



STATE OF CONNECTICUT

CONNECTICUT SITING COUNCIL

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VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

August 21, 2017

TO: Parties and Intervenors

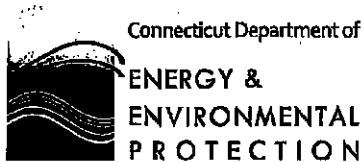
FROM: Melanie Bachman, Executive Director *MAB*

RE: **DOCKET NO. 474** - The Connecticut Light & Power Company d/b/a Eversource Energy application for a Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need for the Greater Hartford-Central Connecticut Reliability Project that traverses the municipalities of Hartford, West Hartford, and Newington, which consists of (a) construction, maintenance and operation of a new 115-kilovolt (kV) electric transmission line within existing Eversource, Amtrak and public road rights-of-way and associated facilities extending overhead approximately 2.4 miles and underground approximately 1.3 miles between Eversource's existing Newington Substation in the Town of Newington and existing Southwest Hartford Substation in the City of Hartford; (b) modifications to a .01 mile section within existing Eversource right-of-way of the existing overhead 115-kV electric transmission line connection to the Newington Substation (Newington Tap); and (c) related modifications to Newington Substation and Southwest Hartford Substation.

Comments have been received from the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection, dated August 18, 2017. A copy of the comments is attached for your review.

MB/MP/lm

c: Council Members

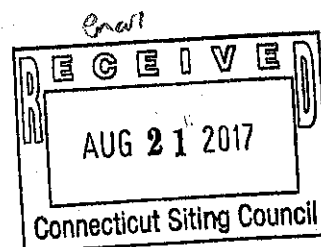


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August 18, 2017



Robert Stein, Chairman
Connecticut Siting Council
10 Franklin Square
New Britain, Connecticut 06051

RE: Greater Hartford-Central Connecticut Reliability Project
Eversource Energy
Newington, West Hartford and Hartford
Docket No. 474

Dear Chairman Stein:

Staff of this department have reviewed the above-referenced application for a Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need and conducted a field review of the corridor on August 14, 2017. Based on these efforts, the following comments are offered to the Council for your use in this proceeding.

Eversource Energy proposes to construct a 3.7-mile, 115-kV transmission line connecting the Newington Substation in the northwestern corner of Newington with the Southwest Hartford Substation. Of that length, 2.4 miles of the line would be constructed overhead, running along the eastern side of the Amtrak right-of-way, 1.1 miles would be constructed underground from Newington Substation to the Amtrak ROW, and 0.2 miles would extend underground between the Amtrak ROW and the Southwest Hartford Substation. In addition, the substations at both termini would be expanded by 0.3 acres each to accommodate receipt of the new line.

In general, the route chosen for the Greater Hartford-Central Connecticut transmission line represents a low impact route to effect the desired connection of the two substations. The use of existing utility and transportation corridors minimizes environmental and land use impacts compared to alternative routes which could involve longer transmission lines or which could traverse more sensitive areas.

Natural Diversity Data Base

Consultants for Eversource have contacted the DEEP Natural Diversity Data Base regarding State-listed species in the construction area. Although the Eversource Petition correctly states that there are no records of State-listed species within the limits of the Great Hartford-Central Connecticut Reliability Project corridor, two listed turtle species are known to occur immediately west of Newington Substation, just beyond the project limits. Specifically, these two species of special concern are the spotted turtle (*Clemmys guttata*) and eastern box turtle (*Terrapene carolina carolina*). Attached to these comments, please find the specific protection strategies for

these two species as provided to Eversource's consultant by the Natural Diversity Data Base biologist in her letter of August 1, 2017.

Regulatory Issues

Section 9 of the Petition correctly notes the two relevant environmental permits from DEEP for this proposed project.

Relative to the Section 401 Water Quality Certification, the project may qualify for the Connecticut General Section 401 Water Quality Certificate in view of the absence of any permanent wetland impacts. The Petition notes on page 6-9 that compensating mitigation for wetland impacts would likely consist of an in-lieu payment. Though the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers commonly uses this method of compensation, DEEP generally does not participate in the fee-in-lieu program. Robert Gilmore of the DEEP Land and Water Resources Division should be contacted in regard to appropriate wetlands compensation for the 1.55 acres of temporary construction impacts arising from this project. He can be reached at (860) 424-3866.

