Bill as Introduced

HB 205-FN - AS INTRODUCED

2011 SESSION

11-0636 03/10

HOUSE BILL

205-FN

AN ACT

relative to notice to owners of upstream dams.

SPONSORS:

Rep. B. Patten, Carr 4; Rep. Lockwood, Merr 6

COMMITTEE:

Municipal and County Government

ANALYSIS

This bill eliminates requirements that planning board applicants identify and planning boards notify upstream dam owners.

Explanation:

Matter added to current law appears in bold italics.

Matter removed from current law appears [in-brackets-and-struckthrough.]

Matter which is either (a) all new or (b) repealed and reenacted appears in regular type.

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

In the Year of Our Lord Two Thousand Eleven

AN ACT

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relative to notice to owners of upstream dams.

Be it Enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court convened:

- 1 Board's Procedure on Plats; Identification of Upstream Dams. Amend RSA 676:4, I(b) to read as follows:
- The planning board shall specify by regulation what constitutes a completed application sufficient to invoke jurisdiction to obtain approval. A completed application means that sufficient information is included or submitted to allow the board to proceed with consideration and to make an informed decision. A completed application sufficient to invoke jurisdiction of the board shall be submitted to and accepted by the board only at a public meeting of the board, with notice as provided in subparagraph (d). An application shall not be considered incomplete solely because it is dependent upon the issuance of permits or approvals from other governmental bodies; however, the planning board may condition approval upon the receipt of such permits or approvals in accordance with subparagraph (i). The applicant shall file the application with the board or its agent at least 15 days prior to the meeting at which the application will be accepted. The application shall include the names and addresses of the applicant, all holders of conservation, preservation, or agricultural preservation restrictions as defined in RSA 477:45, and all abutters as indicated in the town records for incorporated towns or county records for unincorporated towns or unorganized places not more than 5 days before the day of filing. Abutters shall also be identified on any plat submitted to the board. The application shall also include the name and business address of every engineer, architect, land surveyor, or soil scientist whose professional seal appears on any plat submitted to the board. Since construction of any-structure near streams or rivers downstream-of a dam can increase-the-hazard classification of the dam-established by the department of environmental services, the application shall-identify-the nearest dam-upstream and include the name and address of-the-dam-owners.
- 2 Board's Procedure on Plats; Notice to Upstream Dam Owners. Amend RSA 676:4, I(d) to read as follows:
- (d) Notice to the applicant, holders of conservation, preservation, or agricultural preservation restrictions, abutters, [upstream-dam-owners, the department of environmental services-dam-bureau,] and the public shall be given as follows: The planning board shall notify the abutters, the applicant, holders of conservation, preservation, or agricultural preservation restrictions, and every engineer, architect, land surveyor, or soil scientist whose professional seal appears on any plat submitted to the board by certified mail of the date upon which the application will be formally submitted to the board. [For those proposals near rivers and streams and

HB 205-FN - AS INTRODUCED - Page 2 -

dewnstream of a dam, the planning board shall also notify the owners of the upstream dam and the department of environmental services dam bureau by certified mail.] Notice shall be mailed at least 10 days prior to submission. Notice to the general public shall also be given at the same time by posting or publication as required by the subdivision regulations. The notice shall include a general description of the proposal which is the subject of the application and shall identify the applicant and the location of the proposal. For any public hearing on the application, the same notice as required for notice of submission of the application shall be given. If notice of public hearing has been included in the notice of submission or any prior notice, additional notice of that hearing is not required nor shall additional notice be required of an adjourned session of a hearing with proper notice if the date, time, and place of the adjourned session was made known at the prior hearing. All costs of notice, whether mailed, posted, or published, shall be paid in advance by the applicant. Failure to pay such costs shall constitute valid grounds for the planning board to terminate further consideration and to disapprove the plat without a public hearing.

3 Effective Date. This act shall take effect 60 days after its passage.

HB 205-FN - AS INTRODUCED - Page 3 -

LBAO 11-0636 01/14/11

HB 205-FN - FISCAL NOTE

AN ACT

relative to notice to owners of upstream dams.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The Legislative Budget Assistant has determined that this legislation has a total fiscal impact of less than \$10,000 in each of the fiscal years 2011 through 2015.

