CASCO BAY HABITAT STUDIES, WYMAN STATION: YARMOUTH, MAINE

Client: Central Maine Power Company

WOODLOT PROVIDED EXPERT WETLAND FIELD SERVICES and regulatory interpretation services to evaluate the potential effects of operation of a licensed ash lagoon discharge on the near shore environment. Initial evaluation included historical research into the creation of the ash lagoon. After completing the field work, Woodlot prepared a technical memo outlining the jurisdictional aspects of the lagoon.

To gather field data, our SCUBA divers performed dive and snorkel surveys to identify and map coastal wetland communities and to evaluate macroinvertebrate and fish communities along the length of the bermed ash lagoon. The underwater plots were surveyed for species presence and population, with the organisms being identified to the lowest practicable taxa.

Sediment samples were collected at regular horizontal intervals at the base of the berm and from immediately below the discharge point in the weir. Samples were also collected from a reference location. Each sample location and the general location of relevant intertidal habitats (i.e., eel grassbeds) were subsequently located with a Trimble™ Pro XR Geographic Positioning System (GPS). Resultant geochemical analyses of ash lagoon sediment samples were evaluated with respect to background levels and reference samples.

This project required rapid mobilization and field assessment, a clear understanding of the regulatory issues, as well as flexibility with regard to schedules and project scope. Woodlot staff carried out field studies and sampling programs within the client's timeframe and budget constraints.

WOODLOT ALTERNATIVES, INC.
ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTANTS