
Wetland and Vernal Pool Protection Plan

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Introduction

As a result of the proposed facility's proximity to delineated wetlands and vernal pool(s), the following best management practices (BMP's) are to be implemented to prevent unintended impacts to these environmentally sensitive areas. These BMPs are shown in their planned locations on the approved plan sheets, as well as described in detail in the project's Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP).

As part of the conditions of the Connecticut Stormwater General Permit, the SWPPP, and in agreement with the Conservation District representing the interests of CTDEEP, a qualified inspector will be required to monitor these BMPs on a regular basis during site inspections to ensure they are properly installed and maintained. Any deficiencies will be recorded and addressed in a timely manner to prevent undue impacts to the sensitive habitats.

The proposed wetland protection plan consists of several components including: design plans respective to wetland locations, contractor training/increased protection awareness during vernal pool seasons, sediment and erosion controls and spill management.



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Site Plans

The project civil Site Plans are designed largely based on the location of environmental scientist-delineated wetlands and vernal pools. As is outlined in several guidance documents issued by the State of Connecticut, it is not proposed to disturb any areas within a 50-foot buffer of the edge of a wetland or vernal pool. Additionally, it is not proposed to install any solar panels within 100 feet of these delineations. This means that after construction is complete and temporary sediment and erosion control measures are removed, a minimum 50-foot vegetated zone will remain on the perimeter of any sediment trap spillways, ensuring that even after stormwater is pretreated in these basins there is still an opportunity for infiltration and filtration of runoff before it reaches wetland areas. Lastly, all work is proposed at least 100-foot minimum from any known vernal pools in accordance with standard BMP's.

The plans also outline specific construction sequencing, prioritizing installation of BMPs like sediment traps, swales, silt fence, hay bales, erosion control blankets and any other designated features prior to any other disturbance on the project site. This sequencing ensures that all outside wetlands and vernal pools have barriers in place prior to the creation of any sediment-laden runoff that may be generated by construction activities. See plan sheets C-4.0 and C-5.0 for further details on the location and details of these site BMPs.

No trafficking of vehicles shall be allowed to take place outside of the prescribed work limits and BMPs shall be inspected weekly, at a minimum, for adequacy in protecting onsite resources. The design of the long-term stormwater management basins is proposed to be sand filter systems to help ensure that the basins drain dry between rainfall events and do not act as decoy pools.



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Contractor Training

Prior to construction, the contractor and subcontractors will be notified of the areas on the outskirts of the project site where wetlands and vernal pools are present. During construction, sequencing will be reiterated and inspected, BMPs as they are outlined in the site plans shall be installed as designed and amended as needed due to field conditions, and increased awareness will be made to maintain exclusionary fencing in areas where grades appear to drain directly towards wetlands or vernal pools. The contractor will be made aware of the dates that dictate the vernal pool season, and during this time period it will be emphasized that performing routine site sweeps and promptly fixing any damaged barriers is imperative. Information for the projects environmental correspondent will be given to the contractor/ distributed to the entire project team in the event that any questions should arise.



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Sediment and Erosion Controls

The following erosion and sedimentation controls are for use during the earthwork and construction phases of the Project. The following controls are provided as recommendations for the site contractor and do not constitute or replace the final Stormwater Pollution Control Plan that must be fully implemented by the Contractor in compliance with the DEEP General Permit for the discharge of stormwater and dewatering wastewater from construction activities, and 2024 Connecticut Guidelines for Erosion and Sediment Control as amended.

Silt Fencing

- This semi-permeable barrier made of a synthetic porous fabric will provide additional protection.
- The silt fences will be repaired or replaced as determined by periodic field inspections.

Temporary Sediment Trap/ Basin

- These stormwater settling basins will be installed at the locations shown on the E&S plans and will have the majority of runoff from the on-site construction area diverted to them.
- Traps will feature a safe outlet for excess water (spillway).
- Additional traps may be installed during construction if deemed necessary.

Temporary/ Permanent Swales

- These swales shall be constructed generally as depicted on the site plans and adjusted to work for field conditions.
- Swales shall be fitted with erosion control blankets and check dams in accordance with the details and standard practices.



Hydroseeding

- Disturbed areas shall be hydroseeded at the intervals outlined in the construction sequence.

Construction Entrance/ Exit

- Temporary crushed-stone construction entrances/exits will be installed at access points off of town roads.
- Construction entrances will serve as a measure to prevent sediment from tracking into roadways and subsequently washing into catch basins that may drain to waterways in the project area.

Erosion Control Blankets

- Biodegradable straw fiber or jute netting roll blankets designed for use on moderate slope and channel applications.



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Spill Prevention and Management

The contractor shall adhere to the following spill response and material handling procedures:

Refueling and Material Storage

- All light duty construction support vehicles shall be fueled off site at a service station when possible.
- Refueling of vehicles on site shall take place in a supervised manner to avoid any overfills.
- Refueling of vehicles or machinery shall take place on an impervious pad with secondary containment designed to contain petroleum fuel.
- Any refueling tanks and/or drums or other hazardous materials that must be kept on site shall be stored on an impervious surface utilizing secondary containment and be kept at least 100 feet from any wetlands or watercourses located on site.

Initial Spill Response Procedure

- Immediately stop operation and shut off all equipment.
- Remove any sources of ignition.
- Locate the source of the spill and contain and/or stop the spill from continuing.
- Once the spill is stopped or contained, follow any flow paths of the spill and prevent or contain any further release into sensitive environmental areas.
- Ensure that all contractors and subcontractors on site are notified of the spill.

Spill Clean Up

- Obtain the Spill Response Kit from the designated location on site.
- Place the absorbent materials directly on the spill.
- Continue to place absorbent materials around the spill to prevent any further release.
- Ensure that the spill is eliminated or isolated at the source.
- Determine the type and approximate amount of material that was spilled.
- Contact the appropriate Site contacts and local, state and/or federal agencies as required.
- Contact a disposal company to properly dispose of any contaminated materials.
- File a report on the incident.

Reporting

- Complete an incident report for each spill.
- Submit a completed report to local, state and federal agencies, as required.



- The Connecticut Department of Energy & Environmental Protection (DEEP), Emergency Response Unit should be contacted at: (860) 424-3338, in the event of an emergency spill.