

STATE OF NEW YORK
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION

In the Matter of Violations of
the Environmental Conservation Law
("ECL") Article 24 and Title 6
of the Official Compilation of Codes,
Rules and Regulations of the State of
New York ("6 NYCRR"),

ORDER ON CONSENT

- by -

File No. R4-2008-0711-109

Peter Geist

Respondent

WHEREAS:

1. The Department has jurisdiction over the regulation of work in protected wetlands as shown on the Final Freshwater Wetlands Maps filed by county for the State of New York and described in Article 24 of the Environmental Conservation Law and the rules and regulations promulgated pursuant thereto.

2. Respondent, Peter Geist, owns property in and adjacent to Freshwater Wetland D-60 ("wetland") at 16 Beacon Road in the Town of Glenmont, Albany County ("site"). Respondent's mailing address is: 43 Frontage Road, Glenmont, New York.

3. Respondent is a "person" as defined in 6 NYCRR 663.2(w).

4. Department staff inspected the site on June 23, 2008 and found that fill, consisting of soil, concrete rubble, macadam, stone paving blocks, gravel and bricks, had been placed in the adjacent area of the wetland without a permit by National Grid at the request of, and with written permission from, Respondent.

5. ECL § 24-0701(1) & (2) and 6 NYCRR 663.4(d)(20) require that a permit be issued to fill in a protected wetland or an adjacent area to a protected wetland.

6. Respondent's placement of fill in the adjacent area of the wetland without a permit is a violation of ECL § 24-0701(1) & (2) and 6 NYCRR 663.4(d)(20).

7. ECL § 71-2303(1) provides for up to \$3,000 in civil penalties for each violation of a regulation and the restoration of the affected freshwater wetland to its condition prior to the violation.

8. Respondent has affirmatively waived his right to notice and hearing in the manner provided by law and has consented to the issuing and entering of this Order and agrees to be bound by its terms, provisions and conditions contained within the Order.

NOW, having considered this matter and being duly advised, it is ORDERED that:

I. In respect of the aforesaid violation, a civil penalty in the amount of ONE THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED DOLLARS (\$1,500) is hereby assessed against the Respondent. Payment of the civil penalty is due upon the return of a signed and notarized copy of this Order to the Department. The civil penalty shall be paid by certified or bank check made payable to the NYS DEC.

II. The provisions of this Order shall be deemed to bind Respondent, his agents, employees, and all persons, firms, corporations acting under or for him.

III. The terms of this Order shall not be construed to prohibit the Commissioner or his duly authorized representative from exercising any summary abatement powers, either at common law or as granted pursuant to statute or regulation.

IV. Respondent shall indemnify and hold harmless the Department, the State of New York, and their representatives and employees for all claims, suits, actions, damages and costs of every name and description arising out of or resulting from the fulfillment or attempted fulfillment of the provisions hereof by Respondent, his directors, officers, employees, servants, agents, successors or assigns.

V. No change in this Order shall be made or become effective except as set forth by a written order of the Commissioner or the Commissioner's designee.

VI. Respondent shall allow duly authorized representatives of the DEC access to the site without proper notice, at such times as may be desirable or necessary in order for the DEC to inspect and determine the status of Respondent's compliance with this Order, the ECL and regulations promulgated thereunder.

VII. The Schedule of Compliance is incorporated into the Order and is enforceable thereunder.

VIII. All communications except where otherwise specifically directed should be sent to:

For Department:
Regional Engineer
New York State Department of Environmental Conservation
Region 4
1130 N. Westcott Road
Schenectady, New York 12306

IX. This Order is deemed effective on the date signed by the Department.

X. Except as specifically provided in this Order, nothing contained in this Order shall be construed as barring, diminishing, adjudicating or in any way affecting:

A. Any legal or equitable rights or claims, actions, proceedings, suits, causes of action or demands whatsoever that the State may have against Respondent for any other violations of the ECL, rules or regulations promulgated thereunder or permits issued thereunder;

B. Any legal or equitable rights or claims, actions, proceedings, suits, causes of action or demands whatsoever that the State may have against anyone other than Respondent, his agents, his servants, his employees, his successors and his assigns;

C. Whatever right the Department has to bring any action or proceeding against Respondent and/or any of Respondent's employees, servants, agents, successors, and assigns with respect to claims for natural resource damages; and

D. Respondent's right to assert all available defenses to any claims, actions, proceedings, suits, causes of actions or demands made or commenced by the State or the Department provided, however, that Respondent waives all legal or equitable rights claims, actions, proceedings, appeals, suits, causes of action, defenses or demands whatsoever that it may have to a judicial review of the validity and binding effect of this Order and whether or not this Order has been entered into voluntarily by Respondent.

XI. A. Whenever the Department's approval of a submittal under the terms of this Order is required, the Department shall review such submittal to determine whether it was prepared, and whether the work done to generate the data and other information in the submittal was done, in accordance with this Order and applicable state and federal regulations and laws and generally accepted technical and scientific principles. The Department shall notify Respondent in writing of its approval or disapproval of the submittal. All Department-approved plans and reports shall be incorporated into and become an enforceable part of this Order.

B. 1. If the Department disapproves a submittal, its notice shall specify the reasons for disapproval. Respondent shall make a revised submittal to the Department within thirty (30) days after receiving written notice of disapproval that specifically addresses all of the Department's stated reasons for disapproving the first submittal.

2. After receipt of the revised submittal from Respondent, the Department shall notify Respondent in writing of its approval or disapproval. If the Department approves the revised submittal, it shall be incorporated into and become an enforceable part of this Order. If the Department disapproves the revised submittal, it shall notify the Respondent in writing and specify its reasons. The Department reserves its right to take whatever action it deems necessary after the second disapproval of a submittal.

XII. Compliance with the terms and conditions of this Order, including the Schedule of Compliance, shall be in full civil settlement of the violations alleged in this Order.

XIII. If more than one Respondent is a signatory to this Order, use of the term "Respondent" in this Order shall be deemed to refer to each Respondent identified in the Order.

DATED: _____, 2008
Rotterdam, New York

Alexander B. Grannis
Commissioner
New York State Department of
Environmental Conservation

BY:

Eugene J. Kelly
Regional Director
Region 4

CONSENT BY RESPONDENT

Respondent hereby consents to the issuing and entering of this Order, waives his right to a hearing herein, and agrees to be bound by the provisions, terms and conditions contained herein.

Peter Geist

DATE:_____

STATE OF NEW YORK)
)ss.:
COUNTY OF)

On the ___ day of _____ in the year ____ before me, the undersigned, a Notary Public in and for the State, personally appeared _____, personally known to me or proved to me on the basis of satisfactory evidence to be the individual whose name is subscribed to the within instrument and acknowledged to me that he executed the same in his capacity, and that by his signature on the instrument, the individual, or the person upon behalf of which the individual acted, executed the instrument.

Notary Public
Qualified in the County of:
My Commission Expires:

SCHEDULE OF COMPLIANCE

1. Respondent shall remove all fill including, but not limited to, soil, brick, paving stone, concrete rubble, gravel, and macadam placed within 100 feet of the flooded depressions down to original grade. The area of intended fill removal is shown in the attached aerial photograph.
2. Respondent shall complete all fill removal by October 1, 2008. Respondent shall contact Karl Parker to arrange an inspection of the work prior to removal of equipment from the work site.
3. All disturbed areas shall be allowed to naturally revegetate. Appropriate sediment and erosion control measures shall be established to prevent impacts to the wetland or its adjacent area.
4. No regulated activity shall be conducted within the wetland or 100 feet of the wetland without a permit first having been issued.