



**US Army Corps  
of Engineers**®  
New England District  
696 Virginia Road  
Concord, MA 01742-2751

# PUBLIC NOTICE

**File Number:** NAE-2016-00007  
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## Public Information Meeting on the Proposed Special Area Management Plan for Vernal Pools in Maine

The New England District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, is evaluating a Special Area Management Plan for vernal pools (VP SAMP) in Maine. There will be a public information meeting on **May 12, 2016 from 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm in the Maine Municipal Association's (MMA) auditorium at 60 Community Drive, Augusta, Maine.** Anyone interested in participating in or listening to a discussion of proposed program is welcome.

### Directions:

From the North: Take I-95 south to Exit 112, turn left off exit ramp.

From the South: Take I-95 north to Exit 112A, stay to the right off exit ramp.

Follow road signs to the Augusta Civic Center taking a right onto Community Drive. MMA is located to the left and back of the Augusta Civic Center building and to the right of the University of Maine athletic fields. The Maine Municipal Association sets back at the end of the roadway. If you need assistance while traveling, please call MMA at 623-8428.

The Corps defines the SAMP process as a "comprehensive plan providing for natural resource protection and reasonable economic growth containing a detailed and comprehensive statement of policies, standards and criteria to guide public and private uses of lands and waters and mechanisms for timely implementation in specific geographic areas." In Maine, a VP SAMP is being considered that will modify the way projects impacting some vernal pools are authorized. Within communities that formally adopt the requirements of the VP SAMP, developers proposing to impact vernal pools who agree to meet the VP SAMP's conditions, will face diminished regulatory burdens.

The Maine VP SAMP will improve the agencies' capacity to protect the natural resource functions and values of vernal pools while supporting municipal goals for growth. The Maine VP SAMP supports municipal growth by allowing vernal pool impacts in designated growth areas in exchange for conservation activities in designated rural areas on a 2 pool: 1 pool programmatic ratio. The Maine VP SAMP promotes the meaningful conservation of vernal pools and surrounding habitat by applying landscape level conservation principles and assessment criteria to identify conservation targets in rural areas.

The decision whether to approve the VP SAMP will be based on an evaluation of the probable impact of the proposed SAMP on the public interest. That decision will reflect the national concern for both protection and

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utilization of important resources. The benefit which may reasonably accrue from the VP SAMP must be balanced against its reasonably foreseeable detriments. All factors which may be relevant to the proposal will be considered, including the cumulative effects thereof; among those are: conservation, economics, aesthetics, general environmental concerns, wetlands, cultural value, fish and wildlife values, flood hazards, flood plain value, land use, navigation, shoreline erosion and accretion, recreation, water supply and conservation, water quality, energy needs, safety, food production and, in general, the needs and welfare of the people.

The VP SAMP itself does not involve the discharge of dredged or fill material into waters of the United States or the transportation of dredged material for the purpose of disposing it in ocean waters. However, it sets up a process to enable applicants to use an expedited process which will also improve the long-term management of vernal pools.

**JENNIFER L. MCCARTHY**  
**Chief, Regulatory Division**

If you would prefer not to continue receiving Public Notices by email, please contact Ms. Tina Chaisson at (978) 318-8058 or e-mail her at [bettina.m.chaisson@usace.army.mil](mailto:bettina.m.chaisson@usace.army.mil). You may also check here ( ) and return this portion of the Public Notice to: Bettina Chaisson, Regulatory Division, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, 696 Virginia Road, Concord, MA 01742-2751.

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