



**M E M O R A N D U M**

**TO:** Terry Martino

**FROM:** Daniel M. Spada

**DATE:** January 4, 2012

**RE:** RASS Division Report for December and Annual Summary for 2011

**2011 General Summary**

As the Resource Analysis and Scientific Services (RASS) Division of the Adirondack Park Agency we are tasked to provide sound independent scientific advice to all other Agency divisions. Often times we will act as the interface between other Agency Divisions offering technical determinations and providing insight on environmental issues.

RASS Staff is always wary of and concerned about the potential disconnect between science, policy and the public, and about how we interpret sometimes highly technical, complex and jargon-filled information. We strive therefore to reduce highly technical subjects to understandable language. With that in mind, we don't just tell a project sponsor what to do. We attempt to explain, in our personal contacts and written memos and letters, why we require certain actions and what the effects of those actions are from an environmental and fiscal point of view.

For example, it is important that landowners know why we require Deep Hole Test Pits to be dug and interpreted; the suitability of soils for wastewater treatment is of primary concern for environmental and human health. Furthermore, the better suited the soils are to receive wastewater the less expensive it is for the landowner to have a system designed and installed. It is this type of information that is beneficial to all parties involved in the undertaking of a project.

It is also our commitment to provide wetland determinations and field delineations to landowners in the Adirondack Park. This is an integral step in the planning and design phases of projects and helps to avoid and/or minimize wetland impacts. It is this reason that RASS staff is often the first face of the Agency that a project sponsor sees and reveals their development plans to. It is common for RASS to spend long hours in the field advising design that will avoid adverse environmental impacts.

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It is RASS's charge to educate the project sponsor regarding the resources of concern and the reasons for their protection with a high level of professionalism, civility and respect. We do this in light of the RASS Division's guiding principle; "Protect natural resources by applying relevant laws, regulations, standards and policies using good science and sound engineering judgment, while at the same time, being respectful and consistent with all those we come in contact with."

Through any given year RASS staff work on projects, enforcement cases, variances, and policies, and provide technical advice regarding a wide variety of topics including making height, navigability and mean high water mark determinations, identifying, delineating and evaluating wetlands, assessing wildlife impacts, and assessing forest management activities. All Agency transactions that involve wetlands, soils, wastewater treatment, surface waters or forests pass through RASS for resource analysis and recommendations. RASS professionals are called upon to provide expert testimony under oath regarding their areas of specialization.

### **Soils**

The Agency was fortunate to fill the position of soil scientist/forester this past year. A qualified soil scientist on the Agency staff alleviates the need to require the regulated public to pay for professional engineering services out of pocket and minimizes the soil component of on-site wastewater treatment system (OSWTS) analysis for Agency engineers. This process is vital so Agency engineering staff can efficiently issue approvals for submitted OSWTS designs.

In 2011 a total of 73 projects involving 178 deep-hole test pits (DHTPs) were reviewed by Agency staff (Table 1). Of the 178 DHTPs 97 were described by Agency staff and 81 were described by outside consultants (Figure 1). All data submitted by consultants is checked by Agency staff to ensure profile accuracy, separation requirements, and appropriate setback distances. In 2011 forty percent of the test pits were approved for conventional on-site wastewater treatment systems (OSWTSs), 40 percent were approved for shallow absorption OSWTSs and 20 percent did not meet Agency guidelines (Figure 2). Of the approved shallow systems 83 percent were due to shallow seasonal high groundwater and 17 percent were due to shallow bedrock (Figure 3).

<b>Deep Hole Test Pit Statistics</b>	<b>Jan</b>	<b>Feb</b>	<b>Mar</b>	<b>Apr</b>	<b>May</b>	<b>Jun</b>	<b>Jul</b>	<b>Aug</b>	<b>Sep</b>	<b>Oct</b>	<b>Nov</b>	<b>Dec</b>	<b>Year To Date</b>
<b>Projects Involving DHTPs</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>73</b>
DHTPs Described by APA	0	0	0	3	9	15	12	7	5	20	16	10	97
DHTPs Described by Consultants	25	2	2	1	8	1	19	3	2	10	4	4	81
<b>Total DHTPs</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>178</b>
Approved Conventional Systems	4	0	2	1	3	7	20	6	3	15	5	5	71
Approved Shallow Systems	19	2	0	2	7	3	7	2	2	8	13	7	72
Did not Meet Agency Guidelines	2	0	0	1	7	6	4	2	2	7	2	2	35
Approved Conventional Systems %	16%	0%	100%	25%	18%	44%	65%	60%	43%	50%	25%	36%	40%
Approved Shallow Systems %	76%	100%	0%	50%	41%	19%	23%	20%	29%	27%	65%	50%	40%
Did not Meet Agency Guidelines %	8%	0%	0%	25%	41%	38%	13%	20%	29%	23%	10%	14%	20%
Approved Shallow Systems	19	2	0	2	7	3	7	2	2	8	13	7	72
Shallow Systems due to SHGWT	12	2	0	2	7	3	5	2	1	8	13	5	60
Shallow Systems due to Bedrock	7	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	1	0	0	2	12
Shallow Systems due to SHGWT %	63%	100%	0%	100%	100%	100%	71%	100%	50%	100%	100%	71%	83%
Shallow Systems due to Bedrock %	37%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	29%	0%	50%	0%	0%	29%	17%

