

Dear Representatives Sheldon, Sibia, and Bongartz,

I write to you in my personal capacity as a citizen and based on my experience and not on behalf of the Natural Resources Board.

I am deeply concerned about the effort to exempt review of GMP projects for any amount of time. I'm the District 2 Coordinator (Windham and southern half of Windsor counties) and have been with the NRB for 10 years. The GMP applications with long processing times almost all came from my district because the D2 Commission held hearings on the impact from the toxic, chemically treated utility poles on water quality (both for humans and the environment) under Criterion 1 Water Quality. The Pentachlorophenol from the poles can get into drinking water supplies and groundwater. The District 2 Commission has developed a protocol with GMP so that they know what information they need to provide (the location of drinking water sources for one thing) and once they've amassed the information they know the requirements for avoidance as part of the Act 250 review. This has enabled the more recent GMP applications to be processed without a hearing, and therefore more quickly.

Criterion 1 Water Quality is not covered by ANR leaving only the District Commission's review. Additionally, the review from Fish & Wildlife under Criterion 1(E) and 8(A) does not occur without the Act 250 process. Criterion 1(D) Floodways issues also routinely come up in Act 250 review of GMP projects as well as Criterion 8 Historic Preservation, mostly archeology but also sometimes historic structures. Review of these criteria is completely dependent on Act 250 review. (Criterion 8 Aesthetics is another review that will also be lost).

District 2 has many more 1-acre towns than 10-acre towns and I know GMP has a number of upcoming projects in D2. None of the previously mentioned D2 projects were denied and now that we've painstakingly developed a protocol to protect water quality through the Act 250 process, it is devastating and alarming to see it all discarded at the eleventh hour.

I'd be happy to provide more information or citations or anything else you'd like but I implore you not to support this measure. Please feel free to share with other legislative members.

Respectfully,  
Stephanie Gile

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