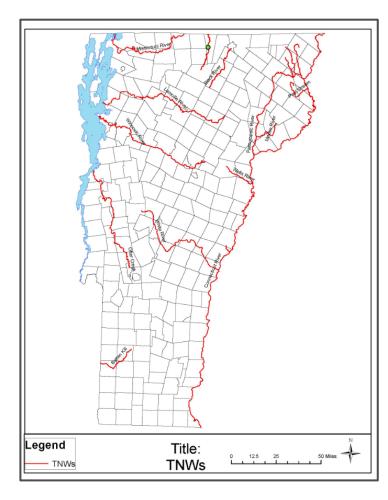


Waters which are currently used, or were used in the past, or may be susceptible to <u>use in interstate or foreign commerce</u>, including all waters which are subject to the ebb and flow of the tide.

Navigable Waters in Vermont:

- Lake Champlain
- Lake Memphremagog
- Moose River
- Winooski River
- Connecticut River
- Otter Creek
- White River
- Missisquoi River
- Black River
- Wells River

- Lamoille River
- Waits River
- Batten Kill
- Paul Stream
- Passumpsic River
- East Branch Passumpsic River
- Nulhegan River
- East Branch Nulhegan River
- Black Branch Nulhegan River
- Yellow Branch Nulhegan River
- Ompompanoosuc River



SECTION 404 OF THE CLEAN WATER ACT

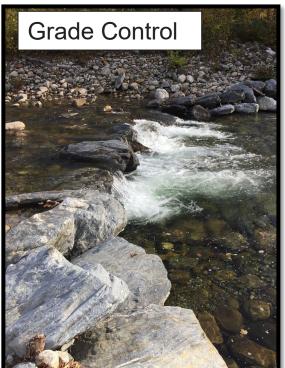


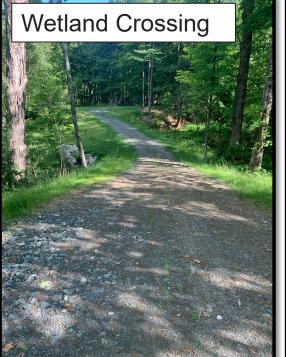
The discharge of dredged or fill material into all waters of the U.S.

Fill Material =

- 1) Replacing any portion of a WOTUS with dry land or;
- 2) Changing the bottom elevation of any portion of a WOTUS.









SECTION 404 OF THE CLEAN WATER ACT



The discharge of **dredged or fill material** into **all** waters of the U.S.

Fill Material =

- 1) Replacing any portion of a WOTUS with dry land or;
- 2) Changing the bottom elevation of any portion of a WOTUS.



- Can be temporary or permanent
- Can include grading of onsite materials







GEOGRAPHIC JURISDICTION



Changes that the agencies have made to the January 2023 Rule categories:

Jurisdictional Category	Key Changes to the January 2023 Rule Regulation Text	Regulatory Text Paragraph
Traditional Navigable Waters	No changes	(a)(1)
Territorial Seas	No changes	(a)(1)
Interstate Waters	Removing interstate wetlands from the text of the interstate waters provision	(a)(1)
Impoundments	No changes	(a)(2)
Tributaries	Removing the significant nexus standard	(a)(3)
Adjacent Wetlands	Removing the significant nexus standard	(a)(4)
Additional Waters	Removing the significant nexus standard; removing wetlands and streams from the text of the provision	(a)(5)



GEOGRAPHIC JURISDICTION: WETLANDS

- Delineate wetlands using the 1987 Corps Manual and Northcentral and Northeast Regional Supplement
 - Hydrophytic vegetation, hydric soils, hydrology
- Assume jurisdiction, unless an **Approved Jurisdictional Determination** (AJD) is completed
- Differences in jurisdiction compared to VTDEC Wetlands Program:
 - No Buffer Zone
 - No Classification System (i.e. Class I, II, III)





