



The State of New Hampshire
Department of Environmental Services



Robert R. Scott, Commissioner

February 21, 2020

His Excellency, Governor Christopher T. Sununu
and the Honorable Executive Council
State House
Concord, New Hampshire 03301

REQUESTED ACTION

Authorize the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (NHDES) an exemption to New Hampshire Plant and Property Management Rules, ADM 611:08(g) to enable the NHDES to increase its fleet by one vehicle. This new vehicle shall be assigned to the Water Division, Dam Bureau.

EXPLANATION

The Dam Bureau is responsible for the rehabilitation and reconstruction of 274 state-owned dams, and its Construction Crew performs three to five major reconstruction projects per year. The additional vehicle is needed so that the design engineers from the Bureau's Engineering and Construction Section always have a vehicle available to perform the oversight inspections required under New Hampshire's Dam Safety regulations, and to respond to emergency situations that arise at state-owned dams.

During a dam reconstruction project, the design engineer responsible for the project, is required to visit the site for inspection purposes on a partial or full time basis in accordance with NH Administrative Rule Env-Wr 405.06. Under the regulation, oversight inspections of Low Hazard dams, which would cause minor property damage downstream if they were to fail, shall be as frequent as needed to ensure conformance with the design. For Significant or High Hazard dams, the failure of which would cause major property damage or loss of life, full-time oversight by the design engineers is required unless particular items of work are exempted by the approved inspection plan.

The Construction Crew is working on complex Significant and High Hazard dams, requiring full-time engineering oversight of construction. Moreover, our recent experiences working on these complex hazardous dams have highlighted the need to monitor the site during non-work hours to ensure that the temporary water control measures, such as cofferdams and dewatering pumps, do not fail and remain operational, so as not to destroy the construction work in progress and so as not to pose a threat to life and property downstream. In addition, emergencies at state-owned dams occur with little notice and during night and weekends when obtaining a pool vehicle through the internal

reservation system is not possible. These new demands require the assignment of a vehicle full-time to the Dam Bureau Engineering and Construction Section.

NHDES operates and maintains a fleet of 43 passenger vehicles for departmental use. Of the total vehicles, 26 are considered to be pool vehicles and are used by various programs on a reservation basis. The remaining vehicles are assigned to programs with specific needs for those vehicles and are generally unavailable for use by other programs. NHDES recently performed a review of the department's fleet, and concluded that the fleet was fully utilized by other programs and was not able to meet the increased demands of the Dam Bureau Engineering and Construction Section.

State-owned dams are mostly located in remote areas that require off-road vehicle capabilities to access the dam. This vehicle that is proposed to be added to the fleet will have better ground clearance and off-road capabilities than the large majority of the NHDES pool vehicles. The visits may require the transportation of soil samples, concrete samples or other construction testing related items. The visits need to occur year round on site access roads that are routinely muddy, rocky, snowy and icy, depending on the time of year. The transportation of construction testing items and construction site access constraints require Dam Bureau Engineering and Construction personnel to use one of the few NHDES 4-wheel-drive (4WD) truck pool vehicles. There are daily requests in-house for these pool vehicles by other NHDES programs. Allowing the Dam Bureau to increase the fleet through the purchase this additional vehicle will free the few 4WD truck fleet vehicles to be used by other programs.

The last waiver to expand the NHDES fleet was granted on May 2, 2018 (G&C Item #85A) for two vehicles which were added to the Water Division, Wetlands Bureau. NHDES requests to expand its fleet by one vehicle to provide one additional full time vehicle to the Dam Bureau Engineering and Construction Section staff located at the Concord Office. Maintenance costs associated with this fleet increase will be absorbed within the current operating budget within the Dam Bureau Engineering and Construction Section. Given the amount of official travel required, the requested vehicle would easily exceed the minimum 8,142-mile annual mileage requirement.

Approval of this request will provide the Dam Bureau Engineering and Construction Section with the vehicle necessary to complete its mission of ensuring that state-owned dams are constructed and maintained to reduce the risk to life and property downstream and preserve the important resources provided by the waterbodies impounded by these dams.

We respectfully request your approval.


Robert R. Scott, Commissioner

VAqR Approval Form

Vehicle: 1 < 1 of 1 > >1

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RQNumber: 201126

Received Date: 2/18/2020

Business Supervisor: Steve McLocklin

Agency: Environmental Services Department

Division:

Bureau:

Funding Source: 100.00% (100% Other (revenue class 009- Agency Income))

RQ Amount: \$26,560

Quantity: 1

Vehicle Information

Proposed Vehicle to be Surplussed

Requested Replacement Vehicle

DAS Alternate Recommendation

Purchase/Acquisition Type:

Fleet Increase / New Purchase

Vehicle Type:

Passenger Autos

Model Year:

2020

Make:

Toyota

Model:

Rav4 Hybrid

Description:

8002640 101.26 Add extra FOB

TCO:

Vehicle History

Plate or ID Number:

Purchase Price:

\$26560.00

Odometer (current):

Prior FY Mileage:

Prior FY MPG:

Prior FY Repair Costs:

Prior FY Maintenance Costs:

Fleet Management and Business Supervisors Recommendation

Recommend conditional approval awaiting G&C approval.

Submission for Authorization 2/18/2020

Requisition Approved: ☐

Conditionally Approved: ☒

Requisition Denied: ☐

Search GSA: ☐

General Bid Process: ☐

Signatory Comments:

Authorizing Authority Signature:

Date:

Authorizing Authority Title:

Director, DPSS

2/18/2020