



Connecticut Department of
**ENERGY &
ENVIRONMENTAL
PROTECTION**

August 12, 2019

Mr. Jeffrey Shamas
VHB, Inc.
100 Great Meadow Road
Wethersfield, CT 06109
jshamas@vhb.com

Project: Preliminary Site Assessment for Clean Focus Renewable Solar Project Located at 233 Boombridge Road in North Stonington, Connecticut
NDDDB Preliminary Assessment No.: 201908214

Dear Jeffrey Shamas,

I have reviewed Natural Diversity Data Base maps and files regarding the area delineated on the map provided for the proposed Clean Focus Renewable Solar Project Located at 233 Boombridge Road in North Stonington, Connecticut.

According to our records there are known extant populations of State Listed Species known that occur within or close to the boundaries of this property. I have attached a list of these species to this letter. Please be advised that this is a preliminary review and not a final determination. A more detailed review will be necessary to move forward with any subsequent environmental permit applications submitted to DEEP for the proposed project. **This preliminary assessment letter cannot be used or submitted with your permit applications at DEEP.** This letter is valid for one year.

To prevent impacts to State-listed species, field surveys of the site should be performed by a qualified biologist when these target species are identifiable. A report summarizing the results of such surveys should include:

1. Survey date(s) and duration
2. Site descriptions and photographs
3. List of component vascular plant and animal species within the survey area (including scientific binomials).
4. Data regarding population numbers and/or area occupied by State-listed species
5. Detailed maps of the area surveyed including the survey route and locations of State-listed species present on the site.
6. Statement/résumé indicating the biologist's qualifications. Please be sure when you hire a consulting qualified biologist to help conduct this site survey that they have the proper experience with target taxon and have a CT scientific collectors permit to work with state listed species for this specific project.

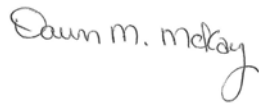
The site surveys report should be sent to our CT DEEP-NDDDB Program (deep.nddbrequest@ct.gov) for further review by our program biologists along with an updated request for another NDDDB review. Incomplete reports may not be accepted.

If you do not intend to do site surveys to determine the presence or absence of state-listed species, please let us know how you will protect the state-listed species from being impacted by this project. You may submit these protection plans with your new request for an NDDDB review.

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. The result of this review does not preclude the possibility that listed species may be encountered on site and that additional action may be necessary to remain in compliance with certain state permits.

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.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Dawn M. McKay".

Dawn M. McKay
Environmental Analyst 3

Species List for NDDB Request

Scientific Name	Common Name	State Status
Invertebrate Animal		
<i>Calopteryx dimidiata</i>	Sparkling jewelwing	T
<i>Margaritifera margaritifera</i>	Eastern pearlshell	SC
Vascular Plant		
<i>Crocanthemum propinquum</i>	Low frostweed	SC
<i>Plantago virginica</i>	Hoary plaintain	SC
<i>Rubus cuneifolius</i>	Sand blackberry	SC
Vertebrate Animal		
<i>Lasiurus borealis</i>	Red bat	SC
<i>Scaphiopus holbrookii</i>	Eastern spadefoot	E



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>Reviewed June 2019, map dated December 2018</u></p>	
<p>This form is being submitted for a :</p>	
<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> <small>[CPPU Use Only - NDDB-Listed Species Determination # 1736]</small>	<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"/> With modifications <input type="checkbox"/> Without modifications (no attachments required) <small>[CPPU Use Only - NDDB-Safe Harbor Determination # 1736]</small>
<p>Enter NDDB Determination Number for Renewal/Extension:</p>	<p>Enter Safe Harbor Determination Number for Renewal/Extension:</p>

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: **VHB**

Contact Name: **Jeffrey Shamas**

Address: **100 Great Meadow Road**

City/Town: **Wethersfield**

State: **CT**

Zip Code: **06109**

Business Phone: **860-807-4388**

ext.

E-mail: **jshamas@vhb.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 #: 0236756 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.