The proposed project will also need a General Permit for the Discharge of Stormwater and Dewatering Wastewater Associated with Construction Activities. Trenching work for the buried cables in Newington and excavation work for the three splice vaults will likely involve a considerable amount of dewatering. A much smaller volume of dewatering wastewater would be anticipated from the excavation for the foundations of the forty-nine structures proposed along the Amtrak ROW for the overhead portion of the line. The segment of the Amtrak corridor in the project area appears to be generally well drained. However, any dewatering wastewater that may be generated from the Amtrak property has greater potential to contain contamination due to the longstanding rail use of this corridor as well as the industrial nature of the adjacent land uses. PCBs are often encountered on railroad property as a result of leakage from PCB-containing electrical equipment on trains. Petroleum-based waste products from spills and drips may also be encountered. Page 5-40 of the Petition notes that sampling of soil and groundwater for contamination will be undertaken along the project route in advance of final design. A representative sample of structure sites along the Amtrak corridor should be included in this testing. If any contamination is encountered at any individual structure location, then the adjacent structure locations in both directions should also be tested. DEEP would be willing to assist the Council in reviewing the Eversource Development and Management Plan for this project as it relates to soil and groundwater contamination issues and their impact on project design and the selected placement of splice vaults or transmission line structures.

Shepard Steel Property

During the DEEP site review of August 14, I spoke with Joseph Fernandez, Site General Manager, at the Shepard Steel facility in Newington to explain my purpose in accessing his site. When he looked at Sheet 4 of 12 in Volume 3 of the Petition containing the orthoquad maps of the proposed route, he said that Shepard Steel's discussions with Eversource Energy had led to an agreed cable route across the Shepard Steel property that was substantially different than that shown on Sheet 4 of 12. He called Keith Wolf of Shepard Steel, who had handled the discussions with Eversource, and Mr. Wolf confirmed what Mr. Fernandez said about the agreed cable alignment, namely that the agreed route across Shepard Steel's site resulted in the transition structure being approximately 150' further south than shown on this plan, placing it in the area

occupied by three flatbed trailers used for storage purposes. These trailers are visible on Sheet 4 of 12 as three brown rectangles south of the transition structure location indicated on that sheet. The same northerly crossing route across Shepard Steel is also shown on Sheet 2 of 4 of the larger scale proposed route maps of Volume 3.

The cable alignment shown for the Shepard Steel parcel in these two Volume 3 maps appears to simply not reflect the most current proposed route. When the overhead portion of the transmission line route was walked, there was no stake for the structure 12B shown on Sheet 4 of 12. Rather, a stake for structure 11B was found further south, directly across the Amtrak ROW from the three flatbed trailers at Shepard Steel. Further, looking across the Amtrak and CTfastrak corridors from the structure 11B stake, a flagged stake was noted on the Shepard Steel site just behind the flatbed trailers and adjacent to the busway fence. Thus it appears that the alignment Shepard Steel agreed to is reflected in the project design but was not updated on the two maps in volume 3. Mr. Fernandez indicated that placing the transition structure at the location shown on Sheet 4 of 12 would be very problematic for Shepard Steel's use of its property.

Site Review Observations

Most of the project corridor was walked on August 14. However, substantial sections of the Newington right-of-way are not accessible due to extremely dense shrub and herbaceous vegetation, namely the segment between Newington Substation and Avery Lane, the western half of the segment between Avery Lane and West Hartford Road, and the eastern half of the segment between West Hartford Road and Willard Avenue.

At Newington Substation, there is evidence of very recent tree clearing work outside the northwestern corner of the substation. The substation sits higher than the adjacent land to the south and west into which it will be expanded. (Note: A reference on page 3-18 of the Petition to the substation being expanded to the south and east is apparently in error as all other text and maps show the expansion to the south and west.) Blackberry bushes and goldenrod are the major species in the expansion areas, with black locust and poison ivy also well represented in the southerly expansion area.

East of Avery Road, a very dense wall of *Phragmites*, approximately 10' tall, prevented access to the right-of-way in this direction.

