Appendix B

Agency Correspondence

Appendix B.1

State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO)

Appendix B.1.1

SHPO Project Review Form

Appendix B.1.2

SHPO Concurrence Letter (pending)



State Historic Preservation Office

450 Columbus Boulevard, Suite 5 | Hartford, CT 06103 | 860.500.2300 | cultureandtourism.org

PROJECT REVIEW COVER FORM

This is: \Box a new submittal \Box supplemental information \Box other Date Submitted:

PROJECT INFORMATION

Project Name:	
Project Proponer	The individual or group sponsoring, organizing, or proposing the project.
Project Street A	Idress:
City or Town:	Please use the municipality name and not the village or hamlet.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Describe the overall project in detail. As applicable, provide any information regarding past land use, project area size, renovation plans, demolitions, and/or new construction. Note if this will included in a separate attachment:

List all state and federal agencies involved in the project and indicate the funding, permit, license or approval program pertaining to the proposed project:

Agency Type	Agency Name	Program Name
□ State □ Federal		

If there is no state or federal agency involvement, please state the reason for your review request:

FOR SHPO USE ONLY

Based on the information submitted to our office for the above named property and project, it is the opinion of the Connecticut State Historic Preservation Office that <u>no historic properties will be affected</u> by the proposed activities.*

Mary Dunne/Catherine Labadia Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer Date

*All other determinations of effect will result in a formal letter from this office



State Historic Preservation Office

450 Columbus Boulevard, Suite 5 | Hartford, CT 06103 | 860.500.2300 | cultureandtourism.org

PROJECT REVIEW COVER FORM

CULTURAL RESOURCES IDENTIFICATION

Background research for previously identified historic properties within a project area may be undertaken at the SHPO's office. To schedule an appointment, please contact Catherine Labadia, 860-500-2329 or <u>Catherine.labadia@ct.gov</u>. Some applicants may find it advantageous to hire a qualified historic preservation professional to complete the identification and evaluation of historic properties.

Are there any historic properties listed on the State or National Register of Historic Places within the project area?

 \Box Yes \Box No \Box Do Not Know If yes, please identify:

Architecture

Are there any buildings, structures, or objects within the project area (houses, bridges, barns, walls, etc.)?

Section 4.1 Yes (attach clearly labelled photographs of each resource and applicable property cards from the municipality assessor)

 \Box No (proceed to next section)

Are any of the buildings, structures or objects greater than 50 years old? \Box Yes	🗆 No	□ Do Not Know
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If the project involves rehabilitation, demolition, or alterations to existing buildings older than 50 years, provide a work plan (If window replacements are proposed, provide representative photographs of existing windows).

Archeology

Does the proposed project involve ground disturbing activities?

□ Yes (provide below or attach a description of current and prior land use and disturbances. Attach an excerpt of the soil survey map for the project area. These can be created for free at: <u>https://websoilsurvey.nrcs.usda.gov</u>

 \Box No

CHECKLIST (Did you attach the following information?)

Required for all Projects	Required for Projects with architectural resources				
□ Completed Form	□ Work plans for rehabilitation or renovation				
□ Map clearly labelled depicting project area	□ Assessor's Property Card				
□ Photographs of current site conditions	Required for Projects with ground disturbing activities				
\Box Site or project plans for new construction	□ Soil survey map				
Suggested Attach	nments, as needed				
□ Supporting documents needed to explain project	□ Supporting documents identifying historic properties				
□ Historic maps or aerials (available at <u>http://magic.lib.uconn.edu</u> or <u>https://www.historicaerials.com/</u>)					

PROJECT CONTACT

Name:	Firm/Agency:		
Address:			
City:	State:	Zip:	
Phone:	Email:		

Federal and state laws exist to ensure that agencies, or their designated applicants, consider the impacts of their projects on historic resources. At a minimum, submission of this completed form with its attachments constitutes a request for review by the Connecticut SHPO. The responsibility for preparing documentation, including the identification of historic properties and the assessment of potential effects resulting from the project, rests with the federal or state agency, or its designated applicant. The role of SHPO is to review, comment, and consult. SHPO's ability to complete a timely project review largely depends on the quality of the materials submitted. Please mail the completed form with all attachments to the attention of Environmental Review at the address above. Electronic submissions are not accepted at this time.

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BRIDGEPORT SUBSTATION SOIL TYPES

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3	Ridgebury, Leicester, and Whitman soils, extremely stony	Hydric	Lodgement Till	Poorly drained
17	Timakwa and Natchaug soils	Hydric	Shallow Organic - Inland	Very poorly drained
73C	Charlton-Chatfield complex, 3 to 15 percent slopes, very rocky	Other	Melt-out Till	Well drained
75C	Hollis-Chatfield-Rock outcrop complex, 3 to 15 percent slopes	Other	Melt-out Till - Shallow to Bedrock	Well drained
75E	Hollis-Chatfield-Rock outcrop complex, 15 to 45 percent slopes	Other	Melt-out Till - Shallow to Bedrock	Well drained
273C	Urban land-Charlton-Chatfield complex, rocky, 3 to 15 percent slope	Not Rated	Urban Influenced	Well drained
273E	Urban land-Charlton-Chatfield complex, rocky, 15 to 45 percent slop	Not Rated	Urban Influenced	Well drained
275C	Urban land-Chatfield complex, rocky, 3 to 15 percent slopes	Not Rated	Urban Influenced	Well drained
306	Udorthents-Urban land complex	Other	Urban Influenced	Well drained
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Appendix B.2

Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection Natural Diversity Database (NDDB)

