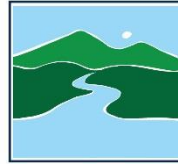


Lake Encroachment Individual Permit

Under 29 V.S.A. § 401 *et seq.*



VERMONT DEPARTMENT OF
ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION
WATERSHED
MANAGEMENT DIVISION
LAKES & PONDS PROGRAM

<p>Permittee(s): Vermont Agency of Transportation</p> <p>Waterbody: Lake Champlain</p> <p>Permit Number: 2015-045</p>	<p>Project Description: Marine Railway Reconstruction</p> <p>Project Location: 4584 Harbor Road, Shelburne</p>
<p>Based upon the findings contained in this permit, it is the decision of the Department of Environmental Conservation (the Department) that the project described herein, as set forth in the following findings and in the application on file with the Department, complies with the criteria of 29 V.S.A. § 405 and is consistent with the public trust doctrine, and is hereby approved under the following conditions and specifications.</p>	
<p>a. Specific Conditions</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The project shall be carried out in accordance with the final application received by the Department on December 21, 2015 (the Approved Application); and the conditions and specifications of this permit. 2. Marine railway reconstruction shall be constructed in accordance with the Approved Application, the additional permit terms and conditions contained herein, and in accordance with the following special condition: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> A. The permittee shall install a turbidity curtain or Department approved equivalent barrier, in the lake around the area/site prior to excavation. The barrier shall extend above the lake's surface and be secured to the bottom of the lake to contain turbidity during the project. If turbidity is observed beyond the work area, work shall be stopped immediately and shall not recommence until the source of the turbidity is identified and corrected. The barrier shall not be installed in a way that blocks navigation in a channel, if applicable. The barrier shall remain in place and be maintained until the project is complete and observations indicate turbidity within the barrier has decreased to the level of turbidity outside the barrier. 	
<p>b. Standard Conditions</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <u>Completion of construction.</u> The project authorized by this permit must be completed within 5 years of the effective date of this permit. 2. <u>Initiation of construction.</u> Initiation of the project authorized by this permit is restricted until after July 1 of any calendar year. 3. <u>Permit modification.</u> All permit modifications, shall be treated as a new permit application. 4. <u>Nuisance species spread prevention.</u> Prior to placing any equipment (e.g., boat, trailer, vehicle, or gear) that has been in or on any other waterbody into public waters for project implementation/construction, the permittee shall decontaminate the equipment in compliance with the Voluntary Guidelines to Prevent the Spread of Aquatic Invasive Species through Recreational Activities, Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force, November 2013. 5. <u>Erosion prevention and sediment control.</u> Erosion prevention and sediment control best management practices shall be utilized and maintained to prevent erosion and control sediment to minimize and prevent adverse impacts to water quality during construction of the authorized project. In addition, the permittee shall comply with the following conditions: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> A. Areas disturbed by the construction activities shall be protected from erosion through the application of seed and mulch upon completion of construction, and shall be temporarily 	

mulched during construction in advance of precipitation events.

- B. Work shall stop immediately if visible turbidity occurs in the lake as a result of construction activity and shall not recommence until the source of the turbidity is identified and corrected.

