

**Record of Decision  
Environmental Impact Evaluation**

**Southeastern Connecticut Regional Resources  
Recovery Authority**

**Building a Regional Composting Facility for  
Southeastern Connecticut**

**Preston, CT**

**January 2026**

## **1.0 INTRODUCTION**

This document constitutes the Record of Decision (ROD) for the August 2025 Environmental Impact Evaluation (EIE) under the Connecticut Environmental Policy Act to evaluate the potential impacts of the Southeastern Connecticut Regional Resources Recovery Authority (SCRRRA) constructing the first large-scale aerobic food waste composting facility in southeastern Connecticut, utilizing an innovative hybrid compost system combining aerated static pile (ASP) processing with open windrows for curing. The facility would be situated on approximately six (6) acres of land owned by the SCRRRA at 132 Military Highway (Route 12) in the Town of Preston.

### **1.1 Project Scoping**

In April 2025, the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) awarded a Materials Management Infrastructure (MMI) Grant to SCRRRA for the proposed project. As the proposed project was receiving state funding and would constitute a new regional solid waste facility, the CEPA review process was triggered.

The EIE included a Scoping Notice published in the Environmental Monitor on 5/20/2025 and 6/3/2025. The comment period of the Scoping Notice closed on 6/19/2025. One (1) comment was received during the scoping period. A Post Scoping Notice was then published in the Environmental Monitor on 7/22/2025.

### **1.2 Public Review of the EIE**

A Notice of the Availability of the EIE was published in the Environmental Monitor on 9/16/2025, 10/7/2025, 10/21/2025, 11/18/2025, 12/2/2025, and 12/16/2025. A Notice of Availability was published in the Norwich Bulletin newspaper on 11/18/2025, 11/25/2025, and 12/2/2025. An electronic copy of the EIE was made available on the Environmental Monitor and on DEEP's dedicated Materials Management Infrastructure (MMI) Grant Program website. In addition, hard copies of the EIE were filed at the Town Clerk's Office in the Town of Preston and the Preston Town Library, as well as at DEEP department headquarters in Hartford to be made available for public review and comment.

The public comment period of the EIE closed on 1/2/2026. Documentation of EIE notifications and public comments is included herein.

Section 22a-1a-9 of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies requires that a sponsoring agency, in this case DEEP, review all comments submitted on its EIE and any other pertinent information it obtains following circulation of the EIE and conduct further environmental study and analysis or amend the evaluation if it determines that such action is appropriate. In all cases, the sponsoring agency must prepare responses to the substantive issues raised in review of the EIE and forward such responses as well as any supplemental materials or amendments and all comments received on the evaluation, to the Connecticut Office of Policy and Management (OPM). The sponsoring agency must prepare a concise public Record of Decision (ROD), taking into

consideration its findings in the EIE and comments received. The ROD must then be forwarded to OPM for their review and finding of consistency. The subject document comprises the public record of decision for this project.

## **2.0 RESPONSE TO PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Written comments on the EIE were received from the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ), as follows:

1. Council on Environmental Quality – Letter dated 9/24/2025 from Paul Aresta, Executive Director

Responses to comments are addressed individually below.

### **2.1 Council on Environmental Quality**

#### **Review Comment No. 1:**

The EIE states that “during operation of the compost facility, there will be noise from equipment, such as from an industrial grinder and front-end loaders” and “the blended mixture will then be placed in a concrete ASP bay, complete with forced aeration...” While the EIE states that “operational noise is not expected to disturb residents and other sensitive noise receptors above current levels”, it is unclear if a noise analysis was completed for all of the proposed equipment that could confirm compliance with applicable noise regulations at the adjacent noise zones. It is also unclear where the residents and other sensitive noise receptors are located in relation to the proposed facility. It would be helpful to include information regarding the calculated noise level for all equipment likely to be operated, and the distance from the proposed equipment to the “residents and other sensitive noise receptors” at the adjacent noise zones. The EIE also states that “with the implementation of proper mitigation measures, the potential operational noise impacts will be less than significant”; however, it is unknown what the operational mitigation measures would be since they are not described or listed in section 4.14.