Appendix B.2.1

NDDB Request Form

Appendix B.2.2

NDDB Determination Letter



NATURAL DIVERSITY DATA BASE (NDDB) REQUEST

FOR

OLD TOWN SUBSTATION REBUILD PROJECT

PROJECT NO. UNI3999.EE

THE UNITED ILLUMINATING COMPANY

180 MARSH HILL ROAD

ORANGE, CT 06505

280/312/330 KAECHELE PLACE

BRIDGEPORT, CT 06606

SUBMITTED TO:

CENTRAL PERMIT PROCESSING UNIT

CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

BUREAU OF NATURAL RESOURCES

79 ELM STREET

HARTFORD, CT 06106

DATE:

OCTOBER 1, 2019



NDDB REQUEST

OLD TOWN SUBSTATION REBUILD PROJECT

PROJECT NO: UNI3999.EE

280/312/330 KAECHELE PLACE

ATTACHMENT	<u>SECTION</u>	NO. PAGES
	REQUEST FOR NATURAL DIVERSITY DATA BASE (NDDB) REVIEW	6 pages
ATTACHMENT A	OVERVIEW MAP	1 page
ATTACHMENT B	DETAILED SITE MAP	1 page
ATTACHMENT C	SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION	6 pages
	EXISTING CONDITIONS PLAN	
	SITE PHOTOGRAPHS	
	ANNOTATED SITE PLAN	
ATTACHMENT D	SAFE HARBOR REQUEST (Not Applicable)	N/A
ATTACHMENT E	NATURAL DIVERSITY DATA BASE AREA – BRIDGEPORT	1 page

CPPU USE ONLY



Connecticut Department of Energy & Environmental Protection Bureau of Natural Resources Wildlife Division

App #:	
Doc #:	
Check #: N	lo fee required
Program:	Natural Diversity Database Endangered Species
Hardconv	Floctronic

Request for Natural Diversity Data Base (NDDB) State Listed Species Review

Please complete this form in accordance with the <u>instructions</u> (DEEP-INST-007) to ensure proper handling of your request.

There are no fees associated with NDDB Reviews.

Part I: Preliminary Screening & Request Type

Before submitting this request, you must review the most current Natural Diversity Data Base "State and Federal Listed Species and Significant Natural Communities Maps" found on the <u>DEEP website</u> . These maps are updated twice a year, usually in June and December.						
Does your site, including all affected areas, fall in an NDDB Area according to the map instructions: Yes No Enter the date of the map reviewed for pre-screening: June 2019 This form is being submitted for a :						
 New NDDB request Renewal/Extension of a NDDB Request, without modifications and within two years of issued NDDB determination (no attachments required) [CPPU Use Only - NDDB-Listed Species Determination # 1736] 	 New Safe Harbor Determination (optional) must be associated with an application for a GP for the Discharge of Stormwater and Dewatering Wastewaters from Construction Activities Renewal/Extension of an existing Safe Harbor Determination With modifications Without modifications (no attachments required) [CPPU Use Only - NDDB-Safe Harbor Determination # 1736] 					
Enter NDDB Determination Number for Renewal/Extension:	Enter Safe Harbor Determination Number for Renewal/Extension:					

Part II: Requester Information

*If the requester is a corporation, limited liability company, limited partnership, limited liability partnership, or a statutory trust, it must be registered with the Secretary of State. If applicable, the name shall be stated **exactly** as it is registered with the Secretary of State. Please note, for those entities registered with the Secretary of State, the registered name will be the name used by DEEP. This information can be accessed at the Secretary of the State's database CONCORD. (www.concord-sots.ct.gov/CONCORD/index.jsp)

If the requester is an individual, provide the legal name (include suffix) in the following format: First Name; Middle Initial; Last Name; Suffix (Jr, Sr., II, III, etc.).

If there are any changes or corrections to your company/facility or individual mailing or billing address or contact information, please complete and submit the <u>Request to Change company/Individual Information</u> to the address indicated on the form.

1.	Requester*						
	Company Name: The United Illuminating Company						
	Contact Name: Todd Berman						
	Address: 180 Marsh Hill Rd						
	City/Town: Orange	State: CT Zip Code: 06505					
	Business Phone: 203-926-4729	ext.					
	**E-mail: todd.berman@uinet.com						
	**By providing this email address you are agreeing to receive official correspondence from the department, at this electronic address, concerning this request. Please remember to check your security settings to be sure you can receive emails from "ct.gov" addresses. Also, please notify the department if your e-mail address changes						
a)	Requester can best be described as:						
	🗌 Individual 🔹 🗍 Federal Agency 🗌 State agence	ncy 🗌 Municipality 🔲 Tribal					
	✓ *business entity (* if a business entity complete i through iii):						
	i) Check type 🖾 corporation 🗌 limited liability company 🗌 limited partnership						
	🗌 limited liability partnership 🔲 statutory trust 🔲 Other:						
	ii) Provide Secretary of the State Business ID #: 0159106 This information can be accessed at the						
	Secretary of the State's database (CONCORD). (<u>www.concord-sots.ct.gov/CONCORD/index.jsp</u>)						
	iii) Check here if your business is NOT registered with t	the Secretary of State's office.					
b)	Acting as (Affiliation), pick one:						
	Property owner Consultant Engineer	☐ Facility owner ☐ Applicant					
	Biologist Pesticide Applicator Other representative:						
2.	List Primary Contact to receive Natural Diversity Data Base correspondence and inquiries, if different from requester.						
	Company Name: HRP Associates						
	Contact Person: Darin Lemire, PE	Title: Senior Project Manager					
	Mailing Address: 197 Scott Swamp Rd						
	City/Town: Farmington	State: CT Zip Code: 06032					
	Business Phone: (860) 674-9570	ext.					
	**E-mail: darin.lemire@hrpassociates.com						

Part III: Site Information

This request can only be completed for one site. A separate request must be filed for each additional site.

