



BNE Energy Inc.  
Town Center Suite 200  
29 South Main Street  
West Hartford, CT 06107

CONNECTICUT  
SITING COUNCIL

In Re: Wind Colebrook North Development and Management Plan

The following information is being provided in accordance with the Petition 984 Decision and Order, issued by the Connecticut Siting Council on June 9, 2011. I have worked with both Civil 1 and VHB to ensure that appropriate conservation designs are integrated into the Development and Management Plans. Specifically I have reviewed compliance of these plans with the recommendations of my Herpetological Assessment dated May 1, 2011 as it pertains to amphibians and reptiles of conservation concern. These are reflected as follows on sheets that were created in an interactive process between Civil 1 Engineering and Michael W. Klemens, LLC.

Sheets C-201, C-202, C-501, C-502, C-601, and C-605 respond to Condition 3g that relocates the access road onto the old woods road where seepage areas may be appropriate for the State-listed spring salamander (*Gyrinophilus porphyriticus*) as well as documented populations of dusky (*Desmognathus fuscus*) and two-lined (*Eurycea bislineata*) salamanders. The hemlock forest down slope of this crossing has been protected, as per my report, and the oversize three-sided box culverts maintain the natural stream bottom. These box culverts are fenestrated, to allow light spillage into the box culvert, which enhances their utility/acceptability for wildlife passage. In order to avoid gravel from the road bed spilling into the stream through these openings, the small section of road where these two fenestrated stream crossings occur has been, at my recommendation, paved. Sheet C-605 shows the fenestrated culvert in plan view.

Sheets C-200 through C-204 show the wood turtle (*Clemmys* [= *Glyptemys*] *insculpta*) exclusionary fencing which is part of the overall conservation and protection plan for this State-listed species. Sheet C-603 provides wood turtle exclusionary fencing detail. Sheet C-601 discusses wood turtle protection measures under general construction sequencing as well as three-sided box culvert installation sequencing. Sheet C-602 presents the Wood Turtle Protection Program verbatim from my report of May 1, 2011. Condition No. 5 under third party inspections on Sheet C-602 provides for a third party monitor to ensure that amphibians and reptiles are safeguarded during the construction process as per my recommendations. In totality, these sheets respond to Condition 3h concerning the protection of wood turtles. It should be noted that wood turtles have not been found on the subject property, but farther downstream near the Mad River flood control area. None-the-less, habitat appears suitable for this species in portions of Mill Brook on the subject property and the Applicant is taking all steps necessary to protect wood turtles on this site absent actual confirmation of their presence.

Sheet C-602 provides for restoration and habitat creation that has been designed by VHB. These are all compatible with amphibian and reptile conservation as required Condition 3j. The presence of third party inspectors will ensure that the restorations are conducted in a manner that protect amphibians

and reptiles on the site as required by Condition 31. The most suitable habitat for the smooth green snake (*Opheodrys vernalis*) and ribbon snake (*Thamnophis sauritus*) occurs within the grassy/shrubby sections of the Mill Brook marsh which will not be altered in any manner by the proposed project. It should be noted that neither of these State-listed species have been documented on the subject property, but that suitable habitat occurs within the Mill Brook marsh. The sphagnum tussock areas of the marsh, and adjacent woodlands, where the four-toed salamander (*Hemidactylium scutatum*) was documented on this site, will not be impacted by the activities of the project. The four-toed salamander is not a State-listed species, however, its occurrence on the site is of interest as it is unusual to find this species at high elevations in Connecticut.

In conclusion, in my professional judgment, the Development and Management plans comply with the Decision and Order of the Siting Council as it pertains the conservation and management of amphibians and reptiles and their habitats on the Wind Colebrook North Site.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Michael W. Klemens".

Michael W. Klemens, PhD