#### **Response to Review Comment No. 1:**

Based upon this review comment, additional noise analysis has been completed and is included in the attached Appendix D, and has been incorporated into the Final Record Copy of the EIE, which is included in the attached Appendix E. The findings of this analysis are that construction period noise levels are expected to range from 47.3 to 55.9 decibels. Therefore, the noise impacts are expected to be less than significant, especially with the implementation of the BMP limiting hours of construction to 7:00am to 10:00pm. For the operational period, noise levels are expected to range from 52.3 to 60.9 decibels. Given that the maximum expected noise levels based upon this analysis

are below the state regulations' threshold, the noise impacts of the proposed action during the operational period are expected to be less than significant. To mitigate any potential night impacts, the operation should be required to only operate during the times of 7:00am to 10:00pm daily.

**Review Comment No. 2:**

The EIE states that "the State Natural Diversity Data Base (NDDB) map for the Town of Preston shows the project area and its proximity to areas where state and federal listed species and significant natural communities may exist." However, it is unclear if consultation with NDDB has occurred and what species might be present proximate to the proposed project site since the EIE states that "an NDDB request would be submitted as part of the permitting process and the proposed action would comply with requests from the NDDB program to the extent practicable." Consultation with the NDDB should be a first step in complying with the requirement of the RCSA Section 22a-1a-3(b)(5) to consider the "effect on natural communities and upon critical plant and animal species and their habitat; interference with the movement of any resident or migratory fish or wildlife species;" when performing a review in accord with the regulations that apply to the Connecticut Environmental Policy Act (CEPA).

**Response to Review Comment No. 2:**

Based upon this review comment, a formal NDDB request was submitted as part of the preparation of this EIE, and an approval letter was obtained and is attached in Appendix D of this Record of Decision. The NDDB approval letter indicated that "no extant populations of Federal or State Endangered, Threatened or Special Concern species (RCSA Sec. 26-306) are known to occur within the project area..."

If the proposed impacted area is altered during design, DEEP/NDDB program staff would be consulted for additional measures that may be necessary to provide the required protection for these species.

**Review Comment No. 3:**

The EIE notes that a report generated through the United States Fish and Wildlife Service's (USFWS) Information for Planning and Consultation (IPaC) website identified three (3) species "potentially impacted that are listed as threatened, endangered, or candidate species in the area of the site of the proposed action"; they are Northern Long-eared Bat (Endangered), Tricolored Bat (Proposed Endangered), and Monarch Butterfly (Proposed Threatened). The EIE also states that "the proposed action will involve the removal of a significant number of trees within the approximately 6 acres of site disturbance for construction of the proposed composting facility." Potential use of

the USFWS Range-wide Northern Long-eared Bat determination key (Dkey) and consultation with DEEP's Wildlife Division would be appropriate in assessing potential effects on tree nesting bat species that might be present at the proposed site. Pursuant to RCSA Section 22a-1a-8(f)(6)(E), mitigation measures should be developed to a level of detail commensurate with the magnitude of the potential environmental effects, which could include time of year restrictions for tree clearing during the bats' breeding season.

**Response to Review Comment No. 3:**

Based upon this review comment, additional investigation was completed through consultation with DEEP Wildlife Division staff and USFWS resources. Specifically, the USFWS Range-wide Northern Long-eared Bat determination key (Dkey) was utilized, requiring the completion of an extensive questionnaire regarding the site of the proposed action and the characteristics of the proposed project. The completion of this questionnaire resulted in the generation of an IPaC Technical Assistance Letter, which is included in the attached Appendix D. This letter indicated that the proposed project "May Affect" the Northern Long-eared Bat, but that *"further coordination with the Service is voluntary for those species with a determination of 'May Affect.' A 'May Affect' determination in this key indicates that the project, as entered, is not consistent with the questions in the key. Not all projects that reach a 'May Affect' determination are anticipated to result in adverse impacts to listed species."* It should be noted that review of habitat impacts by the USFWS is done at a very broad scale, and that state environmental agencies generally possess more granular and site-specific data.

Additional consultation with DEEP Wildlife Division staff was conducted to explore the issue further. Staff indicated that since the NDDB Approval Letter did not identify any extant endangered or threatened species on the site of the proposed action, this was indicative of DEEP not having any mapped potential impacts related to the Northern Long-eared Bat and that this was likely due to the agency having no reason to believe that this species was nesting in the immediate area. Thus, it would be unlikely that recommendations would be made for limiting site clearance activities as part of the permit review for the project. However, if recommendations were made, they would most likely be limited to requiring tree clearance on the site of the proposed action to occur during winter months when the bats would be hibernating.

