

Conservation Agent

From: Benjamin Osgood <bosgoodpe@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, August 14, 2019 11:09 AM
To: Conservation; mrimmer@rimmerenv.com
Subject: Fwd: FW: (EEA Production) You have a message on the VPRS System

Doug,

Please see the response from DEP regarding the vernal pool certification submitted by Mary. As I stated at the meeting we have always agreed to submit the information we found regarding the pool, but we don't have control over the DEP determination.

Not sure where this leaves us in regards to the ANRAD approval. I assume that if it isn't issued we would need to appeal to DEP, which is not something we want to do.

Please let me know when we can discuss this further.

Ben

----- Forwarded message -----

From: rimmeren <mrimmer@rimmerenv.com>
Date: Wed, Aug 14, 2019 at 10:36 AM
Subject: FW: (EEA Production) You have a message on the VPRS System
To: Benjamin Osgood <bosgoodpe@gmail.com>

See message from Natural Heritage below. They are refusing to certify the pool based on potential short hydro-period in most years. I have never had this situation come up before.

-----Original Message-----

From: ContactVPRSAdmin@MassMail.State.MA.US [mailto:ContactVPRSAdmin@MassMail.State.MA.US]
Sent: Wednesday, August 14, 2019 8:48 AM
To: mrimmer@rimmerenv.com
Subject: (EEA Production) You have a message on the VPRS System

New Message Received

From: Jacob Kubel
To: Mary Rimmer
Date: 8/14/2019
Observation #: V1687
Category: Vernal Pool
Subject: More Info Requested
Body: Thank you for submitting your report to the NHESP. In order to continue processing this report we request the following information:

Hi Mary -- Although your photos demonstrate presence of at least 10 egg masses of Wood Frog this past spring, there is still question about whether the pool holds water a sufficient amount of time to support successful reproduction

(tadpole development through metamorphosis) in most years. As noted previously, a review of aerial imagery over the past 20 years suggests the pool basin does not contain standing water during relatively dry springs. Based on the information you provided, the pool dried prior to 21 July 2017, 22 June 2018, and 9 July 2019 (and 2019 was a wet spring). To assume a sufficient hydroperiod for successful Wood frog reproduction, I would still want to see evidence that the pool routinely holds water through June, but your report does not provide information about hydrological condition during June in 2017 or 2019. The relatively small number of Wood Frog egg masses documented in a pool of this size (i.e., surface area) is consistent with one that does not necessarily provide important breeding habitat for the species. In fact, the pool could very well be functioning as a sink, as there are other wetlands nearby with a seemingly longer hydroperiod and an even greater surface area. Based on that possibility and the continued uncertainty about typical hydroperiod in June, we cannot approve certification of the pool as a vernal pool habitat at this time. To proceed with a possible certification, a thorough, multiyear study of pool function, following a protocol approved by the NHESP, would be necessary. If you choose to pursue that option, please let me know, and we can talk about a conceptual design for a study. Thank you. --Jake

For more information, please log into the VPRS System by browsing to the following URL:

http://eeaonline.eea.state.ma.us/DFG/vprs_fs