



REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
NEW ENGLAND DISTRICT CORPS OF ENGINEERS
696 VIRGINIA ROAD
CONCORD MASSACHUSETTS 01742-2751

RECEIVED

SEP 24 2008

Regulatory Division
CENAE-R-51
FILE NUMBER NAE-2008-00154

SEP 18 2008

Raymond Faucher
Maine Dept of Transportation
16 State House Station
Augusta, Maine 04333

Dear Mr Faucher

This refers to your application, number NAE-2008-00154, for a Department of the Army permit to fill waterways and wetlands between Routes 1 and 161 at Caribou, Maine in order to construct a two lane, controlled access bypass highway on new alignment between the two routes

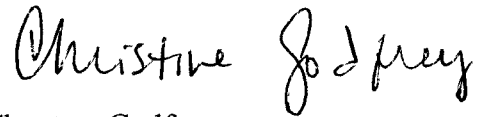
We are currently evaluating your project in accordance with the Clean Water Act and other applicable laws and regulations Section 404(b)(1) of the Clean Water Act, known as the 404(b)(1) Guidelines, are found at 40 CFR 230 The Guidelines require avoiding and minimizing adverse impacts to waters and wetlands, and the selection of a Least Environmentally Damaging Practicable Alternative (LEDPA) Section 230 10 (a) states, "no discharge of dredged or fill material shall be permitted if there is a practicable alternative to the proposed discharge which would have less adverse impact on the aquatic ecosystem, so long as the alternative does not have other significant adverse environmental consequences "

In light of this, we have reviewed your Phase II analysis of alternatives to avoid and minimize adverse impacts to waters and wetlands We have also completed our evaluation of comments received in response to our January 29, 2008 public notice and have determined that Alternative 4B is the LEDPA This alternative includes approximately 3.7 miles of new alignment highway, 0.58 miles of existing highway reconstruction, 0.28 miles of upgrade to Route 161, and 0.3 miles of upgrade to Route 1 Approximately 3.4 acres of wetland and two streams will be impacted by this alternative as shown on the attached plan entitled "CARIBOU-ROUTE 1-161 CONNECTOR, PHASE II ALIGNMENT OPTION 4B" in one sheet dated "November, 2007"

We will now evaluate your project and investigate opportunities for you to minimize and compensate, if necessary, for any adverse impacts the project may have upon waters of the U S , including wetlands We will then review your project in accordance with the Guidelines and our public interest review to determine whether to issue a permit

If you have any questions, please contact Jay Clement of my staff at 207-623-8367 at our Manchester, Maine Project Office

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Christine Godfrey". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "C" and a long, sweeping tail on the "y".

Christine Godfrey
Chief, Regulatory Division

Copies Furnished

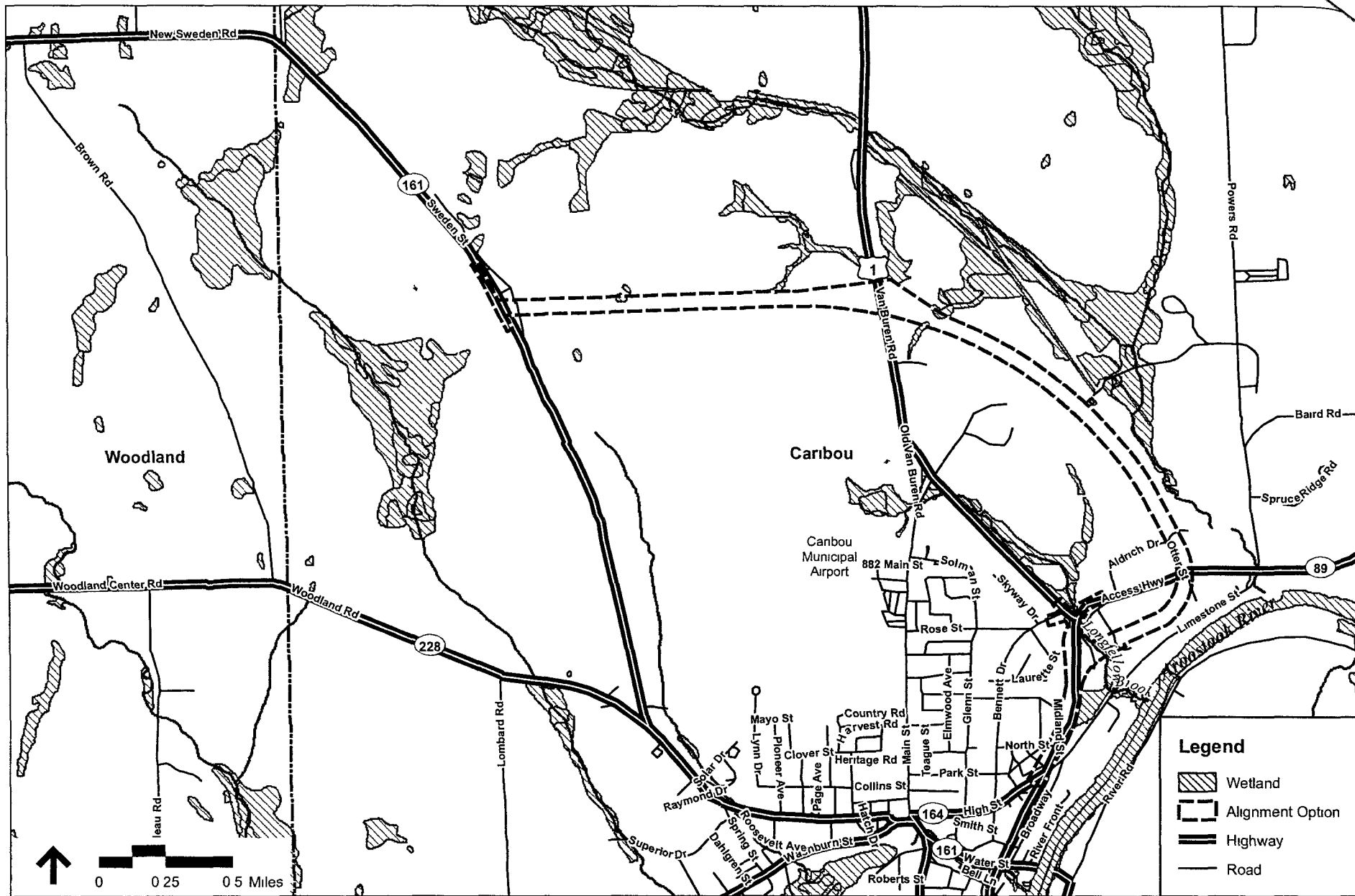
Beth Alafat – USEPA

Wende Mahaney – USFWS

Marcy Scott – NMFS

Mark Hasselmann – FHWA

Robin Clukey – Maine DEP



MaineDOT

16 State House, Augusta, Maine 04333

**CARIBOU - ROUTE 1-161 CONNECTOR
PHASE II ALIGNMENT OPTION 4B**

AT Caribou
IN Aroostook County
Maine

APPLICATION BY
Maine Department of Transportation

DATE
November, 2007

SHEET
3 of 4