

Beyer, Jim R

From: Stratton, Robert D
Sent: Friday, February 01, 2019 5:10 PM
To: Beyer, Jim R; Bergeron, Mark
Cc: Connolly, James; Peabody, Timothy E
Subject: NECEC stream buffer impact and compensation plan

Good afternoon Jim,

MDIFW is reviewing the January 30, 2019 revised NECEC Compensation Plan in regards to previous natural resource discussions involving MDIFW, MDEP, and CMP. I wanted to respond to you today specifically in reference to stream buffers, an important issue of recent discussion. In previous NECEC compensation plans, CMP committed to 100-foot buffers for all perennial streams in the "Greenfield" portion of the proposed powerline and for all streams containing Threatened or Endangered species and Outstanding River Segments. In our meeting of 1/22/19, MDEP indicated to CMP support of 100-foot buffers for these resources as well as for all intermittent and perennial streams that contain brook trout (cold water fisheries). MDEP supported 75-foot buffers on all other streams. CMP incorporated these provisions in its 1/30/19 revision. CMP had utilized a partial data set of surveyed wild brook trout waters from MDIFW in 2017. On 1/24/19, I sent two emails to you with an updated NECEC Waterbody Crossing Table (Exhibit 7-7) that included further brook trout information obtained from MDIFW regional fisheries staff.

Upon preliminary review of the 1/30/19 Revised Compensation Plan, MDIFW finds that the proposed package of three conservation parcels (Grand Falls, Lower Enchanted, Basin Tracts) with stream habitats and associated buffers, and monetary contributions (\$180,000 to Maine Nongame Wildlife Fund, \$200,000 for aquatic passage upgrades) appears to adequately address and mitigate for impacts based on MDEP's 1/22/19 guidance, updated brook trout information, and MDIFW's consistent recommendations for 100-foot vegetated buffers for all intermittent and perennial streams and associated floodplain wetlands. MDIFW looks forward to further discussions to finalize the details. Thank you,

Bob Stratton

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