

August 25, 2022

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NDDB DETERMINATION NUMBER: 202208025

Project: Preliminary site assessment; Construction of a battery storage facility for Key Capture Energy; CT 8-EAST HAMPTON PROJECT, 44 SKINNER ST IN EAST HAMPTON, CT

Expiration: August 25, 2024

I have reviewed Natural Diversity Data Base (NDDB) maps and files regarding this project. According to our records, there are records of the following State-listed species (RCSA Sec. 26-306) nearby that may be affected by your project activity.

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

In Connecticut, **Eastern box 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.

- Protect important areas for this species in this forest block that include retaining available connectivity between habitat features important for foraging, reproduction, and overwintering.

Land disturbance activities 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 and the scope of your project.

Your project will impact forest habitat that may serve as significant overwintering habitat.

- **You will need to restrict your land disturbance activities to occur only between April 1- October 31.**

To prevent turtle access and entry into your work zone between April 1- November 1:

- Exclusionary practices will be used to prevent any turtle access into disturbance areas. These measures will need to be installed at the limits of disturbance as shown on the plans, or specifically designated by a herpetologist who can assess the conditions at your site.
- Exclusionary fencing 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.
- 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.
- The Contractor search the work area each morning prior to any work being done.
- 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. This animal is protected by law and should not be relocated off-site.
- In areas where silt fence is used for exclusion, it shall be removed as soon as the area is stable and disturbance is finished to allow for reptile and amphibian passage to resume.

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