



USFWS & NDDB COMPLIANCE

July 10, 2023

Homeland Towers, LLC
9 Harmony Street, 2nd Floor
Danbury, Connecticut 06810

Re: Proposed Homeland Towers LLC Haddam North CT Telecommunications Facility
124 Ague Spring Road, Haddam, Connecticut
APT Job No: CT283460

On behalf of Homeland Towers, LLC ("Homeland"), All-Points Technology Corporation, P.C. ("APT") performed an evaluation with respect to possible federally- and state-listed, Endangered, Threatened, or Special Concern species in order to determine if the proposed referenced telecommunication facility ("Facility") would result in a potential adverse effect to listed species.

APT understands that Homeland proposes to construct a new wireless telecommunications facility at 124 Ague Spring Road in Haddam, Connecticut (the "Property"). The Property consists of an approximately 13.14-acre residentially developed parcel that includes a 73.5-foot tall lightweight self-supporting lattice tower previously occupied by Nextel Communications. The area proposed for the Facility is located in the northern portion of the Property in an area that is currently comprised of open upland field. Homeland proposes to install a 150-foot tall monopole tower and ground equipment enclosure within a 40-foot by 70-foot gravel compound area surrounded with an 8-foot tall chain link fence ("Facility"). Access to the Facility will follow an existing gravel road off Ague Spring Road. Improvements to the roadway will be required to widen the access along the approximately 270 foot road.

USFWS

The Federal consultation was completed in accordance with Federal Communications Commission ("FCC") rules implementing the National Environmental Policy Act ("NEPA") and Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act ("ESA") through the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's ("USFWS") Information, Planning, and Conservation System ("IPaC"). Based on the results of the IPaC review, one Federally-listed¹ Endangered species is known to occur in the vicinity of the Subject Property documented as the northern long-eared bat ("NLEB"; *Myotis septentrionalis*)²; please refer to the attached list of Threatened and Endangered species dated July 7, 2023. As a result of this preliminary finding, APT performed an evaluation to determine if the proposed referenced Facility would result in a likely adverse effect to NLEB.

The proposed Facility and access drive would be located within an existing cleared open field with no tree clearing anticipated; trees potentially provide NLEB habitat. A review of the Connecticut

¹ Listing under the Federal Endangered Species Act

² Monarch butterfly (*Danaus plexippus*), a Candidate species, is also listed for the Property. Candidate species have no current protections under the ESA and there is no requirement to consider project impacts.

Department of Energy & Environmental Protection ("CTDEEP") Wildlife Division Natural Diversity Data Base ("NDDB") NLEB habitat map³ revealed that the proposed Facility is not within 150 feet of a known occupied NLEB maternity roost tree and is not within 0.25 mile of a known NLEB hibernaculum. The nearest NLEB habitat resource to the proposed Facility is located ±15 miles to the southwest in North Branford.

NLEB has been reclassified as Endangered under the ESA. The reclassification now eliminates use of the previous 4(d) rule for NLEB; 4(d) rules may only be applied to Threatened species. A NLEB Interim Consultation Framework has been developed by USFWS for projects that are reasonably certain to occur before April 1, 2024 (date on which the NLEB Interim Consultation Framework expires) to facilitate transition from the 4(d) rule to typical ESA consultation procedures for Endangered species. APT submitted the effects determination using the current NLEB Determination Key ("DKey") within the IPaC system for this Facility and determined there would be "No Effect" to NLEB. Please refer to the enclosed USFWS July 7, 2023 letter confirming the NLEB No Effect determination and ESA compliance for the Facility.

NDDB

No known areas of State-listed species are currently depicted on the most recent CTDEEP NDDB Maps in the location or vicinity of the proposed Facility or Subject Property. Please refer to the enclosed NDDB Map which depicts the nearest NDDB buffer ±0.24-mile east of the Facility. Since the proposed Facility and Subject Property are not located within a NDDB buffer area and development of the Facility is not anticipated to result in an area of effect that would encroach upon the buffer area, consultation with DEEP is not required in accordance with their review policy⁴.

Therefore, the proposed Homeland Facility is not anticipated to adversely impact any Federal or State Threatened, Endangered or Special Concern species.

