



STATE OF CONNECTICUT  
*CONNECTICUT SITING COUNCIL*

Ten Franklin Square, New Britain, CT 06051  
Phone: (860) 827-2935 Fax: (860) 827-2950  
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**VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL**

July 14, 2023

Kathleen Shanley  
Manager – Transmission Siting  
Eversource Energy  
56 Prospect Street  
P.O. Box 270  
Hartford, CT 06141-0270  
[Kathleen.shanley@eversource.com](mailto:Kathleen.shanley@eversource.com)

RE: **PETITION NO. 1560** - The Connecticut Light and Power Company d/b/a Eversource Energy (Eversource) declaratory ruling, pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes §4-176 and §16-50k, for the proposed Norwalk Bridge Transmission Relocation Project that consists of the relocation and rebuild of two existing overhead 115-kilovolt (kV) electric transmission lines from railroad catenaries and existing structures within the Connecticut Department of Transportation corridor to an underground configuration within roads and across the Norwalk River for approximately .66 miles between existing Structure No. 522WN north of Monroe Street and Structure No. 536WN north of Van Zant Street in Norwalk, Connecticut, and related electric transmission line improvements.

Dear Kathleen Shanley:

The Connecticut Siting Council (Council) is in receipt of your correspondence dated July 13, 2023, regarding compliance with Condition Nos. 2 and 7 of the Council's Declaratory Ruling issued on May 26, 2023 for the above-referenced re-routed facility. The correspondence includes a copy of the updated Department of Energy and Environmental Protection Natural Diversity Database determination associated with the General Permit and notification in writing at least two weeks prior to the commencement of site construction, in accordance with Condition Nos. 2 and 7, respectively.

Therefore, the Council acknowledges that Condition Nos. 2 and 7 have been satisfied. This acknowledgment applies only to the conditions satisfied by the July 13, 2023 correspondence.

Please be advised that deviations from the standards established by the Council in the Declaratory Ruling are enforceable under the provisions of Connecticut General Statutes §16-50u.

Thank you for your attention and cooperation.

Sincerely,

Melanie A. Bachman  
Executive Director  
MB/MP

c: Deborah Denfeld, Team Lead – Transmission Siting, Eversource Energy  
([Deborah.denfeld@eversource.com](mailto:Deborah.denfeld@eversource.com))  
Andrew Lord, Project Siting Specialist, Eversource Energy ([Andrew.lord@eversource.com](mailto:Andrew.lord@eversource.com))



56 Prospect Street  
P.O. Box 270  
Hartford, CT 06141-0270

**Kathleen M. Shanley**  
Manager – Transmission Siting  
Tel: 860-728-4527

July 13, 2023

Ms. Melanie Bachman, Executive Director  
Connecticut Siting Council  
Ten Franklin Square  
New Britain, CT 06051

**Re: PETITION NO. 1560** - The Connecticut Light and Power Company d/b/a Eversource Energy (Eversource) petition for a declaratory ruling, pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes §4-176 and §16-50k, for the proposed Norwalk Bridge Transmission Relocation Project that consists of the relocation and rebuild of two existing overhead 115-kilovolt (kV) electric transmission lines from railroad catenaries and existing structures within the Connecticut Department of Transportation corridor to an underground configuration within roads and across the Norwalk River for approximately .66 miles between existing Structure No. 522WN north of Monroe Street and Structure No. 536WN north of Van Zant Street in Norwalk, Connecticut, and related electric transmission line improvements.

Dear Ms. Bachman:

In accordance with Condition 2 of the Connecticut Siting Council's ("Council") approval of the above-referenced petition, dated May 26, 2023 (the "Approval"), please see the attached copy of the updated Department of Energy and Environmental Protection Natural Diversity Database determination, dated June 16, 2023.

Regarding Condition 7 of the Approval, Eversource hereby provides notice to the Council that construction of the project is scheduled to commence on or about August 1, 2023.