6. Heavy equipment operation. Heavy equipment shall work from shore, and shall not work lakeward of mean water level unless explicitly approved in writing by the Department, and/or specified in the Approved Application.
7. Spill prevention. Fuel and lubricants from equipment shall not be discharged into the water. Any spills shall be managed in accordance with all applicable local, state, and federal regulations.
8. Waste management. Any pieces of concrete, stone, construction debris, or other waste materials deposited into the lake during project implementation/construction shall be removed from the lake and disposed of properly, in accordance with all applicable local, state, and federal regulations.
9. Compliance with other regulations. This permit does not relieve the permittee from obtaining all other approvals and permits prior to commencement of activity or from the responsibility to comply with any other applicable federal, state, and local laws or regulations, including but not limited to the Vermont Solid Waste Management Rules, the Vermont Wetland Rules, and the Vermont Shoreland Protection Act.
10. Transfer of permit. Prior to transferring ownership over the encroachment authorized by this permit or the portion of property associated with the encroachment authorized by this permit, the permittee shall give the Department notice of the transfer. The notice shall include the name and contact information for the current permittee and prospective permittee, the proposed date of permit transfer, and a statement signed by the prospective permittee stating that he/she has read and is familiar with this permit and agrees to comply with and be bound by its terms and conditions.
11. Access to property. The permittee shall allow the Commissioner of the Department, or a duly authorized representative, at reasonable times and upon presentation of credentials, to enter upon permittee's property, or to otherwise access the authorized encroachment, if necessary, to inspect the project to determine compliance with this permit.
12. Legal responsibilities for damages. The Department, by issuing this individual permit, accepts no legal responsibility for any damage direct or indirect of whatever nature and by whoever suffered arising out of the approved project.
13. Rights and Privileges. This permit does not authorize any damage to private property or invasion of private rights or the violation of federal, state, or local laws or regulations. In addition, this permit does not convey any title or interest to the lands lying under public waters or waters affected.
14. Duty to comply and enforcement. The permittee shall comply with all terms and conditions of this permit. Any permit noncompliance shall constitute a violation of 29 V.S.A. Chapter 11 and may be cause for an enforcement action and revocation, modification, or suspension of this permit. It shall not be a defense for the permittee in an enforcement action that it would have been necessary to halt or reduce the permitted activity to maintain compliance with the conditions of this permit.
15. Reopener. If, after granting this permit, the Department determines that there is evidence indicating that an authorized activity does not comply with the requirements of 29 V.S.A. Chapter 11, the Department may reopen and modify this permit to include different limitations and requirements.
16. Revocation. This permit is subject to the conditions and specifications herein and may be suspended or

revoked at any time for cause including: failure by the permittee to disclose all relevant facts during the application process which were known at that time; misrepresentation of any relevant fact at any time; non-compliance with the conditions and specifications of the permit; or a change in the factors associated with the encroachment's effect on the public trust or public good so that on balance the Department finds that the encroachment adversely affects the public trust or public good.

17. Severance. The provisions of this permit are severable, and if any provision of this permit, or the application of any provision of this permit to any circumstance, is held invalid, the application of such provision to other circumstances, and the remainder of this permit, shall not be affected thereby.

18. Appeals.

- A. Renewable Energy Projects – Right to Appeal to Public Service Board. If this decision relates to a renewable energy plant for which a certificate of public good is required under 30 V.S.A. § 248, any appeal of this decision must be filed with the Vermont Public Service Board pursuant to 10 V.S.A. § 8506. This section does not apply to a facility that is subject to 10 V.S.A. § 1004 (dams before the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission), 10 V.S.A. § 1006 (certification of hydroelectric projects), or 10 V.S.A. Chapter 43 (dams). Any appeal under this section must be filed with the Clerk of the Public Service Board within 30 days of the date of this decision; the appellant must file with the Clerk an original and six copies of its appeal. The appellant shall provide notice of the filing of an appeal in accordance with 10 V.S.A. § 8504(c)(2), and shall also serve a copy of the Notice of Appeal on the Vermont Department of Public Service. For further information, see the Rules and General Orders of the Public Service Board, available online at www.psb.vermont.gov. The address for the Public Service Board is: 112 State Street, Montpelier, Vermont, 05620-2701; Telephone #: 802-828-2358.
- B. All Other Projects – Right to Appeal to Environmental Court. Pursuant to 10 V.S.A. Chapter 220, any appeal of this decision must be filed with the clerk of the Environmental Division of the Superior Court within 30 days of the date of the decision. The Notice of Appeal must specify the parties taking the appeal and the statutory provision under which each party claims party status; must designate the act or decision appealed from; must name the Environmental Division; and must be signed by the appellant or the appellant's attorney. The appeal must give the address or location and description of the property, project, or facility with which the appeal is concerned and the name of the applicant or any permit involved in the appeal. The appellant must also serve a copy of the Notice of Appeal in accordance with Rule 5(b)(4)(B) of the Vermont Rules for Environmental Court Proceedings. For further information, see the Vermont Rules for Environmental Court Proceedings available at www.vermontjudiciary.org. The address for the Environmental Division is: 32 Cherry Street; 2nd Floor, Suite 303; Burlington, VT 05401 Telephone #: 802-951-1740.