Sincerely,
All-Points Technology Corporation, P.C.



Dean Gustafson
Senior Biologist

Enclosures

³ *Northern long-eared bat areas of concern in Connecticut to assist with Federal Endangered Species Act Compliance* map. March 6, 2019.

⁴ DEEP Requests for NDDB State Listed Species Reviews.
http://www.ct.gov/deep/cwp/view.asp?a=2702&q=323466&deepNav_GID=1628%20

USFWS Species List



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

In Reply Refer To:
Project Code: 2023-0091236
Project Name: Homeland Towers: Haddam North

July 07, 2023

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:

Updated 4/12/2023 - Please review this letter each time you request an Official Species List, we will continue to update it with additional information and links to websites may change.

About Official Species Lists

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. Federal and non-Federal project proponents have responsibilities under the Act to consider effects on listed species.

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 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. 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 by returning to an existing project's page in IPaC.

Endangered Species Act Project Review

Please visit the “**New England Field Office Endangered Species Project Review and Consultation**” website for step-by-step instructions on how to consider effects on listed

species and prepare and submit a project review package if necessary:

<https://www.fws.gov/office/new-england-ecological-services/endangered-species-project-review>

NOTE Please do not use the **Consultation Package Builder** tool in IPaC except in specific situations following coordination with our office. Please follow the project review guidance on our website instead and reference your **Project Code** in all correspondence.

Northern Long-eared Bat - (Updated 4/12/2023) The Service published a final rule to reclassify the northern long-eared bat (NLEB) as endangered on November 30, 2022. The final rule went into effect on March 31, 2023. You may utilize the **Northern Long-eared Bat Rangewide Determination Key** available in IPaC. More information about this Determination Key and the Interim Consultation Framework are available on the northern long-eared bat species page:

<https://www.fws.gov/species/northern-long-eared-bat-myotis-septentrionalis>

For projects that previously utilized the 4(d) Determination Key, the change in the species' status may trigger the need to re-initiate consultation for any actions that are not completed and for which the Federal action agency retains discretion once the new listing determination becomes effective. If your project was not completed by March 31, 2023, and may result in incidental take of NLEB, please reach out to our office at newengland@fws.gov to see if reinitiation is necessary.

Additional Info About Section 7 of the Act

Under section 7(a)(2) of the Act and its implementing regulations (50 CFR 402 et seq.), Federal agencies are required to determine whether projects may affect threatened and endangered species and/or designated critical habitat. If a Federal agency, or its non-Federal representative, determines 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 Federal agency also may need to consider proposed species and proposed critical habitat in the consultation. 50 CFR 402.14(c)(1) specifies the information required for consultation under the Act regardless of the format of the evaluation. 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:

<https://www.fws.gov/service/section-7-consultations>

In addition to consultation requirements under Section 7(a)(2) of the ESA, please note that under sections 7(a)(1) 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. Please contact NEFO if you would like more information.

Candidate species that appear on the enclosed species list have no current protections under the ESA. The species' occurrence on an official species list does not convey a requirement to

consider impacts to this species as you would a proposed, threatened, or endangered species. The ESA does not provide for interagency consultations on candidate species under section 7, however, the Service recommends that all project proponents incorporate measures into projects to benefit candidate species and their habitats wherever possible.

Migratory Birds

In addition to responsibilities to protect threatened and endangered species under the Endangered Species Act (ESA), there are additional responsibilities under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) and the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act (BGEPA) to protect native birds from project-related impacts. Any activity, intentional or unintentional, resulting in take of migratory birds, including eagles, is prohibited unless otherwise permitted by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (50 C.F.R. Sec. 10.12 and 16 U.S.C. Sec. 668(a)). For more information regarding these Acts see:

<https://www.fws.gov/program/migratory-bird-permit>

<https://www.fws.gov/library/collections/bald-and-golden-eagle-management>

Please feel free to contact us at **newengland@fws.gov** with your **Project Code** in the subject line if you need more information or assistance regarding the potential impacts to federally proposed, listed, and candidate species and federally designated and proposed critical habitat.

