The State of New Hampshire
Department of Environmental Services

Robert R. Scott, Commissioner

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January 13, 2023

His Excellency, Governor Christopher T. Sununu
and The Honorable Council
State House
Concord, NH 03301

REQUESTED ACTION

Authorize the Department of Environmental Services (NHDES) to enter into a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with the Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry (MEACF), in the amount of $15,000 to fund costs associated with New Hampshire's portion of a regional project review and assess geologic stratigraphic correlation inconsistencies across state boundaries in New England, effective upon Governor and Council approval through September 30, 2023. Funding is 100% Pass-Thru Federal Funds.

Funding in the amount of $15,000 is currently budgeted in Account 03-44-44-440010-9114.

EXPLANATION

Since its settlement in the 1600s, geologists have worked to construct the bedrock geologic framework of New England, a task typically managed by each of the individual New England states. This has resulted in bedrock geologic map units that do not align across state boundaries within New England. The United States Geological Survey (USGS) has engaged the six New England states in a joint project to begin the process of achieving seamless bedrock geologic map unit boundaries across state lines.

In April 2021, the six New England State Geological Surveys, inclusive of the New Hampshire Geological Survey (NHGS), entered into a no-cost Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to establish a New England Geologic Mapping Coalition, approved by Governor and Council on April 21, 2021, Item #78, which provides for the mutual cooperation in joint investigations and research projects concerning the earth sciences. The Coalition MOU was specifically established to enable joint projects to understand the commonalities of bedrock structure and surficial materials across New England. The federal USGS is working with the Coalition of states jointly, by providing the project funding to Maine Geological Survey at MEACF, which is distributing the federal funds as pass-through to each of the other Coalition states based on the amount agreed upon when the six states collaborated in assembling the original New England project proposal for submission to USGS. New Hampshire's responsibilities under the project include utilization of an existing part-time Environmentalist II position in NHGS and funded by the grant to collect and organize relevant literature on the geologic units selected on which boundary issues will be addressed as part of the project. The $15,000 being provided to NHDES by MEACF is to fund the part-time Environmentalist II to perform this work.

The part-time Environmentalist II will conduct the literature reviews pertaining to New Hampshire as part of the project, will actively participate in all project meetings, and will work with MEACF to ensure they have all project deliverables in a timely manner to fulfill their responsibilities under the overarching agreement with USGS.

We respectfully request your approval.

Robert R. Scott
Commissioner

MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT
between the
MAINE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, CONSERVATION & FORESTRY
and the
NEW HAMPSHIRE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

Title: Identifying Stratigraphic Problems in New England

I. Purpose of Agreement

This Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) describes the use of $15,000 to be provided by the Maine Geological Survey within the Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation & Forestry, Bureau of Resource Information and Land Use Planning (MEACF) to the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (NHDES) to fund the costs associated with funding of one part-time staff member to fulfill New Hampshire's portion of a regional project to perform a review and assessment of geologic stratigraphic correlation inconsistencies across state boundaries in New England. This MOA will allow MEACF and NHDES to work collaboratively to research and assemble the body of literature that bears on stratigraphic issues in New England as they pertain to New Hampshire and summarize the most significant stratigraphic problems to be resolved.

II. Timeline of Agreement

This MOA is in effect from the date of approval by the Governor and Executive Council of the State of New Hampshire (Effective Date) through September 30, 2023.

For the purposes of this MOA, MEACF, pursuant to 12 M.R.S. § 543(2)(E), and NHDES agree to cooperate as follows:

III. Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation & Forestry

The Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation & Forestry will:

1. Provide $15,000 to NHDES.

2. Provide coordination assistance in planning working team meetings between MEACF, NHDES and other partners involved in this effort being managed by MEACF.

IV. New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services

The New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services will:

1. Collect and organize relevant literature, databases, and other sources that bear on collaboratively selected lithotectonic domains.

2. Select the most significant stratigraphic correlation problems and outline investigations needed to resolve problems, as they pertain to New Hampshire.

3. Make results of the project available to the public via the online NHDES Publications Library.

V. Mutual Agreement of the Parties

It is further understood and agreed to between MEACF and NHDES that:

1. The parties will work collaboratively to review potential lithotectonic domains for investigation.

2. The parties will discuss and summarize the nature of the stratigraphic problems identified during the scope of work under this MOA.

3. The parties will collaboratively assemble in digital formats a list of literature citations and other information that bears on the stratigraphy of selected lithotectonic domains.

VI. Funding, Costs and Payment

Funding to NHDES is available via this MOA from MEACF in the amount of $15,000. This represents New Hampshire's share of work as one of the partner states within a cooperative agreement between the United States Geological Survey and MEACF, which is serving as the regional coordinator of the funding and administration of the project through federal Grant No. G21AC10730-01, administered through State of Maine account 013-01A-6154-61-6401-G760.

NHDES will invoice MEACF using Maine vendor code VC1000067983 for its share of the costs incurred not to exceed the agreement limit of $15,000. Invoices will be submitted by NHDES (PO Box 95, Concord, NH 03302-0095) to MEACF no more frequently than quarterly. MEACF will reimburse NHDES for costs incurred within 30 days of receiving each invoice. Maine will encumber the $15,000 for this agreement under the internal accounting number **CT 01A 20221027*1231**.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the respective parties have hereunto set their hands on the dates indicated.

Stephen M. Dickson

Stephen M. Dickson, Ph.D
State Geologist and Director, Maine Geological Survey
Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation & Forestry

12/1/2022
Date

Randy Charette

for Amanda E. Beal
Commissioner
Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation & Forestry

12/7/2022
Date

Robert R. Scott
Commissioner
New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services

1/12/23
Date

APPROVED as to form, substance, and execution

Assistant Attorney General
Office of the Attorney General
State of New Hampshire

1/20/2023
Date