1.	SITE NAME AND LOCATION							
	Site Name or Project Name: Old Town Substation Rebuild Project							
	Town(s): Bridgeport							
	Street Address or Location Description: 312 and 330 Kaechele Place, Bridgeport, CT 06606 - undeveloped parcels adjacent to existing substation 280 Kaechele Place, Bridgeport, CT 06606 - existing Old Town Substation							
	280 Kaechele Place, Bridgeport, CT 06606 - existing Old Town Substation							
	Size in acres, or site dimensions: 3.95-acres total (280, 312, & 330 Kaechele Place)							
	Latitude and longitude of the center of the s	ite in decimal degrees (e.g., 41.23	456 -71.68574):					
	Latitude: 41.225 N	Longitude: 73.216 W						
	Method of coordinate determination (check one):							
	GPS Photo interpolation using	CTECO map viewer 🛛 Other (:	specify): Google Earth					
2a.	2a. Describe the current land use and land cover of the site.							
	330 Kaechele Place (2.77-acres) is undeveloped and wooded. 312 Kaechele Place (0.28-acres) is adjacent to 330 Kaechele Place and is undeveloped and wooded. Both properties border the existing Old Town Subsation at 280 Kaechele Place (0.9-acres).							
b.	b. Check all that apply and enter the size in acres or % of area in the space after each checked category.							
	⊠ Industrial/Commercial <u>0.9-acres</u>	Residential	⊠ Forest <u>3.05-acres</u>					
	⊠ Wetland <u>0.48-acres</u>	Field/grassland	Agricultural					
	☐ Water	🛛 Utility Right-of-way						
	☐ Transportation Right-of-way							

Part IV: Project Information

1.	PROJECT TYPE: Choose Project Type: Utility construction/modification , If other describe:
2.	Is the subject activity limited to the maintenance, repair, or improvement of an existing structure within the existing footprint? ☐ Yes ⊠ No If yes, explain.

Part IV: Project Information (continued)

3. Give a detailed description of the activity which is the subject of this request and describe the methods and equipment that will be used. Include a description of steps that will be taken to minimize impacts to any known listed species.

To improve the reliability of the electric transmission system and service to its customers in the Greater Bridgeport region, UI proposes to rebuild its existing Old Town Substation, a transmission/distribution facility located in the northwestern portion of the City of Bridgeport at 280 Kaechele Place. The existing Old Town Substation, which occupies an approximately 0.9-acre site, has been in service for approximately 50 years. The need for the Project was identified as a result of detailed analyses of the condition of the existing substation, taking into consideration both existing and future requirements for assuring the reliability of the electric system. Overall, the need for the new substation stems from the age of the existing Old Town facility and the fact that most of the station's equipment will need to be replaced in the near future in order to conform to industry and UI standards. The Old Town Substation will be rebuilt on approximately 2.25 acres of UI-owned property; the site will encompass undeveloped UI land located at 312 and 330 Kaechele Place, as well as the existing substation property. The Project also will involve the installation of transmisison line connections to the new substation, involving transmission structure replacements on Eversource's existing transmission line rights-of-way (ROW) immediately adjacent to the site, as well as modifications to certain distribution line connections (typically within local streets). After energization of the new substation, the existing substation will be demolished.

Typical substation construction activities include excavation, removal of existing wooded conditions, grading and filling, and installation of new equipment. The type of equipment to be used for work would include typical construction equipment including backhoes, bulldozers, bobcats, loaders and dump trucks. To minimize construction related impacts, UI will use standard best management practices. The project will be subject to the General Permit for Stormwater from Construction Activities.

4. If this is a renewal or extension of an existing Safe Harbor request *with* modifications, explain what about the project has changed.

N/A

Name: Phone:	
Phone:	
Flione.	
E-mail:	

Part V: Request Requirements and Associated Application Types

Check one box from either Group 1, Group 2 or Group 3, indicating the appropriate category for this request.

Group 1. If you check one of these boxes, complete Parts I – VII of this form and submit the required attachments A and B.						
Preliminary screening was negative but an NDDB review is still requested						
Request regards a municipally regulated or unregulated activity (no state permit/certificate needed)						
Request regards a preliminary site assessment or project feasibility study						
Request relates to land acquisition or protection						
Request is associated with a <i>renewal</i> of an existing permit or authorization, with no modifications						
Group 2. If you check one of these boxes, complete Parts I – VII of this form and submit required attachments A, B, <i>and</i> C.						
Request is associated with a <i>new</i> state or federal permit or authorization application or registration						
Request is associated with modification of an existing permit or other authorization						
Request is associated with a permit enforcement action						
Request regards site management or planning, requiring detailed species recommendations						
Request regards a state funded project, state agency activity, or CEPA request						
Group 3. If you are requesting a Safe Harbor Determination , complete Parts I-VII and submit required attachments A, B, and D. Safe Harbor determinations can only be requested if you are applying for a GP for the Discharge of Stormwater and Dewatering Wastewaters from Construction Activities						
If you are filing this request as part of a state or federal permit application(s) enter the application information below.						
Permitting Agency and Application Name(s): <u>CT DEEP - General Permit for the Discharge of Stormwater and Dewatering Wastewaters from</u>						
Construction Activities						
Related State DEEP Permit Number(s), if applicable:						
State DEEP Enforcement Action Number, if applicable:						
State DEEP Permit Analyst(s)/Engineer(s), if known:						
State DEEP Permit Analyst(s)/Engineer(s), if known:						
State DEEP Permit Analyst(s)/Engineer(s), if known: Is this request related to a previously submitted NDDB request? If yes, provide the previous NDDB Determination Number(s), if known:						

Part VI: Supporting Documents

Check each attachment submitted as verification that *all* applicable attachments have been supplied with this request form. Label each attachment as indicated in this part (e.g., Attachment A, etc.) and be sure to include the requester's name, site name and the date. **Please note that Attachments A and B are required for all new requests and Safe Harbor renewals/extensions with modifications.** Renewals/Extensions with no modifications do not need to submit any attachments. Attachments C and D are supplied at the end of this form.