ORDINARY HIGH WATER MARK

- The concept of "ordinary high water" encompasses water levels that are above average, but not extreme, and occur with regularity. No strict flow regime/definition per regulations.
- The OHWM is generally represented by the physical characteristics and indicators on the landscape (Geomorphic vs Hydrologic approach)
- Indicators of ordinary high water should be stable over time and ordinary in nature (i.e. relatively stable, consistently present and readily identifiable over time by different investigators)
- "National Ordinary High Water Mark Field Delineation Manual for <u>Rivers and Streams</u>: Interim Version" Released December 2022 Includes data sheet



OHWM Indicators

OHWM Indicators

Recurrence Interval







US Army Corps of Engineers. New England District



https://www.nae.usace.army.mil/Missions/Regulatory/State-General-Permits/Vermont-General-Permit/

General Permit No.: NAE-2022-00024

Applicant: General Public in the State of Vermont

Effective Date: December 6, 2022 Expiration Date: December 6, 2027

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY GENERAL PERMITS FOR THE STATE OF VERMONT

The New England District of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) hereby issues twenty-one (21) regional general permits (GPs) for activities subject to USACE jurisdiction in waters of the United States (WOTUS), including navigable waters, within the boundaries of the state of Vermont. These GPs are issued in accordance with USACE regulations at 33 CFR 320–332 (see 33 CFR 325.2(c)(1)). These GPs will provide protection to the aquatic environment and the public interest while effectively authorizing activities that have no more than minimal individual and cumulative adverse environmental effects.

This document contains the following sections:		<u>Page</u>
SECTION I.	JURISDICTION/AUTHORITY TO ISSUE PERMITS	2
SECTION II.	REVIEW CATEGORIES AND APPLICATION PROCEDURES	2-4
SECTION III.	GENERAL PERMITS	4-26
SECTION IV.	GENERAL CONDITIONS	27-38
SECTION V.	CONTACTS	39
SECTION VI.	DEFINITIONS	40-44

In issuing these GPs, the Federal Government does not assume any liability for the following: (a) damages to the permitted project or uses thereof as a result of other permitted or unpermitted activities or from natural causes; (b) damages to the permitted project or uses thereof as a result of current or future activities undertaken by or on behalf of the U.S. in the public interest; (c) damages to persons, property or to other permitted or unpermitted activities or structures caused by the activity authorized by any of the GPs; (d) design or construction deficiencies associated with the permitted work; or (e) damage claims associated with any future modification, suspension or revocation of these permits.







21 ACTIVITY-BASED GPs

Vermont General Permits

- Aids to navigation
- 2. Repair or maintenance of existing currently serviceable, authorized or grandfathered structures/fills and removal of structures and fills
- 3. Moorings
- 4. Pile-supported structures and floats, including boat lifts/hoists and other miscellaneous structures, temporary recreational structures and work
- 5. Boat ramps and marine railways
- 6. Utility line activities
- 7. Dredging, beach nourishment, rock and debris removal and rock relocation
- 8. U.S. Coast Guard Approved Bridges
- 9. Shoreline and bank stabilization projects
- 10. Aquatic habitat restoration, establishment and enhancement activities
- 11. Fish and wildlife harvesting activities
- 12. Oil spill and hazardous material cleanup
- 13. Cleanup of hazardous and toxic waste
- 14. Scientific measurement devices
- 15. Survey activities
- 16. Energy generation and renewable energy generation facilities and hydropower projects
- 17. New/expanded developments and recreational facilities
- 18. Linear transportation projects and stream/wetland crossings
- 19. Mining activities
- 20. Temporary fill not associated with any other GP activities
- 21. Agricultural activities



Self-Verification (SV)

- Project proponent confirms that project will comply with all terms and general conditions (GCs) of GPs
- Impact threshold is generally <5,000 square feet (SF) for each GP
- No notification process

Pre-Construction Notification (PCN)

- Requires submittal of project plans
- Impacts ≥5,000 SF but <1 acre
- Submit a pre-construction notification (application)

Individual Permit

- Impacts ≥1 acre
- Projects that do not meet the "minimal impact" criteria of the GPs
- Alternatives analysis required
- Submit an application and project plans



GP#10

GP Description



SV vs. PCN thresholds



GP 10. AQUATIC HABITAT RESTORATION, ESTABLISHMENT AND ENHANCEMENT

ACTIVITIES (Sections 10 and 404): Activities in waters of the United States associated with the restoration, enhancement, and establishment of wetlands and riparian areas; the restoration and enhancement of streams and other open waters; the relocation of nonnavigable WOTUS, including streams and associated wetlands for reestablishment of a natural stream morphology and reconnection of the floodplain; and the restoration and enhancement of shellfish, finfish and wildlife, provided those activities result in net increases in aquatic resource functions and services.