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me via e-mail at [kathleen.shanley@eversource.com](mailto:kathleen.shanley@eversource.com) or telephone at (860) 728-4527.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Kathleen M. Shanley", written in a cursive style.

Kathleen M. Shanley



Generated by eNDDDB on:  
6/16/2023

Robert Deptula  
EVERSOURCE ENERGY SERVICE COMPANY  
107 SELDEN ST.  
BERLIN, CT 06037  
eversource.nddb@eversource.com

Subject: Norwalk Bridge Transmission Line Relocation Project  
Filing # 98851  
NDDDB – New Determination Number: 202304963  
The transmission lines would then cross the Norwalk River using horizontal directional drill (HDD) technology beneath Veteran’s Memorial Park on the east shore of the river and exiting to Fort Point Street. The proposed route would then head northeast and follow Fort Point Street to the railroad overpass,  
Norwalk

Expiration Date: 6/16/2025

Current data maintained by the Natural Diversity Database (NDDDB) and housed in the DEEP ezFile portal, indicates that populations of the following State Endangered, Threatened, or Special Concern species (RCA Sec. 26-306) have been documented within the project area or in close proximity to the proposed Energy and Utility Production Facilities and Distribution Infrastructure/New Linear Rights-of Ways: transmission lines, cables, pipelines, Norwalk Bridge Transmission Line Relocation Project.

- Great egret (*Ardea alba*)
- Snowy egret (*Egretta thula*)
- Little blue heron (*Egretta caerulea*)
- Yellow-crowned night-heron (*Nyctanassa violacea*)
- Glossy ibis (*Plegadis falcinellus*)
- Peregrine falcon (*Falco peregrinus*)
- Sand tiger shark (*Carcharias taurus*)
- Atlantic seasnail (*Liparis atlanticus*)
- Radiated shanny (*Ulvaria subbifurcata*)

In accordance with the project information provided in your request submittal, implementation of the following Best Management Practices will avoid negative impacts to listed species.

Common Name	Great egret
Scientific Name	<i>Ardea alba</i>
Taxa	bird
Status <sup>1</sup>	T

General Ecology	This is a bird that usually nests in a mixed species colony with other heron species, called a rookery. In Connecticut, rookeries are on offshore island but can occur in wooded wetland areas. Nests are typically built 20-40 feet above ground in trees. Breeding usually begins mid-April and runs through August. Disturbance to nesting rookeries by both predators and people is the main threat to this species in Connecticut, followed by degradation of wetland habitat used for foraging. Setback from nesting colonies of 660 feet (200 meters) for all activities during nesting season as well as reducing wetland disturbance and enhancing wetland function in foraging areas within 10 km of rookeries will benefit this species.
<b>Best Management Practice</b>	<b>Impact from this project can be minimized if you follow all Industry Best Practices, minimize impact to and loss of preferred habitat, and include any protection measures in Species General Ecology that relate to your project activities before, during, and after completion.</b>
Common Name	Snowy egret
Scientific Name	<i>Egretta thula</i>
Taxa	bird
Status <sup>1</sup>	T
General Ecology	This is a bird that usually nests in a mixed species colony with other heron species, called a rookery. Of these rookery nesting species, Snowy egret has the highest regional concern due to rapidly decreasing populations. In Connecticut, rookeries are on offshore islands. Nests are typically built 20-40 feet above ground in trees. Breeding usually begins mid-April and runs through August. Disturbance to nesting rookeries by both predators and people is the main threat to this species in Connecticut, followed by degradation of wetland habitat used for foraging. Setback from nesting colonies of 660 feet (200 meters) for all activities during nesting season as well as reducing wetland disturbance and enhancing wetland function in foraging areas within 5 km of rookeries will benefit this species. If your project is not offshore, it is likely that your project falls in critical foraging habitat for the snowy egret. Critical foraging habitats preferred by these species include marshes, swamps, ponds, shores, and tideflats with a diet consisting of mainly fish and crustaceans. Foraging efficiency is greatly reduced if foraging individually. Do not disturb flocks of foraging herons and egrets. Do not introduce new excessive or unpredictable noise or activity to wetland complexes that will cause birds to flush during April-August, especially before 10am, when largest flocks will form.
<b>Best Management Practice</b>	<b>Impact from this project can be minimized if you follow all Industry Best Practices, minimize impact to and loss of preferred habitat, and include any protection measures in Species General Ecology that relate to your project activities before, during, and after completion.</b>
Common Name	Little blue heron
Scientific Name	<i>Egretta caerulea</i>
Taxa	bird
Status <sup>1</sup>	SC
General Ecology	This is a bird that usually nests in a mixed species colony with other heron species, called a rookery. In Connecticut, rookeries are on offshore island but can occur in wooded wetland areas. Nests are typically built 20-40 feet above ground in trees. Breeding usually begins mid-April and runs through August. Disturbance to nesting rookeries by both predators and people is the main threat to this species in Connecticut, followed by degradation of wetland habitat used for foraging. Setback from nesting colonies of 660 feet (200 meters) for all activities during nesting season as well as reducing wetland disturbance and enhancing wetland function in foraging areas will benefit this species.
<b>Best Management Practice</b>	<b>Impact from this project can be minimized if you follow all Industry Best Practices, minimize impact to and loss of preferred habitat, and include any protection measures in Species General Ecology that relate to your project activities before, during, and after completion.</b>
Common Name	Yellow-crowned night-heron
Scientific Name	<i>Nyctanassa violacea</i>
Taxa	bird