Attachment A:	Overview Map: an 8 1/2" X 11" print/copy of the relevant portion of a USGS Topographic Quadrangle Map clearly indicating the exact location of the site.			
Attachment B:	Detailed Site Map: fine scaled map showing site boundary and area of work details on aerial imagery with relevant landmarks labeled. (Site and work boundaries in GIS [ESRI ArcView shapefile, in NAD83, State Plane, feet] format can be substituted for detailed maps, see instruction document)			
Attachment C:	 Supplemental Information, Group 2 requirement (attached, DEEP-APP-007C) Section i: Supplemental Site Information and supporting documents Section ii: Supplemental Project Information and supporting documents 			

Part VII: Requester Certification

The requester *and* the individual(s) responsible for actually preparing the request must sign this part. A request will be considered incomplete unless all required signatures are provided.

"I have personally examined and am familiar with the information submitted in this document and all attachments thereto, and I certify that based on reasonable investigation, including my inquiry of the individuals responsible for obtaining the information, the submitted information is true, accurate and complete to the best of my knowledge and belief."					
Signature of Requester (a typed name will substitute for a handwritten signature)	Date				
Todd Berman	Environmental Project Manager				
Name of Requester (print or type)	Title (if applicable)				
	· · · · ·				
Chil	10/7/19				
Signature of Preparer (if different than above)					
Signature of Preparer (if different than above) Darin Lemire, PE, CPSWQ, CPESC	10/7/19				
	10/7/19 Date				

Note: Please submit the completed Request Form and all Supporting Documents to:

CENTRAL PERMIT PROCESSING UNIT DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION 79 ELM STREET HARTFORD, CT 06106-5127

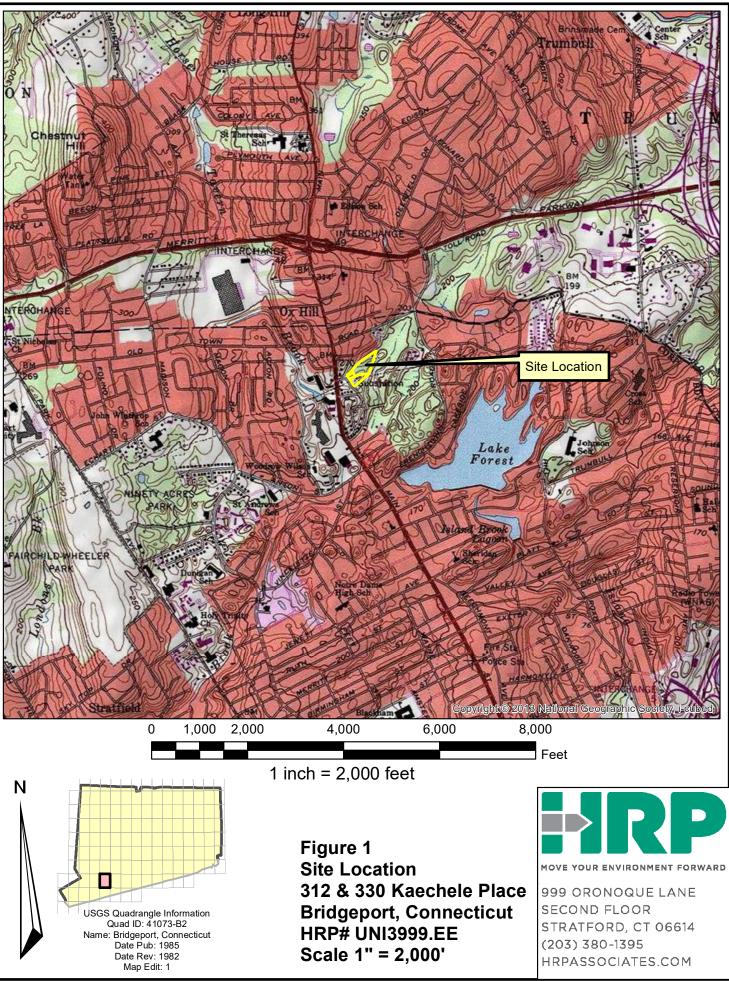
Or email request to: deep.nddbrequest@ct.gov



ATTACHMENT A

OVERVIEW MAP

ATTACHMENT A - OVERVIEW MAP





ATTACHMENT B

DETAILED SITE MAP



Legend



---- Eversource ROW

Approximate Property Boundary



999 ORONOQUE LANE SECOND FLOOR STRATFORD, CT 06614 (203) 380-1395 HRPASSOCIATES.COM

North						
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Revisions	No. Date					
Designed By: Revisions	LAB	Drawn By:	DML	Reviewed By:	ВРГ	
lssue Date: 08/09/2019		Project No:	UNI3999.EE	Sheet Size:	/ I.X.I.I.	
Detailed Site Map		280, 312 & 330	Kaechele Place			



ATTACHMENT C

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION

Attachment C: Supplemental Information, Group 2 requirement

Section i: Supplemental Site Information

1. Existing Conditions

Describe all natural and man-made features including wetlands, watercourses, fish and wildlife habitat, floodplains and any existing structures potentially affected by the subject activity. Such features should be depicted and labeled on the site plan that must be submitted. Photographs of current site conditions may be helpful to reviewers.

