



STATE OF CONNECTICUT

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

OFFICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

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To: Eric McPhee - Supervising Sanitary Engineer
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From: David J. Fox - Senior Environmental Analyst **Telephone:** 860-424-4111

Date: May 17, 2013 **E-Mail:** david.fox@ct.gov

Subject: Water Main Extensions, Burlington

The Department of Energy & Environmental Protection (DEEP) has received the Notice of Scoping for the proposed project to extend water mains along Library Lane and George Washington Turnpike in Burlington. This project is adjacent to a previous project to install a water main along Route 4 and our comments mirror those of my June 6, 2011 memo. The following comments are submitted for your consideration.

The Natural Diversity Data Base (NDDB), maintained by DEEP, contains a record of the Eastern box turtle (*Terrapene carolina*), listed by the State as a species of special concern pursuant to section 26-306 of the Connecticut General Statutes (CGS), in the vicinity of this proposed project. Eastern box turtles require old field and deciduous forest habitats, which can include power lines and logged woodlands. They are often found near small streams and ponds; the adults are completely terrestrial but the young may be semiaquatic, and hibernate on land by digging down in the soil from October to April. They have an extremely small home range and can usually be found in the same area year after year. This species is dormant from November 1 to April 1. It has been negatively impacted by the loss of suitable habitat.

If work must be done during the box turtle's active period (April 1 to November 1) then the Wildlife Division recommends the following precautionary measures to protect box turtle habitat:

- that the workers be apprised of these species descriptions and possible presence and that the area be searched each day prior to working,
- that work conducted in these habitats during the early morning and evening hours should occur with special care not to harm basking or foraging individuals,
- that any turtles encountered be moved out of the way, just outside the work zone,
- that all precautions should be taken to avoid degradation to wetland habitats including any wet meadows and seasonal pools,
- that if silt fences are used, they should be removed as soon as the project is completed, and
- that no heavy machinery or vehicles be parked in any suitable habitat.

Please be advised that the Wildlife Division has not made a field inspection of the project nor have they seen detailed timetables for work to be done. Consultation with the Wildlife Division should not be substituted for site-specific surveys that may be required for environmental assessments. The time of year when this work will take place will affect this

species if they are present on the site when the work is scheduled. Please be advised that should state permits be required or should state involvement occur in some other fashion, specific restrictions or conditions relating to the species discussed above may apply. In this situation, additional evaluation of the proposal by the DEEP Wildlife Division should be requested. If the proposed project has not been initiated within 12 months of this review, contact the NDDDB for an updated review. A fact sheet with additional information regarding box turtles is available on-line at: [Box Turtles](#).

The Natural Resources Conservation Service's Soil Survey depicts a band of Raypol silt loam, a regulated wetland soil, along a portion of the George Washington Turnpike. It is unknown whether the main will be installed under the roadway or shoulders, with no direct wetland impacts, or beyond previously filled areas. If there are any undeveloped areas within the area to be impacted, it is recommended that a certified soil scientist perform a reconnaissance of the site in order to determine whether there are any areas which would be regulated as wetlands or watercourses as defined by section 22a-38 (15) and (16) of the CGS, respectively. If the reconnaissance identifies regulated areas, they should be delineated. Any inland wetlands or watercourses at the site are regulated by the local inland wetlands agency, pursuant to section 22a-42 of the CGS. Many local agencies have established setback or buffer areas and require review and approval of activities within these upland areas adjacent to wetlands or watercourses. The local agency should be contacted regarding permit requirements.

In order to protect any wetlands and watercourses adjacent to the site, strict erosion and sediment controls should be employed during construction. Additionally, all silt fencing should be removed after soils are stable so that reptile and amphibian movement between uplands and wetlands is not restricted. The *Connecticut Guidelines for Soil Erosion and Sediment Control* prepared by the Connecticut Council on Soil and Water Conservation in cooperation with DEP is a recommended source of technical assistance in the selection and design of appropriate control measures. The 2002 revised edition of the Guidelines, published as DEP Bulletin 34 may be obtained at the DEP bookstore, either by telephone 860-424-3555 or online at: [DEP Bookstore](#).

The proposed water main extension will not require a permit from the Inland Water Resources Division for the diversion of waters of the State pursuant to section 22a-368 of the CGS provided it meets the exemption criteria of section 22a-377(b)-1(a)(5) of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies.

Stormwater discharges from construction sites where one or more acres are to be disturbed require a permit pursuant to 40 CFR 122.26. The Permitting & Enforcement Division has issued a *General Permit for the Discharge of Stormwater and Dewatering Wastewaters Associated with Construction Activities* (DEP-PERD-GP-015) that will cover these discharges. For projects disturbing five or more acres, registration describing the site and the construction activity must be submitted to the Department prior to the initiation of construction. A stormwater pollution control plan, including measures such as erosion and sediment controls and post construction stormwater management, must be prepared. For sites where more than 10 acres will be disturbed, the plan must be submitted to the Department. A goal of 80 percent removal of total suspended solids from the stormwater discharge shall be used in designing and installing stormwater management measures. For construction projects with a total disturbed area between one and five acres, no registration is required as long as the project is reviewed by the town and receives written approval of its erosion and sediment control measures and it adheres to the

Connecticut Guidelines for Soil Erosion and Sediment Control. If no review is conducted by the town or written approval is not provided, the permittee must register with the Department. For further information, contact the division at 860-424-3018. A copy of the general permit as well as registration forms may be downloaded at: [Construction Stormwater GP](#).

If the water line is to be pressure tested and disinfected, the discharge would be covered by the *General Permit for the Discharge of Hydrostatic Pressure Testing Wastewater* (DEP-PERD-GP-011). This general permit applies to all discharges of waters used to test the structural integrity of new or used tanks and pipelines that hold or transfer drinking water, sewage, or natural gas. The general permit contains pH, chlorine, oil and grease, and suspended solids limits which will need to be complied with during the testing and verified through monitoring. Registration is required to be submitted to the Department in order for the discharges to be authorized by this general permit. A fact sheet, the general permit which includes the registration form, titled Notice of Coverage, and the Application Transmittal form may be downloaded at: [Hydrostatic GP](#).

Thank you for the opportunity to review this project. If there are any questions concerning these comments, please contact me.

cc: Robert Hannon, DEEP/OPPD
Dawn McKay, DEEP/NDDB