



**PRELIMINARY USFWS & CTDEEP
COMPLIANCE DETERMINATION**

January 28, 2017

**Verizon Wireless
99 East River Drive
East Hartford, CT 06108**

APT Project No.: CT1414200

**Re: Proposed Hamden 8 CT Facility
208 Kirk Road
Hamden, Connecticut**

On behalf of Verizon Wireless, All-Points Technology Corporation, P.C. ("APT") performed an evaluation with respect to possible federally-listed, threatened or endangered species in order to determine if the proposed referenced communications facility would result in a potential adverse effect to federally-listed species. This consultation was completed in accordance with FCC rules implementing the National Environmental Policy Act ("NEPA") and Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act through the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's ("USFWS") Information, Planning, and Conservation System ("IPaC")¹ for a proposed telecommunications facility at the referenced Site.

The Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection ("CT DEEP") Natural Diversity Data Base ("NDDB") program has developed maps to serve as a pre-screening tool to help applicants determine if there is a potential impact to state-listed endangered or threatened species, or species of special concern. The NDDB maps represent approximate locations of state-listed species and significant natural communities in Connecticut. The locations of species and natural communities depicted on the maps are based on data collected over the years by CT DEEP staff, scientists, conservation groups, and landowners. In some cases an occurrence represents a location derived from literature, museum records and/or specimens. These data are compiled and maintained in the NDDB. The general locations of species and communities are symbolized as shaded polygons on the maps. Exact locations have been masked on the NDDB maps to protect sensitive species from collection and disturbance and to protect landowner's rights whenever species occur on private property. CT DEEP NDDB mapping depicts the project site within polygons, indicating the potential for conflict with listed species. A Site Location Map is enclosed showing the NDDB buffer. Verizon is consulting with CT DEEP NDDB regarding the project and to determine what, if any, listed species may be known to have occurred in proximity to the Site. As of the time of this filing, no response has been received from the agency.

Based on the results of the IPaC review, one federally-listed threatened species is documented in the vicinity of the Site: the northern long-eared bat ("NLEB"; *Myotis septentrionalis*). Northern long-eared bat's range encompasses the entire State of Connecticut. A copy of the IPaC report is provided in Attachment 2. As a result of this preliminary finding, APT performed an evaluation to determine if the proposed referenced communications facility would result in a likely adverse effect to NLEB. This consultation framework allows federal agencies to rely upon the USFWS January 5, 2016, intra-Service Programmatic Biological Opinion ("BO") on the Final 4(d) Rule for the NLEB for section 7(a)(2) compliance by: (1) notifying the USFWS that an action agency will use the streamlined framework; (2) describing the project with sufficient detail to support the required determination; and (3) enabling the USFWS to track effects and determine if re-initiation of consultation is required per 50 CFR 402.16.

¹ IPaC Consultation Tracking Number: 05E1NE00-2017-SLI-0647, dated January 11, 2017

The Site includes areas that are wooded and located immediately adjacent to a field that is currently planted with Christmas trees. The Site would also include 12' wide proposed access road located within a 20' wide access and utility easement extending from the cul-de-sac of Country Club Drive. The project would result in ±0.4-acre of tree removal. However, the project is not located near known NLEB hibernacula or maternity roost trees. A review of the most current information managed by the CT DEEP Wildlife Division revealed that the Site is **not** within 150 feet of a known occupied maternity roost tree nor is it within 0.25 mile of a known NLEB hibernaculum. The nearest NLEB habitat resource to the proposed activity is located in the Town of Branford, ±20 miles to the southeast. Therefore, the proposed project is not anticipated to have an adverse impact to NLEB.

A copy of the CT DEEP NDDDB's response will be provided to the Council upon receipt. Should a listed species be identified by the agency that requires additional consultations, we understand Verizon Wireless will complete requested actions to minimize potential impacts and implement such remedies into the Council's Development & Management Plan process should the project be approved.

If you have any questions regarding these findings, please contact me (860) 663-1697 ext. 102 or by email at mibertine@allpointstech.com.

