

BRI Environmental Consulting Group

Since its inception, Biodiversity Research Institute (BRI) has prioritized the need to advance emerging natural resource sciences. Our professional consulting group, **BRI Environmental**, increases our capacity to meet increasing demand for renewable energy development services. Headquartered in the Old Port of Portland, Maine, BRI Environmental is a full-service consulting firm specializing in renewable energy and transmission projects. Our extensive experience permitting projects across New England and North America includes: wind energy, solar energy, high-voltage transmission lines, hydropower, infrastructure projects, as well as residential and commercial development.

Services

Natural Resources Surveys

- Wetland and Waterbody Delineations
- Wildlife Surveys and Vernal Pool Assessments
- Rare Plant, Animal, and Habitat Identification
- Soil Surveys

Due Diligence

- Site Suitability
Municipal Ordinance Reviews
- State, Tribal, and Federal Consultation
- Stakeholder and Community Engagement

Permitting and Compliance

- Municipal, State, and Federal Permitting
- Environmental Monitoring
- Construction Oversight
- Compliance Documentation
- Erosion and Sediment Control
- Inspections

Project Management & Development

- Project Direction and Oversight
- Site Planning
- Strategic Analysis
- Engineering and Design



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Renewable Energy

BRI has led the development of more than 100 utility-scale solar projects in Maine. Early engagement with regulators, host municipalities, and local residents has been an important success factor in each project. Integrated into the field work that contributes to the project design is our extensive experience identifying key factors that should be addressed and how to increase likelihood of permit approvals.

Our portfolio of successful projects includes solar energy development, wind development, transmission infrastructure siting, and regulated resource identification. Below is a project example that describes a typical workflow.

CASE STUDY

Sanford CGA Solar

Sanford CGA Solar is an 8 MW solar project in Sanford, Maine that occupies a former Brownfield remediation site and upland forest owned by the Maine Department of Transportation.

BRI was responsible for completing environmental due diligence and technical support in support of the proposed Project including:

- natural resource surveys
- agency consultation
- permitting applications
- civil and stormwater services

BRI performed a natural resources delineation that was used to inform the civil design and stormwater plan for the project to minimize impact to the greatest extent practicable.

As the project was greater than 20 acres, Site Location of Development Act permitting was necessary in addition to municipal permitting. The permitting process included direct engagement with supporting agencies, the host municipality, and citizens. After permitting was complete, BRI acted as an environmental inspector for the construction phase of the project through monitoring erosion and sediment controls and reviewing compliance.

Project Overview

Solar System Capacity
8 MW

Project Description

Ground mounted solar project using a combination of driven piles and ballasted foundations. Development footprint spanned a former remediation site.

Stakeholders Consulted

- City of Sanford
- Maine Department of Environmental Protection
- Maine Historical Preservation
- Maine Natural Areas Program
- Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife
- US Army Corps of Engineers

For more information on this project,
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