

**Appendix I**

**Email from Mark Kern (EPA) to  
Craig Rennie (NH DES)  
June 15, 2004**

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Rennie, Craig

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**From:** kern.mark@epamail.epa.gov  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 15, 2004 11:26 AM  
**To:** Adams, Collis; Michael\_Bartlett@fws.gov; frank.j.delgiudice@nae02.usace.army.mil; Sornmer, Lori; Michael.C.Hicks@nae02.usace.army.mil; Rennie, Craig  
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**Subject:** Tamworth Site visit June 9, 2004

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I attended a site visit for the Tamworth race track -- Club Motor Sports -- on June 9, 2004 with the Corps (Laurie), FWS (Frank), and consultants for the applicant. We reviewed the site and we looked at some of the possible mitigation areas. Most of the wetlands on the property are located near the northern portion of the site near Route 25; the remainder of the site generally contains smaller streams that drain the site **and** flow off-site into the Bearcamp River.

Direct aquatic impacts are fairly small for this size of a project -- less than an acre. Indirect impacts are larger and most of impacts are to the wetlands located near Route 25. Approximately 10 acres of wetlands will be isolated by the track and other related developments and will suffer impacts to functions and values -- mostly to wildlife and water quality related functions. The indirect impacts from fragmentation and water quality would be larger than the direct impacts and the mitigation plan should reflect that.

The most valuable aquatic resource is a vernal pool located in a central portion of the site which contained a large number of young amphibians during our site visit -- the consultant documented numerous salamander and wood frog egg masses in the spring. Under the current proposal, the road will come within 50' of the pool causing some indirect impacts. It is difficult to know how large the indirect impacts will be -- a lot will depend on where in the upland the amphibians move to and how important this portion of site is for migration. Impacts can also be caused by water quality run-off from chemicals such as salt and I do not know the details of salt use and drainage at this point in time. Anything that can be done to move the road further away from the pool, not use salt on this portion of the road, and direct run-off from the road away from the pool would help. It may also help to construct some vernal pools somewhat nearby the existing pool, but further from the road to hedge our bets.

Other than the potential vernal pool creation discussed above and on-site water quality detention basins, there does not appear to be any good choices for on-site mitigation. We visited two off-site

mitigation areas that the applicant is considering. Both are located next to each other a few miles west along Rt. 25 on Meadow Brook which drains into the Bearcamp River. The sites have several things going for them; they are: a) fairly large (about 100 acres each); b) located on a stream that drains to the Bearcamp R.; and c) diverse, containing many different wetland types. However, they also have some drawbacks: a) they are not connected to any other protected lands or greenspace; b) they have modest threat or risk for development (high % wetland) except for the back side (northwest portion) of site 1; 3) they are located next to Route 25; and 4) they are located in Sandwich rather than in Tamworth.

The Tamworth cons. comm. also recommended a site just north of the track site near the Bearcamp and Swift Rivers which appears to be an excellent choice; however, the owner appears unwilling to sell the land.

If the applicant passes the alternatives test and other requirements of the Guidelines, and if the status of the above site in Tamworth does not change, perhaps a combination of mitigation efforts would make sense for this project: 1) on-site water quality efforts; 2) on-site vernal pool creation; 3) off-site protection of Site 1 the applicant has proposed; and 4) some cash contribution to the Tamworth open space group or cons. comm. for land protection in Tamworth.