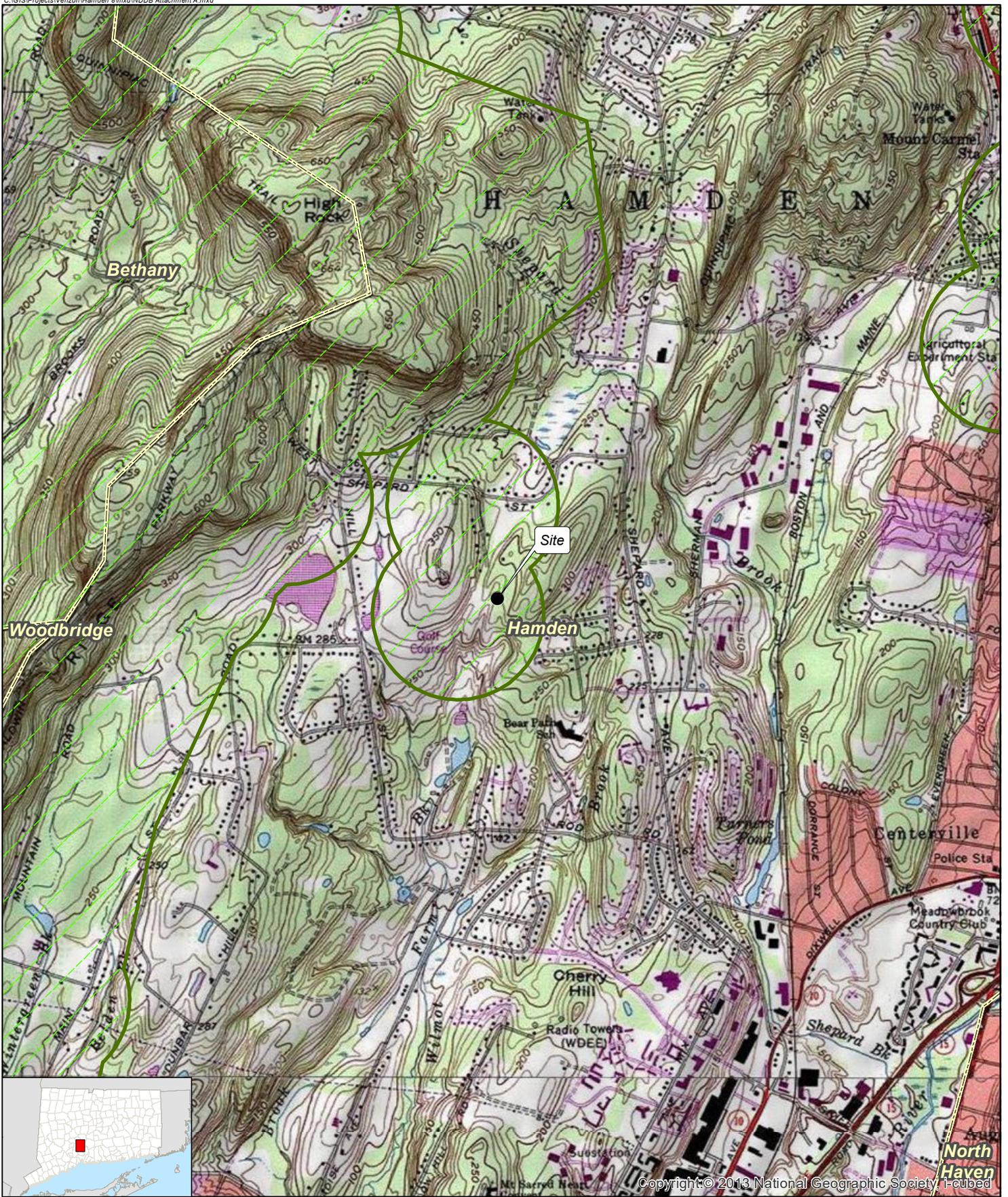
Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Michael Libertine".