Table 1. Deep-hole test pit statistics for 2011

Figure 1. Deep-hole test pits described by the APA and consultants in 2011

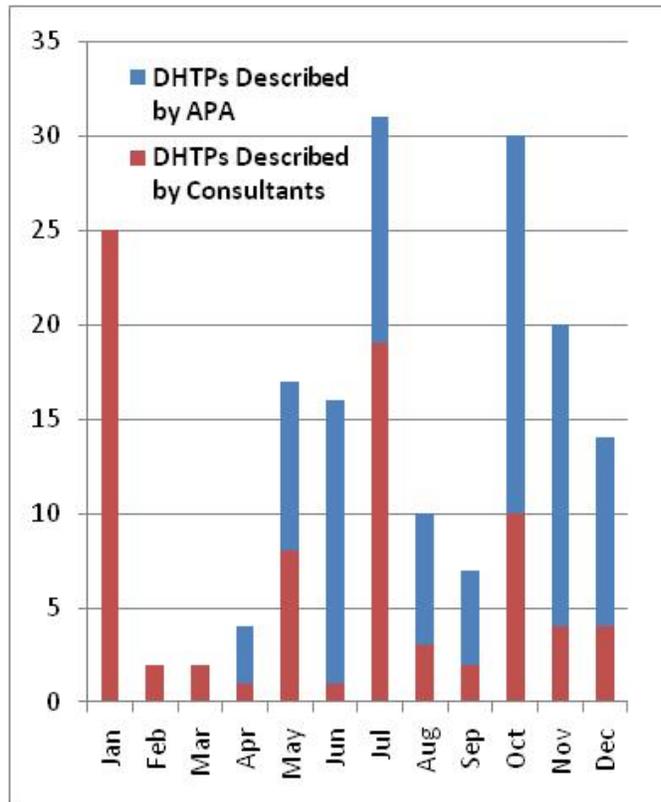


Figure 2. Number of approved shallow and conventional systems and number of systems that did not meet Agency guidelines

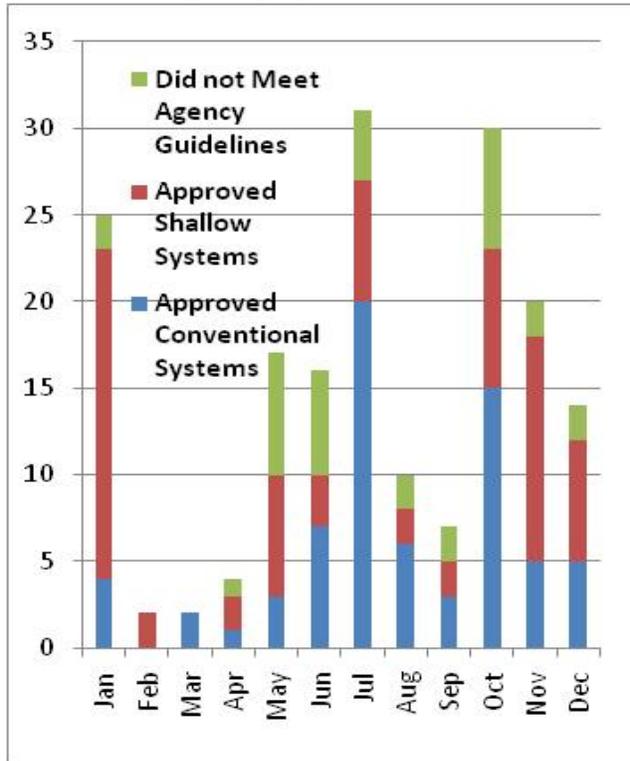
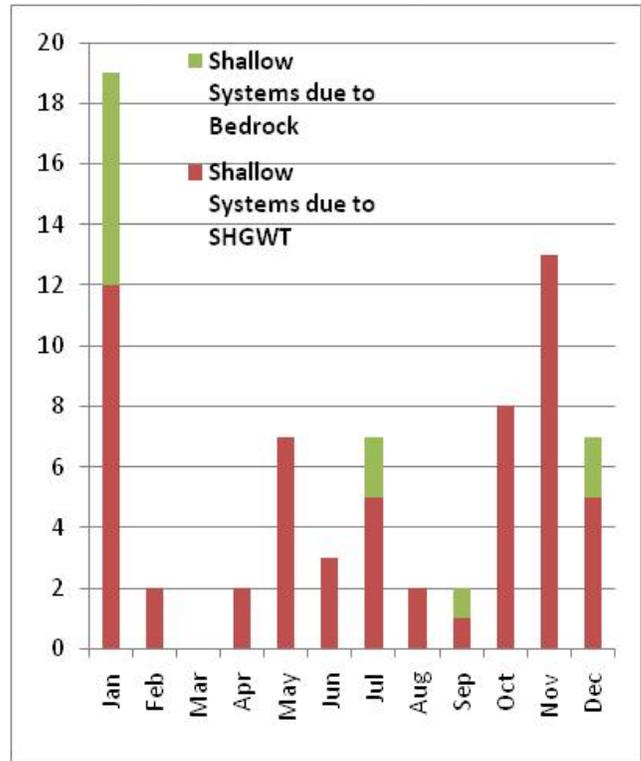


Figure 3. The number of approved shallow systems due to SHGWT and to bedrock. This graph is only accounting for shallow systems.



### Wastewater Treatment

In addition to soils confirmation, an OSWTS design must be approved by one of the RASS engineers. It is the responsibility of RASS engineering staff to confirm compliance with New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH) and Agency Regulations and Standards and to formulate a professional opinion based on sound engineering principles and judgment pertaining to the required level of advanced treatment, location of the system, and other vital characteristics which provide wetland and other natural resource protection, as well as human health protection.

