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10/8/2023

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Subject: GCE Woodbury
Filing # 99827
NDDDB – New Determination Number: 202307720
Fawn Meadow Lane
Woodbury

Expiration Date: 10/8/2025

Current data maintained by the Natural Diversity Database (NDDDB) and housed in the DEEP ezFile portal indicates that populations of the following State Endangered, Threatened, or Special Concern species (RCA Sec. 26-306) have been documented within the project area or in close proximity to the proposed Energy and Utility Production Facilities and Distribution Infrastructure/Solar Energy, GCE Woodbury.

Eastern hognose snake (*Heterodon platirhinos*)

In accordance with the project information provided in your request submittal, implementation of the following Best Management Practices will avoid negative impacts to listed species:

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|---------------------|---|
| Common Name | Eastern hognose snake |
| Scientific Name | <i>Heterodon platirhinos</i> |
| Taxa | reptile |
| Status ¹ | SC |
| General Ecology | In Connecticut, these snakes are found in well-drained forest bottomlands and a matrix of open deciduous forests and early successional habitat, including powerlines. Within the early successional habitat, they preferentially use habitat that consists of sandy soils with medium to high vegetation cover and coarse woody debris. They tend to avoid dense forest, wetlands and developed areas. Paved roads may present a barrier to dispersal and connectivity within populations. Snakes are dormant between November 1 and April 1. They will overwinter in a variety of habitats, preferably at the edges of forest and within open habitats if available. They have been observed to overwinter under areas of tree roots, rodent burrows, rock crevices, or excavate their own dens in sandy soils. Many of these harmless snakes are killed by people who are convinced that they are venomous and dangerous. When confronted, the hognose snake will suck in air, spread the skin around its head and neck like a cobra, hiss, and lunge as if to strike. Take the time to learn about, understand, and respect this reptile, and share your knowledge with others. Being able to identify and educate others about the eastern |

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| | <p>hog-nosed snake can help conserve this species. The more people that are aware of the physical and behavioral identification of this unique snake, the more individuals that can be spared from unnecessary killing. If you encounter a hog-nosed snake, observe it from a distance and allow it to go on its way. All snakes will retreat from humans if given a chance.</p> |
| <p>Best Management Practice</p> | <p style="text-align: center;">Apply time of year restrictions as appropriate for the habitat types you will be conducting work.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Construction that involves ground disturbance in suitable habitat described above should be done during the active season, which is April 1 through Oct. 31 to avoid killing hibernating animals. • Construction that will be confined to managed turf grass , agricultural fields, impervious or graveled surfaces, or areas confined to compacted soil can be conducted at any time of year. <p style="text-align: center;">For work conducted during the active season (April 1- Oct 31):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Construction workers should be apprised of the species description and possible presence and that any snakes encountered site should not be killed. • The immediate work area should be scanned for reptiles before starting work using mechanical equipment • Any reptiles found should be moved out of the way. These animals are protected by law and should never be taken off site. • Work conducted during early morning and evening hours should occur with special care not to harm basking individuals. • No vehicles or heavy machinery should be parked overnight in any sandy areas especially within early successional habitat or along forest edges. • Areas where excavated or stockpiled materials are stored will be first cleared of animals and enclosed in exclusionary fencing. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Exclusionary fencing should be at least 20 in tall and must be secured to and remain in contact with the ground and be regularly maintained (at least bi-weekly and after major weather events) to secure any gaps or openings at ground level that may let animal pass through. • Silt fences should be removed as soon as the project is completed. • Landscape Planning: Use partnerships and landscape scale planning to protect important conservation areas for this species • Nesting Area Management: identify and protect nesting areas for this species. Work with biologists to plan your site use and nesting site management. |

¹E = State Endangered, T = State Threatened, SC = State Special Concern, FE = Federally Endangered, FT = Federally Threatened, NA = Not applicable.

Your submission information indicates that your project requires a state permit, license, registration, or authorization, or utilizes state funding or involves state agency action. This NDDDB – New determination may be utilized to fulfill the Endangered and Threatened Species requirements for state-issued permit applications, licenses, registration submissions, and authorizations.

Please be aware of the following limitations and conditions:

Natural Diversity Database information includes all information regarding listed species available to us at the time of the request. This information is a compilation of data collected over the years by the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection's Natural History Survey and cooperating units of DEEP, land owners, private conservation groups and the scientific community. This information is not necessarily the result of comprehensive or site-specific field investigations. Current research projects and new contributors continue to identify additional populations of species and locations of habitats of concern, as well as enhance existing data. Such new information is incorporated into the Database and accessed through the ezFile portal as it becomes available. New information may result in additional review, and new or modified restrictions or conditions may be necessary to remain in compliance with certain state permits.

- During your work listed species may be encountered on site. A report must be submitted by the observer to the Natural Diversity Database promptly and additional review and restrictions or conditions may be necessary to remain in compliance with certain state permits. Please fill out the [appropriate survey form](#) and follow the instructions for submittal.
- Your project involves the state permit application process or other state involvement, including state funding or state agency actions; please note that consultations with your permit analyst or the agency may result in modifications or additional requirements. In this situation, additional evaluation of the proposal by the DEEP Wildlife Division may be necessary and additional information, including but not limited to species-specific site surveys, may be required.
- If your project involves preparing an Environmental Impact Assessment, this NDDDB consultation and determination should not be substituted for conducting biological field surveys assessing on-site habitat and species presence.
- This determination applies only to the project as described in the submission and summarized at the end of this letter. Please re-submit an updated Request for Review if the project's scope of work and/or timeframe changes, including if work has not begun by 10/8/2025.
- If biological surveys have been conducted in accordance with Best Management Practices provided, please forward a copy of the results to the address listed at the end of this letter. Include the Project Name and Determination Number on all correspondence.

