

Attachment C:
Threatened and Endangered Species Form &
NDDB Documentation



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

CPPU USE ONLY	
App #:	_____
Doc #:	_____
Check #:	No fee required
Program:	Natural Diversity Database Endangered Species
Hardcopy	_____ Electronic _____

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

Please complete this form in accordance with the [instructions](#) (DEEP-INST-007) to ensure proper handling of your request.

There are no fees associated with NDDB Reviews.

Part I: Preliminary Screening & Request Type

<p>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 DEEP website. These maps are updated twice a year, usually in June and December.</p> <p>Does your site, including all affected areas, fall in an NDDB Area according to the map instructions: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No Enter the date of the map reviewed for pre-screening: <u>December 2018</u></p>	
This form is being submitted for a :	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <i>New NDDB request</i> <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Renewal/Extension of a NDDB Request, without modifications and within two years of issued NDDB determination (no attachments required)</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> <i>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</i> <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Renewal/Extension of an existing Safe Harbor Determination</i> <input type="checkbox"/> <i>With modifications</i> <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Without modifications (no attachments required)</i>
<small>[CPPU Use Only - NDDB-Listed Species Determination # 1736]</small>	<small>[CPPU Use Only - NDDB-Safe Harbor Determination # 1736]</small>
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 [Request to Change company/Individual Information](#) to the address indicated on the form.

1. Requester*

Company Name: Windham Solar LLC

Contact Name: Blake Nicholson

Address: 222 South Ninth St., Suite 1600

City/Town: Minneapolis

State: MN

Zip Code: 55402

Business Phone: (612) 655-9737

ext.

**E-mail: blake.nicholson@ecosrenewable.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 agency 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 #:1158009 This information can be accessed at the Secretary of the State's database (CONCORD). (www.concord-sots.ct.gov/CONCORD/index.jsp)

iii) Check here if your business is **NOT** registered with 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:

Contact Person:

Title:

Mailing Address:

City/Town:

State:

Zip Code:

Business Phone:

ext.

**E-mail:

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: Benz Solar

Town(s): Ansonia

Street Address or Location Description:

Size in acres, or site dimensions: 11.75 acres

Latitude and longitude of the center of the site in decimal degrees (e.g., 41.23456 -71.68574):

Latitude: 41.3436

Longitude: -73.0607

Method of coordinate determination (check one):

GPS Photo interpolation using [CTECO map viewer](#) Other (specify): Google earth

2a. Describe the current land use and land cover of the site.

There is one house on the property, the remainder of the site is forested.

b. Check all that apply and enter the size in acres or % of area in the space after each checked category.

<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial/Commercial _____	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Residential <u>0.5</u>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Forest <u>10.25</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> Wetland _____	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Field/grassland <u>1</u>	<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Water _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Utility Right-of-way _____	
<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation Right-of-way _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (specify): _____	

Part IV: Project Information

1. PROJECT TYPE:

Choose Project Type: Choose Type From Dropdown List , If other describe: Solar Energy Facility

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.

Site preparation for the solar energy project will include clearing of vegetation within the project area, in addition to minimal surface grading required to install the access road and for stormwater management. Other site preparation activities include survey/staking, stabilization, installation of perimeter security fence, and trenching for underground conduit. Construction of the solar energy facility will involve driving steel h-beams into the ground to support the racking system. The solar photovoltaic panels will be mounted upon the racking system. Underground electric cabling and wiring will be laid in order to collect energy from the modules and deliver it to the electrical grid. Protective devices such as fuses, switches, and breakers will also be installed. Following construction of the facility, final landscaping and ground cover stabilization will be performed. If water is required for dust control, that water will be applied regularly by water trucks. Once operational, the project will require minimal maintenance consisting of 2-3 site visits per month by a single truck crew to perform equipment and landscaping maintenance.

The project site does not fall within an NDDDB area as indicated by the map.

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

5. Provide a contact for questions about the project details if different from Part II primary contact.

Name:

Phone:

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 *renewal* 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, and C.

- Request is associated with a *new* 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):

Connecticut Siting Council - Benz Solar Project _____

Related State DEEP Permit Number(s), if applicable: _____

State DEEP Enforcement Action Number, if applicable: _____

State DEEP Permit Analyst(s)/Engineer(s), if known: _____

Is this request related to a previously submitted NDDB request? Yes No

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.

