**SECTION 1.10 ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE**

**In Article 1.10.03-Water Pollution Control:**

**REQUIRED BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES**

*Add the following after Required Best Management Practice Number 13:*

14. The Contractor is hereby notified that the State listed species of Special Concern wood turtle (*Glyptemys insculpta*), is present within the Project limits. Wood turtles require riparian habitats bordered by floodplain, woodland, or meadows. Their summer habitat includes pastures, old fields, woodlands, power line cuts, and railroad beds bordering or adjacent to streams and rivers. Wood turtles spend most of their summer on land and can use areas up to 1500 feet from the streams/rivers where they overwinter. They hibernate submerged in tangled tree roots along riverbanks or in deep pools.

All construction activities taking place within the Project limits will need to be coordinated with the Office of Environmental Planning (OEP) through the Engineer. At least 10 days prior to the commencement of any construction activities, the Contractor shall, through the Engineer, arrange for a CT DOT Environmental Inspector from the OEP or their authorized delegate to meet and discuss proper protocol for maintaining environmental commitments made for the protection of this species and habitat. OEP will provide oversight through the Engineer to ensure that the following protocols are followed and maintained during the course of the Project.

During the wood turtle’s dormant period (November 1 to March 31):

* Construction activities will be allowed in upland areas.
* Work is not allowed in wetland/watercourse areas unless these areas were in active construction prior to November 1, and additionally, do not contain any areas of turtle habitat (no stream edge vegetation, stumps, or roots).

For any work done during the wood turtle’s active period (April 1to October 31) the Department willrequire the following precautionarymeasuresto protect the wood turtle andwood turtle habitat:

* 1. All areas within the Project limits must be surveyed to verify the presence of any active wood turtle activity prior to commencement of the initial clearing and grubbing activities.
  2. All construction personnel working within wood turtle habitat must be apprised of the species description and the possible presence of this listed species.
  3. Exclusionary practices will be required in order to prevent any wood turtle to access construction areas. These measures will need to be installed at the limits of disturbance as shown on the plans.
  4. Exclusionary fencing shall be at least 20” tall and must be secured to and remain in contact with the ground. The Contractor shall regularly inspect and maintain the fencing to prevent any gaps or openings at ground level. Silt fence with netting shall not be used.
  5. The Contractor must search the work area each morning for the presence of this listed species prior to any work being done.

1. Any wood turtles encountered within the Project shall be carefully moved outside of the excluded work area and the Engineer shall be immediately informed in order to contact OEP with the location.

When a species is found, the Engineer is responsible for completing and submitting the Natural Diversity Data Base (NDDB) Vertebrate Sheet (<https://portal.ct.gov/DEEP/Endangered-Species/Contributing-Data>). This completed document allows CTDEEP to update their database.

1. All staging and storage areas within the vicinity of the Project limits of the wood turtle habitat must be reviewed by and receive written approval from the OEP.
2. The Contractor shall not park heavy machinery or vehicles within the wood turtle habitat without written approval and authorization by the OEP.
3. Exclusionary fencing shall be removed at the completion of the Project and when final stabilization has occurred to allow for reptile and amphibian passage to resume.
4. When felling trees adjacent to watercourses, they shall be cut to fall away from the waterway and not dragged across the waterway. Stumps shall be left in waterway banks where possible.

These practices will be applied to the entire project unless a specified location is identified within the Project plans, which denotes specific areas of concern.

This species is protected by State laws, which prohibit killing, harming, taking, or keeping them in your possession. Fact sheet of the wood turtle shall be posted in the Contractor’s and Inspection field offices.

If any wood turtles are observed in or around the Project area, the OEP must be notified at [Andrew.Piraneo@ct.gov](mailto:Andrew.Piraneo@ct.gov) or at [Marilyn.Gould@ct.gov](file:///C:\Users\PiraneoA\Desktop\Marilyn.Gould@ct.gov). If OEP staff cannot be reached at either of the above referenced emails, the District Environmental Coordinator will need to be contacted to facilitate further coordination with OEP’s Water Resources Compliance Unit.

DEEP’s Fact Sheet for the wood turtle:

<https://portal.ct.gov//media/DEEP/wildlife/pdf_files/outreach/fact_sheets/woodturtlepdf.pdf>