Balancing Constructability With the Ability to Obtain a Permit

Swamp Things

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Permitting Considerations

Swamp Mats are considered a Temporary Impact (Temporary Fill), but also recognized as a Best Management Practice to Reduce Wetland Impact.

- Identifying the need & extent for temporary swamp mats
- Understanding the natural and built environmental conditions of the right-of-way or project site
- Understanding the full scope of construction
- Operation & Maintenance vs. Large Capital Projects
- Presenting the swamp mat “program” to the agencies
- Consultation with the agencies in advance of project to discuss possible field modifications
Permitting Considerations

Alternatives to Swamp Mat Installation

• Low ground pressure (<3 psi) equipment
  • Equipment requirements may exceed this threshold
  • Availability of low ground pressure equipment

• Snowpack access roads
  • Dependent on weather conditions
  • Limited outages for winter work on utility projects

• Temporary fill underlain by geotextile fabric
• Permit permanent access road (permanent fill)
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Assessment of Environmental Constraints
Assessment of Environmental Constraints

Identification of Sensitive Environmental Resources

- Wetlands
- Deep Organic Wetlands
- Open Water Wetlands
- Floodplains and Floodways
- Cold Water Fisheries
- Vernal Pools
- Rare Species Habitats
- Beaver Dams and impoundments/ inundation

- Cultural Resources
  - Active Agricultural Fields/Pastures
Assessment of Existing Infrastructure
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Construction Considerations
Construction Considerations
Cons
Assessment of Environmental Constraints
Assessment of Environmental Constraints
Other Planning Considerations

Planning for Contingencies

- Snow Removal and De-icing of Swamp Mats
- Invasive Species Control
- Other Work Associated with Installation
  - Vegetation Removal/ Tree Clearing/ Mowing
  - Cutting Large Stumps Flush with the Ground
  - Possible Removal and Replacement of Boulders
  - Stone Ramps for Egress/ Ingress

The average Swamp Mat is 16 feet wide – planning for widths >16 feet wide to accommodate installation
Closing Summary

Considerations in Permit Applications

• Inventory environmental conditions on ROW/ Project Site
• Understand the full scope of work
• Identify constraints to access and work space
• Recognize possible seasonal constraints
• Consider incorporating contingencies for coverage under applicable permit conditions
Questions?
Thank You

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