Not authorized under GP 10: Stream channelization activities.

Self-Verification Eligible Pre-Construction Notification Required 1. No fill in Lake Champlain, Lake 1. Work not eligible for SV. Memphremagog, Wallace Pond and adjacent wetlands. 2. Permanent or temporary impacts are: a. In Lake Champlain, Lake Memphremagog, Wallace Pond, adjacent wetlands; or 2. Permanent and temporary impacts are < 5,000 Spin waterways and/or wetlands. b. ≥ 5,000 SF in all other waterways and/or wetlands. 3. The activity does not convert a stream to wetland or vice versa, or wetland to a 3. Permanent structures in navigable WOTUS. pond or uplands. 4. Sea Lamprey control projects. 4. Temporary structures in navigable WOTUS not exceeding 30 days. 5. Water impoundments. 6. Dam removals. 7. Restoration, establishment and/or enhancement activities approved for use by a USACE-approved in-lieu fee program or USACEapproved mitigation bank, with impacts of any size.





GP Description



SV vs. PCN thresholds



GP 18. LINEAR TRANSPORTATION PROJECTS AND STREAM/WETLAND CROSSINGS

(Sections 10 & 404): Activities required for the construction, expansion, modification, or improvement of linear transportation projects (e.g., driveways, roads, highways, railways, trails, airport runways, and taxiways), and attendant features. Any stream channel modification is limited to the minimum necessary to construct or protect the linear transportation project; such modifications must be in the immediate vicinity of the project.

Not authorized under GP 18: Permanent and temporary impacts > 5,000 SF in Lake Champlain, Lake Memphremagog, Wallace Pond and adjacent wetlands, and > 1 acre in all other waterways and/or wetlands.

Self-Verification Eligible

- < 5,000 SF of permanent and temporary impacts in waterways and/or wetlands other than Lake Champlain, Lake Memphremagog and Wallace Pond and adjacent wetlands.
- 2. Permanent and temporary stream crossings that comply with GC 20.
- 3. Existing crossings (e.g., culverts, elliptical or arch pipes, etc.) are not modified by (a) decreasing the diameter of the crossing or (b) changing the friction coefficient, such as through sliplining (retrofitting an existing culvert by inserting a smaller diameter pipe), culvert relining or invert lining.

Pre-Construction Notification Required

- 1. Work not eligible for SV.
- Permanent and temporary impacts are:
 a. < 5,000 SF in Lake Champlain, Lake Memphremagog, Wallace Pond and adjacent wetlands.
 - b. ≥ 5,000 SF and < 1 acre in waterways and/or wetlands other than Lake Champlain, Lake Memphremagog, Wallace Pond and adjacent wetlands.
- 3. Work involves stream channelization, relocation or loss of streambed including impoundments.

NOTE: Time of year for instream work is not limited for PCN authorizations unless specifically required by special conditions.

NOTE: Non-linear features commonly associated with transportation projects, such as vehicle maintenance or storage buildings, parking lots, train stations, or aircraft hangars may be authorized by GP 17.

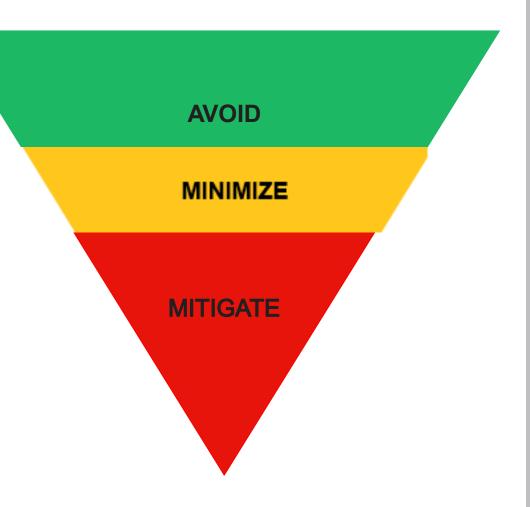
NOTE: Construction mats of any area necessary to conduct activities do not count towards the SV and PCN thresholds and should be removed as soon as work is completed.



