



Stantec Consulting Services Inc.
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August 4, 2016
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Attention: Gary Stevens, Resource Protection Manager

York Water District
273 Chase's Pond Road
York, ME 03909
gstevens@yorkwaterdistrict.org

Reference: York Water District Pre-Timber Harvest Site Review

Dear Gary,

This letter is in regard to today's onsite pre-harvest review on York Water District (District) property in advance of a pending timber harvest. The purpose of the review was to provide an independent, 3rd-party review of the proposed harvest activities to help ensure compliance with both town and State timber harvest and shoreland zone regulations, as well as the District's current (amended) 2009 WoodsWISE Forest Management Plan¹, and to avoid potential impacts to mapped and unmapped sensitive natural resources (e.g., vernal pools, rare plant communities).

The planned harvest area is approximately 188 acres in total area and extends along both sides of the Blue Trail within Watershed Compartments #20, 21, 22, and 23. The area is undeveloped and, except for portions of a gated, gravel access road, landing area and marked ATV trails, is completely forested. Included within the Compartments are portions of a large forested wetland.

The field review was led by Brian Reader (LPF #3538) of Reader Forest Management who has been contracted by the District to plan and oversee the harvest. The harvest is designed to thin the overstory of undesirable and poor quality stems and to leave well-spaced crop (primarily white pine) trees with good quality characteristics. Harvest activities are proposed to occur after August 1, 2016 in order to take advantage of a pending white pine seed drop and to meet regional hemlock adelgid quarantine restrictions. Timber harvest restrictions — beyond those already imposed by the District to promote water quality management — include Town of York Ordinance limitations to less than 40% of the growing stock, and a 75-foot no harvest restriction surrounding Chase's Pond and all mapped and unmapped forested wetlands, per prior communications between the District and Town Code Enforcement Officer Amber Harrison.

The harvest area is dominated by mature softwoods primarily involving white pine with some hemlock, along with beech, red and white oaks, and occasional red spruce. Soils are generally shallow in the upland areas with occasional bedrock outcrops. The on-site review confirmed the presence of both mapped and unmapped forested wetlands and unmapped potential vernal

¹ Amended and approved in November 2013 Addendum prepared by Wadsworth Woodlands.



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pools within the harvest area. Trees to be harvested were marked with blue paint and skid trails identified in advance of the site review. Compartment boundaries were also found to be adequately flagged in the field. Trees identified to be cut met the harvest criteria and were, in total, below the allowable percent harvest limit. Skid trails were laid out in a manner that limited the number of drainage crossings and confined them to areas with minimal disturbance to natural and cultural (i.e., recreational trail) resources. I would note that there was some observed discrepancies with the Town's mapped setbacks but that the flagged access routes and wetland/drainage setbacks were appropriately marked and in accordance with conditions in the field.

The influence of the invasive insect, hemlock wooly adelgid (*Adelges tsugae*), continues to be an issue for the District as well as the surrounding regions, but local efforts to manage this infestation are underway as able despite the absence of sufficient markets.

In summary, the proposed plan and harvest prescriptions for the pending 2016 harvest are silviculturally appropriate and appear to be well in conformance with town of York Ordinances and State of Maine harvest regulations, as well as the District's existing Plan objectives.

I hope you find this information helpful. Please feel free to contact me immediately if there are any questions or concerns.

Regards,

STANTEC CONSULTING SERVICES INC.

Steve Pelletier, CWB, PWS, LPF #866
Principal, Environmental Services