<p>1. SITE NAME AND LOCATION</p> <p>Site Name or Project Name: Clean Focus Renewables Solar Project</p> <p>Town(s): North Stonington</p> <p>Street Address or Location Description: 233 Boombridge Road</p> <p>Size in acres, or site dimensions: 54 acres</p> <p>Latitude and longitude of the center of the site in decimal degrees (e.g., 41.23456 -71.68574):</p> <p>Latitude: 41.433058 Longitude: -71.804908</p> <p>Method of coordinate determination (check one):</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> GPS <input type="checkbox"/> Photo interpolation using CTECO map viewer <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (specify): Google Earth</p> <p>2a. Describe the current land use and land cover of the site.</p> <p>The current land use for the proposed project is cleared farm land. Approximately 54 acres of two parcels will be the lease area. Approximately 33.2 acres (northeastern parcel) will be utilized for the 5 mega watt AC Solar project. Based on review of the December 2018 NDDB map, the proposed site is not located in an overlay representing endangered, threatened and/or special concern species.</p> <p>b. Check all that apply and enter the size in acres or % of area in the space after each checked category.</p> <table><tr><td><input type="checkbox"/> Industrial/Commercial _____</td><td><input type="checkbox"/> Residential _____</td><td><input type="checkbox"/> Forest _____</td></tr><tr><td><input type="checkbox"/> Wetland _____</td><td><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Field/grassland <u>100%</u></td><td><input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural _____</td></tr><tr><td><input type="checkbox"/> Water _____</td><td><input type="checkbox"/> Utility Right-of-way _____</td><td></td></tr><tr><td><input type="checkbox"/> Transportation Right-of-way _____</td><td><input type="checkbox"/> Other (specify): _____</td><td></td></tr></table>	<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial/Commercial _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Residential _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Forest _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Wetland _____	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Field/grassland <u>100%</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): _____	
<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial/Commercial _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Residential _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Forest _____										
<input type="checkbox"/> Wetland _____	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Field/grassland <u>100%</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

<p>1. PROJECT TYPE:</p> <p>Choose Project Type: Other , If other describe: Solar Photovoltaic Development _____</p>
<p>2. Is the subject activity limited to the maintenance, repair, or improvement of an existing structure within the existing footprint? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No If yes, explain.</p>

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.

The Project owner, Clean Focus Renewables is submitting this NDDB Review Request for the proposed installation of an 5 megawattt AC photovoltaic electric generating facility. The total lease area is comprised of one and a half parcels of land that totals approximately 54 acres, however, the intent is to fit the solar facility on the northeastern parcel that totals 33.2 acres.

The proposed activities for this project include: grading, top soil removal and replacement, construction of a new gravel access roads, installation of photovoltaic arrays and equipment pads, and the installation of a chain-link security fence along the facility's perimeter. Soils will be stabilized with grass planting and stormwater will be controlled with structural BMP designed by engineers. This project is intended to participate in Connecticut's Virtual Net Metering program. Temporary construction measures will follow 2002 Connecticut Guidelines for Soil Erosion and Sediment Control to minimize secondary impacts.

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

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

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Section i: Supplemental Site Information and supporting documents <input checked="" 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>	
Signature of Requester (a typed name will substitute for a handwritten signature)	Date
Jeffery R. Shamas	
Name of Requester (print or type)	Title (if applicable)
Signature of Preparer (if different than above)	Date
Name of Preparer (print or type)	Title (if applicable)

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.

The wetland delienation is underway and should be completed in early summer of 2019. The solar array will be deisgned to avoid and minimize impacts fo field delieanted wetlands or vernal pools.

- 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.

Perimeter sediment controls will be installed before grubbing and temporary structural sediment controls will be installed within the work site.

Project construction will likely take 6-8 months and is expected to begin Spring 2020. Construction will include the installation of the solar panels, access road(s), and sturctural stormwater best management practices (BMPs).

Following the construction phase, the site will be maintained by mowing and vegetation maitenance outside of the array to avoid shading panels and will incorporate any CT DEEP-required seasonal restrictions.

The anticipated project lifespan is 35 years and after that point the Project Area will be restored in accordance with a Decomissioning Plan.

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.

