PREFILED TESTIMONY OF CHRIS GIANFAGNA

On Behalf of the Vermont Agency of Natural Resources, Department of Environmental Conservation, Watershed Management Division

Summary of Testimony
Mr. Gianfagna is an Environmental Analyst in the Watershed Management Division. His testimony will address the impacts of the Project with regards to stormwater and outlines the steps required to comply with stormwater regulations and meet Criterion 1 - Water Pollution.
Q1. Please state your name, place of employment, and position.
A1. My name is Chris Gianfagna, I am currently employed by the Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation as an Environmental Analyst with the Stormwater Program.

Q2. Please describe your professional background and tenure at the Agency of Natural Resources.
A2. I have held several positions relating directly to water quality, including working on agricultural water quality and sediment loading issues at the Miner Institute in Chazy, NY, working on watershed scale chemical fluxes and predictions of flow in ungagged basins in the NYC water supply watersheds/reservoirs at Syracuse University, and have been employed by the Vermont DEC in my current role since February 2014.

My resume is attached as Exhibit ANR-CG-1.

Q3. Please describe your educational background and any relevant certifications that you hold.
A3. I have a Bachelor’s Degree in Environmental Science from SUNY Plattsburgh and a Master’s Degree in Environmental Engineering, including graduate coursework in stormwater management, from Syracuse University. I am also a Certified Professional in Erosion and Sediment Control- In Training.
Q4. While at the Agency, have you engaged in any training or classes related to your work in the Stormwater Program?

A4. Yes. I have attended a soils workshop presented by the USDA, a 2-day Green Stormwater Infrastructure conference, the annual 2-day Northeast Chapter of the International Erosion Control Association meeting and conference, and have been active in preparing for Part II of the Certified Professional in Erosion and Sediment Control exam, which I will take in early September 2015.

Q5. Have you previously provided testimony to the Public Service Board, the Environmental Court, or the District Commissions?

A5. No.

Q6. What is the purpose of your testimony?

A6. The purpose of my testimony is to answer questions related to the need of the Project to obtain construction and operational stormwater permits.

Q7. Is a construction stormwater permit required for this Project?

A7. Yes. The project as proposed will result in more than 1 acre of earth disturbance, and therefore coverage under the Construction General Permit is required.

Q8. What is the status of the construction permit for this Project?
A8. Authorization under the Construction General Permit for this project was granted by Discharge Authorization # 4213-9020 on 6/12/2015 and remains valid until 6/12/2017.

Q9. Is an operational stormwater permit required for this Project?

A9. Yes. The project as proposed involves an expansion to existing impervious surfaces such that the total resulting impervious is over the jurisdictional threshold, and therefore requires an operational stormwater permit.

Q10. What is the status of the operational stormwater permit for this Project?

A10. The Operational Stormwater Permit, Discharge Authorization # 4213-INDS, was issued on 10/20/2014, and revised and re-issued on 7/2/2015 to address pre-construction changes allowed under Ch. 18-308(j). Due to an oversight, the revised permit was issued without a signature, but this will be rectified in the near future.

Q11. Do you have any recommendations to the Board for conditions to be included in any CPG issued for this Project?

A11. No.

Q12. Does this conclude your testimony?

A12. Yes.
Chris Gianfagna

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1 National Life Dr., Main 2
Montpelier, VT 05602

Technical Skills
• Certified Professional in Erosion and Sediment Control In-Training
• Proficient with MS Word, Excel, Powerpoint, HydroCAD and USGS StreamStats
• Familiar with ArcGIS, RUSLE2, HydroDesktop, HEC-RAS, EPA SWMM, EPA NET, and Win TR-55
• Water Quality Analysis/Instrument Use/Water Quality and Quantity Modeling
• Field Data Collection Skills/Standard Methods
• American Red Cross CPR/First Aid Certified
• NYS Licensed Whitewater Raft Guide

Education
MS Environmental Engineering
Cumulative GPA: 3.8
Syracuse University
Graduation Date: December 2012

BS Environmental Science, minor in Hydrogeology
Cumulative GPA: 3.94
SUNY Plattsburgh
Graduation Date: May 2010

Work Experience
Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation
1 National Life Dr., Main 2 Montpelier, VT 05602
February 2014 – Present

Technical review of operational, industrial, and construction stormwater permit applications. Technical design assistance, permit compliance inspections, and jurisdictional determinations.

Syracuse University
151 Link Hall, Syracuse NY 13210
Graduate Research Assistant/Laboratory Technician/Teaching Assistant
August 2010 – May 2012

Led and assisted research projects pertaining to water and soil quality in the Catskill Mountains for the NYC water supply. Led summer research group in stream and soil sampling. Performed laboratory tasks including sample preparation, analysis, interpretation of results, and data management. Taught the recitation section of the Introduction to Environmental Engineering course.

W.H. Miner Agriculture Research Institute
Miner Farm Rd. Chazy, NY 12921
Research Assistant/Laboratory Technician
May 2009 – May 2010

Assisted with various environmental and agricultural research projects including studies on eutrophication of the Little Chazy River, subsurface tile drainage, and groundwater hydrology. Processed stream water samples for phosphorus concentrations using a strong acid digest and colorimetric absorbance methods.
ARO Adventures, B.O.B. Rafting, Whitewater Challengers Inc.  
Black River/Hudson River, New York  
Licensed Whitewater Raft Guide/ Safety Kayaker  
Summers 2006 - Present

Guide customers down demanding whitewater while maintaining a safe and enjoyable environment. Trip preparation and customer service, accompany trip as the Rescue Kayaker. Instill a care of flowing waters in my guests.

ASI Environmental Technologies  
Dexter Hydro-dam, Dexter, New York 13634  
Sea Lamprey Research Technician  
April 2006 - June 2006

Performed field data collection including checking of lamprey traps, marking and releasing of lamprey, and measuring and recording of biological and hydrologic data.

Independent Research

Lead author on a paper analyzing the effects of nested vs non-nested reference stream gages for use with the area-ratio method for prediction of flow in ungaged basins. Publication is anticipated.

Master’s Thesis: Estimation of Solute Fluxes from Ungaged Catchments in the Catskill Mountains.  
Original research on estimation of flow and dissolved chemical fluxes in ungaged watersheds in the Catskill Mountain region of New York State. Involved development of a method for estimating flow in ungaged catchments and extrapolation of solute concentrations based on limited data. Generated using data from the USGS Stream Network and USGS StreamStats.

Undergraduate Research: Hydrology of a Tile Drained Agricultural Field.  
Installed groundwater monitoring wells in a tile drained alfalfa field at the Miner Agriculture Research Institute for determining groundwater elevation and fluctuation upon installation of groundwater control structures in the tile drains. Surveyed the well locations and the topography of the field. Prepared a detailed topographic map of the well field to facilitate future research.

Honors, Awards, and Affiliations

Honors and Awards: Boy Scouts of American Eagle Scout, SUNY Plattsburgh Outstanding Senior in Environmental Science, SUNY Plattsburgh Dean’s List 2007-2010, SUNY Plattsburgh Transfer Achievement Scholarship

Affiliations: American Whitewater, The Adirondack Mountain Club