GENERAL CONDITION #3: MITIGATION (AVOIDANCE, MINIMIZATION, & COMPENSATORY MITIGATION)



- AVOID IMPACTS to waters of the U.S. to the maximum extent practicable
- MINIMIZE IMPACTS to waters of the U.S. to the maximum extent practicable
- MITIGATE for the unavoidable impacts of the project
 - VT in-lieu-fee

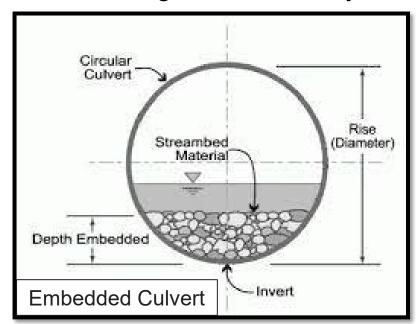


GENERAL CONDITION #20 WATERWAY/ WETLAND WORK AND CROSSING



All permanent crossings of rivers, streams, brooks, etc. shall meet the following performance standards in order to qualify for <u>SV</u> (see GP for entire list):

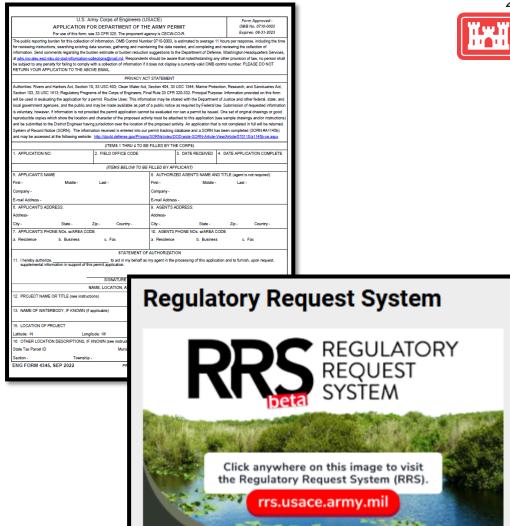
- Design the structure to <u>maintain a streambed composition and form throughout the culvert similar to</u> and continuous with the adjacent reaches.
- In stream work is completed between July 1 to October 1
- Permanent and temporary crossings of waterbodies and wetlands shall be installed in such a manner as to preserve hydraulic and ecological connectivity, on either side of the crossing.





PCN APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

- Application form (RRS*)
- Project plans with jurisdictional limits (OHWM / WLs)
- Impacts to aquatic resources quantified and clearly shown on plans
- Wetland delineation datasheets (as applicable)
- Site information / surveys / additionally avail. reports
- Threatened and endangered species information
- Historic Properties information
- Photos are helpful



- USACE requests additional information with a 30-day notice of withdrawal if the application is incomplete.
- Administratively withdrawn files can easily be reopened when complete information is received.



REGULATORY REQUEST SYSTEM (RRS)







Regulatory Program Information

Learn the basics about the Regulatory Program, including recent announcements.



Jurisdiction

Does the property in question contain wetlands/waters? If so does the Corps have jurisdiction?



Permitting

Do you need a permit? Need to schedule a pre-application meeting?



Mitigation

Discover how we help avoid and minimize impacts to aquatic resources.



Report Violations

Submit a report of unauthorized activity or permit non-compliance.



RRS Support

Get general system support, district contact information, submit feedback, and login.gov help.



Public Notices

UNDER CONSTRUCTION

Visit the HQ Regulatory website to find your district and get local public notices.



Apply for a Permit

UNDER CONSTRUCTION

If you're ready to apply for a permit, click here to login.