HB 205-FN - AS AMENDED BY THE HOUSE

15Mar2011... 0521h

2011 SESSION

11-0636 03/10

HOUSE BILL

205-FN

AN ACT

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15Mar2011... 0521h

11-0636 03/10

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

In the Year of Our Lord Two Thousand Eleven

AN ACT

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HB 205-FN - AS AMENDED BY THE HOUSE - Page 2 -

will be formally submitted to the board. For those proposals [near rivers and streams] in which any structure would be within 500 feet of the top bank of any river or stream and downstream of a dam, the planning board shall also notify [the owners of the upstream dam and] the department of environmental services dam bureau by certified mail. Notice shall be mailed at least 10 days prior to submission. Notice to the general public shall also be given at the same time by posting or publication as required by the subdivision regulations. The notice shall include a general description of the proposal which is the subject of the application and shall identify the applicant and the location of the proposal. For any public hearing on the application, the same notice as required for notice of submission of the application shall be given. If notice of public hearing has been included in the notice of submission or any prior notice, additional notice of that hearing is not required nor shall additional notice be required of an adjourned session of a hearing with proper notice if the date, time, and place of the adjourned session was made known at the prior hearing. All costs of notice, whether mailed, posted, or published, shall be paid in advance by the applicant. Failure to pay such costs shall constitute valid grounds for the planning board to terminate further consideration and to disapprove the plat without a public hearing.

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HB 205-FN - AS AMENDED BY THE HOUSE - Page 3 -

LBAO 11-0636 01/14/11

HB 205-FN - FISCAL NOTE

AN ACT

relative to notice to owners of upstream dams.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The Legislative Budget Assistant has determined that this legislation has a total fiscal impact of less than \$10,000 in each of the fiscal years 2011 through 2015.

LBAO 11-0636 Amended 03/18/11

HB 205 FISCAL NOTE

AN ACT

relative to notice to owners of upstream dams.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The Legislative Budget Assistant has determined that this legislation, as amended by the House (Amendment #2011-0521h), has a total fiscal impact of less than \$10,000 in each of the fiscal years 2011 through 2015.

CHAPTER 164 HB 205-FN – FINAL VERSION

15Mar2011... 0521h 05/11/11 1770s

2011 SESSION

11-0636 03/10

HOUSE BILL

205-FN

AN ACT

relative to notice to owners of upstream dams.

SPONSORS:

Rep. B. Patten, Carr 4; Rep. Lockwood, Merr 6

COMMITTEE:

Municipal and County Government

ANALYSIS

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CHAPTER 164 HB 205-FN – FINAL VERSION

15Mar2011... 0521h 05/11/11 1770s

> 11-0636 03/10

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

In the Year of Our Lord Two Thousand Eleven

AN ACT

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164:2 Board's Procedure on Plats; Notice to Upstream Dam Owners. Amend RSA 676:4, I(d) to read as follows:

(d)(1) Notice to the applicant, holders of conservation, preservation, or agricultural preservation restrictions, abutters, [upstream-dam-owners, the department of environmental services dam bureau,] and the public shall be given as follows: The planning board shall notify the abutters, the applicant, holders of conservation, preservation, or agricultural preservation restrictions, and every engineer, architect, land surveyor, or soil scientist whose professional seal

CHAPTER 164 HB 205-FN - FINAL VERSION - Page 2 -

appears on any plat submitted to the board by certified mail of the date upon which the application will be formally submitted to the board. [For those proposals near rivers and streams and downstream of a dam, the planning board shall also notify the owners of the upstream dam and the department of environmental services dam bureau by certified mail.] Notice shall be mailed at least 10 days prior to submission. Notice to the general public shall also be given at the same time by posting or publication as required by the subdivision regulations. The notice shall include a general description of the proposal which is the subject of the application and shall identify the applicant and the location of the proposal. For any public hearing on the application, the same notice as required for notice of submission of the application shall be given. If notice of public hearing has been included in the notice of submission or any prior notice, additional notice of that hearing is not required nor shall additional notice be required of an adjourned session of a hearing with proper notice if the date, time, and place of the adjourned session was made known at the prior hearing. All costs of notice, whether mailed, posted, or published, shall be paid in advance by the applicant. Failure to pay such costs shall constitute valid grounds for the planning board to terminate further consideration and to disapprove the plat without a public hearing.