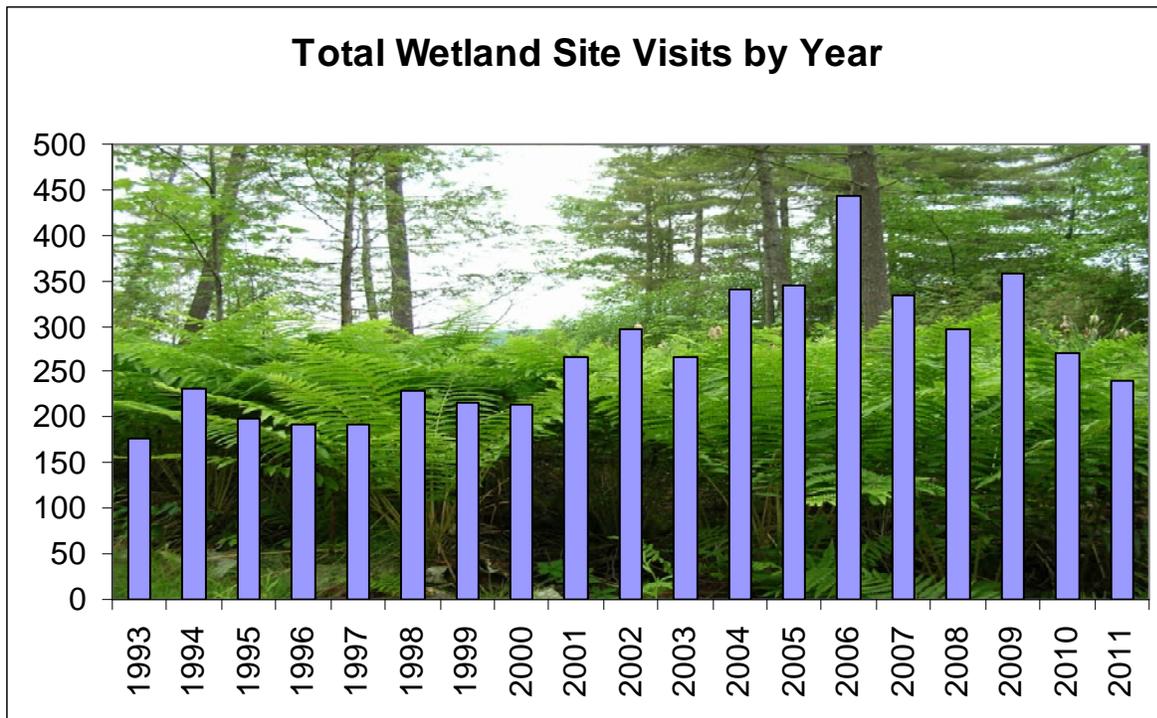
### Wetlands

The Adirondack Park is a wet place. Wetland involvement is a common jurisdictional trigger. The NYS Freshwater Wetlands Act and the APA Act have stringent requirements for regulated activities involving wetlands. The Agency's wetlands protection program including mapping, delineation, evaluation, mitigation and impact analysis has been and is considered proactive, responsive to public needs and technologically advanced. RASS wetlands staff provide a level of service to the public that has no parallel.

**Note: Total number of site visits may not match up between tables due to sites in multiple land use areas, towns and counties and site visits in multiple land use areas.**

During 2011 a total of 240 wetland visits were made throughout the Park (Figure 4). Each visit involved a wetland determination and/or delineation. Some of the wetland delineations, due to wetland size, took several days to complete. The average processing time of all 240 visits was 11 days (Table 2). 2011 marks the third fastest average processing time since 2000 (Table 3).

Figure 4. Wetland visits by year (1999 to present)



Time Period	Number of Requests Received During Month	Number Completed	Average Processing Time (Days)	Number Pending
January - March	16	4	N/A	12
April	23	16	26	19
May	38	46	14	11
June	28	33	9	6
July	21	22	10	5
August	31	29	10	7
September	23	24	9	6
October	26	23	9	9
November	20	26	10	3
December	14	17	4	0
Cumulative for 2011	240	240	Ave = 11	0

Table 2. Year 2011 wetland site visits.

Year	Total Site Visits	Average Processing Time (Days)
1993	176	N/A
1994	232	N/A
1995	198	N/A
1996	193	N/A
1997	192	N/A
1998	229	N/A
1999	216	N/A
2000	213	12
2001	267	10
2002	297	7
2003	266	11
2004	341	13
2005	346	29
2006	444	28
2007	333	14
2008	297	13
2009	357	14
2010	271	13
2011	240	11

Table 3. Average processing time for wetland site visits. Data not available from 1993 to 1999.

In 2011 the distribution of wetland site visits in counties continued to follow the trend notes since 2005 (Table 4.). Essex and Warren counties see the greatest number of wetland site visits with Franklin and Clinton the next largest number. These are the most populous and economically active counties within the Park.

County	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Clinton	22	27	21	22	30	18	22
Essex	68	115	64	68	87	66	56
Franklin	56	48	43	26	39	37	32
Fulton	16	36	17	18	27	14	16
Hamilton	34	39	37	34	45	21	19
Herkimer	19	22	22	25	17	14	11
Lewis	9	3	3	2	4	2	5
Oneida	4	10	6	4	5	0	2
Saratoga	11	17	10	4	9	3	4
St. Lawrence	19	12	12	12	10	12	16
Warren	79	103	79	73	70	71	50
Washington	9	12	19	9	14	12	7
	346	444	333	297	357	270	240

Table 4. Wetland site visits by County from 2005 through 2011.

Figure 5 provides a graphic representation of the 2011 data. Again, Essex, Warren, Franklin and Clinton received the bulk of wetland site visits.

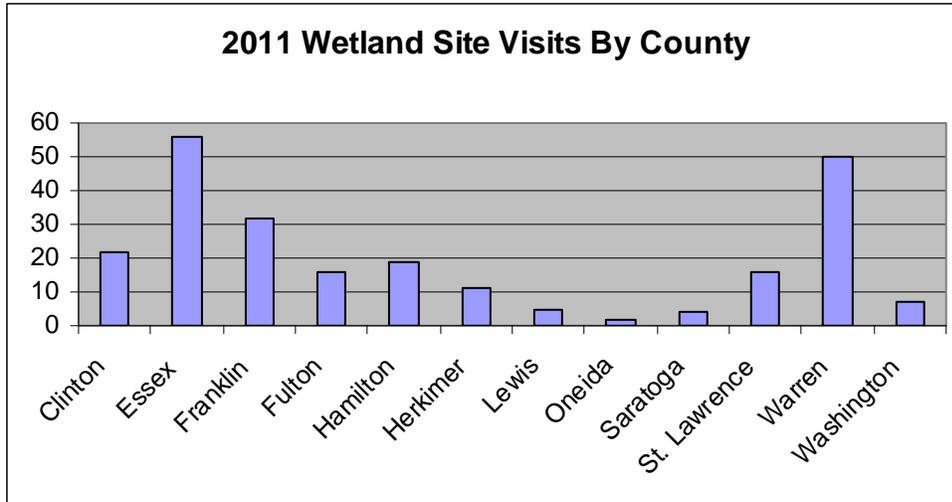


Figure 5. Wetland site visits by County for 2011.

Figure 6 provides a graphic representation of the trend data. Total number of site visits have fluctuated by year probably due to economic conditions, but there is little change in relative number of wetland site visits by county.