Considerations for Bridges/Culverts and Dam Removals:

- Delineate waterways and wetlands. How will they be impacted?
 - Avoid, minimize impacts...
- How will the site be accessed?
- Quantify and qualify impounded sediments.
 - How will sediments be managed?
 - Include justifications for passive sediment mobilization.
 - If excavated, where will sediments be disposed? (not in WOTUS)
- Anticipate channel adjustments. Will grade controls be installed?
 - Consideration of headcuts and other tributaries
- Are utilities located nearby? Dry hydrants, water and sewer lines, etc.
- Anticipate construction sequence, dewatering plan, E&S plans
 - Phased dam removal approach?
- Hydraulic analysis for new structures (bridges, culverts)







Considerations for Bridges/Culverts and Dam Removals cont'd

OTHER FED. LAWS:

 Is the structure historic? Are proposed access/staging/disposal areas archaeologically sensitive? (Section 106 NHPA)

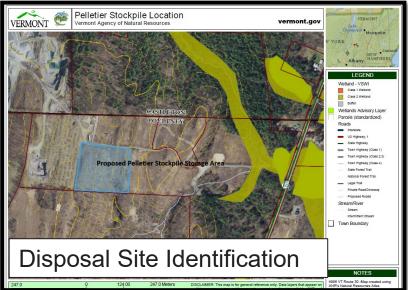
Will the work involve impacts to T&E species?

(Section 7 ESA)

DURING AND POST CONSTRUCTION:

- Daily/weekly construction reports
- As-built plans
- Post-construction monitoring









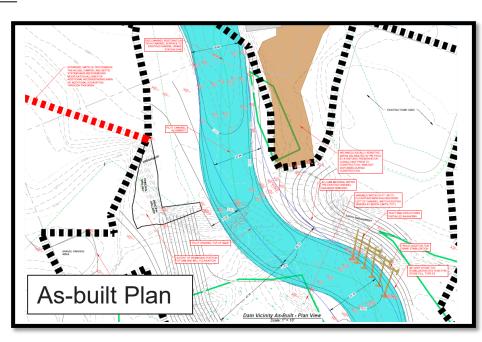


Communication is key!

"Any deviation from the terms and conditions of the permit, or your submitted plans, may subject the permittee to the enforcement provisions of our regulations. Therefore, in the event changes to this project are contemplated, it is recommended you coordinate with this office prior to proceeding with the work. This office must approve any changes before you undertake them. You must perform this work in compliance with the terms and conditions of the GPs ... "

Examples:

- Change in access, staging or disposal areas
- Altering location/number of grade controls
- Additional stabilization needed
- Change in dewatering plan, temporary fill
- Any change in proposed fill areas within WOTUS









USACE REGULATORY PROGRAM RELATED LAWS & REGULATIONS



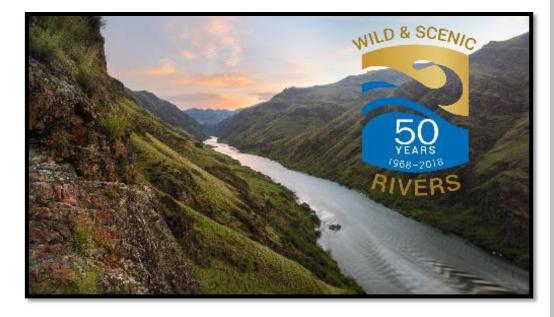


- National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)
- Wild and Scenic Rivers Act
 - Trout River and portions of the Missisquoi River (VT)
 - General Condition #10 of the GPs
- National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA)*
- Endangered Species Act (ESA)*











PROJECT EFFECTS ON HISTORIC PROPERTIES



Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (NHPA)

USACE must comply with S106 of the NHPA prior to permitting any activity. USACE must consider the undertaking on properties listed on or eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP).

If a federal or federally-assisted project has the potential to affect historic properties, then a Section 106 consultation must take place. <u>USACE may utilize the lead federal agency's</u> consultation.

The consultations give the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP), interested parties and the public a chance to consult on the project before a final decision is made.



