



NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY ACT SUPPORT

By Alan Haberstock

that the preferred alternative avoided and minimized potential effects on wetlands; (2) a survey for significant vernal pools to satisfy requirements of Maine's Natural Resources Protection Act; (3) identification of any rare, threatened, or endangered species, and critical habitat in the project area; (4) preparation of an EA documenting assessments for all resource categories, including secondary and cumulative effects; (5) and assistance with agency consultation and permitting, including consulting with the USFWS as required

by the Endangered Species Act to identify federally listed species, such as Atlantic salmon, potentially affected by the project and completing Section 404 wetlands permitting.

Kleinschmidt completed the NEPA analysis to demonstrate that the preferred alternative both accomplishes the project purpose and need and avoids and minimizes potential effects on regulated resources such as wetlands relative to the "no-build" and other alternatives. As part of the permitting and NEPA analysis, Kleinschmidt provided

conceptual mitigation planning to compensate for the area of wetland unavoidably affected by the preferred alternative. Kleinschmidt worked closely with the project engineers to ensure that the diameter of culverts installed at stream crossings and other best management practices (BMPs) will be sufficient to avoid environmental consequences such as erosion and sedimentation.

This project required considering numerous alternatives and regulatory complexities and coordinating with multiple federal and state agencies

and stakeholders, including the affected municipalities. Kleinschmidt's ability to offer both technical (scientific, engineering) and process (regulatory, agency consultation) consulting has benefitted the private-sector client and public-sector stakeholders (e.g., Maine DOT).

**For more information,
contact Alan.Haberstock@KleinschmidtGroup.com**