

STATE OF CONNECTICUT
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION



Bureau of Natural Resources
Division of Wildlife
79 Elm Street, 6th Floor
Hartford, CT 06106
Natural Diversity Data Base

RECEIVED
JAN 13 2009
November 16, 2009
CONNECTICUT
SITING COUNCIL

Ms. Meghan Fahey
The Ottery Group
3420 Morningwood Drive, Suite 100
Olney, MD 20832

re: West Hartland Telecommunications
Facility along Balance Rock Road in East
Hartland, Connecticut

Dear Ms. Fahey:

I have reviewed Natural Diversity Data Base maps and files regarding the area delineated on the map you provided for the proposed new construction of a West Hartland telecommunications facility along Balance Rock Road in East Hartland, Connecticut. According to our information, there are records for State Endangered *Haliaeetus leucocephalus* (bald eagle) and State Special Concern *Neotoma floridana* (scree owl) from the vicinity of this project. I have forwarded your letter to Julie Victoria (DEP Wildlife Division; 860-642-7239) for further review. She will write to you directly with her comments.

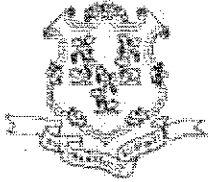
Natural Diversity Data Base information includes all information regarding critical biological resources available to us at the time of the request. This information is a compilation of data collected over the years by the Department's Geological and Natural History Survey and cooperating units of DEP, private conservation groups and the scientific community. This information is not necessarily the result of comprehensive or site-specific field investigations. Consultations with the Data Base should not be substitutes for on-site surveys required for environmental assessments. 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 Data Base as it becomes available.

Please contact me if you have further questions at 424-3592. Thank you for consulting the Natural Diversity Data Base. Also be advised that this is a preliminary review and not a final determination. A more detailed review may be conducted as part of any subsequent environmental permit applications submitted to DEP for the proposed site.

Sincerely,

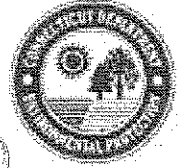
Dawn M. McKay
Biologist/Environmental Analyst

cc: Julie Victoria, NDDB #17282



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
FRANKLIN WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA

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



RECEIVED
JAN 13 2011

CONNECTICUT
SITING COUNCIL

November 19, 2009

Ms. Meaghan Fahey
The Ottery Group
3420 Morningwood Drive, Suite 100
Olney, MD 20832

re: West Hartland telecommunications facility, Balance Rock Rd., East Hartland, CT

Dear Ms. Fahey:

Your request was forwarded to me on 11/18/09 from Dawn McKay of the Department of Environmental Protection's (DEP) Natural Diversity Data Base. There are records of a state endangered bald eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*) and a state species of special concern, the Northern saw-whet owl (*Aegolius acadicus*) in the vicinity of this project site. This project will not impact bald eagles.

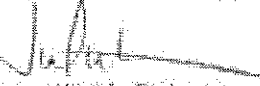
Our data on Northern saw-whet owl distribution and abundance in Connecticut is poorly documented as are their habitat requirements and limiting factors. Fragmentation and loss of habitat to human development are continuing problems for this species in the Northeast. The species is associated with coniferous woods. They are nocturnal birds that hunt along the edges of open parks, meadows or fields. Their food items are mainly insects and occasionally mice, chipmunks and birds such as sparrows and juncos.

Northern Saw-whet owls are cavity nesters and will nest in artificial nesting boxes that are placed in the area. Artificial nesting box plans will be provided at your request. Nesting boxes and silvicultural practices that maintain high densities of nesting and roosting cavities in trees with a minimum diameter of 30.5 cm will benefit this species.

Please be advised that the Wildlife Division has not made a field inspection of the property. If the cutting of pine groves, hardwood groves, or dead tree tops or stumps is necessary a thorough survey for nesting activities by this species should be conducted. The Wildlife Division recommends that an ornithologist familiar with the habitat requirements of the Northern saw-whet owl conduct surveys. A report summarizing the results of such surveys should include habitat descriptions, avian species list and a statement/resume giving the ornithologist's qualifications. The results of this investigation can be forwarded to the Wildlife Division and, after evaluation, recommendations for additional surveys, if any, will be made.

The Wildlife Division has not been provided with details or a timetable of the work to be done. Consultation with the Wildlife Division should not be substituted for site-specific surveys that may be required for environmental assessments. 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 6 months of this review, contact the NDDB for an updated review. If you have any additional questions, please feel free to contact me at Julie.Victoria@ct.gov, please reference the NDDB # at the bottom of this letter when you call or e-mail. Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,


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

cc: NDDB - 17282