

STATE OF CONNECTICUT
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
FRANKLIN WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA



391 ROUTE 32
NORTH FRANKLIN, CT 06254
TELEPHONE: (860) 642-7239

June 14, 2010

Ms Nicole Dentamaro
Vanasse Hangen Brustlin, Inc.
54 Tuttle Place
Middletown, CT 06457

re: proposed Cingular telecommunication tower, 316 Perkins Road, Southbury

Dear Ms. Dentamaro:

Your request was forwarded to me on 6/11/10 from Dawn McKay of the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) Natural Diversity Data Base. Their records indicate that a state species of special concern, Eastern Box Turtle (*Terrapene carolina*) occurs in the vicinity of this project.

Past practices at this site do not preclude the existence of Eastern Box Turtles. Eastern Box Turtles require old field and deciduous forest habitats, which can include power lines and logged woodlands. They are often found near small streams and ponds, the adults are completely terrestrial but the young may be semiaquatic, and hibernate on land by digging down in the soil from October to April. They have an extremely small home range and can usually be found in the same area year after year. This species is dormant from November 1 to April 1. It has been negatively impacted by the loss of suitable habitat.

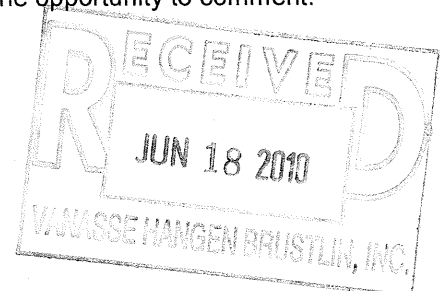
The DEP Wildlife Division has not been provided with details or a timetable of the work to be done. Ground disturbing work done during the dormant period, November 1 to April 1, will avoid impacts to this species. The DEP Wildlife Division recommends that if work must be done in Box Turtle habitat during the turtle's active period (April 1 to November 1) that the following precautionary measures be implemented to protect the turtles:

1. the construction crew be apprised of the species description and possible presence and that the area be searched for turtles each day prior to construction.
2. any turtles encountered during construction be moved out of the way, just outside of the work area.
3. all precautions should be taken to avoid degradation to wetland habitats including any wet meadows and seasonal pools
4. that work conducted in these habitats during the early morning and evening hours should occur with special care not to harm basking or foraging individuals.
5. that no heavy machinery or vehicles be parked in any turtle habitat.

Standard protocols for protection of wetlands should be followed and maintained during the course of the project. Additionally, all silt fencing should be removed after soils are stable so that reptile and amphibian movement between uplands and wetlands is not restricted. Please be advised that the Wildlife Division has not made a field inspection of the project nor have we seen detailed timetables for work to be done. Consultation with the Wildlife Division should not be substituted for site-specific surveys that may be required for environmental assessments. The time of year when this work will take place will affect these species if they are present on the site when the work is scheduled. Please be advised that should state permits be required or should state involvement occur in some other fashion, specific restrictions or conditions relating to the species discussed above may apply. In this situation, additional evaluation of the proposal by the DEP Wildlife Division should be requested. If the proposed project has not been initiated within 12 months of this review, contact the NDDDB for an updated review. If you have any additional questions, please feel free to contact me at Julie.Victoria@ct.gov, please reference the NDDDB # at the bottom of this letter when you e-mail or write. Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

Julie Victoria, Wildlife Biologist
Franklin Swamp Wildlife Management Area
391 Route 32
N. Franklin, CT 06254



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cc: NDDDB - 17789