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## Coordination and Consultation

**How to Read This Chapter:** Federal NEPA regulations require that the lead federal agency solicit the views of other state and federal agencies during the preparation of an EIS, and provide early and continuing opportunities for the public to be involved in the identification of social, economic, and environmental impacts. This chapter summarizes the ACTS coordination with regulatory and other governmental agencies, and citizen involvement following publication of the DEIS in April 2002. Chapter 6 (page 6-1) in the DEIS provides a summary of previous consultation and coordination.

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### 7.1 DEIS Public Hearings

Public hearings on the DEIS were held in Presque Isle, Frenchville, and Houlton on March 19, 20, and 21, 2002, respectively. Attendees included federal, state, and local agencies, community organizations, and members of the public. Verbal and written comments were submitted to the MaineDOT at the hearings and written comments were accepted after the hearings. Chapter 6 of this SDEIS, *List of Commentors*, lists the comment letters submitted to MaineDOT. Written comment letters and responses to comments are provided in Volume 3 of the SDEIS.

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### 7.2 Federal, State, and Local Agency Consultation

The FHWA and MaineDOT have solicited the input of other state and federal agencies through interagency meetings and correspondence.

The Study Team coordinated with federal and state agencies during the preparation of this SDEIS to obtain information on environmental conditions, review potential impacts, and obtain agency input. These agencies included the USACOE, EPA, NRCS, USFWS, NMFS, IF&W, Maine DEP, LURC, the Maine State Planning Office, and the MNAP.

The Study Team also presented information on the progress of the ACTS at three Interagency Coordination Meetings held on February 10, 2004, June 14, 2005, and

April 11, 2006. These meetings were attended by representatives of the USFWS, USACOE, EPA, and Maine DEP.

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### **7.3 Public Involvement**

The ACTS has included an early and continuous public involvement program that has involved the citizens of the Study Area and sought their input on study objectives, impacts, and corridor evaluation. Citizen involvement has included a PAC, public informational workshops, meetings, a newsletter, articles in the Northern Maine Development Council quarterly newsletter, and a study web site ([www.vhb.com/aroostook](http://www.vhb.com/aroostook)).

The DEIS (Section 6.2, page 6-2) summarized the public meetings and public involvement process prior to publication of the DEIS.

The PAC is a 20-member group convened to represent all areas of the Study Area, the Maliseet and Micmac Tribal Nations, and economic interests within the Study Area. Members were nominated by their communities, and selected by the Commissioner of MaineDOT to provide broad multidisciplinary representation throughout the Study Area. The PAC met on six occasions after the publication of the DEIS on the following dates:

- December 16, 2003
- March 16, 2004
- June 22, 2004
- September 14, 2004
- December 14, 2004
- July 12, 2005

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### **7.4 Coordination with Local Communities and Organizations**

The Study Team has coordinated with the local communities and local organizations throughout the study to obtain information on existing conditions as well as transportation and economic needs, and to obtain input on the corridor screening process. Meetings were held at various times with the:

- Aroostook County Commissioners;
- Congressional and Senate Delegations;
- City of Caribou;
- City of Presque Isle;
- Aroostook Band of Micmac Indians;
- Houlton Band of Maliseet Indians;
- Leaders Encouraging Aroostook Development (LEAD);

- Maine Potato Board;
- Northern Maine Development Commission;
- New Sweden Historical Society; and
- New Sweden Historical Commission.

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## 7.5 Study Web Site

The web site established for the study ([www.vhb.com/aroostook](http://www.vhb.com/aroostook)) includes up-to-date study information, announcements of PAC meetings, summaries of previous PAC meetings, links to related news articles, and maps of the study corridors. The site also has a “Feedback” page that allows users to email comments and questions to the study coordinators.