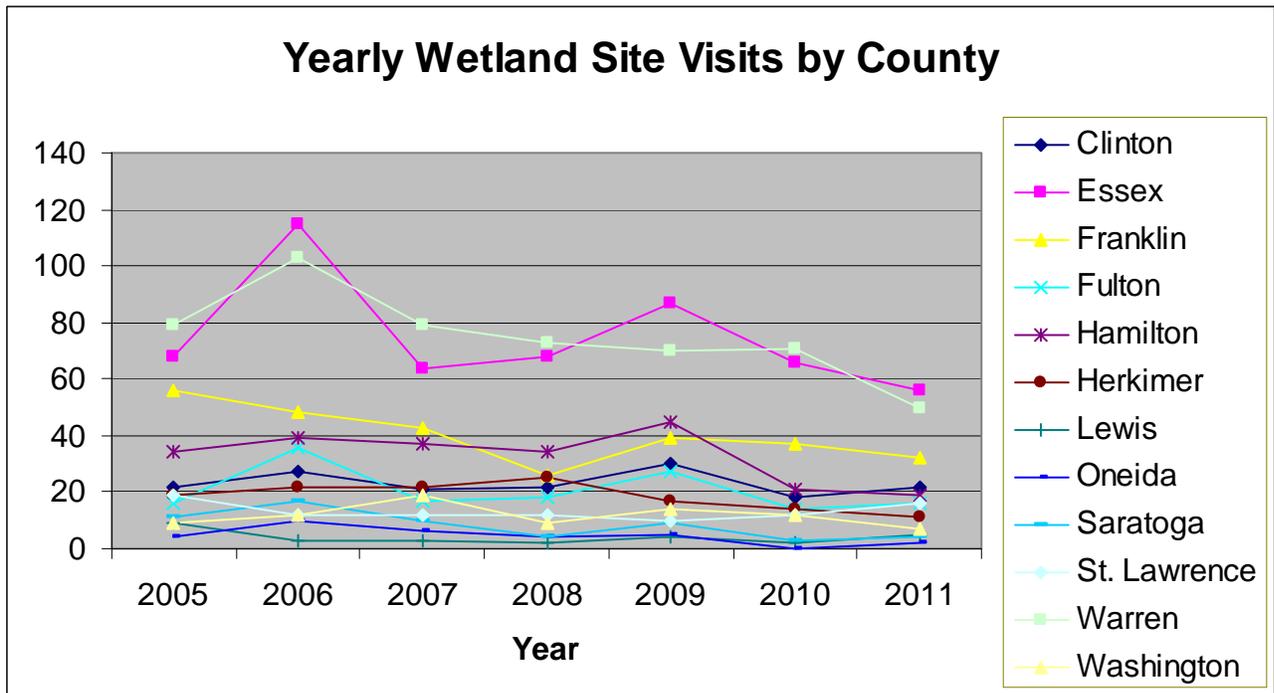


Figure 6. Wetland site visits by County from 2005 through 2011.

Table 5 and Figure 7 document the number of wetland site visits conducted in each Land Use Area for the years 2005 through 2011. This shows a relatively even distribution across land use areas with Resource Management typically having the lowest annual numbers.

LUA	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
LI	61	97	75	64	60	48	50
MI	90	113	79	59	87	51	47
RM	30	38	37	42	39	38	29
HA	53	71	59	48	52	36	41
RU	98	116	73	72	102	73	53
IT					1	1	
IN	2	3	4		1	2	1
SA		1				1	
WF	6	3	3	6	4	11	12
WD	1			1			
Pending multiple						1	7
Total	341	442	330	292	346	262	240

Table 5. Wetland site visits by Land Use Area from 2005 through 2011.

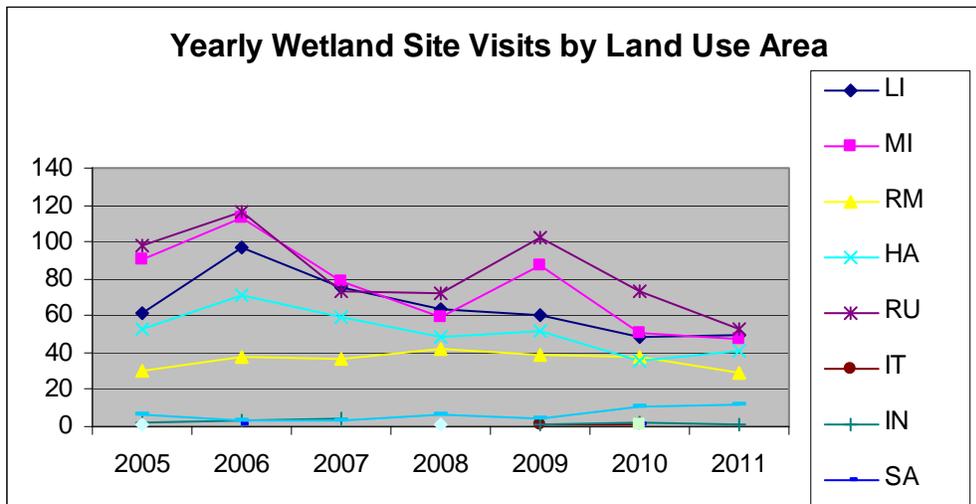


Figure 7. Wetland site visits by Land Use Area from 2005 through 2011.

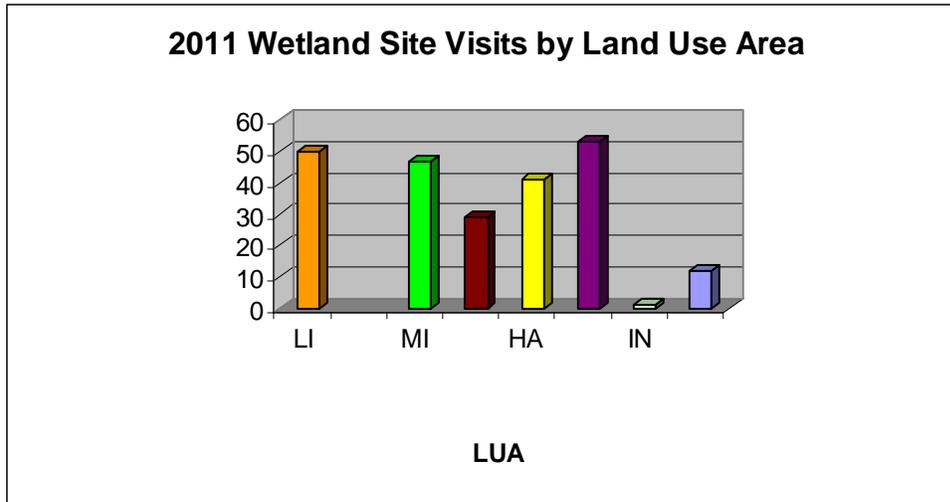


Figure 8. Wetland site visits by Land Use Area for 2011.