c. Findings

1. Jurisdiction - 29 V.S.A. § 403: Lake Champlain in Shelburne is a public water of the state of Vermont. The project encroaches beyond the shoreline as delineated by the mean water level of Lake Champlain, 95.5 feet National Geodetic Vertical Datum (NGVD) 1929. Therefore, the Department has jurisdiction under 29 V.S.A. Chapter 11.
2. Application Receipt and Review - 29 V.S.A. § 404: On December 21, 2015, the Department received an application from the Vermont Agency of Transportation (permittee), under the provisions of 29 V.S.A.

Chapter 11, for authorization to replace and extend an existing marine railway located within the public waters of Lake Champlain, Shelburne.

3. Public Notification - 29 V.S.A. § 405(a): The Department gave written notice of this application to the municipality in which the proposed encroachment is located, abutting property owners, and others having an interest in this matter and provided an opportunity for interested persons to file written comments or request a public information meeting. The notice period began on January 4, 2016 and closed at 4:30 PM on February 3, 2016. No comments were received. No request for a public information meeting was received.
4. Background; Lake Encroachment Permit History: None
5. Project Description: The project consists of the reconstruction of an existing marine railway that is used to dry dock large vessels on Lake Champlain for repairs and for United States Coast Guard inspections. Several stages are required to complete the project.

The first stage consists of the removal of 400 linear feet of timber railway track and replacement with a modular steel track system. The new steel track system includes an extension of the track and foundation by 32 feet. The extended foundation will consist of the removal of 4 piles that are to be replaced with 8 timber piles and timber pile caps. This extension is required to provide draft for existing Lake Champlain Transportation Company's vessels. No placement of fill nor removal of bottom material is required or planned. The out-shore most 100 feet of track is currently buried in bottom sediment that will be displaced to allow removal of the existing track, the securing and alignment of the new track, as well as the installation of the track extension. Upon completion of the work, the bottom sediments will be relocated to its original location. This work will be fully contained within a turbidity curtain as shown on the Approved Application.

The second stage of the project consists of the reconstruction of the aft portion of the railway cradle, the moveable portion that carries the vessel, by removal of the existing steel runners on both sides and replacement with newer, stronger steel runners.

The third stage of the project consists of the replacement of the existing rollers. The new rollers will be similar in type to what currently exists. Approximately 28 roller frames will be installed on each track and consist of 420 rollers each. Each frame of rollers will be 15 feet long.

The fourth stage of the project consists of the complete replacement of the backing chain and partial replacement of the hauling chain. This also includes the replacement of the underwater chain sheaves.

Equipment used will include a barge mounted crane, land-side crane and smaller equipment to handle the modular steel components.

6. Project Purpose: The purpose of the project is to repair existing infrastructure to the only existing large vessel dry dock on Lake Champlain.
7. Effect of Encroachment – Whether Excessive for Stated Purpose: The project is not considered excessive for the repair of existing infrastructure to the only existing large vessel dry dock on Lake Champlain.
8. Effect of Encroachment – Less Intrusive Feasible Alternatives: Less intrusive feasible alternatives considered were to use the next closest dry dock system, which is located on the Hudson River, or to construct an alternate dry dock system. By utilizing and repairing existing dry dock infrastructure, the proposed project is less intrusive than the other proposed feasible alternatives.