Attachment(s): Official Species List

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

(603) 223-2541

PROJECT SUMMARY

Project Code: 2023-0091236
Project Name: Homeland Towers: Haddam North
Project Type: Communication Tower New Construction
Project Description: Homeland Towers proposes to construct a +/-150-foot monopole telecommunications tower within a 52 X 70' lease area located at 124 Ague Spring Road in Haddam, Connecticut.

Project Location:

The approximate location of the project can be viewed in Google Maps: <https://www.google.com/maps/@41.502785700000004,-72.51287735369648,14z>



Counties: Middlesex 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	Endangered

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.

YOU ARE STILL REQUIRED TO DETERMINE IF YOUR PROJECT(S) MAY HAVE EFFECTS ON ALL ABOVE LISTED SPECIES.

USFWS NLEB Letter



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



In Reply Refer To:
Project code: 2023-0091236
Project Name: Homeland Towers: Haddam North

July 07, 2023

Federal Nexus: yes
Federal Action Agency (if applicable): Federal Communications Commission

Subject: Record of project representative's no effect determination for 'Homeland Towers: Haddam North'

Dear Deborah Gustafson:

This letter records your determination using the Information for Planning and Consultation (IPaC) system provided to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) on July 07, 2023, for 'Homeland Towers: Haddam North' (here forward, Project). This project has been assigned Project Code 2023-0091236 and all future correspondence should clearly reference this number. **Please carefully review this letter.**

Ensuring Accurate Determinations When Using IPaC

The Service developed the IPaC system and associated species' determination keys in accordance with the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (ESA; 87 Stat. 884, as amended; 16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.) and based on a standing analysis. All information submitted by the Project proponent into IPaC must accurately represent the full scope and details of the Project.

Failure to accurately represent or implement the Project as detailed in IPaC or the Northern Long-eared Bat Rangewide Determination Key (Dkey), invalidates this letter. ***Answers to certain questions in the DKey commit the project proponent to implementation of conservation measures that must be followed for the ESA determination to remain valid.***

Determination for the Northern Long-Eared Bat

Based upon your IPaC submission and a standing analysis, your project has reached the determination of "No Effect" on the northern long-eared bat. To make a no effect determination, the full scope of the proposed project implementation (action) should not have any effects (either positive or negative), to a federally listed species or designated critical habitat. Effects of the action are all consequences to listed species or critical habitat that are caused by the proposed

action, including the consequences of other activities that are caused by the proposed action. A consequence is caused by the proposed action if it would not occur but for the proposed action and it is reasonably certain to occur. Effects of the action may occur later in time and may include consequences occurring outside the immediate area involved in the action. (See § 402.17).

Under Section 7 of the ESA, if a federal action agency makes a no effect determination, no consultation with the Service is required (ESA §7). If a proposed Federal action may affect a listed species or designated critical habitat, formal consultation is required except when the Service concurs, in writing, that a proposed action "is not likely to adversely affect" listed species or designated critical habitat [50 CFR §402.02, 50 CFR§402.13].

Other Species and Critical Habitat that May be Present in the Action Area

The IPaC-assisted determination for the northern long-eared bat does not apply to the following ESA-protected species and/or critical habitat that also may occur in your Action area:

- Monarch Butterfly *Danaus plexippus* Candidate

You may coordinate with our Office to determine whether the Action may affect the animal species listed above and, if so, how they may be affected.

Next Steps

Based upon your IPaC submission, your project has reached the determination of "No Effect" on the northern long-eared bat. If there are no updates on listed species, no further consultation/coordination for this project is required with respect to the northern long-eared bat. However, the Service recommends that project proponents re-evaluate the Project in IPaC if: 1) the scope, timing, duration, or location of the Project changes (includes any project changes or amendments); 2) new information reveals the Project may impact (positively or negatively) federally listed species or designated critical habitat; or 3) a new species is listed, or critical habitat designated. If any of the above conditions occurs, additional coordination with the Service should take place to ensure compliance with the Act.

If you have any questions regarding this letter or need further assistance, please contact the New England Ecological Services Field Office and reference Project Code 2023-0091236 associated with this Project.

Action Description

You provided to IPaC the following name and description for the subject Action.

1. Name

Homeland Towers: Haddam North

2. Description

The following description was provided for the project 'Homeland Towers: Haddam North':

Homeland Towers proposes to construct a +/-150-foot monopole telecommunications tower within a 52 X 70' lease area located at 124 Ague Spring Road in Haddam, Connecticut.

