

# **Overview of the 401 Water Quality Certification and Memorandum of Agreement for the I-93 Expansion**

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# Interagency Agreements

- NHDOT and NHDES have signed two agreements regarding water quality in the I-93 expansion corridor
  - 401 Water Quality Certification (5/2/06)
  - Memorandum of Agreement (6/21/06)
- These agreements provide the framework under which the current water quality studies are being conducted.

# 401 Water Quality Certification

## DOT Responsibilities

- Design, install, inspect, and maintain construction stormwater BMPs
- Estimate sediment, phosphorus, and nitrogen loads
- Estimate BMP removal efficiencies for sediment, phosphorus, and nitrogen
- Monitor instream turbidity during construction

# 401 Certification

## DOT Responsibilities (cont.)

- Design and install stormwater BMPs for post-construction highway operation
- Monitor instream sediments, phosphorus, nitrogen, total petroleum hydrocarbons for BMP effectiveness study before and after construction
- Conduct long-term monitoring for specific conductance and chlorides

# 401 Certification

## DOT Responsibilities (cont.)

- Participate in total maximum daily load (TMDL) studies
  - Funding
  - Water quality monitoring
  - Outreach, education, technical support
  - TMDL implementation

# Memorandum of Agreement

- DES will conduct TMDL studies of chloride in four watersheds along the I-93 corridor.
- DOT will provide up to \$560,000 in Federal Highway Administration funds for the studies.
- DOT will not exceed historic salt loading rates on I-93 based on weather conditions.

# MOA (cont.)

- Until the TMDLs are complete and implemented, DOT will only pave and operate 3 lanes of the improved I-93 roadway.
- DES shall notify the towns that, until the TMDLs are complete, there should be no additional chloride loads in the TMDL watersheds.

# MOA (continued)

- DOT and DES will create an interagency Salt Reduction Workgroup
  - DES, DOT, EPA
  - Selectmen and DPW from Salem, Windham, Derry, Londonderry, Auburn and Chester
  - UNH T2 Program
  - Private winter road maintenance contractors
  - RPCs (Southern NH, Nashua, Rockingham)



# MOA (cont.)

- The purpose of the Salt Reduction Workgroup will be to advise DES and DOT on the TMDL study and Implementation Plan.
  - Implement an outreach, education and technical assistance program to all corridor communities
  - Allocate chloride loadings between sources
  - Develop action items to reach the TMDL target.

# MOA (cont.)

- Earmarked funds remaining after the TMDL study will be used to facilitate the load allocation and implementation recommendations of the TMDL and mitigate locally caused chloride impacts.

# Proposed Schedule for Workgroup

- Sep.06: Kickoff meeting
- Mar.07: Preliminary data from 2007, initial discussion of reduction strategies
- Oct.07: Presentation of draft TMDL targets
- Mar.08: First draft of Implementation Plan
- Sep.08: Final Implementation Plan