

News from the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services



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Lincoln Brownfields “Success Story” Celebrated

DES, EPA and InnSeason Resorts gather to recognize the redevelopment of the Former Franconia Paper Mill in Lincoln

Lincoln, NH – Tom Burack, New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services Commissioner, Bob Varney, EPA New England Region Administrator, Ray Burton, District 1 Executive Councilor, Dennis Ducharme, President of InnSeason Resorts, representatives from the congressional delegation, state and local officials today gathered to celebrate a Brownfields “Success Story” at the site of the former Franconia Paper Mill in Lincoln.

The event was coordinated to recognize one of the latest Brownfields Cleanup Revolving Loan Fund projects in New Hampshire. The loan program, administered by DES and funded via EPA, encourages the cleanup of idle or underused contaminated properties to return them to productive use.

“During much of the 20th century, this property played an important role in the economic vitality of Lincoln and the region. As DES’s commissioner and as a native of the north country, I am pleased and proud that we are partnering with the Town of Lincoln and InnSeason Resorts to ensure that this property is cleaned up and will again play an important role in the economic well being of this community,” noted Tom Burack, DES Commissioner.

The former Franconia Paper Mill site, which occupied numerous properties along the western bank of the East Branch of the Pemigewasset River, was formerly part of an approximate 200-acre pulp and paper mill facility first developed by J.E. Henry in approximately 1892. The site operated under various owners until 1980. Since then, several of the former mill buildings have been demolished. The remaining buildings were in various stages of disrepair and are an eyesore that negatively impact the scenic mountain landscape and village environment of the Town of Lincoln. Asbestos containing material and physical hazards associated with the mill buildings are the principal remedial concerns at this site. Southern Peaks Development, LLC (InnSeason Resorts) has received a \$930,000 Brownfields Cleanup Revolving Loan Fund loan from DES, which was to be used primarily for the abatement of asbestos within existing mill buildings prior to their demolition.

InnSeason Resorts plans to develop the former Franconia Paper Mill site into a four-season mountain resort complex. The Brownfields cleanup loan will support the redevelopment of the site consistent with the community’s desire to see an expansion of the area’s tourist-based hospitality industry and is expected to generate approximately 100 full-time, year-round jobs.

“This step in the development of down town Lincoln is monumental for me, for our company and for the town. Thanks to Brownfields, the EPA, and the NHDES, we are here today to see

tangible progress in our vision for the revitalization of this property. This has been a truly educational process, but extremely gratifying”, comments Dennis M. Ducharme, RRP, President of InnSeason Resorts.

For more information, please contact Jim Martin, DES Public Information Officer, at 271-3710.

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