In light of this additional investigation, the findings of the EIE hold that any impacts to the Northern Long-eared Bat are expected to be less than significant.

**Review Comment No. 4:**

The Council notes that the EIE includes several references to a qualitative assessment that certain potential impacts to environmental and community resources would be

“less than significant”. The provision of quantitative data could assist the public and other individuals to assess the potential direct, indirect, and cumulative effects to environmental and community resources listed in the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies (RCSA) Section 22a-1a-3(b).

**Response to Review Comment No. 4:**

Quantitative data has been included in the EIE to the greatest extent possible. However, additional quantitative data has been provided for **Section 4.5 Noise, Vibrations, and Odors** through a more detailed quantitative noise analysis in response to Review Comment No. 1. This additional analysis has been included in the attached Appendix D, and has been incorporated into the Final Record Copy of the EIE, which is included in the attached Appendix E.

**Review Comment No. 5:**

The Council also notes that several maps within the EIE fail to depict the location of the proposed facility including, but not limited to, the land use map, the Regional Plan of Conservation and Development, the 2025-2030 Locational Guide Map, National Historic Districts map, the floodzone map, etc., which might make it difficult for members of the public and other individuals to independently assess that information.

**Response to Review Comment No. 5:**

These maps have been corrected to include the designation of the location of the site of the proposed action and are included in the attached Appendix D, and have been incorporated into the Final Record Copy of the EIE, which is included in the attached Appendix E.

**Errata**

In addition to changes made to the EIE to include text responsive to the public comments received, the final record copy of the EIE attached hereto was edited to correct specific scrivener's errors in sections 1.1, 2.1, 2.2, 4.0, 4.2, 4.6, 4.7, 4.8, 4.9, 4.11, 4.12, and 4.14.

**Additional Analysis Regarding Section 4.8 – Biological Resources – Wildlife/Fauna**

In addition to the errata above, an additional review of the Wildlife/Fauna subsection under **Section 4.8 – Biological Resources**, specifically the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's (USFWS) Information for Planning and Consultation (IPaC) website and mapping tool report, determined that there were not “no migratory birds with potential to occur within the area of the proposed action” but rather 11 species. Implementation of the proposed action would include some removal of a mix of trees and brush, so additional review, research, and analysis of potential impacts on migratory birds has been conducted.

The USFWS provides a number of resources for both assessing potential impacts to migratory birds and mitigating any such impacts. While site-specific information about specific species, including their permanent presence via nesting sites and use of the project site area as part of migratory patterns, the USFWS notes that “you can help proactively minimize significant impacts to all birds at your project location by implementing the measures”<sup>1</sup> through the consideration and implementation of best management practices (BMPs) provided in its “Nationwide Avoidance & Minimization Measures for Birds” guidance document. These BMPs provide direction in terms of general mitigation measures and habitat protection, as well as the management of “stressors” for birds including vegetation removal; invasive species introduction; artificial lighting; human disturbance; collision; entrapment; noise; chemical contamination; and fire. The development process for the proposed action should include considering and, where reasonable and appropriate, implementation of these BMPs.

Given the characteristics of the proposed action, the relatively small size of the project site, and the previously disturbed nature of the project site, no impacts to migratory birds or their nesting sites are anticipated and no takings caused by activities associated with the proposed action will occur that may have a population-level effect on migratory birds. In addition, the USFWS notes that “the presence of structures can result in area avoidance by birds and act as a barrier to bird movements.”<sup>2</sup> With the large physical presence and heavy activities of the waste to energy incinerator adjacent to the project site, and its associated visual and audial impacts on the surrounding environment, it is likely that the site of the proposed action is not an attractive site for nesting for migratory birds.

This additional analysis and mitigation BMPs have been incorporated into the Final Record Copy of the EIE, which is included in the attached Appendix E. The USFWS’ “Nationwide Avoidance & Minimization Measures for Birds” mitigation strategies document has also been included in Appendix D.

