



STATE OF CONNECTICUT

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

OFFICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

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To: Eric McPhee - Supervising Sanitary Engineer
DPH - Drinking Water Section, 450 Capitol Avenue, MS#51WAT, Hartford

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

Date: June 4, 2015 **E-Mail:** david.fox@ct.gov

Subject: Water Main Extension, Burlington

The Department of Energy & Environmental Protection (DEEP) has reviewed the Notice of Scoping for the proposed project to extend a water main along Covey Road in Burlington. This project is adjacent to previous projects to install water mains along Route 4, Library Lane and George Washington Turnpike and our comments mirror those of my June 6, 2011 and May 17, 2013 memos. 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 does not depict any regulated wetland soils along Covey Road. 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, regardless of project phasing, require an NPDES permit from the Permitting & Enforcement Division. The *General Permit for the Discharge of Stormwater and Dewatering Wastewaters Associated with Construction Activities* (DEEP-WPED-GP-015) will cover these discharges. The construction stormwater general permit dictates separate compliance procedures for Locally Approvable projects and Locally Exempt projects (as defined in the permit). Locally Exempt construction projects disturbing over 1 acre must submit a registration form and Stormwater Pollution Control Plan (SWPCP) to the Department. Locally Approvable construction projects with a total disturbed area of one to five acres are not required to register with the Department provided the development plan has been approved by a municipal land use agency and adheres to local erosion and sediment control land use regulations and the *CT Guidelines for Soil Erosion and Sediment Control*. Locally Approvable construction projects with a total disturbed area of five or more acres must submit a registration form to the Department prior to the initiation of

construction. This registration shall include a certification by a Qualified Professional who designed the project and a certification by a Qualified Professional or regional Conservation District who reviewed the SWPCP and deemed it consistent with the requirements of the general permit. The SWPCP for Locally Approvable projects is not required to be submitted to the Department unless requested. The SWPCP must include measures such as erosion and sediment controls and post construction stormwater management. A goal of 80 percent removal of total suspended solids from the stormwater discharge shall be used in designing and installing post-construction stormwater management measures. The general permit also requires that post-construction control measures incorporate runoff reduction practices, such as LID techniques, to meet performance standards specified in the permit. 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/NDDDB