Some landscaping will likely be lost at the home at 75 West Hartford Road including an interestingly sculpted cubic-shaped yew and a cherry tree near the road, and some forsythia farther back in the yard. The loss of a line of nine white pine, one Norway maple and one black oak, ranging in size for 8" dbh to 24" dbh behind the home at 40 Reservoir Road may be avoidable since the new cables are sited between the two existing electric lines at this point rather than south of them. The right-of-way itself supports a monoculture of Japanese knotweed from West Hartford Road to this point. Shortly after this point, the underground cables shift from a location between lines 6000 and 6001 to an alignment north of line 6000 and enter into a wooded environment with a mixture of red maple, elm, hickory and ash. As the ground gets wetter moving west, skunk cabbage and poison ivy become prominent.

Moving east from West Hartford Road, the cable route shifts from being between circuits 6000 and 6001 to running south of these lines. Once again, the vegetation under these lines becomes very dense with a mixture of multiflora rose, willow, grape vines and poison ivy. Access along the south side of the alignment, south of the two electric lines and roughly along the underground cable route, is available through the yard at 74 West Hartford Road and the wooded area behind this home until approximately the midpoint between West Hartford Road and Willard Avenue. Sheet 3 of 12 of the cable alignment in volume 3 shows the second splice vault as on the limit of wetland N-3. In the field, there is no significant visual change in the nature of the ground cover or vegetation as this mapped boundary is crossed.

At Willard Avenue, dense shrubs and herbaceous vegetation is encountered on the west side of that street commencing right at the Willard Avenue Switch Stand. Some cedars and Norway maples at 79 Willard Avenue between that house and the switch stand will likely be lost. Once the cables reach Willard Avenue, they will run within the road, passing seven homes along the east side of Willard Avenue in addition to passing along 79 Willard Avenue on the west side.

After passing 24 Willard Avenue, the cables enter Shepard Drive, where the third splice vault is proposed to be placed just off Willard Avenue. There is immediately adjacent vacant land behind 24 Willard Avenue where the splice vault could easily be located if there is any utility to locating that vault outside of the roadway, either in terms of traffic impact or future maintenance.

The line's crossing of the Shepard Steel property is discussed earlier in these comments. From the southeast corner of the Shepard Steel property, the line will transition to an overhead configuration and cross the *CTfastrak* busway and the two Amtrak lines.

Moving to the northern terminus of the line, the Southwest Hartford Substation will be expanded 65' eastward into an area of maintained lawn. Seven trees within this area (4 white pine, 2 black locust and a pin oak) will be lost. The impacts of the Southwest Hartford Substation expansion will be very minimal. The underground cables will exit the substation, extend along the access driveway to New Park Avenue, crossing that street, then traversing south under Interstate 84 and entering the extreme northern portion of the Bow-Tie Cinema property where the line will head eastward across the grassed lawn area north of the parking lot. A European birch will be lost at the entrance to the cinema lot. The transition structure between the overhead and underground line configurations is in the far northeastern corner of the cinema property and will not impact the parking lot or the cinema operations. The new line will then exit the cinema property overhead and cross the busway and Amtrak lines to structure #60 on the east side of the Amtrak lines. Structure #60 was one of a handful of structures for which the locational stake was not found during the field review.

Heading south from structure #60, the 2.4 mile segment of the Amtrak property to host the new 115-kV line is flat, well drained and clear of vegetation, generally being covered with crushed stone. Most of the length of the Amtrak corridor has an access road along it, though there are segments that do not. Similarly, a drainage swale is found along most of this segment though at times the swale disappears into either one or two concrete pipes, and at other points, neither the swale nor pipes are present. The Eversource line moves back and forth relative to the drainage

August 18, 2017

swale, sometimes being to the east and sometimes the west. The abutting properties to the east of Amtrak are generally industrial in nature though not all of them are currently in use.

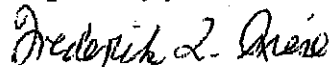
The new transmission line will cross over the distribution and telephone lines along Oakwood Avenue. The Council may wish to verify that adequate clearances will be maintained between these existing lines and the lowest of the conductors of the new circuit.

Two rail spurs run off the Amtrak line into industrial properties and would run under the new transmission line. These spurs are located between new structures # 32 and 37 and between structures # 41 and 46. Automatic derails have been installed on both of the spurs indicating that neither is in current use.

There should be no issues with the transmission line's crossing of Trout Brook as the nearest structures to the north and south will be well removed from the banks of that watercourse.

