

July 8, 2018 DEP Weldon Quarry Update:

- NJDEP has issued three Notices of Violation (NOV) to Weldon as a result of the February 2019 sediment discharge from a broken transfer pipe. Two NOVs were for violating the Water Pollution Control Act and one was for violating the Freshwater Wetlands Protection Act. These violations represent the beginning of an enforcement process that will hold Weldon fully accountable for the environmental violations and impacts associated with the February 2019 incident.
- In response to the aforementioned NOVs, Weldon has constructed a silt berm prior to the Weldon tributary (tributary) entering Lake Hopatcong to minimize the passage of silt from the tributary to Lake Hopatcong. NJDEP has also placed an oil boom at the same location as a precaution should any of the Weldon stream cleanup work reconstitute any residual oil remaining from the Valiant oil spill. To that end, NJDEP has required that Weldon coordinate any of their cleanup efforts that are within the zone of the Valiant oil spill with the Valiant Licensed Site Remediation Professional overseeing that matter.
- Weldon, with NJDEP oversight, has also removed approximately 13 cubic yards of stone fines from the area between the transfer pipe that leaked and the tributary. Weldon also provided staked hay bales and silt fencing at multiple locations in the tributary to minimize the passage of fines into Lake Hopatcong. NJDEP subsequently advised Weldon that additional cleanup of the tributary is necessary. As a result, Weldon submitted an additional cleanup plan to NJDEP. After evaluating the plan, NJDEP commented that Weldon should remove fines from additional areas of the tributary and explore additional treatment alternatives for sediment removal. In response to these comments, Weldon has brought in a sediment removal expert to provide remediation alternatives.
- Weldon has provided NJDEP with chemical analysis of the rock fine materials as well as sediment sample results from the area of the silt berm. These results have been forwarded to the Lake Hopatcong Commission under separate cover.
- NJDEP conducted a fish survey of the tributary on Wednesday June 12th to further assess the ecological impacts of the incident on the tributary. The fish survey found only 1 fish. Pat Hamilton, F&W Fish Biologist, explained the results as follows: *The near absence of fish may be due to natural stream conditions. If the stream is ephemeral/intermittent (quarry owners claim the stream has gone dry in the past) this could affect its ability to support fish. Another plausible explanation for the near lack of fish is that it has been impacted by pollution events (oil spill and/or stone fines).* The Bureau of Freshwater and Biological Monitoring evaluated the stream on 6/11/19 to determine if it was suitable for a macroinvertebrate study. They determined that the tributary was suitable for evaluation and they plan to compare the results from this affected tributary to nearby Jaynes Brook. NJDEP also intends to conduct a fish survey in the affected area of Lake Hopatcong (Woodport Cove).

- NBWCE issued Weldon correspondence dated 7/2/2019, requiring Weldon to sample the discharge from its upper pond to the stream and requiring Weldon to continue sampling until such time as Weldon's NJPDES Permit can be modified from the current discharge to ground water Permit, to a discharge to surface water Permit. The sample results will allow NBWCE to assess the impact of this discharge to surface water. It is noted that the pollutants of concern from a quarry discharge are not nutrient related.
- NJDEP would like to remind local residents that they may report environmental incidents/complaints regarding this matter, including dust complaints, to the NJDEP Hotline at 877-WARNDEP.