

NATURAL RESOURCE SERVICES AND PERMITTING



As the regulatory environment grows in scope and complexity, effective navigation of the environmental permitting process is essential to succeed. Responsible development requires a successful balance of a proponent's rights and objectives with legitimate environmental and regulatory concerns. Sterling Environmental Engineering, P.C.'s (STERLING's) experience demonstrates our clients are best served by a balanced, consistent permitting strategy. STERLING provides assistance in a wide range of natural resources and permitting areas, including wetland delineation, erosion and sedimentation control planning and permitting compliance. STERLING also has expertise addressing enforcement actions and permit appeals.

Due Diligence and Feasibility Evaluation – STERLING staff can provide valuable perspective on site suitability for a particular use by interpreting GIS data and other published mapping, identifying, classifying, delineating and surveying regulated wetland areas in the field, evaluating soil conditions, watershed analysis, assessing potential permit requirements and identifying possible regulatory conflicts. We provide our clients with information that provides for informed, intelligent decisions regarding a particular property or project before significant expense is incurred.

Project Planning and Design – STERLING considers the environmental permitting process to be an essential element of project planning and design and early planning can streamline permitting and control costs. Collaboration between scientists and engineers allows the design team to consider the potential permitting implications during the initial stages of a project so that effective impact avoidance, mitigation may be incorporated. STERLING's staff possesses the knowledge and experience necessary to identify opportunities to avoid or minimize wetland impacts through alternative designs or layouts, as well as expertise in more traditional mitigation methods such as wetland and floodplain enhancement, restoration and creation.

Project Permitting – Each assignment is unique, and specific permitting requirements vary depending on project objectives, location, and degree of impacts. STERLING provides experience in preparing permit application submittals consisting of the specialized plans, studies, calculations and specifications necessary to assure timely regulatory approval with minimum project modification. STERLING also offers extensive experience with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA) compliance and provides clients support with SEQRA requirements, including Environmental Impact Statements (EIS). STERLING also assists with unique permits, such as, NYSDEC Incidental Take Permit, which is required for the "taking" of endangered or threatened species and adverse modification of their habitats. STERLING stays current with local, state and federal regulatory and permitting updates, applicable court decisions, and published technology and guidance documents.

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A partial list of the regulatory agencies with whom we routinely interact includes the NYSDEC, US Army Corps of Engineers, US Fish & Wildlife and the USEPA. Our clients invariably benefit from our established relationships with key regulatory agencies.

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