(2) For those proposals in which any structure or proposed building site will be within 500 feet of the top of the bank of any lake, pond, river, or stream, the planning board shall also notify the department of environmental services by first class mail at the same time that notice is provided to abutters, cost to be paid in advance by the applicant consistent with subparagraph (d)(1). The sole purpose of notification to the department shall be to provide information to the department for dam hazard classification. This requirement shall not confer upon the department the status of an abutter. Failure by the municipality to notify the department shall not be considered a defect of notice.

164:3 Effective Date. This act shall take effect 60 days after its passage.

26 Approved: June 14, 2011

27 Effective Date: August 13, 2011

Amendments



Sen. Merrill, Dist. 21 May 4, 2011 2011-1760s 03/05

Amendment to HB 205-FN

Amend the bill by replacing section 2 with the following:

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2 Board's Procedure on Plats; Notice to Upstream Dam Owners. Amend RSA 676:4, I(d) to read as follows:

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Energy and Natural Resources May 5, 2011 2011-1770s 03/05

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Amend the bill by replacing section 2 with the following:

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Committee Minutes

AMENDED

SENATE CALENDAR NOTICE

ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

√Senator Bob Odell Chairman √Senator John Gallus V Chairman Senator Jeb Bradley Şenator Gary Lambert Senator Amanda Merrill

For Use by Senate Clerk's Office ONLY
Bill Status
Docket
Calendar
Proof: Calendar Bill Status

Printed: 04/21/2011 at 2:01 pm

Date: April 21, 2011

HEARINGS

	,	Thursday	4/28/2011	<u></u>
ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES			LOB 201-203	9:00 AM
(Name of Committee)			(Place)	(Time)
		EXECUTIVE SES	SSION MAY FOLLOW	
Commen	was previo	ously recessed on 4/21/11	ly scheduled for LOB room 102.	Please note HB 519-FN
9:00 AM	HB205-FN	relative to notice to owner	rs of upstream dams.	
9:20 AM	HB468-FN	relative to assessments fo	r aquatic resource compensatory mit	igation.
10:00 AM	HB519-FN	repealing New Hampshir controlling carbon dioxide	e's regional greenhouse gas initiative e emissions.	cap and trade program for
Sponsors HB205-F				
Rep. Betsey	y Patten	Rep. Priscilla Lockwood		
-	opher Ahlgren			
HB519-F Rep. Richa		Rep. Neal Kurk	Rep. Paul Mirski	Rep. Andrew Manuse

Rep. Lucien Vita

Sen. Tom De Blois

START: 9:01 AM END: 9:16 AM

Sen. Bob Odell

Sen. Raymond White

Chairman

Sen. James Forsythe

Energy and Natural Resources Committee

Hearing Report

TO:

Members of the Senate

FROM:

Richard Parsons, Legislative Aide

RE:

Hearing report on HB 205-FN – relative to notice to owners

of upstream dams.

HEARING DATE:

4/28/2011

MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE PRESENT: Senators Odell, Gallus,

Merrill

MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE ABSENT:

Senators Lambert.

Bradley

Sponsor(s):

Rep. B. Patten, Carr 4; Rep. Lockwood, Merr 6

This bill eliminates requirements that planning What the bill does: board applicants identify and planning boards notify upstream dam owners.

Who supports the bill: Jim Gallagher, DES; Rep. Betsey Patten, Carr 4; Cordell Johnston, NH Municipal Association; Heidi Kroll, Granite State Hydropower Association;

Who opposes the bill: No one.

Summary of testimony received:

Rep. Betsey Patten, Carr 4 – prime sponsor

- Hearing opened at 9:01 am
- Introduced this bill because in the last session the legislature changed notification for upstream dam owners for any activity that happened including if the dam broke.
 - Said in the legislation that the notification would happen "near" a dam.
 - There became a problem interpreting what that term meant.
 - Also, a planning board tried to notify upstream dam owners and DES wouldn't give the information because of homeland security.
- Municipal association asked that I delete the changes that we made.
 - However, we came up with a compromise in the House.

