



**CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF
ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
OFFICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW
79 ELM STREET, HARTFORD, CT 06106-5127**

To: Mark W. Alexander - Transportation Assistant Planning Director
DOT - Office of Environmental Planning, 2800 Berlin Turnpike, Newington

From: David J. Fox - Senior Environmental Analyst **Telephone:** 860-424-4111

Date: April 11, 2013 **E-Mail:** david.fox@ct.gov

Subject: Runway Safety Area, Sikorsky Airport

The Department of Energy & Environmental Protection has received the Notice of Scoping for a series of projects at the Igor Sikorsky Memorial Airport in Stratford. These include: constructing a runway safety area; installing an engineered material arresting system; realigning a segment of Route 113 (Main Street); delineating, removing and disposing waste materials from the Raymark Superfund site; mitigating impacts to wetlands and protected species; and undertaking ancillary projects to improve safety at the airport.

The Department previously participated in NEPA review for these projects, including the reevaluation of the Environmental Impact Statement undertaken in 2010. Subsequent to NEPA review, site surveys identified a large population of the State endangered **Saltpond grass** (*Leptochloa fusca ssp. fascicularis*) along Route 113. The project will result in an incidental taking of this species. ConnDOT is developing a mitigation plan to ensure that the project does not appreciably reduce the likelihood of survival and recovery of the species. The Wildlife Division will then submit a statement to the Office of Policy & Management, for their approval, documenting the basis for the determination of the incidental taking pursuant to section 26-310(d) of the Connecticut General Statutes.

As you know, various offices of each of our departments have recently been involved in ongoing pre-application meetings to resolve the environmental issues that have been identified. Given our past and continuing involvement with these projects, we have no additional comments at this time.

Thank you for the opportunity to review this project. If you have any question regarding these comments, please contact me.

cc: Jeff Caiola, DEEP/IWRD
Ron Curran, DEEP/RD
Nelson DeBarros, DEEP/WD
Jenny Dickson, DEEP/WD
Micheal Grzywinski, DEEP/OLISP
Robert Hannon, DEEP/OPPD