The approximate location of the project can be viewed in Google Maps: <https://www.google.com/maps/@41.502785700000004,-72.51287735369648,14z>



DETERMINATION KEY RESULT

Based on the information you provided, you have determined that the Proposed Action will have no effect on the Endangered northern long-eared bat (*Myotis septentrionalis*). Therefore, no consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service pursuant to Section 7(a)(2) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (87 Stat. 884, as amended 16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*) is required for those species.

QUALIFICATION INTERVIEW

1. Does the proposed project include, or is it reasonably certain to cause, intentional take of the northern long-eared bat or any other listed species?

Note: Intentional take is defined as take that is the intended result of a project. Intentional take could refer to research, direct species management, surveys, and/or studies that include intentional handling/encountering, harassment, collection, or capturing of any individual of a federally listed threatened, endangered or proposed species?

No

2. Do you have post-white nose syndrome occurrence data that indicates that northern long-eared bats (NLEB) are likely to be present in the action area?

Bat occurrence data may include identification of NLEBs in hibernacula, capture of NLEBs, tracking of NLEBs to roost trees, or confirmed acoustic detections. With this question, we are looking for data that, for some reason, may have not yet been made available to U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

No

3. Does any component of the action involve construction or operation of wind turbines?

Note: For federal actions, answer 'yes' if the construction or operation of wind power facilities is either (1) part of the federal action or (2) would not occur but for a federal agency action (federal permit, funding, etc.).

No

4. Is the proposed action authorized, permitted, licensed, funded, or being carried out by a Federal agency in whole or in part?

Yes

5. Is the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), Federal Railroad Administration (FRA), or Federal Transit Administration (FTA) funding or authorizing the proposed action, in whole or in part?

No

6. Are you an employee of the federal action agency or have you been officially designated in writing by the agency as its designated non-federal representative for the purposes of Endangered Species Act Section 7 informal consultation per 50 CFR § 402.08?

Note: This key may be used for federal actions and for non-federal actions to facilitate section 7 consultation and to help determine whether an incidental take permit may be needed, respectively. This question is for information purposes only.

No

7. Is the lead federal action agency the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) or Federal Communications Commission (FCC)? Is the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) or Federal Communications Commission (FCC) funding or authorizing the proposed action, in whole or in part?

Yes

8. Have you determined that your proposed action will have no effect on the northern long-eared bat? Remember to consider the effects of any activities that would not occur but for the proposed action.

If you think that the northern long-eared bat may be affected by your project or if you would like assistance in deciding, answer “No” below and continue through the key. If you have determined that the northern long-eared bat does not occur in your project’s action area and/or that your project will have no effects whatsoever on the species despite the potential for it to occur in the action area, you may make a “no effect” determination for the northern long-eared bat.

Note: Federal agencies (or their designated non-federal representatives) must consult with USFWS on federal agency actions that may affect listed species [50 CFR 402.14(a)]. Consultation is not required for actions that will not affect listed species or critical habitat. Therefore, this determination key will not provide a consistency or verification letter for actions that will not affect listed species. If you believe that the northern long-eared bat may be affected by your project or if you would like assistance in deciding, please answer “No” and continue through the key. Remember that this key addresses only effects to the northern long-eared bat. Consultation with USFWS would be required if your action may affect another listed species or critical habitat. The definition of Effects of the Action can be found here: <https://www.fws.gov/media/northern-long-eared-bat-assisted-determination-key-selected-definitions>

No

9. [Semantic] Is the action area located within 0.5 miles of a known northern long-eared bat hibernaculum?

Note: The map queried for this question contains proprietary information and cannot be displayed. If you need additional information, please contact your State wildlife agency.

Automatically answered

No

10. Does the action area contain any caves (or associated sinkholes, fissures, or other karst features), mines, rocky outcroppings, or tunnels that could provide habitat for hibernating northern long-eared bats?

No

11. Is suitable summer habitat for the northern long-eared bat present within 1000 feet of project activities?
(If unsure, answer "Yes.")