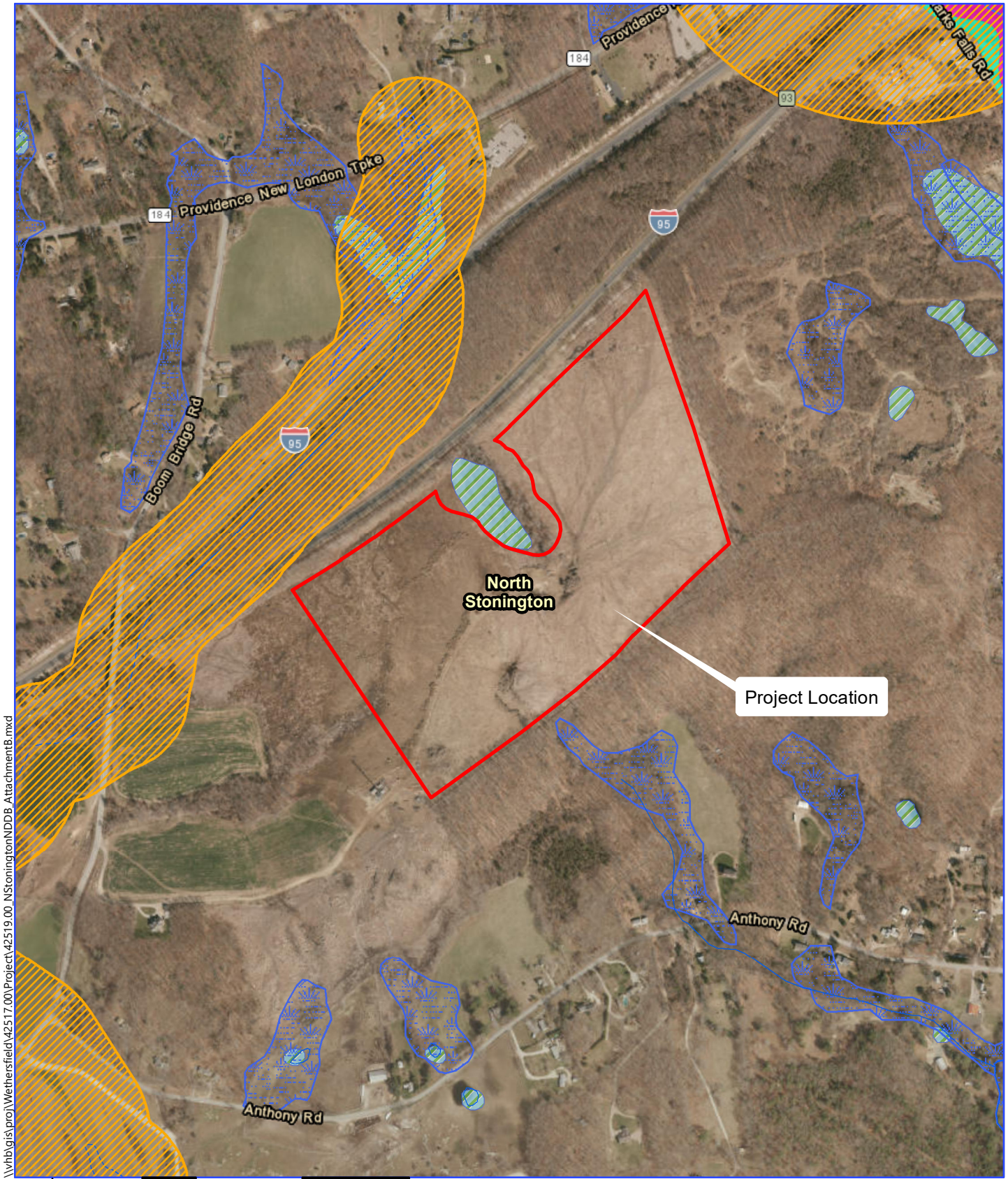
The lease area is approximately 54 acres with 33.2 acres to be developed for the proposed facility in the northeastern section. Wetlands on the Site will be an assigned nominal 100-foot buffer. No project disturbance will occur in wetlands, watercourses or within 100 feet of these features.