330 Kaechele Place (2.77-acres) is undeveloped and wooded. 312 Kaechele Place (0.28-acres) is adjacent to 330 Kaechele Place and is undeveloped and wooded. The are wetlands reportedly in the northern portion of 320 Kaechele Place. The existing Old Town Substation at 280 Kaechele Place (0.9-acres) is mostly impervious cover consisting of the substation foundation and access road. This impervious area will be expanded into 312 and 330 Kaechele Place for the new, larger substation.

Site Photographs (optional) attached

Site Plan/sketch of existing conditions attached

2. Biological Surveys

Has a biologist visited the site and conducted a biological survey to determine the presence of any endangered, threatened or special concern species \Box Yes \boxtimes No

If yes, complete the following questions and submit any reports of biological surveys, documentation of the biologist's qualifications, and any NDDB survey forms.

Biologist(s) name:

Habitat and/or species targeted by survey: _____

Dates when surveys were conducted:

Reports of biological surveys attached

Documentation of biologist's qualifications attached

<u>NDDB Survey forms</u> for any listed species observations attached

Section ii: Supplemental Project Information

1. Provide a schedule for all phases of the project including the year, the month and/or season that the proposed activity will be initiated and the duration of the activity.

The Project is in the planning stages and will be subject to comprehensive review by the CT Siting Council. An application to the Council is expected to be submitted in the first quarter of 2020. The actual schedule for construction will depend on Council review, but assuming that all regulatory approvals are received in a timely fashion, construction of the Project is expected to begin in 2021 and be completed in 2021.

 Describe and quantify the proposed changes to existing conditions and describe any on-site or off-site impacts. In addition, provide an annotated site plan detailing the areas of impact and proposed changes to existing conditions.

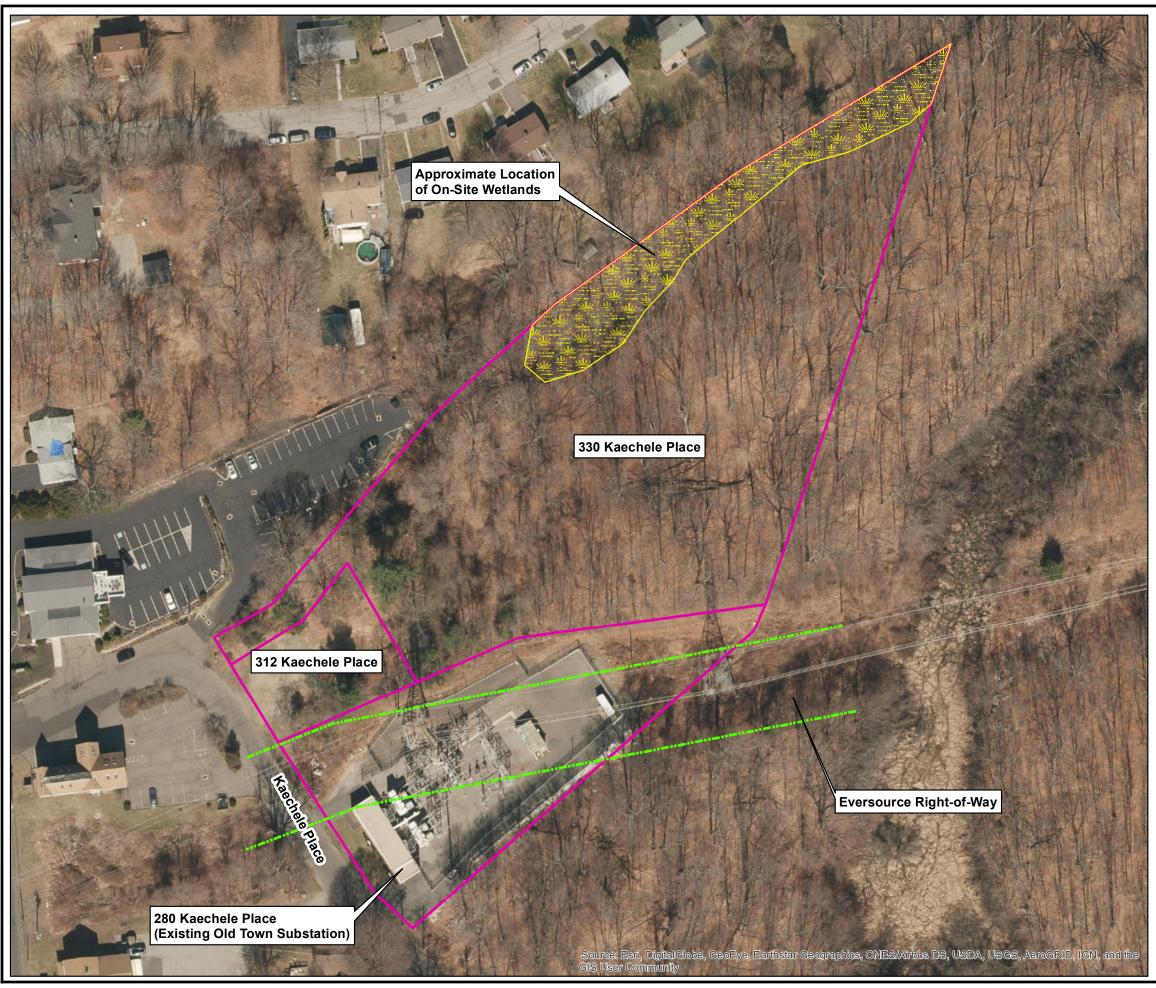
A total of 2.25 acres will be developed for the new substation - this will include the 0.9 acre of the existing substation and the remainder will involve the conversion of upland forest to utility use. The approximate footprint of the new substation is depicted on the Annotated Site Plan.