Michael Libertine
Director of Siting and Permitting

Enclosures

Site Location NDDDB Buffer Map



Copyright © 2013 National Geographic Society, T-cubed

Legend

- Site
- Natural Diversity Database (NDBB; last updated 12/2016)
- Municipal Boundary

Map Notes:
 Base Map Source: USGS 7.5 Minute Topographic
 Quadrangle Map, Mount Carmel, CT (1984)
 Map Date: December 2016



**NDBB Attachment A:
 Overview Map**

Proposed Wireless
 Telecommunications Facility
 Hamden 8
 208 Kirk Road
 Hamden, Connecticut



USFWS IPaC Threatened and Endangered Species Report



United States Department of the Interior



FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
New England Ecological Services Field Office
70 COMMERCIAL STREET, SUITE 300
CONCORD, NH 03301
PHONE: (603)223-2541 FAX: (603)223-0104
URL: www.fws.gov/newengland

Consultation Code: 05E1NE00-2017-SLI-0647

January 11, 2017

Event Code: 05E1NE00-2017-E-01055

Project Name: VZW Hamden 8 CT

Subject: List of threatened and endangered species that may occur in your proposed project location, and/or may be affected by your proposed project

To Whom It May Concern:

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 feel free to contact us if you need more current information or assistance regarding the potential impacts to federally proposed, listed, and candidate species and federally designated and proposed critical habitat. 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. This verification can be completed formally or informally as desired. 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 through the ECOS-IPaC system by completing the same process used to receive the enclosed list.

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. Under sections 7(a)(1) and 7(a)(2) 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 and to determine whether projects may affect threatened and endangered species and/or designated critical habitat.

A Biological Assessment is required for construction projects (or other undertakings having similar physical impacts) that are major Federal actions significantly affecting the quality of the human environment as defined in the National Environmental Policy Act (42 U.S.C. 4332(2)(c)). For projects other than major construction activities, the Service suggests that a biological evaluation similar to a Biological Assessment be prepared to determine whether the project may affect listed or proposed species and/or designated or proposed critical habitat. Recommended contents of a Biological Assessment are described at 50 CFR 402.12.

If a Federal agency determines, based on the Biological Assessment or biological evaluation, 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 Service recommends that candidate species, proposed species and proposed critical habitat be addressed within the consultation. 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:

<http://www.fws.gov/endangered/esa-library/pdf/TOC-GLOS.PDF>

Please be aware that bald and golden eagles are protected under the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act (16 U.S.C. 668 *et seq.*), and projects affecting these species may require development of an eagle conservation plan (http://www.fws.gov/windenergy/eagle_guidance.html). Additionally, wind energy projects should follow the wind energy guidelines (<http://www.fws.gov/windenergy/>) for minimizing impacts to migratory birds and bats.

Guidance for minimizing impacts to migratory birds for projects including communications towers (e.g., cellular, digital television, radio, and emergency broadcast) can be found at: <http://www.fws.gov/migratorybirds/CurrentBirdIssues/Hazards/towers/towers.htm>; <http://www.towerkill.com>; and <http://www.fws.gov/migratorybirds/CurrentBirdIssues/Hazards/towers/comtow.html>.

We appreciate your concern for threatened and endangered species. The Service encourages Federal agencies to include conservation of threatened and endangered species into their project planning to further the purposes of the Act. Please include the Consultation Tracking Number in the header of this letter with any request for consultation or correspondence about your project that you submit to our office.

Attachment



United States Department of Interior
Fish and Wildlife Service

Project name: VZW Hamden 8 CT

Official Species List

Provided by:

New England Ecological Services Field Office

70 COMMERCIAL STREET, SUITE 300

CONCORD, NH 03301

(603) 223-2541

<http://www.fws.gov/newengland>

Consultation Code: 05E1NE00-2017-SLI-0647

Event Code: 05E1NE00-2017-E-01055

Project Type: COMMUNICATIONS TOWER

Project Name: VZW Hamden 8 CT

Project Description: Verizon Wireless proposes the installation of 164 foot AGL steel monopole tower designed to support a minimum of (4) telecommunication carrier antennas with a 55 foot by 50 foot gravel compound with 8 foot cabinets including a diesel fueled "DC" generator on a raised steel equipment platform. Proposed utility conduits will be routed underground within a 20 foot wide utility easement. The access to the facility will be along an existing 20 foot wide access easement over an existing paved access drive with parking lot.

