



United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
New England Ecological Services Field Office
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In Reply Refer To:
Project Code: 2025-0117570
Project Name: Plainfield Solar One

07/03/2025 14:42:47 UTC

Subject: List of threatened and endangered species that may occur in your proposed project location or may be affected by your proposed project

To Whom It May Concern:

Updated 4/12/2023 - Please review this letter each time you request an Official Species List, we will continue to update it with additional information and links to websites may change.

About Official Species Lists

The purpose of the Act is to provide a means whereby threatened and endangered species and the ecosystems upon which they depend may be conserved. Federal and non-Federal project proponents have responsibilities under the Act to consider effects on listed species.

The enclosed species list identifies threatened, endangered, proposed, and candidate species, as well as proposed and final designated critical habitat, that may occur within the boundary of your proposed project and/or may be affected by your proposed project. The species list fulfills the requirements of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) under section 7(c) of the Endangered Species Act (Act) of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.).

New information based on updated surveys, changes in the abundance and distribution of species, changed habitat conditions, or other factors could change this list. Please note that under 50 CFR 402.12(e) of the regulations implementing section 7 of the Act, the accuracy of this species list should be verified after 90 days. The Service recommends that verification be completed by visiting the IPaC website at regular intervals during project planning and implementation for updates to species lists and information. An updated list may be requested by returning to an existing project's page in IPaC.

Endangered Species Act Project Review

Please visit the “**New England Field Office Endangered Species Project Review and Consultation**” website for step-by-step instructions on how to consider effects on listed

species and prepare and submit a project review package if necessary:

<https://www.fws.gov/office/new-england-ecological-services/endangered-species-project-review>

NOTE Please do not use the **Consultation Package Builder** tool in IPaC except in specific situations following coordination with our office. Please follow the project review guidance on our website instead and reference your **Project Code** in all correspondence.

Northern Long-eared Bat - (Updated 4/12/2023) The Service published a final rule to reclassify the northern long-eared bat (NLEB) as endangered on November 30, 2022. The final rule went into effect on March 31, 2023. You may utilize the **Northern Long-eared Bat Rangewide Determination Key** available in IPaC. More information about this Determination Key and the Interim Consultation Framework are available on the northern long-eared bat species page:

<https://www.fws.gov/species/northern-long-eared-bat-myotis-septentrionalis>

For projects that previously utilized the 4(d) Determination Key, the change in the species' status may trigger the need to re-initiate consultation for any actions that are not completed and for which the Federal action agency retains discretion once the new listing determination becomes effective. If your project was not completed by March 31, 2023, and may result in incidental take of NLEB, please reach out to our office at newengland@fws.gov to see if reinitiation is necessary.

Additional Info About Section 7 of the Act

Under section 7(a)(2) of the Act and its implementing regulations (50 CFR 402 et seq.), Federal agencies are required to determine whether projects may affect threatened and endangered species and/or designated critical habitat. If a Federal agency, or its non-Federal representative, determines that listed species and/or designated critical habitat may be affected by the proposed project, the agency is required to consult with the Service pursuant to 50 CFR 402. In addition, the Federal agency also may need to consider proposed species and proposed critical habitat in the consultation. 50 CFR 402.14(c)(1) specifies the information required for consultation under the Act regardless of the format of the evaluation. More information on the regulations and procedures for section 7 consultation, including the role of permit or license applicants, can be found in the "Endangered Species Consultation Handbook" at:

<https://www.fws.gov/service/section-7-consultations>

In addition to consultation requirements under Section 7(a)(2) of the ESA, please note that under sections 7(a)(1) of the Act and its implementing regulations (50 CFR 402 et seq.), Federal agencies are required to utilize their authorities to carry out programs for the conservation of threatened and endangered species. Please contact NEFO if you would like more information.

Candidate species that appear on the enclosed species list have no current protections under the ESA. The species' occurrence on an official species list does not convey a requirement to

consider impacts to this species as you would a proposed, threatened, or endangered species. The ESA does not provide for interagency consultations on candidate species under section 7, however, the Service recommends that all project proponents incorporate measures into projects to benefit candidate species and their habitats wherever possible.