- 9.** Effect of Encroachment – Measures to Reduce Impacts on Public Resources: By utilizing and repairing existing dry dock infrastructure, no dredging is proposed. A turbidity curtain will be used around the project work area and will extend from the lake bottom to above the surface of the water to contain turbidity during project implementation.
- 10.** Placement of Fill: The project does not involve the placement of fill. The steel track replacement system, including the 32-foot extension supported by 8 timber pilings and timber pile caps, is not considered to be fill.
- 11.** Effects on Water Quality - 29 V.S.A. § 405(b): Within the project work area, there will be temporary negative impacts to water quality consisting of increased turbidity. A turbidity curtain will be used around the project work area and will extend from the lake bottom to above the surface of the water. This will be installed to contain turbidity that will be created during project implementation and will be maintained and remain in place within the lake until the project is complete and turbidity within the curtain has decreased to the level of turbidity outside of the curtain.
- 12.** Effects on Fish and Wildlife Habitat - 29 V.S.A. § 405(b): The project is located at an existing marine railway. The lake bottom around the immediate marine railway area is already disturbed and does not constitute quality aquatic habitat. No comments were received from the Department of Fish and Wildlife regarding effects on fish and wildlife habitat. The project will not result in adverse impacts to fish and wildlife habitat.
- 13.** Effects on Aquatic and Shoreline Vegetation - 29 V.S.A. § 405(b): No shoreline vegetation will be removed to complete the project. The project area will have temporary negative impacts on aquatic vegetation during project implementation.
- 14.** Effects on Navigation and Other Recreational and Public Uses, Including Fishing and Swimming - 29 V.S.A. § 405(b): There will be a temporary negative impact on all public uses of the water within the project area during project implementation. It is estimated that the project will be completed in four months. After completion of the project, public uses will be restored and the project will not have an adverse impact on these uses.
- 15.** Consistency with the Natural Surroundings - 29 V.S.A. § 405(b): The project will repair an existing marine railway. Existing shoreline vegetation at the site will not be removed. The project is consistent with the existing natural surroundings.
- 16.** Consistency with Municipal Shoreland Zoning Ordinances and Applicable State Plans - 29 V.S.A. § 405(b): No adverse comments were received during the investigation from local and state officers and the project is therefore considered to be consistent with municipal shoreland zoning ordinances and applicable state plans.
- 17.** Cumulative Impact - 29 V.S.A. § 405(b): Repair of the existing marine railway infrastructure will not result in a negative cumulative impact.
- 18.** Public Good Analysis Summary - 29 V.S.A. § 405(b): Based upon findings c. 11-17, the project will not adversely affect the public good.
- 19.** Public Trust Analysis: The public trust doctrine requires the Department to determine what public trust uses are at issue, to determine if the proposal serves a public purpose, to determine the cumulative effects of the proposal on the public trust uses, and to balance the beneficial and detrimental effects of the proposal. The public trust uses relevant to this proposal are fishing, boating, swimming, and

navigation. The marine railway replacement project provides public benefits in the form of providing a location for large vessels, such as vehicle ferries used within Lake Champlain, to receive repairs and provide a location for required United States Coast Guard inspections for vessel certification. The Department has therefore determined that the project is consistent with the public trust doctrine.

d. Authorization

Based upon the foregoing findings, and in consideration of the Department's Interim Procedures for the Issuance or Denial of Encroachment Permits, dated October 4, 1989, excluding Section 3, which was invalidated by Lamoille County Superior Court, Docket No. S96-91, 9/04/92, it is the decision of the Department that the project described herein, as set forth in the above findings and in the plans on file with the Department, complies with the criteria of 29 V.S.A. § 405, and is consistent with the public trust doctrine.

In accordance with 29 V.S.A. § 401 *et seq.*, the Department hereby issues this decision and permit to the Vermont Agency of Transportation for the above named project. The Department has approved the project subject to the conditions contained herein.

This permit shall not be effective until 10 days after the Department's notice of action and permit issuance in accordance with 29 V.S.A. § 405(c) and shall expire 15 years thereafter. **Prior to the expiration of this permit, the Permittee shall reapply for a lake encroachment permit, if the Permittee wishes to maintain the encroachment authorized by this permit.** If the permittee wishes to modify the encroachment or conduct other jurisdictional activities not authorized by this permit, the permittee must submit a new permit application.

Alyssa B. Schuren, Commissioner
Department of Environmental Conservation

By: _____
Perry Thomas, Program Manager
Lakes & Ponds Management and Protection Program