- The House took out lines 19-22 which deals with what construction can do to an upstream dam.
- Also, instead of notifying the upstream dam owners, DES would be notified and put in charge of notifying the upstream dam owners.
- Additionally, changed the language "near rivers and streams" to "in which any structure would be within 500 feet of the top bank of any river or stream."
- Question from Senator Odell: So the planning board would notify DES?
 - Yes, and notice to the applicant, holders of conservation, preservation, or agricultural preservation restrictions, abutters, and the public.
 - Last year, dam holders were included in that notification but now DES will take care of notification to upstream dam owners.
- Question from Senator Odell: This is something the Municipal Association wanted clarified?
 - Yes, because if the landowners were not notified the application can be denied or appealed as a consequence.
- Question from Senator Merrill: It looks like the expectation will be on DES to notify the upstream dam owners?
 - Yes. Did work with the Department because they were surprised the information was not given out.

Cordell Johnston, NH Municipal Association

- Asked Representative Patten to sponsor this.
- Under the act established two years ago planning boards had to notify upstream owners near the dam.
 - Two problems:
 - Didn't know exactly what "near" meant in the statute.
 - Couldn't get the information about the owners.
- The Municipal Association would like a week to work on a further amendment because there has been discussion between several planners and DES about a further change.
 - The way it was amended in the House, the definition of stream is very broad and could include a stream in your backyard.
 - Trying to narrow down what the projects would be that would require notice.
 - Also, believe that notifying anything that the planning board has a public hearing for would be deemed sufficient.

Heidi Kroll, Granite State Hydropower Association

- Do support the bill as amended by the house with some understanding about what the process would be.
- What you see in lines 19-22, which is stricken, is when the possibility of construction near the dam has potential implications for public safety, including increasing the hazard classification of the dam, there could be expenses for owners both at the state and federal level.
 - It is important that the dam owners are notified.
- Have heard from the Department a willingness to notify landowners within a day.

- It is important that some policy is brought in by DES.
- Question from Senator Odell: You are comfortable with this?
 - Yes, we are.

James Gallagher, DES

- Still in discussion to clear up the language of streams.
- DES believes that the notification process could be more simplified for both the municipalities and DES if the bill was amended further to better define when and how the Dam Bureau needs to be notified.
 - The representatives of the municipalities are concerned that, under the amended bill, "rivers and streams" are not defined.
 - In addition, they are concerned that they still have to determine if a proposed development is downstream of a dam, and information on the locations of the dams in the state is not readily accessible.
 - To address these concerns, DES recommends that the bill be amended further to require notification if any structure of the proposed development is within 500 feet of surface waters of the state as defined in RSA 485-A:2 XIV, since failure of an upstream dam could also affect developments on lakes or ponds, not just rivers and streams.
 - With this change, the responsibility of determining whether there is a dam that is upstream of the proposed development would be the responsibility of DES, not the planning board.
 - DES also recommends that the bill be amended so that the notification from the planning board includes the latitude and longitude of the proposed development.
 - With this information, the Dam Bureau can more easily locate a dam that may be upstream, determine if failure of the dam could inundate structures within the proposed development, and inform the municipality and the dam owner accordingly.
- Question from Senator Odell: Who is going to put this amendment together?
 - Have been working with the Municipal Association and others.

Hearing closed at 9:16 AM

Funding: The Legislative Budget Assistant has determined that this legislation, as amended by the House (Amendment #2011-0521h), has a total fiscal impact of less than \$10,000 in each of the fiscal years 2011 through 2015.

Future Action: Pending.

RMP

[file: HB 0205-FN report]

Date: 5/2/11

Speakers

Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee: Sign-In Sheet

Date: 4/28/2011

Time: 9:00 AM

Public Hearing on HB 205-FN

HB 205-FN

relative to notice to owners of upstream dams.

	Name	Representing					
L	Betsey Patter	Carron 4	Support \[\sqrt{\sq}}\sqrt{\sq}}}}}}}}}}}}}}}}}}}}}}}}}}}}}}}}}}}}	Oppose	Speaking?	Yes V	N ₀
/ \	Betsey Patter Cordell Johnston Heidi Kroll		Support	Oppose	Speaking?	Yes	No
Į	Heidi Kroll	NH Municipal Ass'n Granite State Hydropomer Postoc.	Support	Oppose	Speaking?	Yes	No
			Support	Oppose	Speaking?	Yes	No
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			Support	Oppose	Speaking?	Yes	No
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			Support	Oppose	Speaking?	Yes	No
			Support	Oppose	Speaking?	Yes	No
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			Support	Oppose	Speaking?	Yes	No
			Support	Oppose	Speaking?	Yes	No □
			Support	Oppose	Speaking?	Yes	No
			Support	Oppose	Speaking?	Yes	No

Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee: Sign-In Sheet

Date: 4/28/2011

Time: 9:00 AM

Public Hearing on HB 205-FN

HB 205-FN

relative to notice to owners of upstream dams.