### **3.0 SPONSORING AGENCY DECISION**

Based on the analysis undertaken in the preparation of the EIE as well as consideration of all comments received, DEEP concludes that the proposed action will have no significant impact on the environment. Additionally, all practical means to avoid or minimize environmental harm will be implemented.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://ipac.ecosphere.fws.gov/project/67V25RQZS5CZXBVF3LYEZOSR4I/resources#migratory-birds>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.fws.gov/node/5234591>

## **APPENDIX A**

### **Publications in the Environmental Monitor**

# Notice of Scoping for Building a Regional Composting Facility for Southeastern Connecticut

**Address of possible location:** 132 Military Highway (Route 12), Preston, CT 06365

**Municipality where proposed action might be located:** Town of Preston

**Project Description:** Utilizing a grant award from the State of Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) through its MMI Grant Program, the Southeastern Connecticut Regional Resources Recovery Authority (SCRRRA) proposes to construct and operate the first large-scale aerobic food waste composting facility in southeastern Connecticut, fulfilling an infrastructure need in an historically underserved region. The facility will utilize an innovative hybrid compost system, combining aerated static pile (ASP) processing with open windrows for curing, resulting in quicker composting times and reduced operational costs. The facility will be situated on approximately six acres of land owned by the Authority at 132 Military Highway (Route 12) in the town of Preston. It is anticipated that the volume of source-separated organics diverted will be approximately 5,500 tons per year, and the anticipated volume of wood waste diverted will be approximately 8,500 tons per year.

Local zoning approval for the facility has been acquired and the required state-level solid waste permit application is currently under review by DEEP. A robust environmental justice public participation plan has also been developed and approved by DEEP, in consideration of Preston's status as a distressed municipality.

**Project Map:** Click [here](#) to view a map of the project location.

Written comments from the public are welcomed and will be accepted until the close of business on: **Friday, June 28, 2025.**

**Additional information about the project can be viewed in person at 79 Elm Street, Hartford, CT and online at: [MMI Grant Program Page](#)**

**Written comments and/or requests for a public scoping meeting should be sent to**

**Name:** Michael T. Looney

**Agency:** Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP)

**Address:** 79 Elm Street, Hartford, CT 06106-5127

**E-Mail:** [Michael.Looney@ct.gov](mailto:Michael.Looney@ct.gov)

**If you have questions about the scoping for this project, contact:**

**Name:** Michael T. Looney

**Agency:** Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP)

**Address:** 79 Elm Street, Hartford, CT 06106-5127

**Phone:** 860-424-3530

**E-Mail:** [Michael.Looney@ct.gov](mailto:Michael.Looney@ct.gov)

**Inquiries and requests to view and or copy documents, pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act, must be submitted to the sponsoring state agency:**

**Name:** Michael T. Looney

**Agency:** Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP)

**Address:** 79 Elm Street, Hartford, CT 06106-5127

**E-Mail:** [Michael.Looney@ct.gov](mailto:Michael.Looney@ct.gov)

**What Happens Next:** The Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) will make a determination whether to proceed with preparation of an Environmental Impact Evaluation (EIE) or that the project does not require the preparation of an EIE under the Connecticut Environmental Policy Act (CEPA). A Post-Scoping Notice of its decision will appear in a future edition of the *Environmental Monitor*.

# Post-Scoping Notice for Building a Regional Composting Facility for Southeastern Connecticut

**Address of Possible Project Location:** 132 Military Highway (Route 12), Preston, CT 06365

**Municipality where proposed action might be located:** Town of Preston

**Connecticut Environmental Policy Act (CEPA) Determination:** On May 20, 2025, the State of Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) published a Notice of Scoping (<https://portal.ct.gov/ceq/environmental-monitor/environmental-monitor---current-issue#scoping>) to solicit public comments for this proposed Regional Composting Facility and Recycling Infrastructure in the *Environmental Monitor*.

One (1) comment was received during the public comment period from the State of Connecticut Historic Preservation Office (SHPO). This comment and its answer are summarized in the Memo of Findings and Determination.

After consideration of the comment received, the State of Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) has determined:

**To proceed with the preparation of an Environmental Impact Evaluation (EIE)** for the Southeastern Connecticut Regional Resources Recovery Authority's (SCRRRA) proposal to construct and operate an aerobic food waste composting facility in southeastern Connecticut utilizing a hybrid compost system, combining aerated static pile (ASP) processing with open windrows for curing, under DEEP's Materials Management Infrastructure (MMI) Grant Program.

