



**NATURAL RESOURCES BOARD**

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**Date: December 7, 2018**

**To: The Act 47 Commission on Act 250**

**From: Diane Snelling, Chair, Vermont Natural Resources Board**

**Re: Permit Processing Data**

During its November 30, 2018 hearing, the Commission heard testimony from JFO concerning certain inconsistencies in the data from the NRB. We have advised the Commission on numerous occasions that we are aware of the problem and are working to correct the situation.

These inconsistencies resulted from past procedures that allowed district offices to follow different protocols and standards for inputting data. The NRB is finalizing a new IT system which should address this issue by providing more reliable data input going forward. The NRB began this project in 2016, largely in an effort to modernize data input and to insure consistency across district offices. The new IT system will replace three separate databases for improved search capacity and accurate record keeping, as well as providing new data fields to comprehensively capture each stage of the permit process.

It's important to know that what we have reported is for the total elapsed time to issue a permit. That means the times include acquiring ANR permits and any delays waiting for materials from the applicant.

I regret if there was any sense of surprise with the testimony regarding NRB data. Until the new IT system is complete, the materials and comparisons represent our best effort, and do show useful averages based on recent data.

Please feel free to reach out to me with any questions that you may have with respect to this issue.