Migratory Birds

In addition to responsibilities to protect threatened and endangered species under the Endangered Species Act (ESA), there are additional responsibilities under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) and the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act (BGEPA) to protect native birds from project-related impacts. Any activity resulting in take of migratory birds, including eagles, is prohibited unless otherwise permitted by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (50 C.F.R. Sec. 10.12 and 16 U.S.C. Sec. 668(a)). For more information regarding these Acts see:

<https://www.fws.gov/program/migratory-bird-permit>

<https://www.fws.gov/library/collections/bald-and-golden-eagle-management>

Please feel free to contact us at **newengland@fws.gov** with your **Project Code** in the subject line if you need more information or assistance regarding the potential impacts to federally proposed, listed, and candidate species and federally designated and proposed critical habitat.

Attachment(s): Official Species List

Attachment(s):

- Official Species List

OFFICIAL SPECIES LIST

This list is provided pursuant to Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act, and fulfills the requirement for Federal agencies to "request of the Secretary of the Interior information whether any species which is listed or proposed to be listed may be present in the area of a proposed action".

This species list is provided by:

New England Ecological Services Field Office
70 Commercial Street, Suite 300
Concord, NH 03301-5094
(603) 223-2541

PROJECT SUMMARY

Project Code: 2025-0117570

Project Name: Plainfield Solar One

Project Type: Power Gen - Solar

Project Description: The proposed project, located at 0 Exley Road in Plainfield CT, includes an approximate 4.0 MW AC solar photovoltaic array, which would encompass approximately 25.9 acres. Onsite wetlands and watercourses were delineated by Davison Environmental in 2024 and one wetland system was identified in the western portion of the property. The proposed project does not include any work within wetlands or watercourses. A majority of the proposed work is located more than 100-feet from wetlands and watercourses, save for the installation of some access drives, fence, and solar panels which are located downgradient from the wetlands. The project employs common sediment and erosion control measures.

Project Location:

The approximate location of the project can be viewed in Google Maps: <https://www.google.com/maps/@41.703932949999995,-71.94956497563614,14z>



Counties: Windham County, Connecticut

ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT SPECIES

There is a total of 1 threatened, endangered, or candidate species on this species list.

Species on this list should be considered in an effects analysis for your project and could include species that exist in another geographic area. For example, certain fish may appear on the species list because a project could affect downstream species.

IPaC does not display listed species or critical habitats under the sole jurisdiction of NOAA Fisheries¹, as USFWS does not have the authority to speak on behalf of NOAA and the Department of Commerce.

See the "Critical habitats" section below for those critical habitats that lie wholly or partially within your project area under this office's jurisdiction. Please contact the designated FWS office if you have questions.

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1. [NOAA Fisheries](#), also known as the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), is an office of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration within the Department of Commerce.

INSECTS

NAME	STATUS
Monarch Butterfly <i>Danaus plexippus</i> There is proposed critical habitat for this species. Your location does not overlap the critical habitat. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9743	Proposed Threatened

CRITICAL HABITATS

THERE ARE NO CRITICAL HABITATS WITHIN YOUR PROJECT AREA UNDER THIS OFFICE'S JURISDICTION.

YOU ARE STILL REQUIRED TO DETERMINE IF YOUR PROJECT(S) MAY HAVE EFFECTS ON ALL ABOVE LISTED SPECIES.

IPAC USER CONTACT INFORMATION

Agency: Private Entity
Name: Anthony Capuano
Address: 11 Vanderbilt Avenue, Suite 240
City: Norwood
State: MA
Zip: 02062
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Phone: 7813528491



Connecticut
Department of Energy &
Environmental Protection

portal.ct.gov/DEEP

5/4/2025

Anthony Capuano
SOLLI ENGINEERING, LLC
501 Main St
Monroe, CT 06468
anthony@sollllc.com

Subject: Exley Road Solar Plainfield
Filing #: 128518
NDDB - Request Additional Info

We have received the materials that you submitted pursuant to a Natural Diversity Data Base review request for the project referenced above, however, additional information is required in order to make a determination. The following information is needed in order to complete your request:

Location Description: Exley Road Solar, 0 Exley Road (Parcel ID: 002-053A-0058) in Plainfield, Connecticut

I have reviewed Natural Diversity Data Base maps and files regarding the proposed Exley Road Solar, 0 Exley Road (Parcel ID: 002-053A-0058) in Plainfield, Connecticut. 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.**

According to our information there are known extant populations of State Endangered and Special Concern species that occur within the vicinity of this property. These species include:

State Listed Plant Species

Aristida purpurascens (Arrowfeather)

State Status: Endangered

Habitat: Open sites, with dry sandy, rocky, rarely clayey, acidic to circumneutral soils. Sand barrens (both sparsely vegetated sand and sandplain grassland subtypes), cemeteries, utility ROWs, dry fields, roadsides. Mature fruits Sep - Dec.

Crocanthemum propinquum (Low frostweed)

State Status: Special Concern

Habitat: Dry, open or semi-open, sandy soil (rarely on dry sandy loams), in sand barrens, roadsides, cemeteries, oak and/or pine woodlands, sandy forest borders, old borrow pits, and other sandy disturbed sites.

Showy open flowers early Jun - early Jul, their persistent mature fruit beginning mid-late Jun. Closed flowers late Jul - mid Aug, persistent mature fruit beginning early - mid Aug.

Lygodium palmatum (Climbing fern)- State Special Concern

Habitat: Moist pine-oak-maple woods, moist thickets, and stream margins, usually on acidic, nutrient poor soils.

Blooms: Recognizable year-round.

Prunus alleghaniensis (Alleghany plum)

State Status: Special Concern (Historic)

Habitat: Mostly or entirely on sandy and/or gravelly soils. Sand plains, river banks, terraces above rivers, roadsides, forest edges, wet thickets along streams, hillside pastures, sandy bottomland along rivers.

Blooms late Apr-May.

Scleria triglomerata (Whip nutrush)

State Status: Endangered

Habitat: Acidic, dry to wet, sandy, less often peaty, soil, in open- and semi-open-canopy habitats. sandy open woods and forest clearings, wet meadows and fields, open landward borders of salt marshes, moist or dry woodlands, sand bogs and boggy pastures, grassy roadsides and railroad cut banks, utility ROWs, not heavily used sandy forest roads with canopy open above, trails through open heath-dominated habitat, sandy open riverbanks.

Fruits Jun-Aug.

To prevent impacts to State Endangered, Threatened and Special Concern plant species, botanical field surveys of the site should be performed by a qualified botanist with the appropriate scientific collecting permits at a time when these target species are identifiable.

Please contact **The Native Plant Trust** to find a qualified botanist, familiar with these plants. 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. Include special plant and/or animal forms found at: https://www.ct.gov/deep/cwp/view.asp?a=2702&q=323460&deepNav_GID=1628
5. Detailed maps of the area surveyed including the survey route and locations of

State listed species.

6. Conservation strategies or protection plans that indicate how impacts may be avoided for all state listed plant species present on the site.
7. Statement/résumé indicating the botanist'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.

The botanical site surveys report should be sent to our CT DEEP-NDDDB Program (deep.nddbrequest@ct.gov) for further review by our program biologists.

Incomplete reports may not be accepted.

State Listed Animal Species

Scaphiopus holbrookii (Eastern spadefoot) – State Endangered

Bufo fowleri (Fowler's toad) - State Special Concern

Ambystoma laterale (Blue-spotted salamander “Diploid” Population) – State Endangered

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

Glyptemys insculpta (wood turtle) – State Special Concern

Opheodrys vernalis (Smooth green snake) – State Special Concern

Thamnophis sauritus (Eastern ribbon snake) - State Special Concern

Heterodon platirhinos (Eastern hognose snake) – State Special Concern

Margaritifera margaritifera (Eastern pearlshell) – State Special Concern

Eastern Spadefoot

Limited information is known about the state endangered eastern spadefoot toad. It is a very secretive species and has irregular breeding periods. It is most active from June through August. It is an expert burrower, reaching depths of 6-feet in sandy well-drained soil. They are very rarely observed outside of the breeding period. Its habitat is described as arid to semi-arid areas, such as fields, farmland, dunes and woodlands with sandy or loose soils. This toad breeds in temporary bodies of water, flooded fields and forested wetlands. The conservation strategies for this toad includes the protection and conservation of their habitat.