All work activities on the Eversource ROW will be temporary. After replacement of the transmission line structure interconnections to the new substation, the areas of the ROW affected by Project activities will be restored (the ROW is managed by Eversource in low-growing vegetation consistent with overhead transmission line use.)

Annotated Site Plan attached



EXISTING CONDITIONS PLAN



Legend



Eversource ROW

Approximate Property Boundary



999 ORONOQUE LANE SECOND FLOOR STRATFORD, CT 06614 (203) 380-1395 HRPASSOCIATES.COM

North						
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Revisions	No. Date					
ed By:	LAB	Drawn By:	DML	Reviewed By:	ВРГ	
lssue Date: 08/09/2019		Project No:	UNI3999.EE	Sheet Size:	/ I.XI.I.	
Existing Conditions			280, 312 & 330	Kaecnele Place Bridgeport Connecticut		
ATTACHMENT C						



PHOTOGRAPHS OF EXISTING CONDITIONS

ATTACHMENT C - PHOTOGRAPHS OF EXISTING CONDITIONS

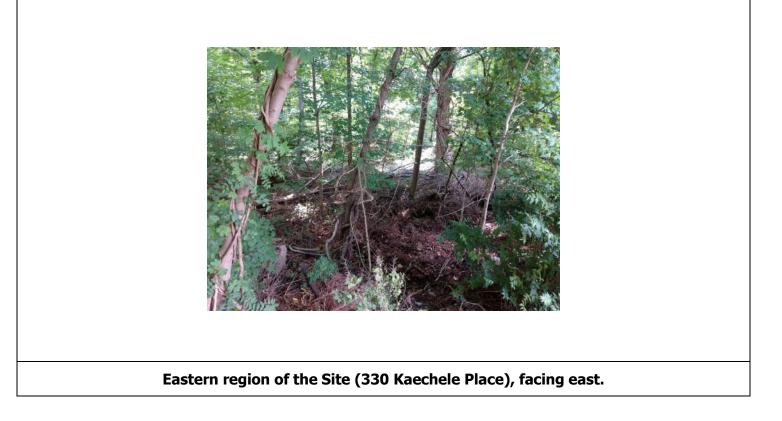


Historical stone wall features in the eastcentral portion of the Site (330 Kaechele Place), facing ESE. Remnants of the former residential property in the western region of the Site (312 Kaechele Place)



Southern border of Site adjacent to United Illuminating substation, facing east. Storm water ponding is observed on Kaechele Place

