



JANET T. MILLS
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MAINE
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION



MELANIE LOYZIM
COMMISSIONER

**DEP-9
FACT SHEET
NORTH POND: REGULATION OF WATER LEVELS AND MINIMUM FLOWS
January 22, 2025**

PROJECT LOCATION AND DESCRIPTION

North Pond is a large headwater pond in the Belgrade Lakes system, located in the Towns of Smithfield, Mercer, and Rome. North Pond has a maximum depth of 19 feet and an average depth of 12 feet. The flushing rate of North Pond is 1.6 flushes per year.

The water level is controlled by a dam at the inlet of Mill Stream (controlling flow from East Pond) and a dam at the outlet of North Pond on Great Meadow Stream, which flows into Great Pond. The dam at the outlet of North Pond on Great Meadow Stream is the subject of this Water Level Petition.

See attached Exhibit DEP-2 for a location map of the dam on North Pond and a depth survey map prepared by the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife.

1987 WATER QUALITY CERTIFICATION

On October 1, 1987, the Department of Environmental Protection issued an order approving a Water Quality Certification pursuant to the provisions of Title 38, M.R.S.A., Section 391 and Section 401 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act.

The Order approved rebuilding a flashboard dam at the outlet of North Pond on Great Meadow Stream using 12-inch wide steel beams and ¼-inch-wide steel plates. Three steel beam flashboards were to be stacked on an existing wooden log and attached to vertical beams, and installed seasonally from May 1 to October 15. The bottom flashboard was to have a permanent hole to release a minimum flow.

The Division of Environmental Evaluation and Lake Studies recommended that a minimum flow of 14.5 cfs be maintained through the dam and historical water levels are maintained in the pond.

See attached Exhibit DEP-3 for a copy of the 1987 Water Quality Certification and DEP-1 for a copy of the water level law.

NORTH POND WATERSHED-BASED MANAGEMENT PLAN

AUGUSTA
17 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333-0017
(207) 287-7688 FAX: (207) 287-7826

BANGOR
106 HOGAN ROAD, SUITE 6
BANGOR, MAINE 04401
(207) 941-4570 FAX: (207) 941-4584

PORTLAND
312 CANCO ROAD
PORTLAND, MAINE 04103
(207) 822-6300 FAX: (207) 822-6303

PRESQUE ISLE
1235 CENTRAL DRIVE, SKYWAY PARK
PRESQUE ISLE, MAINE 04769
(207) 764-0477 FAX: (207) 760-3143

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In a letter dated January 22, 2024, Department (Division of Environmental Assessment) staff notified the Kennebec County Soil and Water Conservation District that the DEP acknowledges acceptance of the North Pond Watershed-based Management Plan as an approved Nine Element plan for protection.

In a letter dated January 29, 2024, Department (Division of Environmental Assessment) staff notified the Kennebec County Soil and Water Conservation District that the DEP acknowledges completion of the Grant Agreement.

See attached Exhibit DEP-6 for the January 29, 2024, letter, DEP-7 for the management plan, and DEP-8 for the January 22, 2024, letter.

JURISDICTION

In May 2024, the Department determined that there was insufficient evidence submitted that the North Pond dam within Great Meadow Stream met the statutory definition of a “Dam” under 38 M.R.S. § 840(1).

With the evidence provided by the spokesperson and the dam owner, the Department determined that the North Pond dam within Great Meadow Stream met the statutory definition of a dam. The Department issued a letter dated July 11, 2024, accepting the evidence.

See attached Exhibit DEP-4 for dam height evidence and jurisdiction letters.

AGENCY REVIEW COMMENTS

By email dated August 12, 2024, DEP requested comments on the impacts of North Pond water levels on public resources of concern to various state agencies. MDIFW was the only agency to submit comments.

See attached Exhibit DEP-5 for a copy of the agency review comments received.

Prepared By: Claire Briggs
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Maine Department of Environmental Protection