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



\\vhb\gis\proj\Wethersfield\42517.00\Project\42519.00_NStonington\NDDB AttachmentB.mxd

Project Location

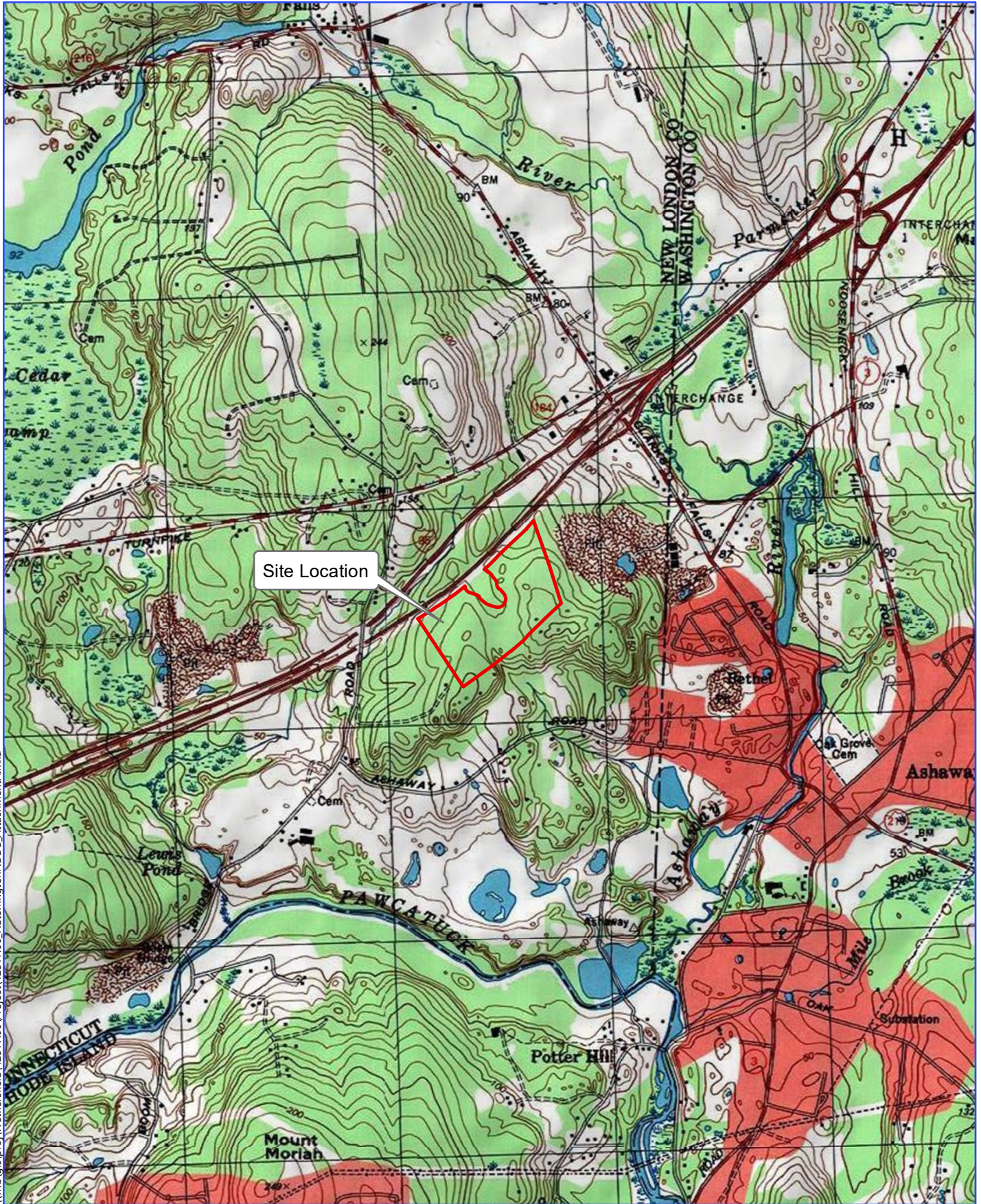


233 Boombridge Road | North Stonington, CT

Legend

- Proposed Project Area
- Hydrography
- 100 Year Flood Zone
- NDDB Areas (CTDEEP, 12/2018)
- Wetlands (CTDEEP, 2005)
- 500 Year Flood Zone
- Critical Habitat (CTDEEP, 12/2009)*
- Open Water
- Floodway in Zone AE
- Town Line
- National Wetland Inventory Wetlands
- Other Flood Areas

