

# SWRPC

## Commission Highlights

November 2015

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### **NED Application Filed**

On November 20<sup>th</sup>, Kinder Morgan/Tennessee Gas Pipeline Company filed their application for the Northeast Energy Direct (NED) project with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC). This most recent filing concludes FERC's pre-filing process and precedes the preparation of an environmental impact statement. The application for over 400 miles of pipeline includes approximately 37 miles through seven communities in Southwest New Hampshire. In addition, a compressor station is proposed in New Ipswich. To learn more about the project, browse an interactive map of the pipeline route, download large scale maps of the proposed facilities, and obtain links to FERC and New Hampshire Site Evaluation Committee dockets, please visit <http://www.swrpc.org/pipeline>.

### **Keene Adopts Complete Streets Policy**

On November 19<sup>th</sup>, the City of Keene enacted a complete streets policy. The policy was adopted by Keene City Council and directs the City to consider the safety of all users - including motorists, pedestrians of all ages and abilities, bicyclists, emergency responders, freight providers, and users of public transit - in all municipally managed transportation projects. The policy was developed by City of Keene staff in partnership with SWRPC staff, through the support of the Partnership to Improve Community Health initiative. SWRPC staff is currently assisting the towns of Troy and Hinsdale in developing complete streets policies. For more information, please contact Mari Brunner of Commission staff.

### **Emergency Operations Planning**

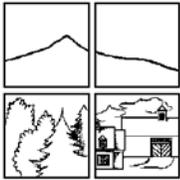
SWRPC staff is available to assist towns in updating Local Emergency Operations Plans (LEOP). The State of New Hampshire through the NH Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management (HSEM) offers a grant program which allows towns to gain assistance in creating and/or updating their LEOP at no monetary cost to the town. SWRPC staff has completed the latest LEOP training recommended by HSEM and is therefore qualified to assist towns with their plans. This training involved the completion of FEMA courses covering the National Incident Management System, the National Response Framework, the Incident Command System (ICS), and ICS for Single Resources and Initial Action Incidents. SWRPC staff also participated in a HSEM training session covering LEOP creation and update processes. For more information, please contact Rebeckah Bullock of Commission staff.

### **2015 Field Work Season Completed**

SWRPC had a very successful and productive season of field work in 2015. During November, SWRPC submitted the last of a total of 122 traffic counts to the Highway Performance Monitoring System (HPMS), an annual program to track changes in traffic volume and composition. HPMS traffic counts are just one aspect of our transportation-related field work undertaken as part of our Unified Planning Work Program, supported by the NH Department of Transportation and the Federal Highway Administration. To download a copy of traffic counts in your community, visit [http://www.swrpc.org/trans/traffic\\_counts](http://www.swrpc.org/trans/traffic_counts). Information from the 2015 season will be made available this winter. In addition to routine counts, SWRPC completed 40 traffic counts by "special request" to inform local roadway projects and planning documents. Field work also included 10 traffic counts to better understand freight composition, 10 bicycle/pedestrian counts, turning movement studies in Chesterfield, Keene, and Marlborough, and six rideshare studies. Over 330 culvert assessments were also completed using the New Hampshire Statewide Asset Data Exchange System, a cooperatively-developed methodology and framework used to record the location and condition of a variety of assets. For more information about SWRPC's traffic research activities, please contact Henry Underwood of Commission staff.

## **RSA 80:19a and Brownfields Assessment Program**

Communities should be aware of NH RSA Section 80:19a, which serves as enabling legislation that helps communities safely conduct an environmental assessment on a property that they are considering for tax deed. The statute states, “[p]rior to or in connection with the tax lien procedures and the tax sale procedures of RSA 80, a municipality, county or state may, at its option, on its own behalf or through its agents, enter upon the property subject to tax lien or tax sale for the purpose of conducting an environmental site assessment or environmental audit...” SWRPC’s Brownfields Assessment Program’s funds can be used for conducting such environmental inquiries pursuant to RSA 80:19a and the Program is currently taking site nominations. For more information about the Brownfields Program and its site nomination process, please visit <http://www.swrpc.org/brownfields> or contact J. B. Mack of Commission staff.



## **Hazard Mitigation Plan Updates**

The Planning Commission is currently assisting several communities within our Region with the update of hazard mitigation plans including the towns of Antrim, Chesterfield, Swanzey, Sullivan, and Surry. The process includes the review of current mitigation strategies and critical facilities with regard to severe weather events and the development of new strategies to reduce the potential effects of natural disasters. This review is conducted through a series of meetings of local hazard mitigation planning committees facilitated by SWRPC staff. Meetings are open to the public. For more information, please contact Lisa Murphy of Commission staff.

**Southwest Region Planning Commission**

37 Ashuelot Street Keene, NH 03431 603-357-0557 [www.swrpc.org](http://www.swrpc.org)

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