

Memorandum:

To: Forestry Practitioners operating in the Town of Pomfret

Date: May 13, 2009

From: Pomfret Inland Wetlands & Watercourses IWWC

Re: Forestry permitting process

The Pomfret Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Commission (IWWC) has undertaken a review of the procedures regarding forestry operations within the Town of Pomfret. In order to establish a regulatory process that better meets State legal requirements, the IWWC has decided that, effective on March 4, 2009, the process described herein shall serve as the method by which forestry management and timber harvesting activities shall be reviewed and/or regulated.

In general, State law exempts certain forestry operations from the normal permit requirements under the Inland Wetlands Regulations. However, not all aspects of forestry operations are exempt. Activities such as clear cutting (except where trees are to be replanted), the erection of buildings within Inland Wetlands, and the construction of roads through Inland Wetlands, are not generally exempt from regulations. Therefore, the IWWC has developed a new process for forestry related activities to assist in the initial determination of whether specific activities are truly exempt.

The process will consist of completion of a Forestry Activity Worksheet (a copy of which is included), on which the landowner would provide all the usual pertinent owner, property and proposal information associated with a formal application to the IWWC. Upon completion, the Worksheet, along with other information submitted by the property owner, will be reviewed by IWWC Staff. Additional information may include a plan (map) of the area to be logged and a Forestry Management plan. Once the information is reviewed, IWWC staff will determine if a formal application is needed. If staff finds that a formal application is not required, there would be NO fee associated with the Worksheet. As part of this process, the landowner would be given a pre-harvest/cut postcard and a post-harvest/cut postcard. The landowner would be required to mail to or drop off the post card at the Town Hall prior to commencing the operation. They would similarly be required to do the same with the post-harvest/cut card upon completion of the activity. Town Staff may recommend changes to the initial proposal if, after field review, an alternative approach exists that may resolve any need to file a formal application for a permit from the IWWC.

If the answers to the checklist indicate that the proposed activity would, or is reasonably likely to impact an inland wetland or watercourse, staff may forward the Worksheet to the IWWC for further review. Alternatively, the applicant may choose to file a formal application with the IWWC without waiting for the IWWC's review of the Worksheet. If a formal application is required, it would need to go before the IWWC for a formal permit application as is the case today.

Any activities that would require significant excavation, filling or grading within a wetland or watercourse will likely be determined to require a formal permit application. Such activities would include the construction of a haul road through a wetland or watercourse that would result in filling or damage. Examples of this activity would include placement of fill or corduroy, or placement of a storm drainage pipe, abutments, whether temporary or permanent, within an inland wetland or watercourse.

Please review the attached documents:

1. Applicant's Guide to Completing and Processing an Application for an Inland Wetlands Permit - Forestry Activities.
2. Forestry Activity Worksheet.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact IWWC staff, or attend our next regular IWWC meeting on Wednesday, June 3, 2009 at 7:00 PM at the Pomfret Senior Center (former Wolf den Grange).