PROTECTING HISTORIC **PROPERTIES**

The Section 106 process ensures that historic preservation is considered in federal project planning.



PROJECT EFFECTS ON HISTORIC PROPERTIES



U.S. ARMY

Section 106 Summary

As part of the S106 requirements, USACE performs the following actions:

- Determine the federal "undertaking"
- Determine "permit area" = Areas comprising WOTUS being directly affected, and uplands directly affected by the authorized work
- Analyze effects to historic properties within the permit area and known historic properties outside the permit area
- Initiate consultation with the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO), Tribal Historic Preservation Office (THPO), and other consulting parties if listed/eligible historic properties may be affected
- Determine whether the undertaking will have "No effect (No Historic Properties Present/Affected)," "No adverse effect" or an "Adverse effect" on the property

The Section 106 process is an important tool to protect and maintain historic properties in the project communities.

Federally Recognized Tribes with interests in Vermont

Stockbridge Munsee Tribe:

Addison, Bennington, Rutland Counties



Wampanoag Tribe of Gay Head (Aquinnah):

All other counties in Vermont



Narragansett Indian Tribe: All Counties



PROJECT EFFECTS ON HISTORIC PROPERTIES

An Adverse Effect... now what?

- Memorandum of Agreement executed
 - Outlines stipulations / mitigation requirements
 - Signed by all parties



Historic Resource Documentation Package





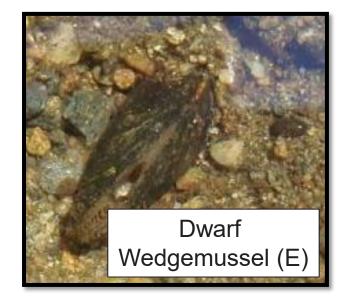




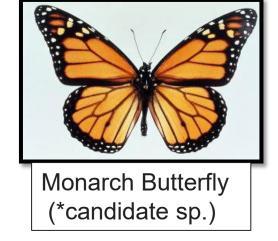
GENERAL CONDITION #12 SEC. 7 OF THE ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT (ESA)



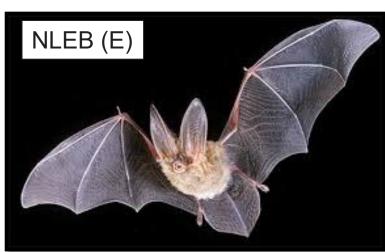














Tricolored bat (*proposed endangered)



USFWS ESA CONSULTATION



- USFWS maintains a website called **IPaC**, which includes determination keys (dkeys) used to conduct programmatic consultations (https://ipac.ecosphere.fws.gov)
- The Northeast Endangered Species Dkey covers ~55 listed species
- The Dkey provides outcomes of: "no effect," "may affect, not likely to adversely affect" (NLAA), or "may affect" (further consultation or coordination with USFWS is necessary for "may affect")









USACE DESIGNATION OF NON-FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE FOR NORTHERN LONG-EARED BAT (NLEB)



- 11/29/22: USFWS elevated NLEB status to endangered.
- Currently used internally at USACE but evaluating an expansion to allow applicants to use the NLEB and Tricolored Rangewide Dkey and submit the results to USACE.
- Provided no other federally listed species besides the NLEB are present, a determination of "no effect" or "not likely to adversely affect" is reached, you meet all stated requirements, and your project qualifies as self-verification under the GPs, then a PCN is not required.



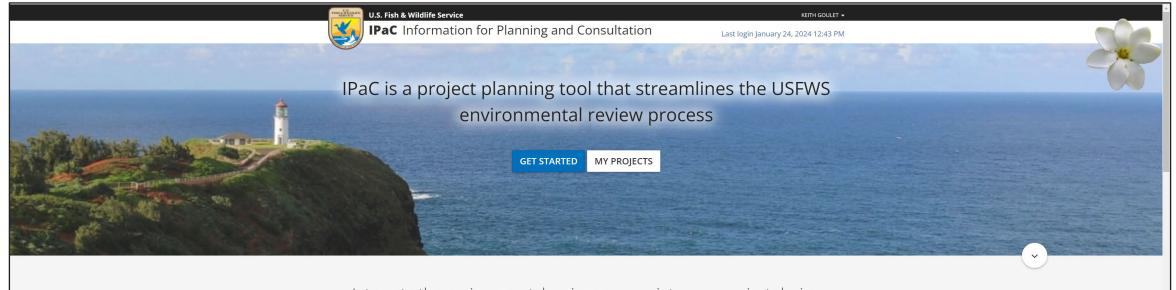








U.S. ARMY



Integrate the environmental review process into your project design

Quickly and easily identify USFWS managed resources and suggested conservation measures for your project.