Note: If there are trees within the action area that are of a sufficient size to be potential roosts for bats (i.e., live trees and/or snags ≥ 3 inches (12.7 centimeter) dbh), answer "Yes". If unsure, additional information defining suitable summer habitat for the northern long-eared bat can be found at: <https://www.fws.gov/media/northern-long-eared-bat-assisted-determination-key-selected-definitions>

Yes

12. Will the action cause effects to a bridge?
13. Will the action result in effects to a culvert or tunnel?

No

No

14. Does the action include the intentional exclusion of northern long-eared bats from a building or structure?

Note: Exclusion is conducted to deny bats' entry or reentry into a building. To be effective and to avoid harming bats, it should be done according to established standards. If your action includes bat exclusion and you are unsure whether northern long-eared bats are present, answer "Yes." Answer "No" if there are no signs of bat use in the building/structure. If unsure, contact your local U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services Ecological Services Field Office to help assess whether northern long-eared bats may be present. Contact a Nuisance Wildlife Control Operator (NWCO) for help in how to exclude bats from a structure safely without causing harm to the bats (to find a NWCO certified in bat standards, search the Internet using the search term "National Wildlife Control Operators Association bats"). Also see the White-Nose Syndrome Response Team's guide for bat control in structures

No

15. Does the action involve removal, modification, or maintenance of a human-made structure (barn, house, or other building) **known or suspected to contain roosting bats?**

No

16. Will the action cause construction of one or more new roads open to the public?

For federal actions, answer 'yes' when the construction or operation of these facilities is either (1) part of the federal action or (2) would not occur but for an action taken by a federal agency (federal permit, funding, etc.).

No

17. Will the action include or cause any construction or other activity that is reasonably certain to increase average daily traffic on one or more existing roads?

Note: For federal actions, answer 'yes' when the construction or operation of these facilities is either (1) part of the federal action or (2) would not occur but for an action taken by a federal agency (federal permit, funding, etc.).

No

18. Will the action include or cause any construction or other activity that is reasonably certain to increase the number of travel lanes on an existing thoroughfare?

For federal actions, answer 'yes' when the construction or operation of these facilities is either (1) part of the federal action or (2) would not occur but for an action taken by a federal agency (federal permit, funding, etc.).

No

19. Will the proposed action involve the creation of a new water-borne contaminant source (e.g., leachate pond pits containing chemicals that are not NSF/ANSI 60 compliant)?

No

20. Will the proposed action involve the creation of a new point source discharge from a facility other than a water treatment plant or storm water system?

No

21. Will the action include drilling or blasting?

No

22. Will the action involve military training (e.g., smoke operations, obscurant operations, exploding munitions, artillery fire, range use, helicopter or fixed wing aircraft use)?

No

23. Will the proposed action involve the use of herbicides or pesticides other than herbicides (e.g., fungicides, insecticides, or rodenticides)?

No

24. Will the action include or cause activities that are reasonably certain to cause chronic nighttime noise in suitable summer habitat for the northern long-eared bat? Chronic noise is noise that is continuous or occurs repeatedly again and again for a long time.

Note: Additional information defining suitable summer habitat for the northern long-eared bat can be found at: <https://www.fws.gov/media/northern-long-eared-bat-assisted-determination-key-selected-definitions>

No

25. Does the action include, or is it reasonably certain to cause, the use of artificial lighting within 1000 feet of suitable northern long-eared bat roosting habitat?

Note: Additional information defining suitable roosting habitat for the northern long-eared bat can be found at: <https://www.fws.gov/media/northern-long-eared-bat-assisted-determination-key-selected-definitions>

No

26. Will the action include tree cutting or other means of knocking down or bringing down trees, tree topping, or tree trimming?