Thank you for the opportunity to review this application and to submit these comments to the Council. Should you, other Council members or Council staff have any questions, please feel free to contact me at (860) 424-4110 or at frederick.riese@ct.gov.

Respectfully yours,



Frederick L. Riese
Senior Environmental Analyst

cc: Commissioner Robert Klee
Attachment: (1)



Connecticut Department of

**ENERGY &
ENVIRONMENTAL
PROTECTION**

August 1, 2017

Mr. Chris Fritz
Burns & McDonnell
108 Leigus Road, Building A, Suite 1100
Wallingford, CT 06492
cfritz@burnsmcd.com

Project: Eversource Energy Company, Inc. CT DEEP General Permit for the Discharge of Stormwater and Dewatering Wastewaters from Construction Activities for the Greater Hartford Central Connecticut Reliability Project, New Distribution and Transmission Line between Newington Substation Located at 185 Cherry Hill Rd and Southwest Hartford Substation Located at 271 Park Ave in Hartford, Connecticut
NDDB Determination No.: 201705377

Dear Chris Fritz,

I have reviewed Natural Diversity Data Base maps and files regarding the area delineated on the map you provided for the proposed Eversource Energy Company, Inc. CT DEEP General Permit for the Discharge of Stormwater and Dewatering Wastewaters from Construction Activities for the Greater Hartford Central Connecticut Reliability Project, New Distribution and Transmission Line between Newington Substation Located at 185 Cherry Hill Rd and Southwest Hartford Substation Located at 271 Park Ave in Hartford, Connecticut.

State Listed Turtles

There are extant know populations of state special concern and *Clemmys guttata* (spotted turtle) and *Terrapene carolina carolina* (eastern box turtle) that occur along the most southwestern portion of this project and best management practices will need to be implemented in this area where structures will be placed or replaced.

Protection for Turtles during Inactive Period (October 1st through March 30th):

- Keeping heavy equipment in the open ROW to the greatest extent possible and hand-felling trees to the greatest extent possible will minimize the potential for heavy machinery to crush hibernating turtles located in wetland edges along the ROW
- Avoid and limit any equipment use within 50 feet of wetlands
- When felling trees adjacent to brooks and streams please cut them to fall away from the waterway and do not drag trees across the waterway or remove stumps from banks.
- No heavy machinery or vehicles may be parked in any turtle habitat.
- All construction personnel working within the turtle habitat must be apprised of the species description and the possible presence of a listed species, and instructed to notify the appropriate authorities to relocate any observed turtle.
- Any confirmed sightings of box, wood or spotted turtles should be reported and documented with the NDDB (nddbrequestdep@ct.gov) on the appropriate special animal form found at (http://www.ct.gov/deep/cwp/view.asp?a=2702&q=323460&depNav_GID=1641)

Protection for Turtles during Active Period (April 1st through September 30th):

- Hiring a qualified herpetologist to be on site to ensure these protection guidelines remain in effect and prevent turtles from being run over when moving heavy equipment. This is especially important in the month of June when turtles are selecting nesting sites. All construction personnel working within the turtle habitat must be apprised of the species description and the possible presence of a listed species, and

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instructed to relocate turtles found inside work areas or notify the appropriate authorities to relocate individuals. The Contractor and consulting herpetologist must search the work area each morning prior to any work being done. If a turtle is discovered later in the day after the initial search work should stop until the turtle can be relocated by the qualified herpetologist or educated construction worker. Any turtles encountered within the immediate work area shall be carefully moved to an adjacent area outside of the excluded area and any exclusionary fencing should be inspected to identify and remove access point. The goal is to keep turtles from being unintentionally killed during this project.

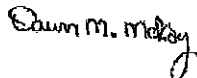
- Exclusionary practices will be required to prevent any turtle access into construction areas. These measures will need to be installed at the limits of disturbance.
- Exclusionary fencing must be at least 20 in tall and must be secured to and remain in contact with the ground and be regularly maintained (at least bi-weekly and after major weather events) to secure any gaps or openings at ground level that may let animal pass through. Do not use plastic or netted silt-fence.
- All staging and storage areas, outside of previously paved locations, regardless of the duration of time they will be utilized, must be reviewed to remove individuals and exclude them from re-entry.
- In areas where silt fence is used for exclusion, it shall be removed as soon as the area is stable to allow for reptile and amphibian passage to resume.
- No heavy machinery or vehicles may be parked in any turtle habitat.
- Special precautions must be taken to avoid degradation of wetland habitats including any wet meadows and seasonal pools.
- When felling trees adjacent to brooks and streams please cut them to fall away from the waterway and do not drag trees across the waterway or remove stumps from banks.
- Avoid and limit any equipment use within 50 feet of wetlands.
- If mowing during the active season is required, vegetation will be mowed to no lower than 7". Flail type mowers will not be used for mowing in the active season.
- Any confirmed sightings of box, wood or spotted turtles should be reported and documented with the NDDDB (nddbrequestdep@ct.gov) on the appropriate special animal form found at (http://www.ct.gov/deep/cwp/view.asp?a=2702&q=323460&depNav_GID=1641)