Status <sup>1</sup>	SC
General Ecology	The yellow-crowned night-heron favors coastal marshes and nests and roosts in adjacent trees. This bird's primary source of food is crabs. This bird occasionally will be found in a mixed species colony with other heron species, called a rookery. In Connecticut, rookeries with most of our state listed species are on offshore island but can occur in wooded wetland areas. Nests are typically built 20-40 feet above ground in trees. Breeding usually begins mid-April and runs through August. Disturbance to nesting rookeries by both predators and people is the main threat to this species in Connecticut, followed by degradation of wetland habitat used for foraging. Setback from nesting colonies of 660 feet (200 meters) for all activities during nesting season as well as reducing wetland disturbance and enhancing wetland function will benefit this species.
Best Management Practice	<b>Impact from this project can be minimized if you follow all Industry Best Practices, minimize impact to and loss of preferred habitat, and include any protection measures in Species General Ecology that relate to your project activities before, during, and after completion.</b>
Common Name	Glossy ibis
Scientific Name	<i>Plegadis falcinellus</i>
Taxa	bird
Status <sup>1</sup>	SC
General Ecology	This is a bird that usually nests in a mixed species colony with other heron species, called a rookery. In Connecticut, rookeries with most of our state listed species are on offshore island but can occur in wooded wetland areas. Nests are typically built 20-40 feet above ground in trees. Breeding usually begins mid-April and runs through August. Disturbance to nesting rookeries by both predators and people is the main threat to this species in Connecticut, followed by degradation of wetland habitat used for foraging. Setback from nesting colonies of 660 feet (200 meters) for all activities during nesting season as well as reducing wetland disturbance and enhancing wetland function will benefit this species.
Best Management Practice	<b>Impact from this project can be minimized if you follow all Industry Best Practices, minimize impact to and loss of preferred habitat, and include any protection measures in Species General Ecology that relate to your project activities before, during, and after completion.</b>
Common Name	Peregrine falcon
Scientific Name	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>
Taxa	bird
Status <sup>1</sup>	T
General Ecology	Habitat: cliff faces and under bridges. This falcon nests from April through July and is very susceptible to human disturbance during this time. Peregrine falcons are very territorial during the breeding season and will make their presence known if in close proximity to a nest site. The wildlife division recommends a 660' setback from nests with no public access. To determine if a nest in your area is active this year contact the DEEP Wildlife Biologist coordinating Peregrine falcon monitoring (Brian.hess@ct.gov).
Best Management Practice	<b>Avoid creating collision hazards for Birds and Bats. Glass collisions including residential windows indiscriminately kill 1 billion birds a year. Develop or renovate your building façade and site design strategy to make the building and site structures visible barriers to birds. Bat collisions are less well understood, but smooth vertical surfaces affect bats' abilities to avoid collisions.</b>  <b>Limit interior and exterior night lighting. Lighting, temporary or permanent should not be directed towards suitable bat habitats. Security lighting should always be down-shielded to keep light within the boundaries of the site.</b>  <b>Take steps necessary to assure that construction is designed, built, and operated in accordance with the standards and requirements of the LEED Green Building Rating System Pilot Credit #55. The USGBC releases revised versions of the LEED Building Rating System on a regular basis, and you should refer to the most current version when beginning a new building or construction project or renovation.</b>