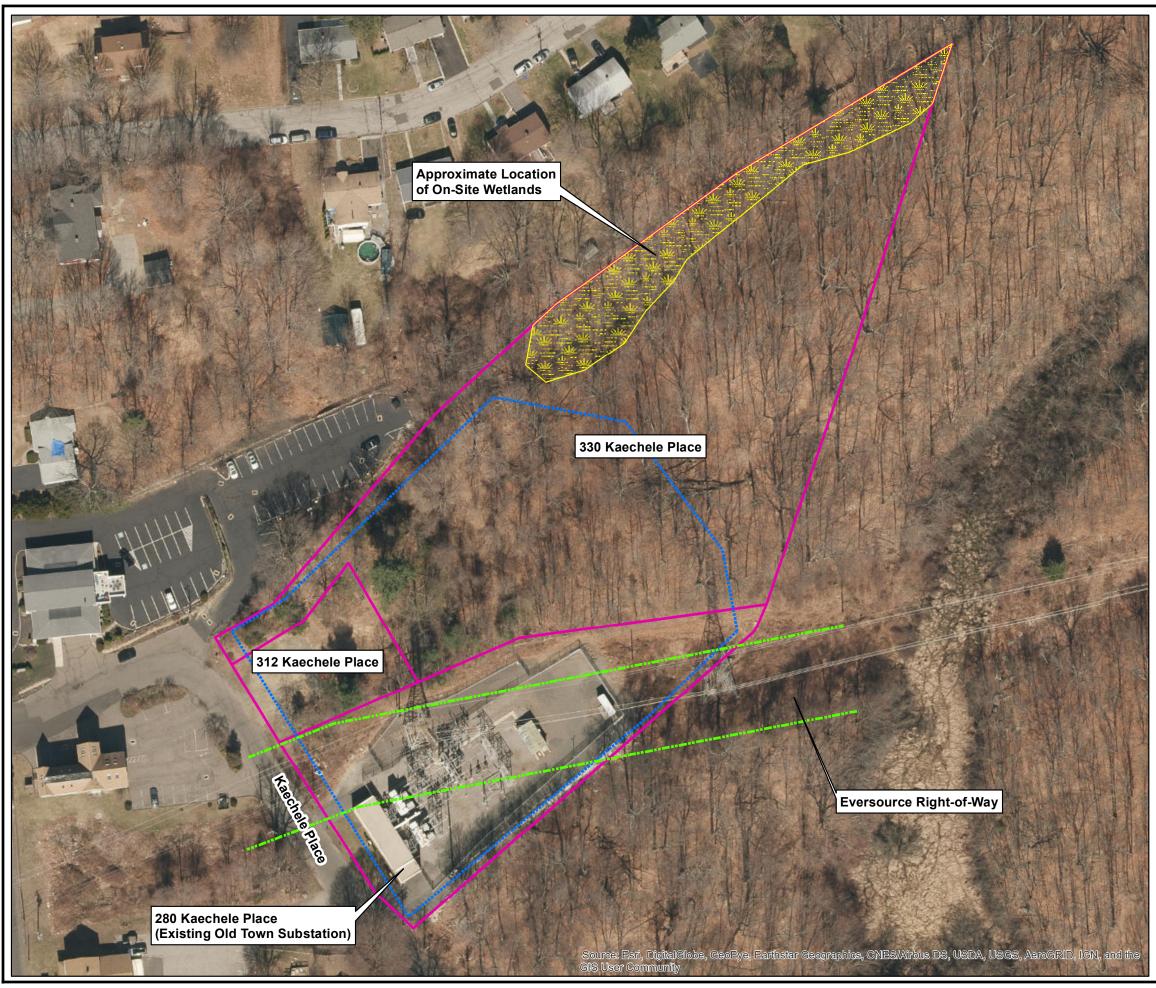
ATTACHMENT C - PHOTOGRAPHS OF EXISTING CONDITIONS







ANNOTATED SITE PLAN



Legend

Eversource ROW

Proposed Substation Rebuild Boundary



Approximate Property Boundary



999 ORONOQUE LANE SECOND FLOOR STRATFORD, CT 06614 (203) 380-1395 HRPASSOCIATES.COM

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Revisions	No. Date					
ed By:	LAB	Drawn By:	DML	Reviewed By:	ВРС	
Issue Date:	08/09/2019	Project No:	UNI3999.EE	Sheet Size:	11×17	
Annotated Site Plan 280, 312 & 330 Kaechele Place Bridgeport, Connecticut						
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ATTACHMENT D

SITE HARBOR REPORT

(NOT APPLICABLE)



ATTACHMENT E

NATURAL DIVERSITY DATA BASE AREA - BRIDGEPORT

ATTACHMENT E - NATURAL DIVERSITY DATA BASE AREA - BRIDGEPORT



Town Boundary

NOTE: This map shows general locations of State and Federal Listed Species and Critical Habitats. Information on listed species is collected and compiled by the Natural Diversity Data Base (NDDB) from a variety of data sources. Exact locations of species have been buffered to produce the generalized locations.

This map is intended for use as a preliminary screening tool for conducting a Natural Diversity Data Base Review Request. To use the map, locate the project boundaries and any additional affected areas. If the project is within a hatched area there may be a potential conflict with a listed species. For more information, complete a Request for Natural Diversity Data Base State Listed Species Review form (DEP-APP-007), and submit it to the NDDB along with the required maps and information. More detailed instructions are provided with the request form on our website.

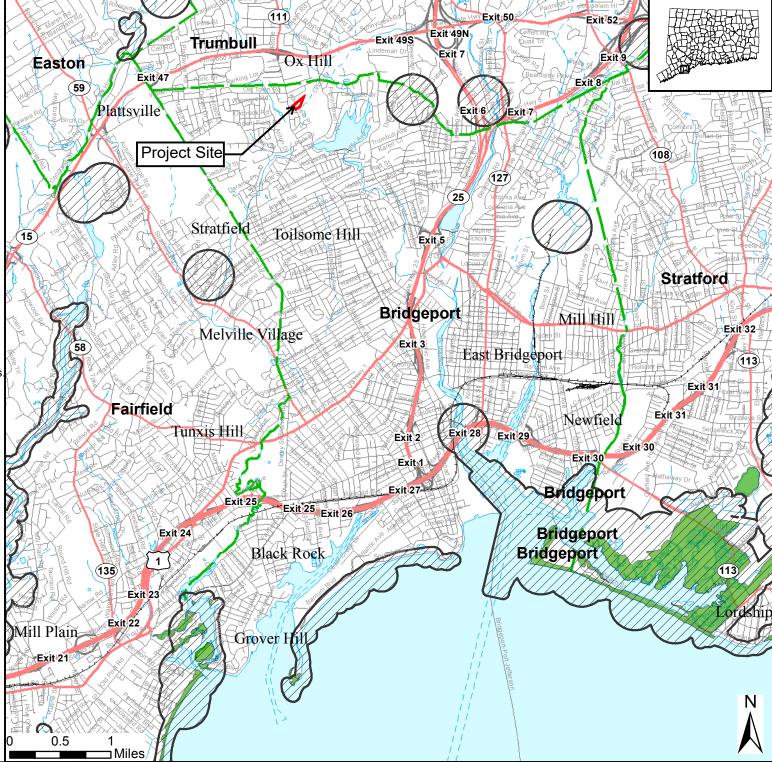
www.ct.gov/deep/nddbrequest

Use the CTECO Interactive Map Viewers at www.cteco.uconn.edu to more precisely search for and locate a site and to view aerial imagery with NDDB Areas.

QUESTIONS: Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) 79 Elm St, Hartford, CT 06106 email: deep.nddbrequest@ct.gov Phone: (860) 424-3011



Connecticut Department of Energy & Environmental Protection Bureau of Natural Resources Wildlife Division





Connecticut Department of

ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

October 18, 2019

Darin Lemire PE HRP Associates 197 Scott Swamp Rd Farmington CT 06032 Darin.lemire@hrpassociates.com

Project: Old Town Substation Rebuild Project, 312, 330 and 280 Kaechele Place in Bridgeport, CT NDDB Determination No.: 201912257

Dear Mr. Lemire,

I have reviewed Natural Diversity Data Base maps and files regarding the area delineated on the map you provided for the proposed expansion and reconstruction of Old Town Substation at 312, 330 and 280 Kaechele Place in Bridgeport, Connecticut. According to our records we have known extant population of state special concern *Terrapene c. carolina* (eastern box turtle) from this area.