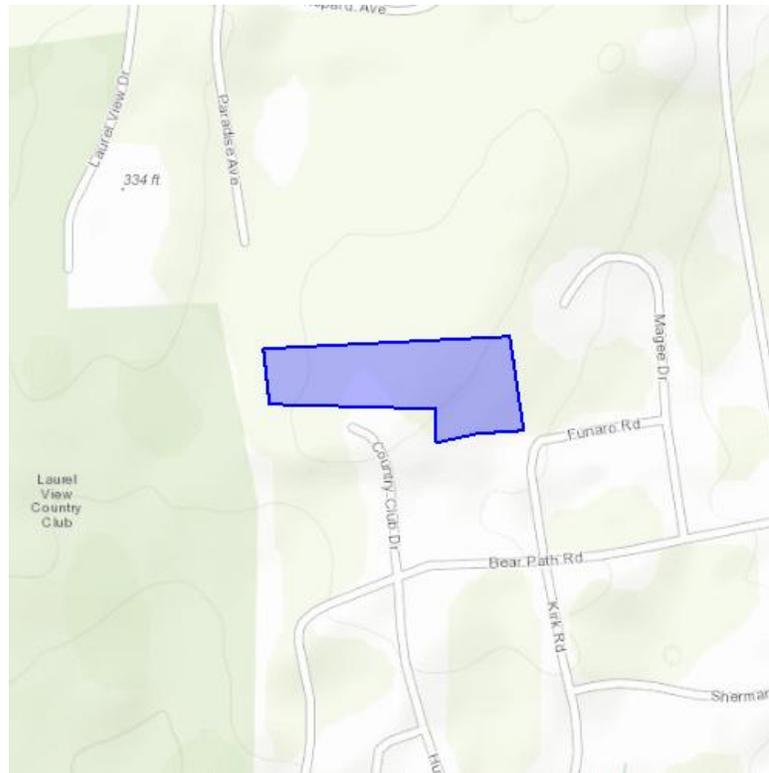
Please Note: The FWS office may have modified the Project Name and/or Project Description, so it may be different from what was submitted in your previous request. If the Consultation Code matches, the FWS considers this to be the same project. Contact the office in the 'Provided by' section of your previous Official Species list if you have any questions or concerns.



United States Department of Interior
Fish and Wildlife Service

Project name: VZW Hamden 8 CT

Project Location Map:



Project Coordinates: MULTIPOLYGON (((-72.92758829891682 41.39563991129398, -72.92735585570335 41.3945199996233, -72.92808829247952 41.39447374641895, -72.92877250909805 41.394362568855286, -72.9287711083889 41.394769951701164, -72.93140681087971 41.39483116567135, -72.93151073157787 41.395502358675, -72.92758829891682 41.39563991129398)))

Project Counties: New Haven, CT



United States Department of Interior
Fish and Wildlife Service

Project name: VZW Hamden 8 CT

Endangered Species Act Species List

There are a total of 1 threatened or endangered species on your 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. Critical habitats listed under the **Has Critical Habitat** column may or may not lie within your project area. See the **Critical habitats within your project area** section further below for critical habitat that lies within your project. Please contact the designated FWS office if you have questions.

Mammals	Status	Has Critical Habitat	Condition(s)
Northern long-eared Bat (<i>Myotis septentrionalis</i>) Population: Wherever found	Threatened		



United States Department of Interior
Fish and Wildlife Service

Project name: VZW Hamden 8 CT

Critical habitats that lie within your project area

There are no critical habitats within your project area.