	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Visit American Bird Conservancy website for more guidance:</b>  <a href="https://abcbirds.org/program/glass-collisions/">https://abcbirds.org/program/glass-collisions/</a></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Apply best practices as outlined in USFWS Guidelines for Communications Towers:</b>  <a href="http://www.fws.gov/midwest/angered/section7/telecomguidance.html">www.fws.gov/midwest/angered/section7/telecomguidance.html</a></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Our mapped records indicate your project boundary is within 1/2mile, but farther than 660ft of this sensitive resource.</b></p>
Common Name	Sand tiger shark
Scientific Name	<i>Carcharias taurus</i>
Taxa	fish
Status <sup>1</sup>	SC
General Ecology	Contact a DEEP Fisheries Biologist for more information. Do not contact NDDDB with questions regarding fish species.
<b>Best Management Practice</b>	<b>Impact from this project can be minimized if you follow all Industry Best Practices, minimize impact to and loss of preferred habitat, and include any protection measures in Species General Ecology that relate to your project activities before, during, and after completion.</b>
Common Name	Atlantic seasnail
Scientific Name	<i>Liparis atlanticus</i>
Taxa	fish
Status <sup>1</sup>	SC
General Ecology	Contact a DEEP Fisheries Biologist for more information. Do not contact NDDDB with questions regarding fish species.
<b>Best Management Practice</b>	<b>Impact from this project can be minimized if you follow all Industry Best Practices, minimize impact to and loss of preferred habitat, and include any protection measures in Species General Ecology that relate to your project activities before, during, and after completion.</b>
Common Name	Radiated shanny
Scientific Name	<i>Ulvaria subbifurcata</i>
Taxa	fish
Status <sup>1</sup>	SC
General Ecology	Contact a DEEP Fisheries Biologist for more information. Do not contact NDDDB with questions regarding fish species.
<b>Best Management Practice</b>	<b>Impact from this project can be minimized if you follow all Industry Best Practices, minimize impact to and loss of preferred habitat, and include any protection measures in Species General Ecology that relate to your project activities before, during, and after completion.</b>

<sup>1</sup>E = State Endangered, T = State Threatened, SC = State Special Concern, FE = Federally Endangered, FT = Federally Threatened, NA = Not applicable.

Your submission information indicates that your project requires a state permit, license, registration, or authorization, or utilizes state funding or involves state agency action. This NDDDB – New determination may be utilized to fulfill the Endangered and Threatened Species requirements for state-issued permit applications, licenses, registration submissions, and authorizations.

Please be aware of the following limitations and conditions:

Natural Diversity Database information includes all information regarding listed species 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, land owners, private conservation groups and the scientific community. This information is not necessarily the result of comprehensive or site-specific field investigations. 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 Database and accessed through the ezFile portal as it becomes available. New information may result in additional review, and new or modified restrictions or conditions may be necessary to remain in compliance with certain state permits.