Blue-spotted “Diploid” Population

The pure diploid populations of this salamander are considered state endangered. This small to medium mole salamander is generally associated with lowland swamps, marshes, wet meadows and the surrounding uplands (upland forest) with sandy or loamy soils. The adults spend much time underground. These salamanders lay eggs in early spring (March through April). The larvae metamorphosis in late June through August but sometimes may overwinter as larvae. Adults may migrate up to several hundred meters between their breeding pools and summer foraging area. These salamanders have high site fidelity to their breeding pools. Populations of this salamander are threatened by habitat loss and fragmentation as well as increased urbanization. Conservation strategies and best management practices to protect this salamander includes the protection of lowland forested wetlands and surrounding uplands.

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Required Protection Measures for State Listed Reptile and Amphibian Species

You will need to provide the NDDB Program with a conservation plan designed to minimize adverse effects on the state-listed amphibians and reptiles in this location. A qualified herpetologist, with extensive field experience with these particular species, but especially eastern spadefoot and diploid blue-spotted salamander, must create a mitigation plan for the site, if these species occur at this site. The herpetologist **must have extensive experience in Connecticut with the state Endangered spadefoot and Blue-spotted “Diploid” populations and hold a Connecticut scientific collector permit for all these reptile and amphibian species for this particular this project site.**

Before a mitigation plan is developed the qualified herpetologist will be required to do field surveys and assess the habitat for these species on the site. The plan will need to identify optimal habitat area (s) on-site, include conservation measures that focus on avoiding or minimizing negative impacts to these species, and proposed mitigation options. Please be sure the taxonomic expert has a valid scientific collectors permit for this area.

To prevent impacts to state-listed species, field surveys of the site should be performed by a qualified biologist (herpetologist with direct experience in this taxon in Connecticut). A report summarizing the results of such surveys should include:

Survey date(s) and duration

1. Site descriptions and photographs
2. List of component species within the survey area (including scientific binomials)
3. Data regarding population numbers and/or area occupied by State-listed species
4. Detailed maps of the area surveyed including the survey route and locations of State-listed species
5. Conservation strategies or protection plans that indicate how impacts may be avoided for all state-listed species present on the site. This is described in more detail below.
6. Statement/résumé indicating the biologist's (herpetologist'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 reports and management plans to protect these species should be sent to our CT DEEP-NDDDB Program (deep.nddbrequest@ct.gov) for further review by our program biologists.

In order to receive a final determination letter from our program that may be required for DEEP permits or registrations, please also submit the following information to the NDDDB program (deep.nddbrequest@ct.gov) for further review:

A conservation or protection plan designed to minimize adverse effects on the state listed species known from this location, or an explanation why no plan is needed for this site. This document should be developed by a qualified biologist (herpetologist) specializing in these species. A DEEP scientific collection permit will be required by the biologist to conduct surveys and/or conduct mitigation work; you should ask if your biologist has one.

The conservation/protection plan should include the following elements (at minimum):

1. Anticipated impacts to these state-listed species from this project.
2. Any planned mitigation or management practices that will be employed to protect or avoid impacts to state listed species.
3. Habitat descriptions of the area surveyed.
4. A Statement, CV or Resume of the qualified biologist's qualifications to work with these species.

Please note that insufficient surveys and mitigation plans may not be accepted.

Required Protection Measures for State Listed Freshwater Mussel Species

Eastern Pearlshell

This freshwater mussel species lives buried in clean, stable, mixed substrate in fast-flowing unpolluted streams and rivers. Its host fish include Atlantic salmon (*Salmo salar*), brook trout (*Salvelinus fontinalis*), brown trout (*Salmo trutta*), rainbow trout (*Onchorhynchus mykiss*). Best habitats are good trout streams that

are heavily shaded by a riparian canopy, possess clean cold water with high dissolved oxygen, and have stable channels with substrates of coarse sand, gravel, and cobble. Factors that limit the eastern pearlshell are changes to water quality, including eutrophication, acidification, sedimentation, and increases in water temperature.

