



United States Department of the Interior



FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
New England Ecological Services Field Office
70 Commercial Street, Suite 300
Concord, NH 03301-5094
Phone: (603) 223-2541 Fax: (603) 223-0104
<http://www.fws.gov/newengland>

In Reply Refer To:

January 26, 2021

Consultation Code: 05E1NE00-2021-SLI-1126

Event Code: 05E1NE00-2021-E-03576

Project Name: Milvon-West River Railroad Transmission Line 115-kV Rebuild Project

Subject: List of threatened and endangered species that may occur in your proposed project location or may be affected by your proposed project

To Whom It May Concern:

The enclosed species list identifies threatened, endangered, proposed and candidate species, as well as proposed and final designated critical habitat, that may occur within the boundary of your proposed project and/or may be affected by your proposed project. The species list fulfills the requirements of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) under section 7(c) of the Endangered Species Act (Act) of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*).

New information based on updated surveys, changes in the abundance and distribution of species, changed habitat conditions, or other factors could change this list. Please feel free to contact us if you need more current information or assistance regarding the potential impacts to federally proposed, listed, and candidate species and federally designated and proposed critical habitat. Please note that under 50 CFR 402.12(e) of the regulations implementing section 7 of the Act, the accuracy of this species list should be verified after 90 days. This verification can be completed formally or informally as desired. The Service recommends that verification be completed by visiting the ECOS-IPaC website at regular intervals during project planning and implementation for updates to species lists and information. An updated list may be requested through the ECOS-IPaC system by completing the same process used to receive the enclosed list.

The purpose of the Act is to provide a means whereby threatened and endangered species and the ecosystems upon which they depend may be conserved. Under sections 7(a)(1) and 7(a)(2) of the Act and its implementing regulations (50 CFR 402 *et seq.*), Federal agencies are required to utilize their authorities to carry out programs for the conservation of threatened and endangered species and to determine whether projects may affect threatened and endangered species and/or designated critical habitat.

A Biological Assessment is required for construction projects (or other undertakings having similar physical impacts) that are major Federal actions significantly affecting the quality of the human environment as defined in the National Environmental Policy Act (42 U.S.C. 4332(2)(c)). For projects other than major construction activities, the Service suggests that a biological evaluation similar to a Biological Assessment be prepared to determine whether the project may affect listed or proposed species and/or designated or proposed critical habitat. Recommended contents of a Biological Assessment are described at 50 CFR 402.12.

If a Federal agency determines, based on the Biological Assessment or biological evaluation, that listed species and/or designated critical habitat may be affected by the proposed project, the agency is required to consult with the Service pursuant to 50 CFR 402. In addition, the Service recommends that candidate species, proposed species and proposed critical habitat be addressed within the consultation. More information on the regulations and procedures for section 7 consultation, including the role of permit or license applicants, can be found in the "Endangered Species Consultation Handbook" at:

<http://www.fws.gov/endangered/esa-library/pdf/TOC-GLOS.PDF>

Please be aware that bald and golden eagles are protected under the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act (16 U.S.C. 668 *et seq.*), and projects affecting these species may require development of an eagle conservation plan (http://www.fws.gov/windenergy/eagle_guidance.html). Additionally, wind energy projects should follow the wind energy guidelines (<http://www.fws.gov/windenergy/>) for minimizing impacts to migratory birds and bats.

Guidance for minimizing impacts to migratory birds for projects including communications towers (e.g., cellular, digital television, radio, and emergency broadcast) can be found at:

<http://www.fws.gov/migratorybirds/CurrentBirdIssues/Hazards/towers/towers.htm>;

<http://www.towerkill.com>; and

<http://>

www.fws.gov/migratorybirds/CurrentBirdIssues/Hazards/towers/comtow.html.

We appreciate your concern for threatened and endangered species. The Service encourages Federal agencies to include conservation of threatened and endangered species into their project planning to further the purposes of the Act. Please include the Consultation Tracking Number in the header of this letter with any request for consultation or correspondence about your project that you submit to our office.

