

Joshua L. Sky, GISP

Senior Scientist/GIS Manager



Education

MS, Forestry, University of Vermont, 2005

BS, Environmental Science, Principia College, 1996

Registrations

Geographic Information System Professional (GISP)

Josh is a Senior Scientist focusing on energy projects and is also the GIS Manager at VHB Vermont. He specializes in obtaining natural resource based permits for large and small scale energy projects from pipelines to renewables. Permit experience includes Vermont Act 250, Section 248, Vermont DEC program permits, US Army Corps Section 404 and 10 permits, FEMA, and NEPA. In addition to his project work he oversees the use of GIS in the Vermont office including cartography, spatial analytical problem solving, hydrologic model support, database development, and custom model development. Josh supervises a small team of full-time GIS technician/staff scientists and provides support for other GIS users in the office, as well as supervises mobile data collection.

14 years of professional experience

Vermont Gas Systems, Addison Rutland Natural Gas Project – Phase 1, Chittenden and Addison Counties, VT

Josh is the assistant project manager for the proposed Vermont Gas Systems – Addison Natural Gas Project (ANGP Phase 1), which includes 42 miles of 12-inch transmission pipeline, 3 metering and regulation stations, 5 miles of distribution mainline, and local distribution networks in Vergennes and Middlebury, Vermont. Mr. Sky worked closely with VGS to obtain the necessary permits including a Certificate of Public Good from the VT Public Service Board, an individual Vermont Wetland Permit, a construction stormwater permit, stream alteration permit, section 401 water quality certification, and USACE Section 404 and Section 10 permit under an aggressive schedule and the Project is currently under for construction.

TDI-NE, New England Clean Power Link (NECPL) Electric Transmission Line, Grand Isle and Rutland Counties, VT

TDI-NE, a privately held company, is developing the New England Clean Power Link (NECPL) project to deliver 1,000 megawatts (MW) of hydro-electric power generated in Canada to the United States. Josh is overseeing the the Data Manager for the GIS/CAD data for the project. Josh provides regulatory support and coordination between the GIS team members.

Lamoille Valley Rail Trail, Lamoille Valley, VT

For the Vermont Association of Snow Travelers (VAST), Josh served as the Environmental Task Manager for an ambitious project to convert a 93-mile rail corridor across northern Vermont to a four-season multi-use trail traversing 17 communities, from St. Johnsbury to Swanton. He prepared environmental and cultural documentation along the entire corridor to support the VTrans Local Transportation Facilities process in anticipation of obtaining a Categorical Exclusion approval. Josh was also responsible for the management of field data collection, resource data management and resource mapping for this project that included rehabilitation or replacement of more than 80 bridges and public outreach and close coordination with the permitting agencies.

Stratton Mountain Resort, Water Quality Remediation Plan, Stratton, VT

Josh has been the primary author and guide for the SWQRP since 2007 and has worked closely with Stratton to present base flow and event-based water quality sampling, monitoring, and reporting, and data compilation of streams at Stratton Mountain Resort as part of the resort-wide water quality remediation plan. Stratton is currently entering into the final phase of the SWQRP with all but one stream in compliance with Vermont water quality standards.

Sheffield Wind Project, Sheffield, VT

Josh provided assistance for construction and operational phase stormwater permitting to First Wind (formerly UPC Wind Management, LLC) for a proposed wind farm project in Sheffield, Vermont, consisting of 16 turbines with a project capacity of 40 MW. The applicant modified the project through the course of Section 248 review, and VHB was tasked with evaluating changes in potential project impacts to meet Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation permitting requirements. VHB completed a detailed field reconnaissance and initial watershed resources assessment, utilizing existing information and available GIS mapping to prepare an extensive resource base map. Josh led the resource flagging effort with supervision of field crew and oversight of data collection, as well as oversight of all mapping used for documentation and exhibits in the Vermont 248 process and subsequent appeal.

National Grid, GP33 Improvement Project Natural Resources Survey, New Hampshire and Vermont

On behalf of National Grid, VHB conducted a natural resources assessment for the G-33 Line Improvement Project. Within the existing G-33 69 kV transmission line right-of-way (ROW), along proposed off-ROW access routes, construction staging areas, and log drop sites beginning at the hydrostation in Bellows Falls, Vermont and terminating at the Vernon hydrostation in Vernon, Vermont. The entire ROW is approximately 30-miles long, with approximately 10-miles located in New Hampshire and 20-miles in Vermont. The assessment included a wetland and stream survey, wetland functions and values assessment, a Rare, Threatened, and Endangered (RTE) plant species survey, and survey for potential Rare Irreplaceable Natural Areas (RINA).

Deerfield Wind Project, Searsburg and Readsboro, VT

Josh managed the data collection effort and oversaw all mapping required for support of the Deerfield Wind Project, which represented a much-needed long-term source of power for Vermont and the region. VHB conducted an initial assessment of stormwater management approaches as part of the Section 248 Vermont Public Service Board review process for the client, Iberdrola Renewables. Specific activities involved an assessment and design of stormwater management practices for construction and operational phases of the project in order to meet Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) permitting, planning, and design requirements.