This determination is good for two years. Please re-submit an NDDDB Request for Review if the scope of work changes or if work has not begun on this project by August 1, 2019.

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 of Energy and Environmental Protection's Natural History Survey and cooperating units of DEEP, 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 (860) 424-3592, or dawn.mckay@ct.gov. Thank you for consulting the Natural Diversity Data Base. A more detailed review may be conducted as part of any subsequent environmental permit applications submitted to DEEP for the proposed site.

Sincerely,



Dawn M. McKay
Environmental Analyst 3

WILDLIFE IN CONNECTICUT

STATE SPECIES OF SPECIAL CONCERN

Eastern Box Turtle

Terrapene carolina carolina

Description

The eastern box turtle is probably the most familiar of the 8 species of turtles found in Connecticut's landscape. It is known for its high-domed carapace (top shell). The carapace has irregular yellow or orange blotches on a brown to black background that mimic sunlight dappling on the forest floor. The plastron (under shell) may be brown or black and may have an irregular pattern of cream or yellow. The length of the carapace usually ranges from 4.5 to 6.5 inches, but can measure up to 8 inches long. The shell is made up of a combination of scales and bones, and it includes the ribs and much of the backbone.

Each individual turtle has distinctive head markings. Males usually have red eyes and a concave plastron, while females have brown eyes and a flat plastron. Box turtles also have a horny beak, stout limbs, and feet that are webbed at the base. This turtle gets its name from its ability to completely withdraw into its shell, closing itself in with a hinged plastron. Box turtles are the only Connecticut turtle with this ability.

Range

Eastern box turtles are found throughout Connecticut, except at the highest elevations. They range from southeastern Maine to southeastern New York, west to central Illinois, and south to northern Florida.

Habitat and Diet

In Connecticut, this terrestrial turtle inhabits a variety of habitats, including woodlands, field edges, thickets, marshes, bogs, and stream banks. Typically, however, box turtles are found in well-drained forest bottomlands and open deciduous forests. They will use wetland areas at various times during the season. During the hottest part of a summer day, they will wander to find springs and seepages where they can burrow into the moist soil. Activity is restricted to mornings and evenings during summer, with little to no nighttime activity, except for egg-



laying females. Box turtles have a limited home range where they spend their entire life, ranging from 0.5 to 10 acres (usually less than 2 acres).

Box turtles are omnivorous and will feed on a variety of food items, including earthworms, slugs, snails, insects, frogs, toads, small snakes, carrion, leaves, grass, berries, fruits, and fungi.

Life History

From October to April, box turtles hibernate by burrowing into loose soil, decaying vegetation, and mud. They tend to hibernate in woodlands, on the edge of woodlands, and sometimes near closed canopy wetlands in the forest. Box turtles may return to the same place to hibernate year after year. As soon as they come out of hibernation, box turtles begin feeding and searching for mates.

The breeding season begins in April and may continue through fall. Box turtles usually do not breed until they are about 10 years old. This late maturity is a result of their long lifespan, which can range up to 50 to even over 100 years of age. The females do not have to mate every year to lay eggs as they can store sperm for up

to 4 years. In mid-May to late June, the females will travel from a few feet to more than a mile within their home range to find a location to dig a nest and lay their eggs. The 3 to 8 eggs are covered with dirt and left to be warmed by the sun. During this vulnerable time, skunks, foxes, snakes, crows, and raccoons often raid nests. Sometimes, entire nests are destroyed. If the eggs survive, they will hatch in late summer to early fall (about 2 months after being laid). If they hatch in the fall, the young turtles may spend the winter in the nest and come out the following spring.