- Each state agency is required to conserve endangered and threatened species and their essential habitats, and ensure that any action authorized, funded or performed by such agency does not threaten the continued existence of any endangered or threatened species or result in the destruction or adverse modification of habitat designated as essential to such species (CGS 26-310). Therefore, the restrictions and conditions outlined above for Endangered and Threatened species **MUST** be implemented and abided by in order to utilize this NDDB – New Determination in securing any state permit, license, authorization, or registration or for any actions performed or funded by state agencies.
- During your work listed species may be encountered on site. A report must be submitted by the observer to the Natural Diversity Database promptly and additional review and restrictions or conditions may be necessary to remain in compliance with certain state permits. Please fill out the [appropriate survey form](#) and follow the instructions for submittal.
- Your project involves the state permit application process or other state involvement, including state funding or state agency actions; please note that consultations with your permit analyst or the agency may result in additional requirements. In this situation, additional evaluation of the proposal by the DEEP Wildlife Division may be necessary and additional information, including but not limited to species-specific site surveys, may be required. Any additional review may result in specific restrictions or conditions relating to listed species that may be found at or in the vicinity of the site.
- If your project involves preparing an Environmental Impact Assessment, this NDDB consultation and determination should not be substituted for conducting biological field surveys assessing on-site habitat and species presence.
- This determination applies only to the project as described in the submission and summarized at the end of this letter. Please re-submit an updated Request for Review if the project's scope of work and/or timeframe changes, including if work has not begun by 6/16/2025.
- If biological surveys have been conducted in accordance with Best Management Practices provided, please forward a copy of the results to the address listed at the end of this letter. Include the Project Name and Determination Number on all correspondence.

The NDDB – New determination for the Norwalk Bridge Transmission Line Relocation Project at The transmission lines would then cross the Norwalk River using horizontal directional drill (HDD) technology beneath Veteran's Memorial Park on the east shore of the river and exiting to Fort Point Street. The proposed route would then head northeast and follow Fort Point Street to the railroad overpass, , Norwalk, as described in the submitted information and summarized at the end of this document is valid until 6/16/2025. This determination applies only to the project as described in the submission and summarized at the end of this letter. Please re-submit an updated Request for Review if the project's scope of work and/or timeframe changes, including if work has not begun by 6/16/2025.

This letter is computer generated and carries no signature. If however, any clarification is needed, or, if you have further questions, please contact the following:

CT DEEP Bureau of Natural Resources  
Wildlife Division  
Natural Diversity Database  
79 Elm Street, 6<sup>th</sup> floor  
Hartford, CT 06106-5127  
(860) 424-3011  
[deep.nddbrequest@ct.gov](mailto:deep.nddbrequest@ct.gov)