Attachment(s):

- Official Species List

Official Species List

This list is provided pursuant to Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act, and fulfills the requirement for Federal agencies to "request of the Secretary of the Interior information whether any species which is listed or proposed to be listed may be present in the area of a proposed action".

This species list is provided by:

New England Ecological Services Field Office

70 Commercial Street, Suite 300

Concord, NH 03301-5094

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Project Summary

Consultation Code: 05E1NE00-2021-SLI-1126

Event Code: 05E1NE00-2021-E-03576

Project Name: Milvon-West River Railroad Transmission Line 115-kV Rebuild Project

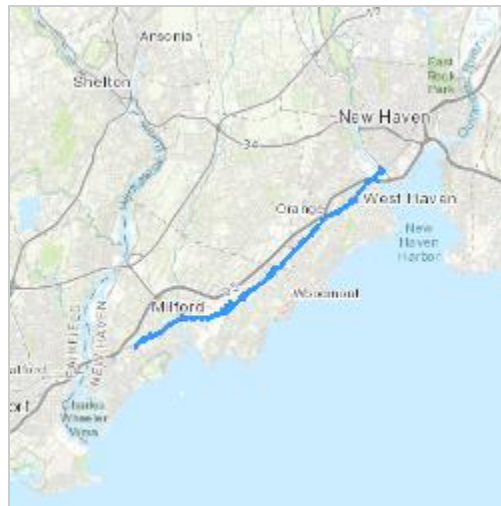
Project Type: TRANSMISSION LINE

Project Description: To maintain the reliability of the bulk transmission grid in Connecticut and regionally, The United Illuminating Company (UI or the Company) proposes to rebuild its two existing single-circuit 115-kilovolt (kV) overhead lines that extend southwest-northeast within the Connecticut DOT (CT DOT) - Metro-North Railroad (MNR) / Amtrak Railroad corridor between UI's Milvon Substation (located in the City of Milford) and UI's West River Substation (located in the City of New Haven), all in New Haven County, Connecticut.

UI's existing 115-kV lines between Milvon and West River substations, which encompass approximately 19 circuit miles or 9.5 miles per line, traverse portions of southern Milford, the Town of Orange, City of West Haven, and City of New Haven. The lines also connect to UI's Woodmont Substation (located adjacent to the railroad corridor in the City of Milford) and to UI's Allings Crossing and Elmwest substations, situated adjacent to the railroad corridor in the City of West Haven.

Project Location:

Approximate location of the project can be viewed in Google Maps: <https://www.google.com/maps/@41.22384795,-73.04850104257741,14z>



Counties: New Haven County, Connecticut

Endangered Species Act Species

There is a total of 2 threatened, endangered, or candidate species on this species list.

Species on this list should be considered in an effects analysis for your project and could include species that exist in another geographic area. For example, certain fish may appear on the species list because a project could affect downstream species.

IPaC does not display listed species or critical habitats under the sole jurisdiction of NOAA Fisheries¹, as USFWS does not have the authority to speak on behalf of NOAA and the Department of Commerce.

See the "Critical habitats" section below for those critical habitats that lie wholly or partially within your project area under this office's jurisdiction. Please contact the designated FWS office if you have questions.

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1. [NOAA Fisheries](#), also known as the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), is an office of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration within the Department of Commerce.

Mammals

NAME	STATUS
Northern Long-eared Bat <i>Myotis septentrionalis</i> No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9045	Threatened

Birds

NAME	STATUS
Red Knot <i>Calidris canutus rufa</i> No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/1864	Threatened

Critical habitats

THERE ARE NO CRITICAL HABITATS WITHIN YOUR PROJECT AREA UNDER THIS OFFICE'S JURISDICTION.



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In Reply Refer To:

September 14, 2021

Consultation Code: 05E1NE00-2021-SLI-4746

Event Code: 05E1NE00-2021-E-14571

Project Name: Milvon-West River Railroad Transmission Line 115-kV Rebuild Project

Subject: List of threatened and endangered species that may occur in your proposed project location or may be affected by your proposed project

To Whom It May Concern:

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A Biological Assessment is required for construction projects (or other undertakings having similar physical impacts) that are major Federal actions significantly affecting the quality of the human environment as defined in the National Environmental Policy Act (42 U.S.C. 4332(2)(c)). For projects other than major construction activities, the Service suggests that a biological evaluation similar to a Biological Assessment be prepared to determine whether the project may affect listed or proposed species and/or designated or proposed critical habitat. Recommended contents of a Biological Assessment are described at 50 CFR 402.12.