As soon as the young turtles hatch, they are on their own and receive no care from the adults. This is a dangerous time for young box turtles because they do not develop the hinge for closing into their shell until they are about 4 to 5 years old. Until then, they cannot entirely retreat into their shells. Raccoons, skunks, foxes, dogs, and some birds will prey on young turtles.

Conservation Concerns

The eastern box turtle was once common throughout the state, mostly in the central Connecticut lowlands. However, its distribution is now spotty, although where found, turtles may be locally abundant. Because of the population decline in Connecticut, the box turtle was added to the state's List of Endangered, Threatened, and Special Concern Species when it was revised in 1998. It is currently listed as a species of special concern. The box turtle also is protected from international trade by the 1994 CITES treaty. It is of conservation concern in all the states where it occurs at its northeastern range limit, which includes southern New England and southeastern New York.

Many states have laws that protect box turtles and prohibit their collection. In Connecticut, eastern box turtles cannot be collected from the wild (DEP regulations 26-66-14A). Another regulation (DEP regulations 26-55-3D) "grandfathers" those who have a box turtle collected before 1998. This regulation limits possession to a single turtle collected before 1998. These

regulations provide some protection for the turtles, but not enough to combat some of the even bigger threats these animals face. The main threats in Connecticut (and other states) are loss and fragmentation of habitat due to deforestation and spreading suburban development; vehicle strikes on the busy roads that bisect the landscape; and indiscriminate (and now illegal) collection of individuals for pets.

Loss of habitat is probably the greatest threat to turtles. Some turtles may be killed directly by construction activities, but many more are lost when important habitat areas for shelter, feeding, hibernation, or nesting are destroyed. As remaining habitat is fragmented into smaller pieces, turtle populations can become small and isolated.

Adult box turtles are relatively free from predators due to their unique shells. The shell of a box turtle is extremely hard. However, the shell is not hard enough to survive being run over by a vehicle. Roads bisecting turtle habitat can seriously deplete the local population. Most vehicle fatalities are pregnant females searching for a nest site.

How You Can Help

- *Leave turtles in the wild. They should never be kept as pets. Whether collected singly or for the pet trade, turtles that are removed from the wild are no longer able to be a reproducing member of a population. Every turtle removed reduces the ability of the population to maintain itself.*
- *Never release a captive turtle into the wild. It probably would not survive, may not be native to the area, and could introduce diseases to wild populations.*
- *Do not disturb turtles nesting in yards or gardens.*
- *As you drive, watch out for turtles crossing the road. Turtles found crossing roads in June and July are often pregnant females and they should be helped on their way and not collected. Without creating a traffic hazard or compromising safety, drivers are encouraged to avoid running over turtles that are crossing roads. Also, still keeping safety precautions in mind, you may elect to pick up turtles from the road and move them onto the side they are headed. Never relocate a turtle to another area that is far from where you found it.*
- *Learn more about turtles and their conservation concerns. Spread the word to others on how they can help Connecticut's box turtle population.*



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The production of this Endangered and Threatened Species Fact Sheet is made possible by donations to the Connecticut Endangered Species/Wildlife Income Tax Checkoff Fund.

5/2008



Spotted Turtle



Scientific Name: *Clemmys gutata*
Size: 3 – 5 inches (8-12 cm) in length
CT NDDB Status: Species of Special Concern

Habitat Type: Spotted Turtles are semi-aquatic in nature, which means they live both on terrestrial land and water. This species lives in several types of habitats including bogs, swamps, fens, woodland streams, wet pastures and marshes. They sometimes also inhabit brackish streams influenced by tides. These reptiles always live in areas with slow moving water and soft soil.

Colorations:

- Their carapace is black in color and is spotted with bright yellow marks
- Their plastron, bottom shells, are yellow to orange-yellow in color with a black spot on each scute
- They have smooth upper shells or carapaces. The upper shells are not marked with a central ridge or "keel". There is one yellow spot on each section of the hatchling's carapace

Characteristics:

- Small semi-aquatic species.
- Each adult spotted turtle can have up to 100 spots
- The lifespan of this species ranges between 25 to 50 years
- The Turtles of this species are active hunters and they mainly hunt underwater. But, some researches show that they sometimes move onto terrestrial lands for hunting
- Spotted Turtles hibernate on land or in water during the extremely hot and cold months