RASS receives requests for wetland site visits from several sources. The numeric and graphic displays in Table 6 and Figures 9 and 10 indicate that the distribution across request sources is relatively even and has remained consistent.

	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Regulatory Programs	20	40	58	57	43	52	75	56	49
JIF Office	81	65	58	95	69	55	50	49	39
Enforcement	41	54	36	84	77	64	89	59	40
Requests from the Public	124	184	195	207	143	126	143	106	112

Table 6. Wetland site visits by request source from 2003 through 2011.

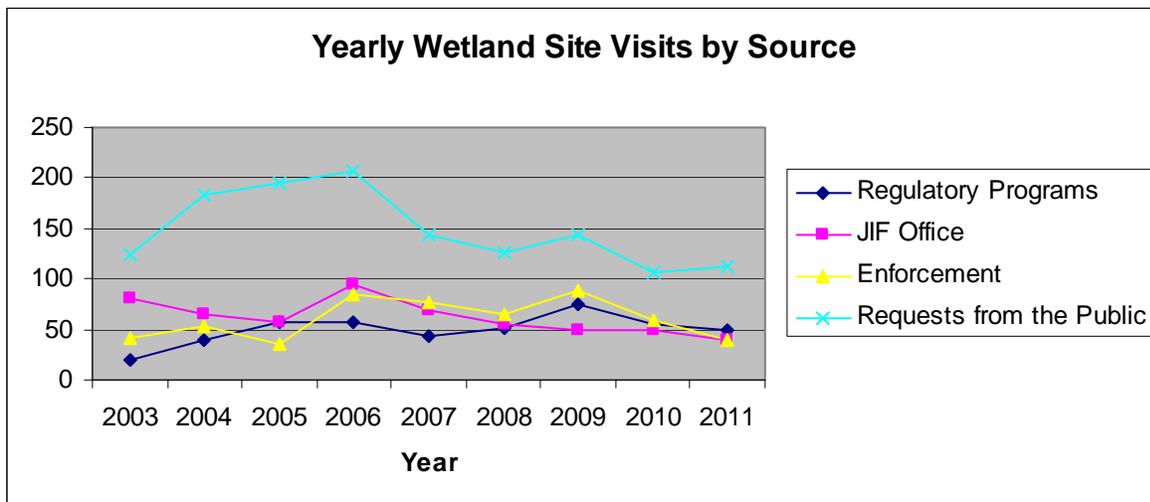


Figure 9. Wetland site visits by request source from 2003 through 2011.

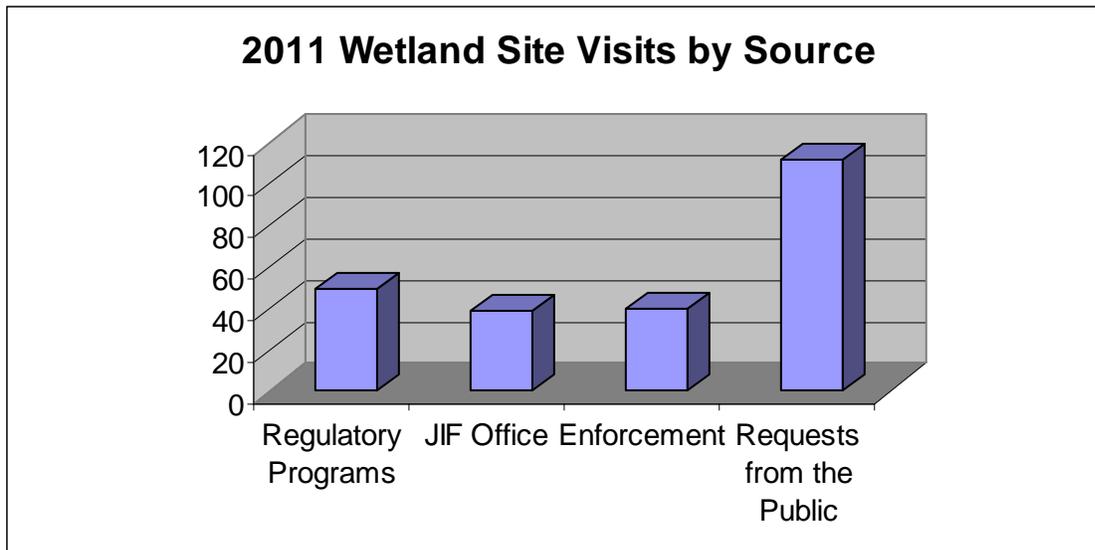


Figure 10. Wetland site visits by request source for 2011.

### Surface Waters

The condition of surface waters (lakes, ponds, rivers and streams) affect residents of the Park in many ways including quality of recreational activities and human health. Often surface water quality is indicative of other less visible problems within the watershed. Nuisance aquatic plants, invasive species, algal blooms, basin infilling, and delta growth are all symptoms of larger problems within the watershed. RASS staff takes a holistic approach to these water quality issues by analyzing the causes of the symptoms and attempting to educate the stakeholders on preventive and restoration measures. Requiring adequate shoreline setbacks and intact vegetational buffer zones, and requiring design and implementation of appropriate stormwater management plans are essential parts of this holistic approach.

### Forests

The privately owned forests of the Adirondacks are perhaps the most visible natural resource. There are factors such as invasive pests and pathogens, climate disruption and acidic deposition that pose the threat of severe impairment. Some of these are global or statewide issues that we here in the Park have only a peripheral ability to counter. However, the Agency does have the ability to encourage good forest management practices that will result in a resilient, healthy forest more capable of resisting the perturbation factors noted above. This year RASS staff has drafted a general permit for silvicultural prescriptions that trigger "clearcut" jurisdiction in an attempt to provide an incentive to undertake and complete harvesting treatments that reduce "high grading", dominance by undesirable species, reductions in biodiversity and unhealthy forest conditions. We feel this is a major step in advancing the implementation of a scientific

silvicultural approach to forest management in the Park and part of sustainable forest management.