Eastern Box Turtle (*Terrapene c. carolina*): Eastern box turtles inhabit old fields and deciduous forests, 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. Eastern box turtles have been negatively impacted by the loss of suitable habitat. 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. Reducing the frequency that motorized vehicles enter box turtle habit**a** would be beneficial in minimizing direct mortality of adults.

Recommended Protection Strategies for Turtles:

Work should occur when these turtles are active (April 1st to October 30th). Conducting land clearing while the turtle is active will allow the animal to move out of harm's way and minimize mortality to hibernating individuals. I recommend the additional following protection strategies in order to protect these turtles:

- Hiring a qualified herpetologist to be on site to ensure these protection guidelines remain in effect and to 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.
- 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.
- 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 relocate turtles found inside work areas or notify the appropriate authorities to relocate individuals.
- Any turtles encountered within the immediate work area shall be carefully moved to an adjacent area outside of the excluded area and fencing should be inspected to identify and remove access point.

79 Elm Street, Hartford, CT 06106-5127 www.ct.gov/deep Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Employer

- 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.
- The Contractor and consulting herpetologist must search the work area each morning prior to any work being done.
- 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 streams and brooks.
- Any confirmed sightings of box, wood or spotted turtles should be reported and documented with the NDDB (deep.nddbrequest@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)

If these protection strategies are followed then the proposed activities will lessen the impact on this state-listed species. This determination is good for two years. Please re-submit an NDDB Request for Review if the scope of work changes or if work has not begun on this project by October 18, 2021.

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 <u>dawn.mckay@ct.gov</u>. 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. makay

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

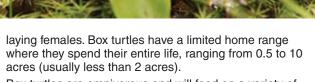
plastron. Box turtles also have a horny beak, stout limbs, and feet that are webbed at the base. This turtle gets its name from its ability to completely withdraw into its shell, closing itself in with a hinged plastron. Box turtles are the only Connecticut turtle with this ability.

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-



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.



State of Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection Bureau of Natural Resources Wildlife Division www.ct.gov/dep



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. Appendix B.3

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) Consultation



United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE New England Ecological Services Field Office 70 Commercial Street, Suite 300 Concord, NH 03301-5094 Phone: (603) 223-2541 Fax: (603) 223-0104 <u>http://www.fws.gov/newengland</u>



In Reply Refer To: Consultation Code: 05E1NE00-2020-SLI-0255 Event Code: 05E1NE00-2020-E-00744 Project Name: Old Town Substation Rebuild Project October 25, 2019

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/correntBirdIssues/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(s):

Official Species List

Official Species List

This list is provided pursuant to Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act, and fulfills the requirement for Federal agencies to "request of the Secretary of the Interior information whether any species which is listed or proposed to be listed may be present in the area of a proposed action".

This species list is provided by:

New England Ecological Services Field Office

70 Commercial Street, Suite 300 Concord, NH 03301-5094 (603) 223-2541

Project Summary

Consultation Code:	05E1NE00-2020-SLI-0255
Event Code:	05E1NE00-2020-E-00744
Project Name:	Old Town Substation Rebuild Project
Project Type:	TRANSMISSION LINE
Project Description:	330 Kaechele Place (2.77-acres) is undeveloped and wooded. 312 Kaechele Place (0.28-acres) is adjacent to 330 Kaechele Place and is undeveloped and wooded. The are wetlands reportedly in the northern portion of 320 Kaechele Place. The existing Old Town Substation at 280 Kaechele Place (0.9-acres) is mostly impervious cover consisting of the substation foundation and access road. This impervious area will be expanded into 312 and 330 Kaechele Place for the new, larger substation.
	The Old Town Substation will be rebuilt on approximately 2.25 acres of UI-owned property; the site will encompass undeveloped UI land located at 312 and 330 Kaechele Place, as well as the existing substation property. The Project also will involve the installation of transmission line connections to the new substation, involving transmission structure replacements on Eversource's existing transmission line rights-of-way

replacements on Eversource's existing transmission line rights-of-way (ROW) immediately adjacent to the site, as well as modifications to certain distribution line connections (typically within local streets). After energization of the new substation, the existing substation will be demolished.

Typical substation construction activities include excavation, removal of existing wooded conditions, grading and filling, and installation of new equipment. The type of equipment to be used for work would include typical construction equipment including backhoes, bulldozers, bobcats, loaders and dump trucks. To minimize construction related impacts, UI will use standard best management practices. The project will be subject to the General Permit for Stormwater from Construction Activities

Project Location:

Approximate location of the project can be viewed in Google Maps: <u>https://</u>www.google.com/maps/place/41.2250576198152N73.21641905701605W



Counties: Fairfield, CT

Endangered Species Act Species

There is a total of 0 threatened, endangered, or candidate species on this 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.

IPaC does not display listed species or critical habitats under the sole jurisdiction of NOAA Fisheries¹, as USFWS does not have the authority to speak on behalf of NOAA and the Department of Commerce.

See the "Critical habitats" section below for those critical habitats that lie wholly or partially within your project area under this office's jurisdiction. Please contact the designated FWS office if you have questions.

1. <u>NOAA Fisheries</u>, also known as the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), is an office of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration within the Department of Commerce.

Critical habitats

THERE ARE NO CRITICAL HABITATS WITHIN YOUR PROJECT AREA UNDER THIS OFFICE'S JURISDICTION.