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 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.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 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)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Attachment C:	Supplemental Information, Group 2 requirement (attached, DEEP-APP-007C) <input type="checkbox"/> Section i: Supplemental Site Information and supporting documents <input type="checkbox"/> Section ii: Supplemental Project Information and supporting documents
<input type="checkbox"/> Attachment D:	Safe Harbor Report Requirements, Group 3 (attached, DEEP-APP-007D)

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.

<p>"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."</p>	
<p>Blake Nicholson</p> <hr/> <p>Signature of Requester (a typed name will substitute for a handwritten signature)</p>	<p>January 9, 2019</p> <hr/> <p>Date</p>
<p>Blake Nicholson</p> <hr/> <p>Name of Requester (print or type)</p>	<p>Analyst</p> <hr/> <p>Title (if applicable)</p>
<p>Signature of Preparer (if different than above)</p> <hr/>	<p>Date</p> <hr/>
<p>Name of Preparer (print or type)</p> <hr/>	<p>Title (if applicable)</p> <hr/>

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 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.

- 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 Yes 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
- [NDDB Survey forms](#) 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.

Site preparation activities (reference Part IV Project Information) would last one month. Construction of the Project will take approximately two months, and systems testing an additional month. Site preparation will commence in April 2020 and systems testing will conclude July 2020.

2. 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.

The Project will consist of two (2) 1.0MW AC solar photovoltaic facilities, with each facility requiring an area slightly less than four acres. Please reference the annotated site plan for areas of impact of and proposed changes of existing conditions.

- Annotated Site Plan attached

Attachment D: Safe Harbor Report Requirements


Submit a report, as Attachment D, that synthesizes and analyzes the information listed below. Those providing synthesis and analysis need appropriate qualifications and experience. A request for a safe harbor determination shall include:

- 1. Habitat Description and Map(s), including GIS mapping overlays, of a scale appropriate for the site, identifying:**
 - wetlands, including wetland cover types;
 - plant community types;
 - topography;
 - soils;
 - bedrock geology;
 - floodplains, if any;
 - land use history; and
 - water quality classifications/criteria.
- 2. Photographs** - The report should include photographs of the site taken from the ground and also all reasonably available aerial or satellite photographs and an analysis of such photographs.
- 3. Inspection** - A visual inspection(s) of the site should be conducted, preferably when the ground is visible, and described in the report. This inspection can be helpful in confirming or further evaluating the items noted above.
- 4. Biological Surveys** - The report should include all biological surveys of the site where construction activity will take place that are reasonably available to a registrant. A registrant shall notify the Department's Wildlife Division of biological studies of the site where construction activity will take place that a registrant is aware of but are not reasonably available to the registrant.
- 5. Based on items #1 through 4 above, the report shall include a Natural Resources Inventory of the site of the construction activity.** This inventory should also include a review of reasonably available scientific literature and any recommendations for minimizing adverse impacts from the proposed construction activity on listed species or their associated habitat.
- 6. In addition, to the extent the following is available at the time a safe harbor determination is requested, a request for a safe harbor determination shall include and assess:**
 - Information on Site Disturbance Estimates/Site Alteration information
 - Vehicular Use
 - Construction Activity Phasing Schedules, if any; and
 - Alteration of Drainage Patterns

Natural Diversity Data Base Areas

ANSONIA, CT

December 2018

 State and Federal Listed Species & Significant Natural Communities

 Town Boundary

NOTE: This map shows general locations of State and Federal Listed Species and Significant Natural Communities. Information on listed species is collected and compiled by the Natural Diversity Data Base (NDDDB) from a number of data sources. Exact locations of species have been buffered to produce the general locations. Exact locations of species and communities occur somewhere in the shaded areas, not necessarily in the center. A new mapping format is being employed that more accurately models important riparian and aquatic areas and eliminates the need for the upstream/downstream searches required in previous versions.

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 shaded 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 NDDDB along with the required maps and information. More detailed instructions are provided with the request form on our website.