No

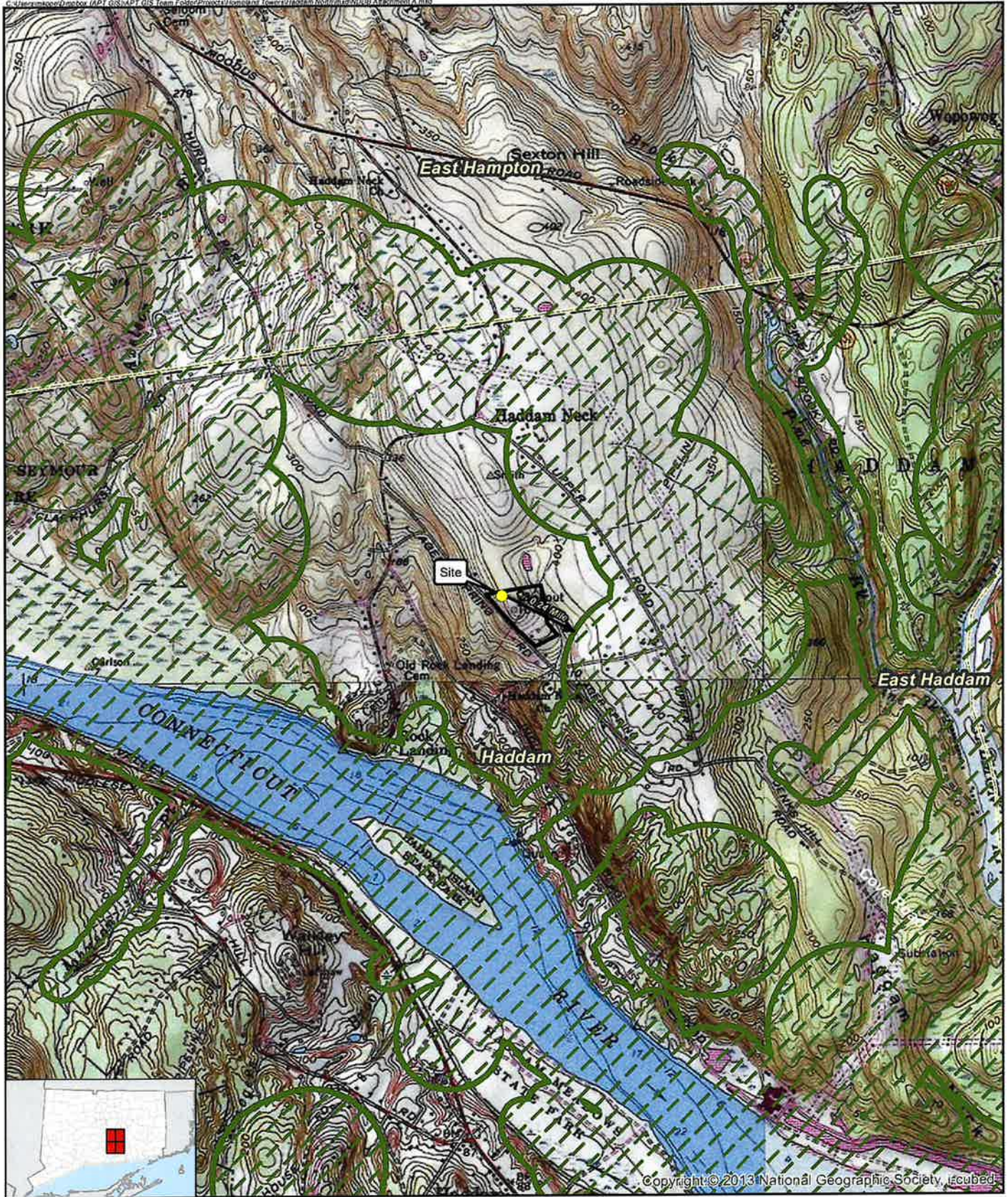
27. Will the action result in the use of prescribed fire?

No

28. Will the action cause noises that are louder than ambient baseline noises within the action area?

No

NDDDB Map

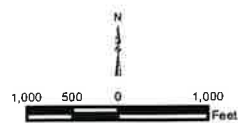


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Legend

-  Proposed Monopole
-  Subject Property
-  CTDEEP Natural Diversity Database (updated June 2023)
-  Municipal Boundary

Map Notes:
 Base Map Source: USGS 7.5 Minute Topographic
 Quadrangle Maps, Deep River, CT (1984), Haddam, CT (1971),
 Middle Haddam, CT (1984), and Moodus, CT (1973)
 Map Scale: 1:24,000
 Map Date: July 2023



NDDB Map

Proposed Wireless
 Telecommunications Facility
 CT402/Haddam North
 124 Age Spring Road
 Haddam, Connecticut

