



STATE OF MAINE  
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION  
17 STATE HOUSE STATION  
AUGUSTA, MAINE  
04333

PAUL R. LEPAGE  
GOVERNOR

PATRICIA W. AHO  
COMMISSIONER

April 16, 2015

Donald Phillips, MAPSS President  
213 Pattee Road  
Monroe, ME 04951

Dear Mr. Phillips,

This letter is the response to a request by the Maine Association of Professional Soil Scientists (MAPSS) to the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) to include a simple key for the description of hydrologic soils, the "Connotative Legend", for High Intensity Soil Surveys which are required for developments subject to approval under the the Site Location of Development Law. Per our discussions, our understanding is that the proposed Connotative Legend will be a simplified representation of major soil properties including hydrologic soil groups found in Maine.

The DEP finds that the connotative legend may provide a quick and easy way for our non-soil scientist staff, and others, to determine basic soil properties at project sites, such as bedrock depth, groundwater table depth, parent material, etc., and would therefore it could be helpful information in addition to the required standard soil mapping information which includes soil series names and descriptions of soil limitations in soil survey narrative reports.

Questions concerning this opinion should be directed to Marianne Hubert at (207) 215-6485 or Bill Noble at (207) 215-1792.

Sincerely,

Marianne Hubert, P.E.  
Senior Environmental Engineer  
Division of Watershed Management  
Bureau of Land & Water Quality

William. T. Noble, C.G.  
Environmental Hydrogeology Specialist  
Division of Environmental Assessment  
Bureau of Land & Water Quality

cc: Don Witherill, Maine DEP

