

## **2017 Regulatory Programs Annual Report**

### **Telecommunication Projects**

In 2017, the Agency issued 10 telecommunications permits and amendments. Of the 10, five permits authorized new towers, including: 2 new simulated tree towers, in the Town of Schroon, 1 new micro-cell utility pole in the Town of Tupper Lake, and 2 public safety radio towers in Hamilton County (1 new tower on East Mt and 1 “replacement” tower next to the county offices). Five permits and amendments were for antenna replacements and co-locations on existing, free standing towers. In addition, two letters of permit compliance were issued in 2017, authorizing new replacement equipment on existing telecommunications facilities. Also in 2017, review of four additional telecommunication projects continued and 17 new pre-applications (17) were initiated for telecommunications projects.

### **Variances**

The Agency issued 9 variances in 2017, following variance hearings conducted for each. One variance Order / Class A Project Permit approved a new 93 room, four story hotel on the shoreline of Lake Flower in the Village of Saranac Lake, which included component structures located within the shoreline setback. Four variances were issued for expansions of existing dwellings located within the shoreline setback. Two variances were issued for the construction of retaining walls. One variance from the minimum shoreline lot width requirement for a new single family dwelling on a vacant lot was issued. Also issued was a variance authorizing the replacement and expansion of a municipal water building on the shoreline of Lake Champlain in the Town of Essex.

### **Commercial Use Projects**

17 commercial use permits were approved in 2017, including 6 for commercial sand and gravel extractions, 3 authorizing new commercial use campgrounds and/or new campground structures, and 2 commercial boat storage facilities. Noteworthy Commercial permits include: P2016-50, authorizing the new 93 room, four story hotel on the shoreline of Lake Flower in the Village of Saranac Lake; P2016-226 authorizing construction of commercial facilities for WhistelPig Wiskey Company in the Town of Moriah; P2016-189 authorizing a commercial medivac helicopter airport in Ticonderoga; P2017-137 for a small hotel in Elizabethtown; P2016-38 authorizing a new seasonal restaurant in Northampton; and P2017-76 for a commercial adventure ropes course in the Town of North Elba.

### **Subdivision Projects**

71 Subdivision permits were issued including 11 subdivision projects approved for 3 or more lots. P2016-114 authorized a 17 lot subdivision (16 new single family dwellings) on Resource Management a land in the Town of North Elba, Essex County. P2016-129, authorized 5 new single family lots on Rural Use land in the Town of Franklin, Franklin County. P2016-210 approved the subdivision of a 5,828± acre parcel classified Resource Management and Rural Use into 9 lots subject to conservation easements prohibiting any further subdivision or new land use or development on the lots.

### **Silvicultural Treatments**

Three projects were approved in 2017 for new Silvicultural Treatments, including: P2016-186 which authorized a 295± acre timber harvest of Lyme Timber Company's 16,898 Black Brook Tract; P2017-70 which authorized a 458± acre timber harvest of Lyme Timber Company's 23,

641± acre Iron Ore Tract in the Town of Westport; and P2017-133 which authorized a 264 ± acre timber harvest of Lyme Timber Company's 26,000± acre Big Moose Tract.

### **State Agency Projects**

The Agency issued two §814 Orders for State Agency Projects in 2017. Order P2017-80 approved boat inspection and decontamination facilities at two NYSDOT pull-offs. Order P2017-31 authorized the replacement of 38 utility poles greater than 40 feet in height within the NYS route 374 highway right-of-way in the Towns of Belmont, Dannemora and Ellenburg.

### **General Permits**

The Agency issued 30 General Permits in 2017, including 3 for the management of Aquatic and terrestrial invasive species. 18 of the 30 General Permit were issued for minor impacts to wetlands, most of which were related to road improvements/replacement projects, including culvert and bridge replacements.

### **Initiatives**

Staff in the Regulatory Programs Division worked on various Agency initiatives in 2017, including revisions and updates to the Variance Application and Large scale subdivision application. A SLSM visual impact Assessment training was also organized by the Regulatory Programs Division and presented to Agency all staff.