Detailed Site Map
 Source Info: VHB, CT DEEP, USFWS, USGS



\\vhb\gis\pro\Wethersfield\42517\00_NStonington\NDD8_AttachmentA.mxd



233 Boombridge Road

North Stonington, CT

Overview Map

Source Info: VHB, USGS

To: Chris Ross
Greenskies Clean Energy, LLC

Date: May 22, 2020

Project #: 42517.01

From: Steven J. Kochis, PE
VHB

Re: Wildlife Assessments
North Stonington Solar Project
233 Boombridge Road

The following represents VHB's intended response to NDDB's Preliminary Assessment of probable species at the Site dated August 12, 2019.

Invertebrates

<u>Species</u>	<u>Habitat</u>	<u>Status</u>
Sparkling Jeweling (<i>Calopteryx dimidiata</i>)	A small damselfly that inhabits swift stream with sandy bottoms and plentiful vegetation on the banks. Streams with wild celery (<i>Vallisneria americana</i>) are especially suited for egg deposition by females, which submerge below water during egg laying. Response: No streams are present within the project site, thus it is not proposed to survey for this species at this time as habitat does not exist.	Threatened
Eastern Pearlshell (<i>Margaritifera margaritifera</i>)	A freshwater mussel of fast flowing stream and rivers where it partially buries in gravels and sands. Response: No streams are present within the project site; thus, it is not proposed to survey for this species at this time as habitat does not exist.	Special Concern

From: Steven J. Kochis, PE
 Ref: 42517.01
 May 22, 2020
 Page 2



Memorandum

Vertebrates

<u>Species</u>	<u>Habitat</u>	<u>Status</u>
Red Bat (<i>Lasiurus borealis</i>)	Populations in Connecticut are likely migratory. The project site has been recently clear-cut thus suitable/preferable roosting and pupping habitats are limited. Response: No tree clearing is proposed for the Project and accordingly, no habitat for this species will be affected by the Project.	Threatened
Eastern Spadefoot (<i>Scaphiopus holbrookii</i>)	This species of toad is a fossorial species which favors burrowing in loose sandy soils associated with glacial outwash river terraces and active floodplains. The subject site consists of stony till soils with several boulder and rock outcrops that would not be particularly suitable for this species. Response: Due to the above description, we do not anticipate the species occurring on the project site; however, given the presence of the species at a proposed solar project site approximately 1.5 miles away, it is proposed to survey for this species between the months of May and July.	Endangered



Vascular Plants

<u>Species</u>	<u>Habitat</u>	<u>Status</u>
Low Frostweed <i>(Crocianthemum propinquum)</i>	<p>This species is known to occur on sites subject to anthropogenic features (manmade or disturbed habitats occurring in meadows, fields, grasslands, sandplains and barrens). Even with past clearing activities at the Site, it is feasible that this species still exists.</p> <p>Response: It is intended to survey for this species between the months of May and June.</p>	Special Concern
Hoary Plantain <i>(Plantago virginica)</i>	<p>This species is known to occur on sites subject to anthropogenic features (manmade or disturbed habitats occurring in meadows, fields, grasslands, sandplains and barrens). Even with past clearing activities at the Site, it is feasible that this species still exists.</p> <p>Response: It is intended to survey for this species between the months of May and June.</p>	Special Concern
Sand Blackberry <i>(Rubus cuneifolius)</i>	<p>This species is known to occur on sites subject to anthropogenic features (manmade or disturbed habitats occurring in meadows, fields, grasslands, sandplains and barrens). Even with past clearing activities at the Site, it is feasible that this species still exists.</p> <p>Response: It is intended to survey for this species between the months of May and June.</p>	Special Concern