**EPA Grants**

In October the Agency was awarded an Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Wetland Protection Program Development (WPPD) grant entitled, "Detecting Climate Change in Wetlands in the Adirondack Park". The grant total is \$308,816 with the Federal share being \$227,005. This is the 14<sup>th</sup> EPA WPPD grant award that the RASS Division has garnered dating back to 1993 and totaling over \$3 million dollars.

During December RASS staff continued consultation with partners from New York Natural Heritage Program, State University of New York Environmental Science and Forestry's Adirondack Ecological Center and Northern Forest Institute, and Paul Smith's College Center for Adirondack Biodiversity to plan for grant implementation.

**Committee and Organizational Affiliations**

List of Committees or Organizations in which RASS Staff Participate

<b>Committee Name</b>	<b>Staff Participant</b>	<b>Number of Meetings in 2011</b>
Mohawk Watershed Advisory Committee	Rooks	just email and document review
Lake Champlain Ecosystem Team	Rooks	1
GIS User's Group	Rooks	2
Interagency Wetlands Working Group	Rooks	1
NY Interagency Review Team (ACOE mitigation)	Rooks	3
Adirondack Park Regional Spoils Management Guidance Team	Rooks	1
APA Technical Information Committee	Rooks	0
Interagency Wetlands Working Group	O'Dell	1
APIPP Emerald Ash Borer Outreach Committee	O'Dell	2
Lewis County Envirothon test writing committee	O'Dell	1
GIS User's Group	O'Dell	1
Lake Champlain Basin Program Technical Advisory Committee	Snizek	meets monthly (term expires 2014)
Lake Champlain Basin Program Aquatic Nuisance Species	Snizek	meets quarterly
Adirondack Aquatic Nuisance	Snizek	meets quarterly

Species Committee		
Champlain Watershed Improvement Coalition of New York (CWICNY)	Snizek	meets monthly (non-voting member)
Northeast Aquatic Plant Management Society (NEAPMS)	Snizek	annual meeting only
New York State Federation of Lake Association (NYSFOLA)	Snizek	annual meeting only
Adirondack Park Invasive Plant Program (APIPP)	Spada	2
Lake Champlain Basin Program Rapid Response Team	Spada	2
Interagency Wetlands Working Group	Spada	1
Adirondack Research Consortium (President)	Spada	4
Invasive Species Advisory Network for the combined NY Invasive Species Clearinghouse (NYIS.INFO) and Cornell Cooperative Extension Statewide Invasive Species Education Program (CCE ISP).	Spada	Undetermined number of email information requests. 2 meetings per year by phone.
NYS Invasive Species Council	Spada	4
Project Advisory Committee, NYSEDA Biodiversity and Energy Development Mapping Project	Spada	1-4 by phone.
Boquet River Association (BRASS) Advisory Committee	Spada	1-4
The Wild Center Science Advisory Committee	Spada	? Hasn't met in several years
Lake Champlain Ecosystem Team	Spada	1
Adirondack Park Institute (Board Member)	Spada	4

**RASS Monthly Report December 2011**

**Development Review**

RASS staff participated in a meeting with other Agency staff to discuss the Carnes project in Speculator. As a result of the third NIPA the proposed wetland impact increased from 300 square feet to 900 square feet. (Dan Spada, Shaun LaLonde, Mark Rooks)

RASS staff reviewed an application for the Lake Placid Power Pond dam removal. This project involves removal of the dam and other items necessary for successful dam removal, including:

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- restoration of the Chubb River in the current impoundment location
- compensatory wetland mitigation of 0.8 acres
- replacement and relocation of the sewer line which runs under the current impoundment.

It should be noted that there is potential for serious environmental damage to the West Branch of the Ausable River from failure of this old sewer line. (Shaun LaLonde, Mark Rooks)

RASS staff provided consultation and advice for a proposed mine amendment in the Town of Lewis. The landowner is proposing to alter the original phasing sequence and to relocate the access points into the mine. Key points for this amendment include visual impact, impact to adjoining landowners, impacts to groundwater, and sedimentation among others. (Greg Bendell)

RASS staff and other Agency staff visited a site in Keene for a 2 lot subdivision in a Hamlet Land Use Area (A2011-0161). One lot will be retained for the construction of a new SFD and the original lot, containing an existing SFD, will be sold. Soils were very stony but well drained. Site was approved for a conventional on-site wastewater treatment system. No other environmental issues were identified. (Greg Bendell, Ron Tucker, Mary O'Dell)

RASS staff and other Agency staff visited a site in Northampton for an eight lot sub-division in a Rural Land Use Area (A2011-0107). Due to time constraints only 5 deep-hole test pits were excavated. One site was approved for a conventional wastewater treatment system, 3 sites were approved for shallow systems, and one site did not meet Agency guidelines due to shallow groundwater. The project sponsor is selling the land and needed to prove to the prospective buyer that it could be developed. The new owner will prepare a site plan based on the information from the field investigation. At that time a second visit will be scheduled to complete the remaining test pit investigations. (Ron Tucker, Mary O'Dell, Shaun LaLonde)

RASS staff and other Agency staff visited a site in Newcomb for a 3 lot subdivision involving wetlands (P2011-0118). Soils data were submitted for two out of the three lots. This data only provided information to a depth of approximately four feet. Backhoe was not available onsite to confirm depth to bedrock. Soils were very bouldery making shovel work impossible in those locations. Shallow on-site wastewater treatment systems (OSWTs) were approved for the 2 lots. The third lot had an exposed soil face near a buildable area. This profile was used to approve a conventional OSWTs for this lot. (Ron Tucker)

RASS staff and other Agency staff conducted a site visit in Essex to relocate a previously permitted building envelope under Agency permit

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1991-0341 from approximately 1000 feet from county highway 12 to approximately 250 feet from highway 12 (P1991-0341A). The project sponsor helped hand dig the test pit in the newly proposed location to a depth of 4 feet. Seasonal high groundwater was identified at 39". The site was approved for a shallow absorption wastewater treatment system. No other environmental issues were identified. (Ron Tucker)