Explore species and habitat

See if any listed species ¹, critical habitat, migratory birds or other natural resources may be impacted by your project.

Using the map tool, explore other resources in your location, such as wetlands, wildlife refuges, GAP land cover, and other important biological resources.

Conduct a regulatory review

Log in and define a project to get an official species list and evaluate potential impacts on resources managed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Follow IPaC's Endangered Species Act (ESA) Review process—a streamlined, step-bystep consultation process available in select areas for certain project types, agencies, and species.

Build a Consultation Package

Consultation Package Builder (CPB) replaces and improves on the original Impact Analysis by providing an interactive, step-by-step process to help you prepare a full consultation package leveraging U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service data and recommendations, including conservation measures designed to help you avoid or minimize effects to listed species.

CPB will continue to be improved over time.

https://ipac.ecosphere.fws.gov

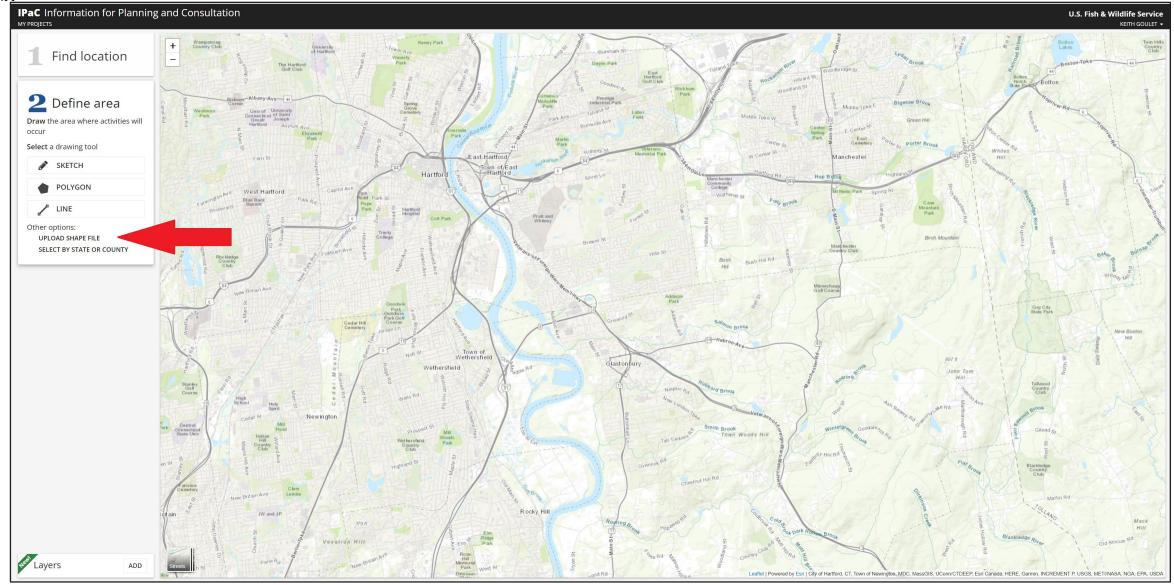
Helpful Videos







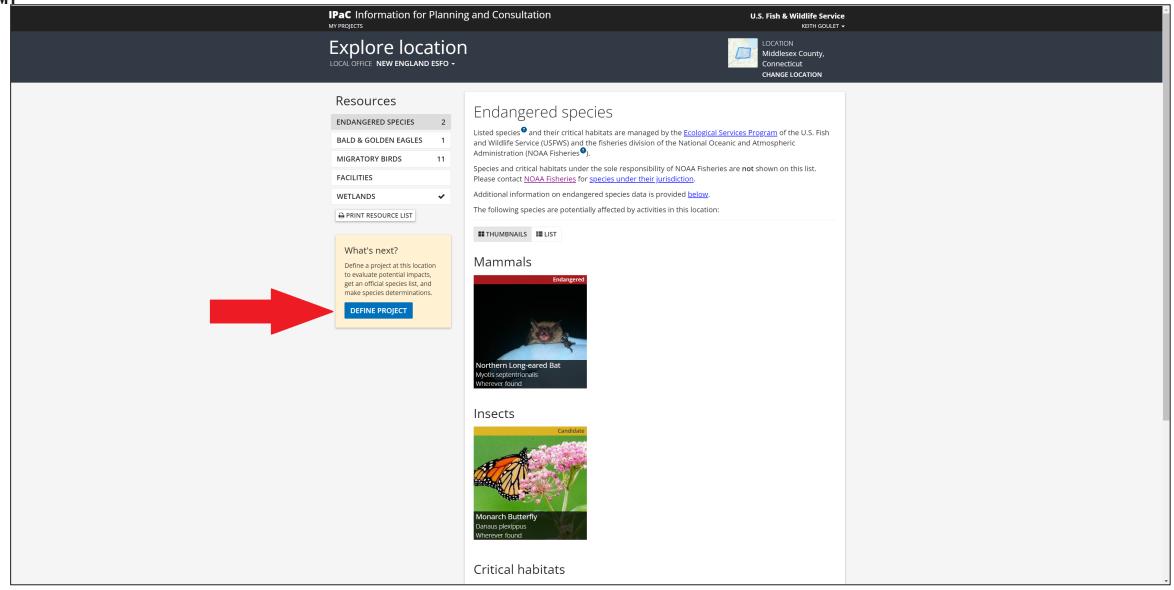
U.S. ARMY







U.S. ARMY







Qualification interview

1. Does the proposed project include, or is it reasonably certain to cause, intentional take of the northern long-eared bat or any other listed species?

Note: Intentional take is defined as take that is the intended result of a project. Intentional take could refer to research, direct species management, surveys, and/or studies that include intentional handling/encountering, harassment, collection, or capturing of any individual of a federally listed threatened, endangered or proposed species?

✓ No

2. Does any component of the action involve construction or operation of wind turbines?

Note: For federal actions, answer 'yes' if the construction or operation of wind power facilities is either (1) part of the federal action or (2) would not occur but for a federal agency action (federal permit, funding, etc.).

