



STATE OF MAINE
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

PAUL R. LEPAGE
GOVERNOR

PATRICIA W. AHO
COMMISSIONER

Memo

To: Commissioner William Beardsley
From: Commissioner Patricia Aho
CC: Heather Parent, Mike Mullen
Date: 11/22/2011
Re: LURC/DEP Permitting Issues

As part of the Commission on Reform of the Governance of Land Use Planning in the Unorganized Territory, discussions have arisen regarding whether the Department of Environmental Protection has the capacity to undertake large-scale permitting which is currently under the jurisdiction of LURC and the Department of Conservation. We appreciate the information provided to us regarding the recent numbers and types of large scale permitting applications which have been submitted to LURC and we have had an opportunity to review the information provided to the Department.

DEP currently is involved in certain large-scale applications which may be partially located within the unorganized territory but also located within the organized area of the state. As you are aware, when such an application is submitted, the Department of Environmental Protection undertakes the review and associated analytical work on those types of applications. You have asked whether DEP has the capacity to undertake the other types of applications for large scale projects which are totally located within the unorganized territory and based on the information you have provided we believe we do have the capacity to undertake the analytical review and permitting of the various large-scale proposals which may arise in the unorganized locations.

We also believe that such a transition may provide DEP with some benefits related to location of staff being in closer proximity to our customer base, thus providing additional benefits to citizens in both the organized and unorganized areas of the state.

There are some associated specific details regarding such a transition which I am confident we can finalize over the next few weeks and I look forward to working with you and your staff on this proposal.

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