

# ROAD BUSINESS

## On the Road in New Hampshire

### Temporary Dams



The town of Hollis used a portadam during a bridge replacement to provide temporary and semi-permanent barriers for water retention. Jeffrey Babel, public works director, Hollis, recommends the temporary daming system. Temporary dams are made of synthetic fabric and are low impact, which allowed the Hollis to use an expedited DES wetlands permit.

Jeff's crew prepared the site in one day. A three-man crew from Portadam worked with three employees from Hollis. A steel frame was built on site to Jeff's specifications. It was covered with a fabric tarp and sand bags were set in place to hold the dam. The water was then pumped out of the river.

The river water pulled the tarp down to create a water-tight barrier. The installation took two days.

The dam was very effective. Jeff and his crew worked 18 feet below water level to secure bridge footings.

It took only one day to remove the dam. Two alternatives to using a portadam are sheet piling or water bags.

Jeff was skeptical about the temporary dam. He wondered if it would hold during a heavy storm. He believed that animals or people could tear holes in the fabric. A small hole developed in the portadam, a water pump remedied the problem.

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