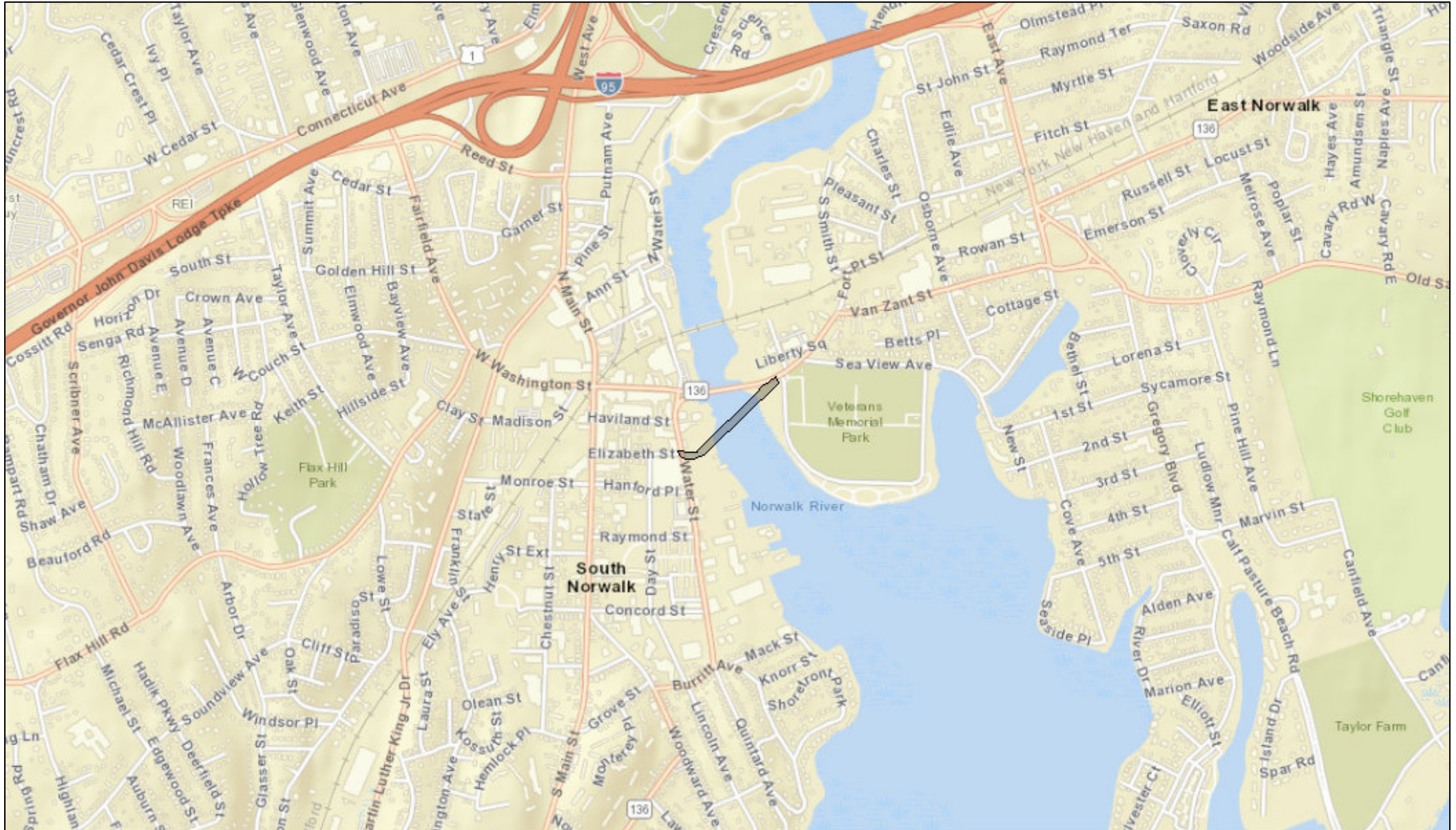
Please reference the NDDDB – New number provided in this letter when you e-mail or write. Thank you for submitting your project through DEEP's ezFile portal for Natural Diversity Database reviews.



Application Details:

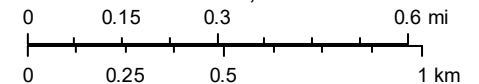
Project involves federal funds or federal permit:	Yes
Project involves state funds, state agency action, or relates to CEPA request:	No
Project requires state permit, license, registration, or authorization:	Yes
DEEP enforcement action related to project:	
Project Type:	Energy and Utility Production Facilities and Distribution Infrastructure
Project Sub-type:	New Linear Rights-of Ways: transmission lines, cables, pipelines
Project Name:	Norwalk Bridge Transmission Line Relocation Project
Project Description:	Eversource's relocation of Transmission line in support of CTDOTs walk bridge replacement. This project was previously approved by NDDB (Determination #202107899, attached). That determination expires on June 24, 2023. With the exception of minor HDD alignment changes on the west side of the river, the project remains unchanged.

# Norwalk Bridge Transmission Line Relocation Project Map



June 16, 2023

1:19,195



Sources: Esri, HERE, Garmin, USGS, Intermap, INCREMENT P, NRCan, Esri Japan, METI, Esri China (Hong Kong), Esri Korea, Esri (Thailand), NGCC, (c) OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GIS User Community