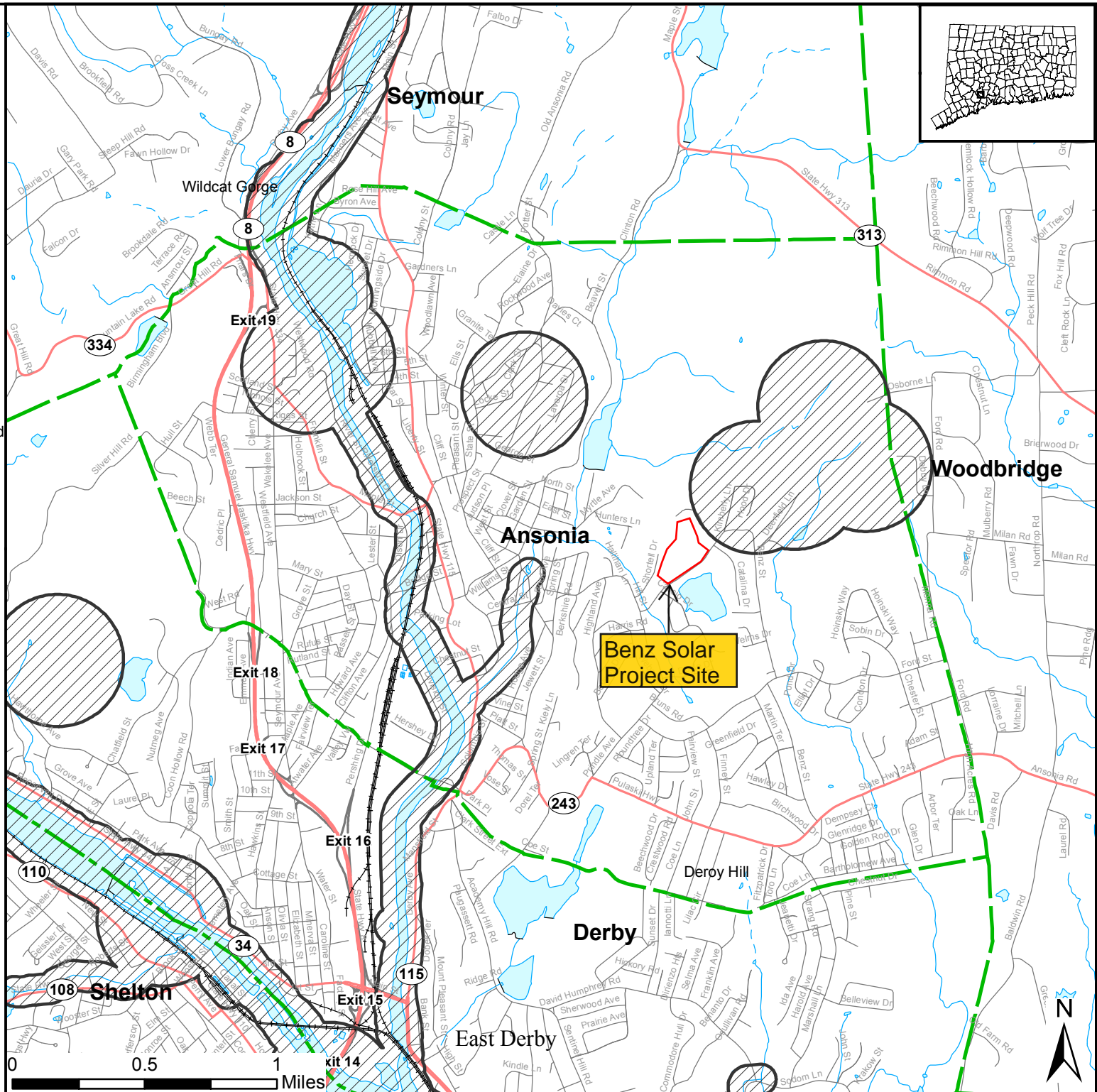
www.ct.gov/deep/nddbrequest

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 NDDDB Areas.

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



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





May 17, 2021

Blake Nicholson
Windam Solar LLC
222 S 9th St, Suite 1600
Minneapolis, MN 55402
blake.nicholson@ecosrenewable.com

NDDB DETERMINATION NUMBER: 202105024

Project: Benz Solar - Solar Energy Facility -31 Benz St., Ansonia, CT

Expiration: May 17, 2023

I have reviewed Natural Diversity Data Base (NDDB) maps and files regarding this project. According to our records, there are State-listed species (RCSA Sec. 26-306) documented nearby the proposed project area.

- **Eastern box turtle (*Terrapene carolina carolina*)- State Special Concern**

In Connecticut, these turtles are found in well-drained forest bottomlands and a matrix of open deciduous forests, early successional habitat, fields, gravel pits, and or powerlines. Turtles are dormant between November 1 and April 1 and hibernate in only a few inches from the surface in forested habitat.