## Agency contact:

**Name:** Michael T. Looney

**Agency:** Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP)

**Address:** 79 Elm Street, Hartford, CT 06106-5127

**Phone:** 860-424-3530

**E-Mail:** [Michael.Looney@ct.gov](mailto:Michael.Looney@ct.gov)

**Inquiries and requests to view and or copy documents, pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act, must be submitted to the sponsoring state Agency.**

**Name:** Michael T. Looney

**Agency:** Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP)

**Address:** 79 Elm Street, Hartford, CT 06106-5127

**E-Mail:** [Michael.Looney@ct.gov](mailto:Michael.Looney@ct.gov)

## What Happens Next:

**The Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) will proceed with the preparation of an EIE** for the Southeastern Connecticut Regional Resources Recovery Authority's (SCRRRA) proposal to construct and operate an aerobic food waste composting facility in southeastern Connecticut utilizing a hybrid compost system, combining aerated static pile (ASP) processing with open windrows for curing. When an EIE is completed, a notice of the availability of the EIE will be published in a future edition of the *Environmental Monitor*.

## MEMORANDUM OF FINDINGS AND DETERMINATION

To: Connecticut Council on Environmental Quality

From: Michael T. Looney, Senior Advisor to the Commissioner  
Environmental Quality Branch, MMCA Bureau

Date: July 18, 2025

Subject: CEPA Findings – Building a Regional Composting Facility for Southeastern Connecticut – Southeastern Connecticut Regional Resources Recovery Authority (SCRRRA) – Preston, CT

On May 20, 2025 the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) published a Notice of Scoping in the *Environmental Monitor* to solicit comments for the proposed Building a Regional Composting Facility for Southeastern Connecticut project in Preston, CT. One (1) comment was received during the public comment period from the State of Connecticut Historic Preservation Office (SHPO):

*"I saw the Scoping Notice for the referenced project on the Environmental Monitor. This location is very sensitive for archaeological resources. Can you share a project map of where impacts are being proposed. I don't think we would have concerns with activities within previously disturbed areas, but we likely would want to see an archaeological survey completed for areas that would be impacted and consist of intact soils."*

DEEP's response to the comment received is here:

*"The proposed site is immediately south of the Covanta plant in Preston on the other side of Brewster Road. Looks like the site has been previously disturbed with clearing of trees, dirt roads for truck traffic, and someone (sic) material laydown areas. See attached site plan and Google Earth image below."*

In reply, the original commenting party stated:

*"Very helpful – thank you! No need to discuss it further, our office has no concerns. I understand that a concerned citizen contacted the applicant (SCRRRA) about potential archaeology. Should you speak with them, let them know that we would not request a survey."*

Based upon our review of the project scope and the comment received, DEEP has concluded that the project requires the preparation of an Environmental Impact Evaluation under CEPA. Should you have any questions or concerns, please contact me at [michael.looney@ct.gov](mailto:michael.looney@ct.gov) or 860-424-3530.

## **Revised Notice of an Environmental Impact Evaluation (EIE) for Building a Regional Composting Facility for Southeastern Connecticut in Preston**

**Revised:** DEEP has extended the dates for public comments. Requests for a public hearing will be accepted until **November 28, 2025**. Public comments will be accepted until **January 2, 2026**.

**Address of Possible Project Location:** 132 Military Highway (Route 12) Preston

**Municipality where proposed action is to be located:** Preston

**Project Description:** Utilizing a grant award from the State of Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) through its Materials Management and Infrastructure Grant Program, the Southeastern Connecticut Regional Resources Recovery Authority (SCRRRA) proposes to construct and operate the first large-scale aerobic food waste composting facility in southeastern Connecticut, fulfilling an infrastructure need in an historically underserved region. The facility will utilize an innovative hybrid compost system, combining aerated static pile processing with open windrows for curing, resulting in quicker composting times and reduced operational costs. The facility will be situated on approximately six acres of land owned by the Authority at 132 Military Highway (Route 12) in the town of Preston. It is anticipated that the volume of source-separated organics diverted will be approximately 5,500 tons per year, and the anticipated volume of wood waste diverted will be approximately 8,500 tons per year.

