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GOVERNOR

STATE OF MAINE
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, CONSERVATION & FORESTRY
MAINE FOREST SERVICE
22 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA, MAINE
04333-0022

WALTER E. WHITCOMB
COMMISSIONER

PERMIT

BRIDGE CONSTRUCTION PERMIT BCP 16009

The staff of the Maine Forest Service, after reviewing the application and supporting documents submitted by Seven Islands Land Company for Bridge Construction Permit BCP 16009, finds the following facts:

1. Applicant: Seven Islands Land Company
112 Broadway
P.O. Box 1168
Bangor, Maine 04402-1168
2. Date of Completed Application: June 1, 2016
3. Location of Proposal: T 15 R 15 WELS, Aroostook County
4. Zoning: (P-SL1) Shoreland Protection Subdistrict
(P-WL) Wetland Subdistrict
5. Waterbody: Shields Branch
6. Approximate Time Period of Operation: June, 2016 – August, 2016

Proposal:

7. The applicant proposes to build a bridge on Shields Branch in T 15 R 15 WELS. The proposed project is to construct a bridge in the same location of an existing bridge where the current abutments are deteriorating and becoming unsafe. The new bridge will have a span of 100 feet and an overall width of 16 feet. The estimated clearance of the proposed bridge from the normal water flow will be 14 feet and at high water flow will be 7 feet. Clearing of existing vegetation during construction will be minimal due to the existing bridge on that site. The stream will be accessible for recreational activity (fishing and canoeing) during and after the construction process.
8. The proposed bridge project design and specifications are attached to application BCP 16009.
9. This bridge is being constructed to access commercial timberland of multiple landowners on a primary haul road that accesses the Quebec timber markets.

Review comments:

10. The Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife reviewed the bridge construction project and there were no concerns expressed by the wildlife or fisheries biologist.
11. The State Soil Scientist stated, "I have no objections to this proposed project. It is in the same location as the current bridge and will be using the same approaches. I did not though see any proposal for the use of coffer dams. It would seem appropriate to me that coffer dams to be used when working on the abutments so that work can be done in the dry instead of in the river." The use of coffer dams will not be required due to the fact that center pier has been recently replaced and will require no repair. The bridge abutment work will be built of pre-cast cement structures that are built off-site and installed with minimal impact on water quality.
12. The Maine Natural Areas Program reviewed the project and according to our current information, there are no rare botanical features that will be disturbed within the project site. This finding is available and appropriate for preparation and review of environmental assessments, but it is not a substitute for on-site surveys. Comprehensive field surveys do not exist for all natural areas in Maine, and in the absence of a specific field investigation, the Maine Natural Areas Program cannot provide a definitive statement on the presence or absence of unusual natural features at this site. You may want to have the site inventoried by a qualified field biologist to ensure that no undocumented rare features are inadvertently harmed.

Findings

13. The bridge construction project will be conducted in conformance with the Standard set forth in Section 5 of Maine Forest Service Chapter 27 Rule, Land Management Roads and Water Crossings of the Maine Forest Service Rules for Timber Harvesting and Timber Harvesting Related Activities within Unorganized and Deorganized Areas of the State.
14. The above finding is based on the representations contained in the Bridge Project Permit Application BCP 16009 and supporting documents.

Based upon the above findings, the MFS concludes that if carried out in compliance with the conditions below, the proposal will meet the Criteria for Approval, 12 M. R. S. §Section 685-A(1) of the Commission's Statutes, and Maine Forest Service Chapter 27 Rules.

Therefore, the MFS staff approves the application of Seven Islands Land Company with the following conditions:

1. Bridge reconstruction authorized in this permit can commence on the effective date of this permit and should be completed within the time outlined in Section 6 above. If such activities are not started and completed within this time period, this permit lapses and no activities may then occur unless and until a new permit or extension to the existing permit has been granted by the MFS.
2. All construction operations shall be stopped where the continuation of such operations will cause or contribute to the occurrence of erosion or the sedimentation of surface waters,

whether such occurrence is precipitated by exceptionally wet weather, the failure of water control measures, or other factors. Adequate steps must be taken immediately to stop any erosion or sedimentation of surface waters and to correct the situation that led to such occurrences. The applicant will implement Best Management Practices and erosion control measures to prevent unreasonable sedimentation and protect water resources within the project area.

4. During the removal of the abutments, timber and rock, the use of silt fence and hay bales is required to prevent the discharge of sedimentation into the stream. All debris and fill material must be removed and properly disposed off-site.
5. The MFS Chapter 27 Rule, Standards for Timber Harvesting and Timber Harvesting Related Activities within Unorganized and Deorganized Areas of the State, is attached.
6. The period of operations shall be from June, 2016 to August, 2016.

This permit is approved only upon the above stated conditions and remains valid only if the permittee complies with all of these conditions. In addition, any person aggrieved by this decision of the staff may, within 30 days, request that the Maine Forest Service review the decision.

If no person requests that the Maine Forest Service review the decision of staff within 30 days of the date of this staff decision, this permit becomes final agency action subject to review of the Maine Administrative Procedure Act. Pursuant to 5 M. R. S. §§ 11001 *et seq.*, a person aggrieved by an MFS permit decision may appeal the MFS's final action to Superior Court. As part of such an appeal, a person aggrieved may seek judicial review of the components of MFS's final action and permitting decision.

DONE AND DATED AT ASHLAND, MAINE THIS 7th Day of June, 2016.

By:



David Rochester LF #3168
Regional Enforcement Coordinator
Maine Forest Service
45 Radar Road
Ashland, Maine 04732