, Name	Representing					
Timadlagher	NHOES	Support	Oppose	Speaking?	Yes	No
9		Support	Oppose	Speaking?	Yes	No
		Support	Oppose	Speaking?	Yes	No
		Support	Oppose	Speaking?	Yes	No □
		Support	Oppose	Speaking?	Yes	No □
		Support	Oppose	Speaking?	Yes	No
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		Support	Oppose	Speaking?	Yes	No □
		Support	Oppose	Speaking?	Yes	No
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		Support	Oppose	Speaking?	Yes	No
		Support	Oppose	Speaking?	Yes	No

Testimony



The State of New Hampshire

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES



Thomas S. Burack, Commissioner

April 28, 2011

The Honorable Bob Odell, Chairman Energy and Natural Resources Committee Legislative Office Building, Room 102 Concord, NH 03301

RE: HB 205-FN, relative to notice to owners of upstream dams.

Dear Chairman Odell:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on HB 205-FN. The bill, as amended, would modify a 2009 amendment to RSA 676:4 that requires local planning boards to send notification of proposed developments near rivers and streams and downstream of a dam to the owner of the dam and to the Department of Environmental Services (DES) Dam Bureau. This notification is intended to inform these parties so that there is opportunity to perform an evaluation to consider whether the proposed new structures downstream of the dam would increase the public safety risk and the hazard classification of the dam. DES supports this bill, but recommends that it be amended further to simplify the notification process for both the planning boards and DES.

After enactment of the 2009 amendment to RSA 676:4, some municipal officials expressed concern regarding the difficulty of complying with the new notification requirements because the information on the locations and contact information for dams, which may be upstream of a proposed development, was not readily accessible. To address this concern, DES has been working with the bill sponsors and representatives of the municipalities in simplifying the notification requirements. The results of some of those discussions are reflected in the amended bill. Under the amended bill, the planning board will notify only the DES Dam Bureau, not the dam owner, if any structure of the proposed development is within 500 feet of a river or stream and downstream of a dam. It will be the responsibility of the Dam Bureau to notify the owner of the upstream dam if the proposed development is an area that could be inundated in the event of failure of the dam.

After the amended bill was approved by the House, representatives of the municipalities had additional discussions with DES. Based on those discussions, DES believes that the notification process could be more simplified for both the municipalities and DES if the bill were amended further to better define when and how the Dam Bureau needs to be notified. The representatives of the municipalities are concerned that, under the amended bill, "rivers and streams" are not defined. In addition, they are concerned that, under the amended bill, they still have to determine if a proposed development is downstream of a dam, and information on the locations of the dams in the state is not readily accessible. To address these concerns, DES recommends that the bill be amended further to require notification if any structure of the proposed development is within 500 feet of surface waters of the state as defined in RSA 485-A:2 XIV, since failure of an upstream dam could also affect developments on lakes or ponds, not

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just rivers and streams. With this change, the responsibility of determining whether there is a dam that is upstream of the proposed development would be the responsibility of DES, not the planning board. DES also recommends that the bill be amended so that the notification from the planning board includes the latitude and longitude of the proposed development. With this information the Dam Bureau can more easily locate a dam that may be upstream, determine if failure of the dam could inundate structures within the proposed development, and inform the municipality and the dam owner, accordingly.

To provide some background of the importance of this notification requirement, there are currently 2,618 active dams in New Hampshire. Of these, 841 are classified as hazardous dams because the flooding produced by their failure would result in loss of life or property damage downstream. The hazard classification of a dam is based on the extent of development downstream within the potentially inundated area.

Of the 841 hazardous dams, 141 are classified as High Hazard Dams because their failure would inundate houses or other occupied structures downstream and likely cause loss of life. One hundred and sixty (160) dams are classified as Significant Hazard Dams because failure would cause major property damage downstream, and 540 are classified as Low Hazard Dams because failure would cause minor property damage downstream, such as damage to a town or city road. The remaining 1,777 active dams are classified as Non-Menace Dams. Because of the lack of development downstream, the failure or poor operation of these dams would not cause loss of life or property damage downstream.

