

9. VHB ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT BASED ON RECOMMENDED INFRASTRUCTURE

VHB Environmental performed an initial environmental and permitting review of the Mack Point and Sears Island facilities. Each site was reviewed to identify known and potential resource concerns, including wetlands, dredging, fill areas, eel grass, sensitive species, and navigational constraints. The permitting review identifies the federal, state, and local permits that are likely to be required to move forward with development at either site.

Further coordination with state and federal agencies will be required to fully assess environmental impacts.

Pursuant to federal and state environmental laws, an assessment of impacts and an evaluation of alternatives will be conducted before selection of the least environmentally damaging practicable alternative. As part of this to these processes, MaineDOT has directed that a robust stakeholder and public communication process occur.