

Inspection of Ice Jams At Farmington, ME on 18 December 2003
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On 18 December 2003, Steven Daly and Andrew Tuthill drove to Farmington, Maine, to meet with town officials at the request of Dave Schafer, Emergency Operations Center, New England District. The following is a description of the conditions that were encountered along the way and at Farmington..

Bethel, Maine

An ice jam was in place in the Androscoggin River in the vicinity of the Route 2 Bridge. The ice and the generally high water were causing flooding on the roads and some structures were flooded. It was not difficult to find a way around the flooded portions.



**Flooding at Bethel ME on 18 December 2003 from the Androscoggin River.
View from the Route 2 Bridge.**



**Flooding at Bethel ME on 18 December 2003 from the Androscoggin River.
View from the Route 2 Bridge.**



**Ice jam at Bethel ME on 18 December 2003 in the Androscoggin River. View
from the Route 2 Bridge.**

Rumford Point, Maine

Daly and Tuthill met with isolated flooding over roads in the area of Rumford Point, ME that delayed their trip. Route 2 at Rumford Point was covered with 4 feet of water, and many of the back roads around Rumford Point were also flooded. After considerable effort, a passable route was found.

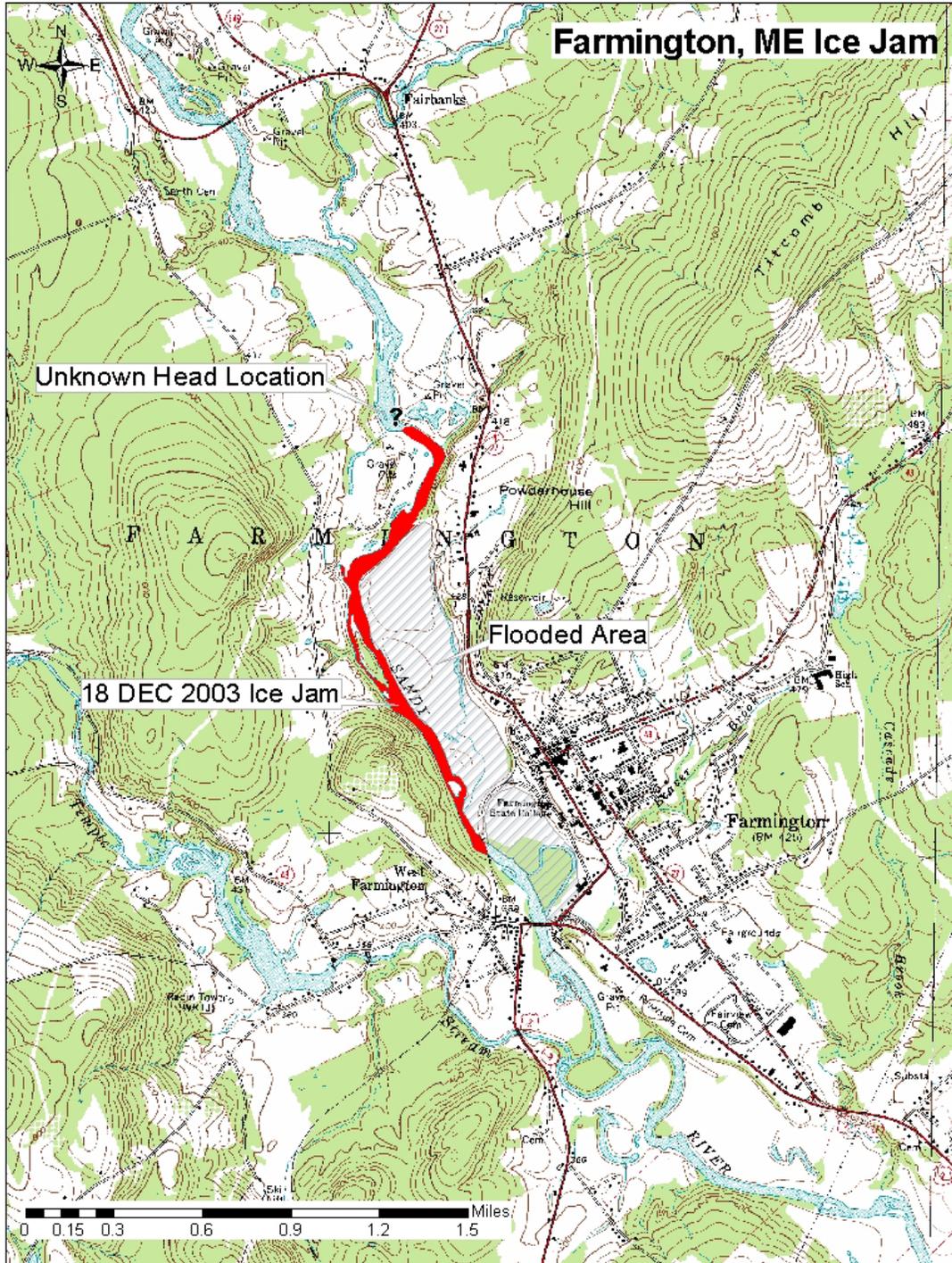


Ice Jam in tributary of the Androscoggin River

Farmington, Maine

Daly and Tuthill met with the Town Manager, Richard Davies, the town engineer, and the Fire Chief. The major portion of the ice jams in Farmington had moved out at about 0700 that day. There was still an ice jam in place upstream of the abandoned railroad bridge. (See map.) The ice jam was diverting a lot of flow into the overbank area. This ice jam could remain in place for a considerable length of time. The floods had destroyed several small structures in the flood plain. A parking area of the University of Maine at Farmington had been flooded with approximately 35 vehicles in place. The vehicles had been towed out. Several points were discussed.

1. The town had previously had a program of reducing the size of sand bars in the Sandy River. This was no longer allowed by the Maine DEP. The officials felt that the current flooding might have been aggravated because the sand bars were in place.
2. Bank erosion was a serious problem at several locations. The town was looking for some assistance in mitigating this problem.
3. The town manager was interested in discussing a possible 205 study with the Corps of Engineers to deal with the long term flooding situation.



Ice Conditions at Farmington, ME on 18 December 2003. The upstream head of the ice jam was not visible from the roadways or from the bridge upstream of town.



Structure moved and destroyed by flood waters of the Sandy River at Farmington, Maine



Shear walls left in place on the left bank of the Sandy River upstream of Farmington, Maine.