New Hampshire's dam safety regulations establish performance standards for dams based on hazard classification. For example, an existing Low Hazard Dam must be able to safely pass a flood with an expected recurrence interval of once in 50 years, also known as the 50-year flood. However, an existing High Hazard Dam must be able to pass 250% of the 100-year flood. In addition, the Annual Dam Registration Fee that a dam owner must pay is based on the hazard classification of the dam. The owner of a High Hazard Dam must pay \$1,500 per year to fund the annual inspection that DES performs on the dam. However, the Annual Dam Registration Fee for a Low Hazard Dam, which DES inspects every five years, is \$400, and there is no Annual Dam Registration Fee assessed for Non-Menace Dams.

Until enactment of the 2009 amendment to RSA 676:4, DES would review the hazard classification of a dam only during its scheduled inspection, which is once every year for a High Hazard Dam, once every two years for a Significant Hazard Dam and once every five years for a Low Hazard Dam. However, because of limitations on resources, DES would only periodically visit Non-Menace Dams, approximately once every 10 years, to make sure that no development has taken place downstream that would change the hazard classification.

With this requirement to notify DES of any proposed development, which may be downstream of a dam, the hazard classifications established by DES for the dams in the state can be kept more current, and the dam owner can be aware of the effect of the proposed downstream development on the dam's hazard classification before the development is constructed. In

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addition, the municipality and the developer would know if the proposed development is located in an area that could be inundated if the upstream dam were to fail. Because of these important benefits and protections, DES supports HB205 with amendments to further simplify the notification process for both the municipalities in the state and DES.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this bill. Please call either Jim Gallagher at 271-1961, or me at 271-2958, if you have any questions or need additional information.

Very truly yours,

Mulled Wholes, Ass It Comm Thomas S. Burack Commissioner

cc: Representative Betsey L. Patten

Representative Priscilla P. Lockwood



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P.O. Box 617 Concord, NH 03302-0617 603-224-7447 www.nhplanners.org April 28, 2011

The Honorable Bob Odell, Chair Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee Legislative Office Building, Room 201-203 Concord, NH 03301

Subject: HB 205: notice to owners of upstream dams.

Dear Senator Odell:

The New Hampshire Planners Association, representing over 200 land use planning professionals in our state, supports HB 205, which proposes to eliminate the dam notification requirements for applications to local planning boards. The NHPA strongly supports dam notification requirements that are clearly defined. Unfortunately, the current language of the statute is highly problematic, creates confusion and, in fact, is often ignored altogether by municipalities at a loss as to how to sensibly and effectively implement the requirements.

That is why we support the elimination of the requirement that applicants are required to identify "the nearest dam upstream and include the name and address of the dam owners." The statute does not define "nearest" and the name and address of the dam owner is classified in most cases as a result of security protocols.

For its part, the planning board is required to notify the Department of Environmental Service (DES) Dam Bureau by certified mail of those proposals "near rivers and streams and downstream of a dam[.]" In order to clarify precisely when the Dam Bureau must be notified, HB 205 has been amended to provide that the Dam Bureau be notified for only those proposals "in which any structure would be within 500 feet of the top bank of any river or stream and downstream of a dam[.]"

Unfortunately, the term "river or stream" both in the existing statute and the proposed language is undefined, leaving it unclear to what water bodies this law would apply. Moreover, it is not clear how far upstream a local board must look to determine if it is downstream from a dam. To address these concerns, the Dam Bureau has suggested amending the statute to provide that the planning board notify the Dam Bureau if the proposed development is within 500 feet of any *surface water* of the state. However, based on some preliminary analysis, it is likely that upwards of 75% of all applications will fit these criteria. If the Dam Bureau is willing to filter the notices provided to them, the NHPA suggests that the bill be amended to take into consideration the following:

- Given that most applications will involve development within 500 feet of surface
 waters, simply require that boards send public notice to the Dam Bureau for all
 hearings, regardless of the location of the property. This could be done by first
 class mail, and it would relieve town staff and applicants of the burden of
 attempting to interpret the statute to identify what surface waters are and what
 the distances are from them.
- Municipalities and the applicants should be relieved of any consequences for failure to notify the Dam Bureau. Such a failure should not call into question the validity of a board's process and should not rise to the same legal status as failure to notify abutters who have constitutionally protected interests in what happens on their neighbors' properties.