If a Federal agency determines, based on the Biological Assessment or biological evaluation, that listed species and/or designated critical habitat may be affected by the proposed project, the agency is required to consult with the Service pursuant to 50 CFR 402. In addition, the Service recommends that candidate species, proposed species and proposed critical habitat be addressed within the consultation. More information on the regulations and procedures for section 7 consultation, including the role of permit or license applicants, can be found in the "Endangered Species Consultation Handbook" at:

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www.fws.gov/migratorybirds/CurrentBirdIssues/Hazards/towers/comtow.html.

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- Official Species List
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Project Summary

Consultation Code: 05E1NE00-2021-SLI-4746

Event Code: Some(05E1NE00-2021-E-14571)

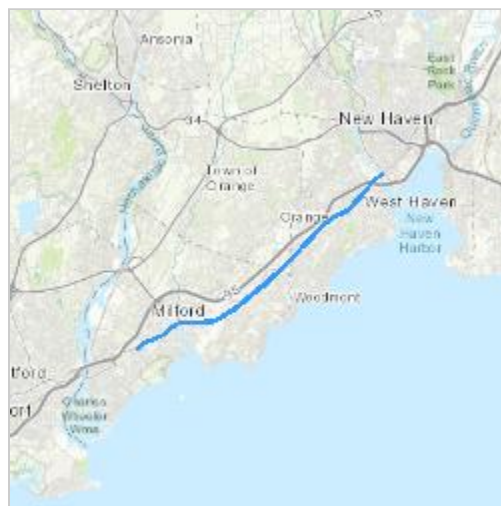
Project Name: Milvon-West River Railroad Transmission Line 115-kV Rebuild Project

Project Type: TRANSMISSION LINE

Project Description: Rebuild of approximately 9.5 miles (19 circuit miles) from Milvon Substation (Milford, CT) to West River Substation (New Haven, CT). Relocate the transmission lines off the existing railroad catenary bonnets (overhead wire systems) and install on independent monopoles with new insulators, hardware and conductor adjacent to the railroad corridor. The 115 kV transmission lines between New Haven and Milford are supported by the Connecticut Department of Transportation (CTDOT) owned railroad catenary structures and connected through UI owned bonnet structures. As a result of age, asset deterioration, and increased mechanical loads, it was recommended that new 115 kV transmission lines be installed in new monopoles along the CTDOT railroad corridor. These upgrades will help maintain system reliability, preserve safety within and adjacent to the right-of-way, and provide technological enhancements to legacy system equipment. The upgrades will improve the reliability, capacity and resiliency of the transmission system, ensuring that the safe and reliable transmission of power is maintained for the customers throughout Fairfield and New Haven County, in accordance with Federal reliability standards. Estimated timetable (subject to change) is construction from 2023 to 2028.

Project Location:

Approximate location of the project can be viewed in Google Maps: <https://www.google.com/maps/@41.250798,-72.99296129555944,14z>



Counties: New Haven County, Connecticut

Endangered Species Act Species

There is a total of 3 threatened, endangered, or candidate species on this species list.

Species on this list should be considered in an effects analysis for your project and could include species that exist in another geographic area. For example, certain fish may appear on the species list because a project could affect downstream species.

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Mammals

NAME	STATUS
Northern Long-eared Bat <i>Myotis septentrionalis</i> No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9045	Threatened

Birds

NAME	STATUS
Red Knot <i>Calidris canutus rufa</i> There is proposed critical habitat for this species. The location of the critical habitat is not available. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/1864	Threatened

Insects

NAME	STATUS
Monarch Butterfly <i>Danaus plexippus</i> No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9743	Candidate

Critical habitats

THERE ARE NO CRITICAL HABITATS WITHIN YOUR PROJECT AREA UNDER THIS OFFICE'S JURISDICTION.
