

# Ossipee Lake Alliance

November 16, 2005

Ms. Darlene Forst  
N.H. Department of Environmental Services  
29 Hazen Drive - P.O. Box 95  
Concord, NH 03302-0095

Dear Ms. Forst:

I am writing to comment on the dredge and fill application filed by Ossipee Lake Marina, Inc. of Freedom, N.H. (File Number 2005-02516).

- The proposed dredging area is incorrectly stated to be Ossipee Lake. The treatment area is actually in Danforth Brook, a tributary running between Lower Danforth Pond and the northern portion of Broad Bay.
- The proposal does not say that the dredge area is infested with milfoil. Dredging can cause milfoil to spread through the dispersion of tiny fragments, and it can foster denser growth among the weeds that remain. The proposed plan does not specify how these potential adverse effects will be prevented if dredging is permitted.
- The application states that “maintenance dredging” is required because the marina area has been rendered “shallow and much of it unusable by the outwash deposits of sand” from Ossipee Lake Road. Long-time residents of the lake say that the depth of the water in Danforth Brook has not materially changed since the 1950s. Moreover, the application offers no evidence that the tributary has been silted by an upstream source.
- The application states that dredging will take place “in the dry” based on an early drawdown of the lake. The attached photo of the marina at the lowest point of this year’s drawdown shows that dredging “in the dry” is not possible in Danforth Brook.
- Note also that this year’s early drawdown was followed by flooding rains that raised the lake back to its summer level. The lake continues to be at a higher than usual level for this time of year, rendering the early drawdown language of the application moot.

While we are not inherently opposed to dredging this area, we believe the current application is materially deficient and should be denied. We hope the agency will recommend that the applicant work with DES invasive species specialists and the Freedom Conservation Commission to create a new plan that will provide greater assurance that there will be no adverse impact to Danforth Brook or the lake.

Since the purpose of the dredging is to further the applicant’s business and for no other reason, we also believe it is appropriate that any approval of dredging be subject to specific contingency actions and remedies that the applicant must take in the event that dredging is approved and there is an adverse impact. Toward that, we believe the applicant should be required to conduct state-supervised pre- and post dredging surveys of the milfoil infestation in this area.

A collaborative effort of this type would balance the marina's business need of deeper water with the community's need that there be no adverse environmental impact. I would be happy to discuss this further with you if you like.

Sincerely,

David. L. Smith  
Executive Director

cc: Freedom Conservation Commission



**Picture shows Ossipee Lake Marina at the low point of the 2005 early drawdown of the lake.**

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