RASS staff and other Agency staff conducted a site visit in Keene for the construction of an on-site wastewater treatment system within 100 feet of a wetland in a Hamlet Land Use Area (A2011-0156). Wetlands were flagged and it was determined that the majority of the property was "wet". Two test pits were excavated. The first test pit was 15 feet from a wetland and 100 feet from Dart Brook and contained 12" of usable soil. The second test pit was 60 feet from Dart Brook (variance required) and 15 feet to a wetland and contained 24" of usable soil. Due to the legal issues surrounding this lot an alternative system in the vicinity of TP1 may be entertained. This project is still ongoing. (Ron Tucker, Mary O'Dell, Greg Bendell)

Additional projects for December:

P2010-0169 Town of Keene - The project includes a thirteen (13) lot subdivision in a Resource Management Land Use Area comprising ±1,336 acres. Significant RASS review topics include review of Master Plan and reassignment of principal building rights, stormwater management and on-site wastewater treatment system design.

P2011-0113 Town of Wilmington - The project includes a 3 lot subdivision, involving wetlands, in a Rural Land Use Area with the construction of single-family dwellings (SFD) on each lot. Significant review topics include erosion and sediment control and on-site wastewater treatment system design.

P2011-0195 Town of Keene - The project proposal includes a new single-family dwelling in a Resource Management Land Use Area within a Recreational River Area. Significant review topics include development on or adjacent to steep slopes (>20 percent), potential visibility, on-site wastewater treatment system design, erosion control and potential blasting.

P2011-0181 Lake Placid - The project application is complete. Significant issues addressed included stormwater management and municipal sewer connection.

P2011-0204 Lake Placid - The project includes the conversion of 20 existing rental cabins into individual SFD lots. Significant review issues include shoreline (Lake Placid), parking, municipal sewer connection, and DOH/DEC coordination.

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P2011-0202 (Variance) Tupper Lake - The variance application materials for a proposed expansion of a single family dwelling in a Rural Land Use Area within the shoreline setback. Significant issues include assessment of alternatives to the proposed variance. A field visit will be conducted shortly to discuss and assess alternatives.

P2011-0207 Town of Long Lake - The project is a two-lot subdivision involving wetlands on an island in Raquette Lake. Significant review issues include on-site wastewater treatment system design.

P2011-0001 Town of Fort Ann - This project is for a 1-3 lot subdivision in a Rural Land Use Area. Shallow groundwater has been reported at this site. A site visit is to be scheduled to determine development potential.

A2011-0157 Town of Webb - This project involves the construction of a new SFD in a Resource Management Land Use Area. Two existing dwellings currently reside onsite. This project will also involve a principal building right transfer. Soils data was submitted without indication of who performed the profile analysis. Soils should be adequate for a conventional onsite wastewater treatment system (OSWTS). RASS staff is currently awaiting engineered stamped plans.

P2011-0008 Town of North Elba - This project is an 8 lot subdivision in a Rural Land Use Area. A newly submitted soil profile description for an area that had been previously determined unfit for an OSWTS was recently received and reviewed by Agency staff. The soil profile description matched the detailed soil description of the area. A site visit is planned to ensure adequate area for the OSWTS and 100% replacement.

P1991-0341A Essex - Relocate previously permitted building envelope closer to the access road. Wetlands and shallow groundwater indicated.

Asian clam update- Dredging at Treasure Cove completed last week. Preliminary data is indicating that use of a suction dredge may not be as effective at removing A. clam as previously thought. (Ed Snizek)

#### **Enforcement**

RASS staff worked with Enforcement staff on settlement agreement details for the Equity Lifestyle/Lake George Escape Enforcement case. This involves apparent wetland fill undertaken by the previous owner. (Mark Rooks)

RASS staff and other Agency staff visited a site on Lower Saranac Lake to investigate a potential shoreline cutting violation (E2011-0190). Tree removal was determined to be in compliance (30% of trees). The property had 110ft of deeded lake front. Shoreline vegetation removal

was also found to be within compliance (30% of shoreline). Silt fence was in place and site was found to be stable.

Additional Enforcement activities for December:

E2011-0122 Town of Johnsburg - Reviewed and approved engineered on-site wastewater treatment system design pursuant to terms of executed settlement agreement.

E2011-0028 Town of Putnam - Conducted site visit and determined a violation consisting of a structure within the shoreline (Lake George) setback had occurred. Significant RASS review issues include whether the structure is functionally and structurally integrated and to offer proposed resolution to the case.

E2010-0011 Town of Fine - Reviewed and approved engineered on-site wastewater treatment system design pursuant to terms of executed settlement agreement. Project involves shoreline on Oswegatchie River.

E2011-0011/E2011-0108 Town of Belmont/Franklin - Field visits were conducted with enforcement staff for purposes of determining compliance with recommended settlement resolution and investigation of a proposed structure setback violation.

### **Jurisdiction**

RASS staff reviewed a development proposal for a Price Chopper complex in the Town of Lake George just outside Warrensburg in a Hamlet Land Use Area (J2011-0587). Potential jurisdiction included potential erosion and stormwater runoff impacts to wetlands and potential variance jurisdiction of structure within the shoreline setback of Schroon River. Based upon review of the Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPP), it was determined that stormwater runoff from the proposed activity will not impinge upon or otherwise substantially affect the wetland.

With regards to potential variance jurisdiction RASS staff offered an analysis of the mean high water mark for Town of Lake George consideration. The Town of Lake George has an Agency approved Local Land Use Program and administers the Shoreline Restrictions. (Shaun LaLonde, Mark Rooks, Mary O'Dell)

Additional Jurisdictional determinations for December:

J2011-0588A, Town of Belmont - Proposed clearcut in river area by Mountain View lake. Landowner wanted to remove more than 1/3 of a commercial timber stand located between 100ft and 1/4th mile of a recreational river. Project determined non-jurisdictional due to its location: Moderate Intensity.

