

New York State Department of Environmental Conservation

Regional Director, Region 6

Dulles State Office Building

317 Washington Street, Watertown, New York 13601-3787

Phone: (315) 785-2239 • Fax: (315) 785-2242

Website: www.dec.ny.gov



Joe Martens
Commissioner

September 8, 2011

Dear Town Supervisor Gokey:

As directed by Governor Andrew Cuomo, the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation has issued an emergency authorization for 30 days so that local governments and private landowners can expedite emergency construction, repairs and maintenance due to the damage caused by Hurricane Irene in order to protect life, health and property.

The emergency authorization will cover the areas located in the Oneida and Herkimer County portions of DEC's Region 6 along with other areas to the east and south of Oneida and Herkimer Counties. The emergency authorization will allow communities and landowners to immediately undertake steps to repair damage caused by the hurricane without the need for an individual permit. Anyone performing work under the emergency authorization should notify DEC as soon as possible (preferably before the work is performed) of the location and scope of the work being performed. Please be mindful that the work allowed by this emergency authorization must be immediately necessary to address an imminent threat to life, health, property, the general welfare and natural resources. This authorization expires on October 1, 2011.

DEC staff will also be available to issue general permits in the field after consultation with municipalities and landowners and will be on hand to explain guidelines to them. Obtaining General Permits helps ensure proper financial reimbursement to landowners and municipalities through Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). FEMA historically has required entities to obtain a state permit when performing emergency work to ensure that the work is done in an environmentally sound manner. General permits issued by DEC and also the field visits are intended to help ensure that the emergency response work undertaken by municipalities and individuals in the state's protected streams does not exacerbate the flood risks of upstream and downstream communities, landowners and municipalities now and in the future.

The emergency authorization and General Permit, as well as directions for applying, can be found at <http://www.dec.ny.gov/permits/6061.html>

Please share this letter with the Town's Highway Superintendent or other official who is responsible for work that would be covered by this authorization and general permit.

Please feel free to contact Pat Clearey, Deputy Regional Permit Administrator, at 315-793-2796, with any questions or concerns about this process. We look forward to assisting you and your community.

Sincerely,

Judy Drabicki
Regional Director, Region 6, NYSDEC