During construction:

Use best management practices available to control stormwater runoff from this site both during construction and after construction. This requires the following conservation measures:

- A qualified Environmental Inspector(s) shall be on-site within 24 hours of storm events with 0.5 inches of precipitation or more to inspect sedimentation and erosion controls to ensure that they continue to function as intended.
- Stock-piled soils should be situated at least 10 feet from the watercourse and within sedimentation and erosion control devices.

You will need to provide the NDDB Program with a freshwater mussel management plan designed to minimize adverse effects on the listed freshwater mussels in this location. This plan must be developed by an invertebrate biologist specializing in freshwater mussels. The Wildlife Division does not maintain a list of invertebrate biologists in the state. A DEEP permit will be required by the biologist to conduct mitigation work; you should ask if your biologist has one. Be aware that if biological surveys are required, they will need to be conducted during the active season (usually between May 1st - September 30th) and this may affect the timing of your project.

The mussel management plan must include:

1. Anticipated impacts to mussels
2. Planned mitigation or management practices that will be employed.
3. Habitat descriptions
4. Statement/resume giving the biologist's qualifications.

The disappearance of freshwater mussels is a reliable indicator of chronic water pollution. The following considerations will help protect and benefit these species:

- Adhere strictly to water quality standards at your project site.
- Pay special attention and address specific monitoring targets for sediment, water temperature, copper, and ammonia (TAN).
- No vegetation should be removed from the 100ft buffer of waterways.
- Turf grass and impervious surface should be minimized in the surrounding watershed.
- Reconnect waterways that are disconnected by perched, undersized, or shallow stream culverts.
- Ensure precautions are taken to avoid direct kill of freshwater mussels during any instream construction or modification.
- Employ precautions to prevent the introduction and spread of invasive plants and bivalves. • Take action to reduce non-point source pollution and educate the surrounding community about how to reduce non-point source pollution.

More information can be found in our resources for Low Impact Development here:

www.ct.gov/deep/cwp/view.asp?a=2719&q=464958&deepNav_GID=1654

Water quality targets for waterways that contain this species:

- Turbidity: Turbidity should not increase 8 NTU over background levels

- Suspended sediments: Maximum induced suspended sediments in any 24 hr. period should be less than 25mg/L over background levels Induced suspended sediments averaged over 30 day period should be less than 5mg/L over background levels
- Water temperature: Water temperature should not increase 1° C (~1.8°F)
- Ammonia: To be protective of Freshwater Mussels, Ammonia levels should remain below targets outlined in the EPA Aquatic Life Criteria (<https://www.epa.gov/wqc/aquatic-life-criteria-ammonia>)
Or Use the State standard:
Acute 1-hour average TAN should remain below 17mg/L (at pH 7, 20°C)
Chronic 30 day rolling average TAN should remain below 1.9mg/L (at pH 7, 20°C)
Chlorine: Maximum level over 24 hr period should be less than 19 microg/L
Chronic continuous concentration (4 day average) should be less than 11 microg/L
- Herbicides: Copper containing products are toxic to freshwater mussels and snails. Ensure that for waterways that serve as habitat for these animals: the 24hr average and the 4 day average concentrations of copper do not respectively exceed the acute and chronic criteria concentrations calculated by the Biotic Ligand Model (BLM).

Please reference the filing number 128518 on all correspondence regarding this request.

The necessary materials should be sent to:

Dawn McKay
CT DEEP Bureau of Natural Resources
Wildlife Division
Natural Diversity Database
79 Elm Street, 6th floor
Hartford, CT 06106-5127
or submitted via email to: Dawn.McKay@ct.gov

Please note that if the necessary information is not received by 5/4/2026, we will be unable to provide a determination. Materials already submitted will not be retained or returned. You will need to initiate a new review request by submitting a new and complete *Request for Natural Diversity Database (NDDB) State Listed Species Review* via [DEEP's ezFile Portal](#). For more information and guidance on submitting a request for a Natural Diversity Data Base review visit our [website](#). Feel free to contact me if you have further questions.

Dawn McKay
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