The greatest threat to this species is habitat loss, fragmentation, and degradation due to development. This species is very sensitive to adult mortality because of late maturity (10 years old) and long life span (50-100years). Vehicular traffic, heavy equipment used for farming, and ATV use in natural areas are implicated specifically in adult mortality through collisions. Illegal collection by the pet trade and unknowing public for home pets exacerbates mortality rates and removes important individuals from the population. Predation rates are also unnaturally high because of increased predator populations (e.g. skunks, foxes, raccoons, and crows) that surround developed areas.

Construction protection measures:

Land disturbance activities that will crush active turtles or unearth/or crush hibernating turtles or nests need to consider local habitat features and apply fencing and/or time of year restrictions as appropriate. We recommend you consult with a herpetologist familiar with preferred habitats to assist you with proper techniques to ensure the best protection strategies are employed for your site.

If land disturbance will occur in open fields, early successional habitat, sandy open patches nearby wetland features, and sandy roads and roadsides or other potential nesting areas designated by a qualified herpetologist you will need to take precautions to prevent female turtles from entering work area and setting up nests. This fencing would need to be in place before May 15.

If land disturbance will occur in forested habitat you will need to take precautions to avoid crushing hibernating adults.

- Restrict your land disturbance activities in forested habitat to the turtle active season (conduct land disturbance activities between April 1- November 1).

When working in the upland between April 1- November 1:

- 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 as shown on the plans.
- Exclusionary fencing be at least 20 inches 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.
- Prior to construction, all turtles occurring within fencing work area will be relocated to suitable habitat outside disturbance area. This should be performed by a qualified professional familiar with habitat requirements and behavior of the species.
- The Contractor must search the work area each morning prior to any work being done.
- All construction personnel working within the turtle habitat must be apprised of the species description and the possible presence of a listed species.
- 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. These animals are protected by law and no turtles should be relocated from the site.
- 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 vernal pools.

Site Management protection measures:

Mowing is major source of human induced adult turtle mortality.

- Avoid mowing or vehicular traffic during peak use by this species (May 15-Sept 15)

Use these additional techniques to minimize impact, especially if you need to mow during peak use times:

- Mowing style: Avoid flail mower heads with guide bars that ride along the ground. Sickle bar mowers will have the least impact if mowing every 1-5 years. In areas with more woody vegetation >1-2" diameter Brontosaurus-style mower will likely have the least impact on turtles.
- Mowing height: If mowing during active season, retention of mowing stubble to 7-12 inches will reduce mortality, reduce blade wear, and will leave important cover for animals.
- Directionality - If mowing during the active season is necessary, start mowing from the center of the field and use a back-and-forth approach, or large circular pattern, to avoid concentrating fleeing animals where they may be killed or stranded. In addition, leave an unmowed 30 ft strip around the perimeter of the field and mow this area last. Most turtles are found in these areas and this provides time for them to react to the mowing activity and move out of the area.
 - If field is near stream: start mowing the side furthest from stream and work towards stream.
 - If field is bordered by woodland: start mowing side furthest from woodland and work towards woodland.
 - If field is bordered by road, start mowing next to the road and work your way across field.
- Mower Speed – Mowing in low gear or at slow speeds will allow turtles to react and move out of the field.
- Unmowed Edge - Leaving an unmowed field edge in high turtle use areas until after September 15th.

Site Design Recommendations:

If planned properly, you can increase the value of the habitat for wildlife and state listed species with your development.

- **Create a site management plan to promote native vegetation growth in the area under the solar panels.** Restoring native vegetation will attract pollinators and avoid the need for constant mowing. Reduced need for mowing will reduce the risk for turtles.
- Provide habitat for wildlife and allow for connectivity for wildlife movement. Use wildlife-friendly fencing to allow movement through the solar development.

This is determination is valid for two years.

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 Bureau of Natural Resources and cooperating units of DEEP, independent conservation groups, and the scientific community. This information is not necessarily the result of comprehensive or site-specific field investigations. Consultations with the NDDDB should not be substituted 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 in the NDDDB as it becomes available.

Please contact me if you have any questions (shannon.kearney@ct.gov). Thank you for consulting with the Natural Diversity Data Base and continuing to work with us to protect State-listed species.

Sincerely,

/s/ Shannon B. Kearney
Wildlife Biologist