**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 Eastern hog-nosed snake (*Heterodon platyrhinos*), is present within the Project limits**.** The Eastern hog-nosed snake is one of the most unique snakes found in Connecticut because of its behavior, habits, and appearance. It’s a short, stout snake and its coloration can be highly variable. The snake’s most distinctive field mark is an upturned, hog-like snout which is used for digging up their main food item; toads.In Connecticut, the Eastern hog-nosed snake uses a variety of habitats including loose sandy, and well drained gravely soils. They are more adapted to inhabiting edge habitats and are seldom found in dense wooded areas. They travel underground using enlarged passages created by small mammals. These passages are found in fields, open grassy areas adjacent to woods, and open forest. Snakes cannot regulate their body temperature internally and must warm themselves in the sun. Eastern hog-nosed snakes are one of the rarer snakes in the State due to population declines cause by human disturbances and habitat loss. **They are not venomous.** They are harmless snakes. However when feeling threatened, the hog-nosed snake will try to bluff its way out of a situation by coiling, flattening its head and widening its neck to form a cobra-like hood, inflating its body, hissing fiercely and striking violently. The strike usually made with the mouth closed, almost always falls short of the target. They may also mimic a timber rattlesnake by vibrating their tail, although they do not have a rattle, the motion in dry leaves will create a similar sound. If these tactics do not scare away a predator, the snake will writhe about, excrete a foul-smelling musk, and then turn over with its mouth open, tongue hanging out, and lie still, feigning death. This snake is completely terrestrial. Eastern hog-nosed snakes hibernate in the winter from about October to April. They will use rodent burrows, shrubs, logs or shallow burrows in sandy soil for dens.

 All construction activities taking place within the Project 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 physical construction activities, the Contractor shall, through the Engineer, arrange for a CTDOT OEP Environmental Inspector 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.

 For any work done during the Eastern hog-nosed snake’s active period (May 1to September 30) the CTDOT willrequire the following precautionarymeasuresto protect the Eastern hog-nosed snake andEastern hog-nosed snake habitat:

* 1. All construction personnel working within Eastern hog-nosed snake habitat must be apprised of the species description and the possible presence of this listed species.
1. Exclusionary practices will be required in order to prevent any Eastern hog-nosed snakes’ access to construction areas. These measures will need to be installed at the limits of disturbance as shown on the plans.
2. 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. Standard silt fence is adequate; fencing with netting shall not be used.
3. The Contractor must search the work area each morning for the presence of this listed species prior to any work being done.
4. Any Eastern hog-nosed snake encountered within the immediate work area shall be carefully moved to an adjacent area outside of the excluded area and the Engineer shall be immediately informed to contact OEP with the location.
5. All staging and storage areas in the vicinity of Eastern hog-nosed snake habitat, outside of previously paved locations, regardless of the duration of time they will be utilized, must be reviewed by and receive written approval from OEP through the Engineer.
6. No heavy machinery or vehicles may be parked in any unapproved Eastern hognose snake habitat.
7. Exclusionary fencing shall be removed when it is no longer needed, and silt fence shall be removed as soon as the area is stable to allow for reptile and amphibian passage to resume.

 Work may take place during the Eastern hog-nosed snake’s inactive (hibernation) period (October 1 to April 30) with the following additional precautionarymeasure:

1. Exclusionary fencing must be installed and the area inspected for snakes by the Engineer or Engineer’s approved representative prior to October 1.

 These practices will be applied to the entire Project unless a sketch is attached which identifies specific areas of concern.

 This species is protected by State laws, which prohibit killing, harming, taking, on keeping them in your possession. Photographs and the laws protecting Eastern hognose snakes shall be posted in the Contractor’s and CTDOT field offices (species ID sheets will be provided by OEP).