✓ No

3. Is the proposed action authorized, permitted, licensed, funded, or being carried out by a Federal agency in whole or in part?

✓ Yes

4. Is the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), Federal Railroad Administration (FRA), or Federal Transit Administration (FTA) funding or authorizing the proposed action, in whole or in part?

5. Are you an employee of the federal action agency or have you been officially designated in writing by the agency as its designated non-federal representative for the purposes of Endangered Species Act Section 7 informal consultation per 50 CFR § 402.08?

Note: This key may be used for federal actions and for non-federal actions to facilitate section 7 consultation and to help determine whether an incidental take permit may be needed, respectively. This question is for information purposes only.

6. Is the lead federal action agency the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) or Federal Communications Commission (FCC)? Is the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) or Federal Communications Commission (FCC) funding or authorizing the proposed action, in whole or in part?

✓ No

7. Is the lead federal action agency the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC)?

✓ No

8. Have you determined that your proposed action will have no effect on the northern long-eared bat? Remember to consider the <u>effects of any activities</u> that would not occur but for the proposed action.

If you think that the northern long-eared bat may be affected by your project or if you would like assistance in deciding, answer "No" below and continue through the key. If you have determined that the northern

USACE VERMONT PROJECT OFFICE

Contact USACE to discuss jurisdiction and permit requirements

Address:

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Vermont Project Office 11 Lincoln Street Essex Junction, Vermont

Phone:

802-872-2893

Email:

cenae-r-vt@usace.army.mil