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### **Planning**

Read a draft document from the Buffalo District Corps of Engineers, Compensatory Stream Mitigation Standard Operation Procedures and Guidelines. (Mark Rooks)

### **Training and Outreach**

As a member of the Spoils Management Guidance Team, reviewed a draft document from DOT Region 1 titled Draft Regional Design Instruction, Spoil Management on Regional Design Projects. (Mark Rooks)

### **Wetlands**

RASS wetlands biologists carried out several field visits to determine and delineate wetlands as well as other wetlands related activities including:

- Consulted with a developer and his consultant about a possible wetland restoration project to be undertaken in conjunction with landscaping for a hotel in Schroon Lake. RASS delineated this wetland in 2007 and noted that it was totally infested with common reed. At that time RASS staff discussed controlling the invasive, restoring the wetland while incorporating a pond or other landscaped feature that would be attractive in a hotel-type setting and at the same time act as a functional wetland. The project sponsor is apparently now ready to undertake the hotel project and remembered our conversation.
- Reviewed a State Land JIF/Wetlands general permit application for trail rerouting and bog bridging in the Town of Croghan. RASS staff had previously performed an air photo interpretation to determine that the proposed structures were in jurisdictional wetlands.
- Field visit to Caroga Lake to investigate a violation involving fill associated with an access road. Much of the fill for the access road to the dock was old and became apparent in the air photos when trees were cleared near the road. The landowner agreed to remove the recent fill near his dock.
- Enforcement site visit to Town of Chester. An old road through a wetland had been top-dressed with rocks, but no violation was found.
- Field visit to Tupper Lake for an Enforcement case. Air photo interpretation indicated that there were jurisdictional wetlands on the lot in question but field examination determined that there were none. There were, in fact, two isolated sub-acre wetlands resulting from old borrow pits.

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- Conducted a site visit in the Town of Hague to make a wetland determination for access to a newly created lot. The subdivision involved wetlands that had already occurred without Agency approval and therefore was referred to Enforcement. Significant issues regarding wetlands, erosion and sedimentation, steep slopes, access to the lot and placement of an on-site wastewater treatment system will need to be reviewed in the spring.
- Accompanied enforcement staff to the Village of Dannemora to conduct a joint investigation with DEC for wetland filling and impacts to a classified stream adjacent to the Town garage. Site stabilization measures have been implemented. Wetland remediation work will commence next summer.
- Accompanied enforcement staff to the Town of Clare to investigate several areas of wetland fill and excavation as well as a dam replacement. The landowner agreed to remove bridges and piles of fill from wetlands. The newly replaced dam needs engineering review.
- Accompanied enforcement staff to the Town of Newcomb to investigate a case of wetland fill and permit non-compliance. The landowner had received a permit to cross a wetland to gain access to a building site. The road construction was extended beyond the permitted area into a second wetland area. Staff marked areas of wetland fill to be removed to bring the project back into compliance.
- A survey map of the wetland delineation that was completed in November for the Town of Tupper Lake's garage site was received. The map depicts areas of old fill and will serve to prevent any future encroachments into the surrounding wetlands.
- Staff delineated a wetland for for the Lake George Park Commission. The project involved a storm water sewer upgrade project which outlets in a wetland in the Village of Lake George.

RASS staff provided 25 air photo interpretations for wetland determinations and completed 3 GIS projects for: JIFs, Landowners, Enforcement cases, Reg Program projects, and towns. (Mark Rooks)

Although dandelions were blooming on the 1st, December brought the end of the field season.

#### **Meetings/Events Attended**

RASS staff attended the Lake Champlain Basin Project (LCBP) monthly Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) meeting (12/8/11). The TAC was advised that the proposed Flood Conference will likely be in Québec in

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early February, a follow-up workshop in NY in April, and a one- or two day conference in Vermont in June. Staff from NYSDEC is assisting in organizing the agenda for the proposed conference dates. (Ed Snizek)

DMS:lhb

cc: RASS Staff

**M E M O R A N D U M**

**TO:** Dan Spada  
**FROM:** Ron Tucker, Jr.  
**DATE:** December 23, 2011  
**SUBJECT:** DHTP December Statistics

DATE	Agency Prefix Code	Agency Reference Number	Town	Land Use Area	Slope %	SHGWT (inches)	Bedrock (inches)	OWTS (Shallow, Conventional, DMG)	Shallow System Due to SHGWT (Yes/No)	WL Setback (ft)	WB Setback (ft)	Soil Series	Agency Described (Yes/No)	DHTP done by?
12/05/11	A	2011-0156	Keene	H	1	12	>48	DMG	NA	15	100	Rumney	Yes	RAT
12/05/11	A	2011-0156	Keene	H	10	24	>48	DMG	NA	15	60	Rumney	Yes	RAT
12/05/11	A	2011-0161	Keene	H	3	>48	>72	Conventional	NA	>100	>200	Duxbury	Yes	RAT
12/07/11	A	2011-0107	Northampton	RU	4	>48	>72	Conventional	NA	145	145	Woodbridge	Yes	RAT
12/07/11	A	2011-0107	Northampton	RU	6	24	>48	Shallow	Yes	>100	100	Woodbridge	Yes	RAT
12/07/11	A	2011-0107	Northampton	RU	6	24	>48	Shallow	Yes	120	>100	Woodbridge	Yes	RAT
12/07/11	A	2011-0107	Northampton	RU	4	24	>48	Shallow	Yes	>100	>100	Woodbridge	Yes	RAT
12/07/11	A	2011-0107	Northampton	RU	7	24	>48	Shallow	Yes	>100	>100	Woodbridge	Yes	RAT
12/13/11	P	1991-0341A	Essex	LI	4	39	>63	Shallow	Yes	>100	>200	Georgia	Yes	RAT
12/20/11	A	2011-0157	Webb	RM	> 8	>48	>72	Conventional	NA	>100	>100	Colton	No	
12/20/11	A	2011-0157	Webb	RM	> 8	>48	>72	Conventional	NA	>100	>100	Colton	No	
12/22/11	P	2011-0118	Newcomb	HA	2	>48	>56	Shallow	No	>100	>100	Monadnock	No	
12/22/11	P	2011-0118	Newcomb	HA	3	>48	>48	Shallow	No	>100	>100	Monadnock	No	
12/22/11	P	2011-0118	Newcomb	HA	1	>48	>72	Conventional	NA	>100	>100	Monadnock	Yes	RAT