The NDDDB – New determination for the GCE Woodbury at Fawn Meadow Lane, Woodbury, as described in the submitted information and summarized at the end of this document is valid until 10/8/2025. This determination applies only to the project as described in the submission and summarized at the end of this letter. Please re-submit an updated Request for Review if the project's scope of work and/or timeframe changes, including if work has not begun by 10/8/2025.

This letter is computer generated and carries no signature. If however, any clarification is needed, or, if you have further questions, please contact the following:

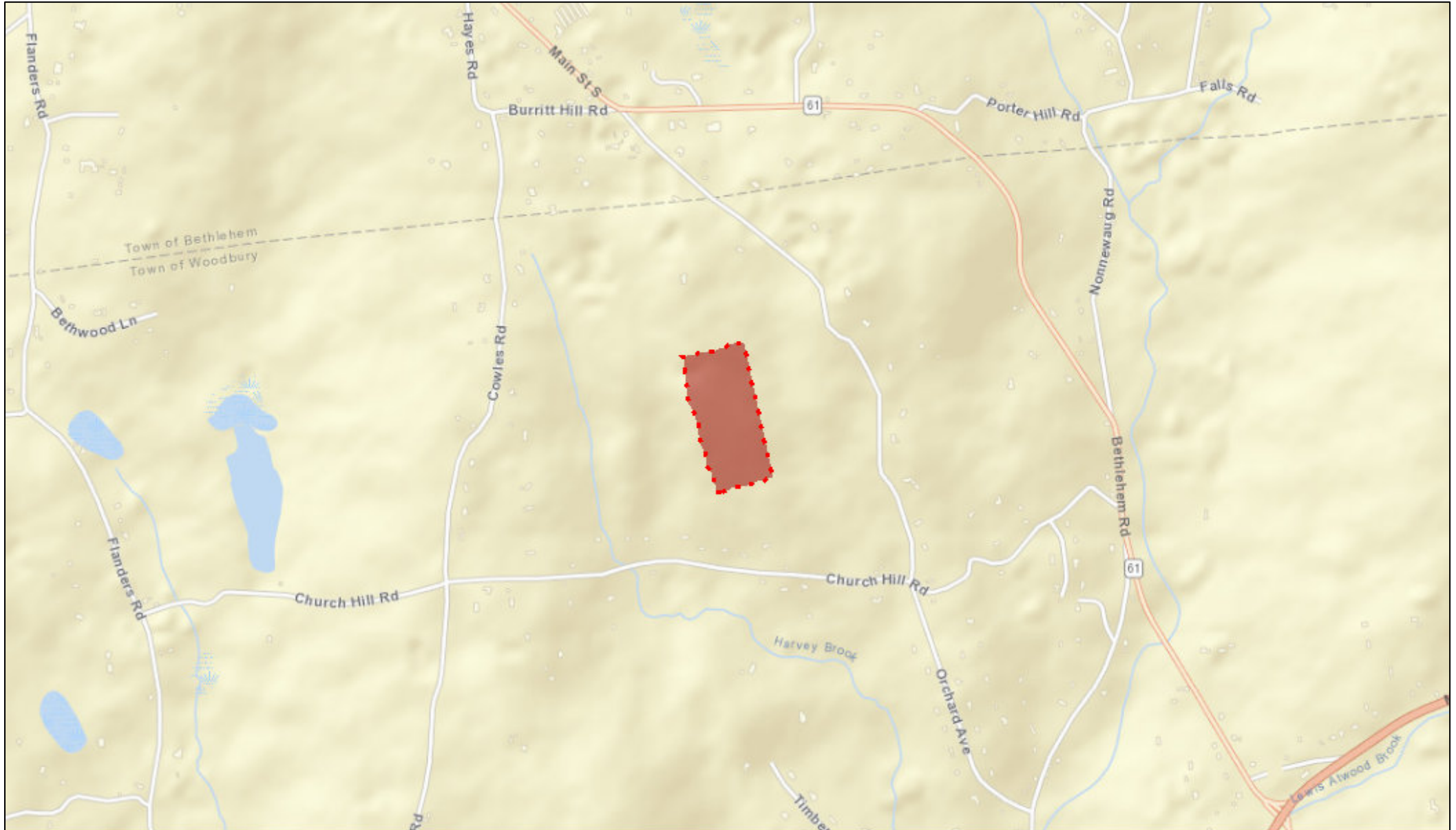
CT DEEP Bureau of Natural Resources
Wildlife Division
Natural Diversity Database, 6th floor
79 Elm Street,
Hartford, CT 06106-5127
(860) 424-3011
deep.nddbrequest@ct.gov

Please reference the Determination Number provided in this letter when you e-mail or write. Thank you for submitting your project through DEEP's ezFile portal for Natural Diversity Database reviews.

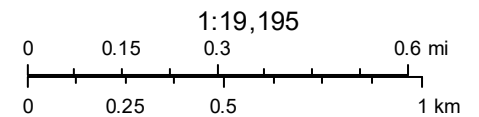
Application Details:

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| Project involves federal funds or federal permit: | No |
| Project involves state funds, state agency action, or relates to CEPA request: | No |
| Project requires state permit, license, registration, or authorization: | Yes |
| DEEP enforcement action related to project: | |
| Project Type: | Energy and Utility Production Facilities and Distribution Infrastructure |
| Project Sub-type: | Solar Energy |
| Project Name: | GCE Woodbury |
| Project Description: | |

GCE Woodbury Map



October 8, 2023



Sources: Esri, HERE, Garmin, USGS, Intermap, INCREMENT P, NRCan, Esri Japan, METI, Esri China (Hong Kong), Esri Korea, Esri (Thailand), NGCC, (c) OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GIS User Community