For these reasons, the NHPA urges your committee to recommend the passage of HB 205. If you wish to pursue a clarifying amendment, we would be happy to assist you. Thank you for this opportunity to provide comment on the bill.

Sincerely,

/s/Timothy J. Corwin

Timothy J. Corwin, Esq. Legislative Liaison

Committee Report

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE SENATE

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE

Date: May 5, 2011

THE COMMITTEE ON Energy and Natural Resources to which was referred House Bill 205-FN

AN ACT

relative to notice to owners of upstream dams.

Having considered the same, the committee recommends that the Bill:

OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT

BY A VOTE OF: 5-0

AMENDMENT # 1770s

Senator John T. Gallus For the Committee

Richard Parsons 271-3076

New Hampshire General Court - Bill Status System

Docket of HB205

Docket Abbreviations

Bill Title: relative to notice to owners of upstream dams.

Official Docket of HB205:

Date	Body	Description
1/19/2011	Н	Introduced 1/6/2011 and Referred to Municipal and County Government; HJ 11 , PG. 177
1/26/2011	Н	Public Hearing: 2/3/2011 10:00 AM LOB 301
2/23/2011	Н	Executive Session: 2/28/2011 10:30 AM LOB 301
3/2/2011	Н	Committee Report: Ought to Pass with Amendment #0521h for Mar 15 (Vote 15-0; CC); HC 22 , PG.537
3/3/2011	Н	Proposed Committee Amendment #2011-0521h; HC 23, PG.590
3/15/2011	н	Amendment #0521h Adopted, VV; HJ 26, PG.731
3/15/2011	Н	Ought to Pass with Amendment #0521h: MA VV; HJ 26, PG.731
3/30/2011	S	Introduced and Referred to Energy and Natural Resources; SJ 12 , Pg.243
4/14/2011	S	Hearing: 4/28/11, Room 102, LOB, 9:00 a.m.; SC20
4/21/2011	S	Hearing: === ROOM CHANGE === 4/28/11, Room 201-203, LOB, 9:00 a.m.; SC21
5/5/2011	S	Committee Report: Ought to Pass with Amendment #2011-1770s , 5/11/11; SC23
5/11/2011	S	Committee Amendment 1770s, AA, VV; SJ 16, Pg.322
5/11/2011	S	Ought to Pass with Amendment 1770s, MA, VV; OT3rdg; \$J 16 , Pg.322
5/11/2011	S	Passed by Third Reading Resolution
5/25/2011	Н	House Concurs with Senate AM #1770s (Rep Ferrante): MA VV; HJ 46 , PG.1582
6/8/2011	S	Enrolled
6/8/2011	н	Enrolled; HJ 51 , PG.1724
6/14/2011	Н	Signed By Governor 06/14/2011; Effective 08/13/2011; Chapter 0164

NH House NH Senate

Other Referrals

COMMITTEE REPORT FILE INVENTORY

RE-REFERRAL

 This inventory is to be signed and dated by the Committee Aide and placed inside the folder as the first item in the Committee File. Place all documents in the folder following the inventory in the order listed. The documents which have an "X" beside them are confirmed as being in the folder. The completed file is then delivered to the Calendar Clerk.
DOCKET (Submit only the latest docket found in Bill Status)
X COMMITTEE REPORT
X CALENDAR NOTICE
X HEARING REPORT
HANDOUTS FROM THE PUBLIC HEARING
× PREPARED TESTIMONY AND OTHER SUBMISSIONS
X SIGN-UP SHEET(S)
ALL AMENDMENTS (passed or not) CONSIDERED BY COMMITTEE: AMENDMENT # 17105 AMENDMENT # AMENDMENT # 17705 AMENDMENT #
ALL AVAILABLE VERSIONS OF THE BILL: X AS INTRODUCED X AS AMENDED BY THE HOUSE X FINAL VERSION AS AMENDED BY THE SENATE
OTHER (Anything else deemed important but not listed above, such as amended fiscal notes): AMENDED FISCAL NOTE #063L
If you have a re-referred bill, you are going to make up a duplicate file folder
DATE DELIVERED TO SENATE CLERK 7/22/11 BY COMMITTEE AIDE