Local zoning approval for the facility has been acquired, and the required state-level solid waste permit application is currently under review by DEEP. A robust environmental justice public participation plan has also been developed and approved by DEEP, in consideration of Preston's status as a distressed municipality.

**Project Map:** [Click here](#) to view a map of the project location.

**Scoping Notice and Post Scoping Notice:** The Department of Energy and Environmental Protection published a Scoping Notice on May 20, 2025 (<https://portal.ct.gov/ceq/environmental-monitor/environmental-monitor-archives/2025/may-20-2025>) and a Post-Scoping Notice on July 22, 2025 (<https://portal.ct.gov/ceq/environmental-monitor/environmental-monitor-archives/2025/july-22-2025>), for the proposed project in the Environmental Monitor.

Comments on this EIE has been extended and will be accepted until the close of business on **January 2, 2026**.

**The public can view a copy of the EIE [here](#) or at the following locations:**

**Preston Town Clerk's Office**  
389 Route 2 – Town Hall  
Preston, CT 06365

**Preston Public Library**  
389 Route 2  
Preston, CT 06365

**CT DEEP Headquarters**  
By appointment only  
Contact: [Michael.Looney@ct.gov](mailto:Michael.Looney@ct.gov) (<mailto:Michael.Looney@ct.gov>)  
79 Elm Street, 4th Floor  
Hartford, CT 06103

If a public hearing is requested by twenty-five or more persons, or by an association having not less than twenty-five persons, the sponsoring agency will schedule a public hearing on the EIE. Such requests for a public hearing must be made by contacting DEEP identified below by **November 28, 2025**.

**Written comments about this EIE, questions about this EIE, or to request a public hearing, please contact:**

**Name:** Michael T. Looney  
**Agency:** Department of Energy and Environmental Protection  
**Address:** 79 Elm Street, Hartford CT 06106  
**Phone:** 860-424-3530  
**E-Mail:** [Michael.Looney@ct.gov](mailto:Michael.Looney@ct.gov) (<mailto:Michael.Looney@ct.gov>)

**Inquiries and requests to view and or copy documents, pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act, must be submitted to the sponsoring state agency:**

**Name:** Michael T. Looney  
**Agency:** Department of Energy and Environmental Protection

**Address:** 79 Elm Street, Hartford CT 06106

**Phone:** 860-424-3530

**E-Mail:** [Michael.Looney@ct.gov](mailto:Michael.Looney@ct.gov)

**What happens next:** DEEP will review the comments received and may conduct further environmental study and analysis or amend the evaluation. DEEP will prepare responses to the substantive issues raised in review of and comment on the EIE and any supplemental materials or amendments. Those responses and all supplemental materials and comments shall be made available in a "Record of Decision", which will appear in the *Environmental Monitor* for public inspection.

## **APPENDIX B**

### **Publications in the Newspaper**

## DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

### Public Notice of Availability of Environmental Impact Evaluation

The Department of Energy & Environmental Protection (DEEP) hereby gives notice that an Environmental Impact Evaluation (EIE) has been prepared pursuant to Section 22a-1d of the Connecticut Statues and Section 22a-1a-8 of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies for the Building a Regional Composting Facility for Southeastern Connecticut Project in Preston, CT. Utilizing a grant award from DEEP through its MMI Grant Program, the Southeastern Connecticut Regional Resources Recovery Authority (SCRRRA) proposes to construct and operate the first large-scale aerobic food waste composting facility in southeastern Connecticut, fulfilling an infrastructure need in an historically underserved region. The facility will utilize an innovative hybrid compost system, combining aerated static pile (ASP) processing with open windrows for curing, resulting in quicker composting times and reduced operational costs. The facility will be situated on approximately six acres of land owned by the Authority at 132 Military Highway (Route 12) in the town of Preston. It is anticipated that the volume of source-separated organics diverted will be approximately 5,500 tons per year, and the anticipated volume of wood waste diverted will be approximately 8,500 tons per year.

Local zoning approval for the facility has been acquired and the required state-level solid waste permit application is currently under review by DEEP. A robust environmental justice public participation plan has also been developed and approved by DEEP, in consideration of Preston's status as a distressed municipality.

Copies of this EIE are available by emailing Michael T. Looney, Senior Advisor to the Commissioner, at [michael.looney@ct.gov](mailto:michael.looney@ct.gov), or at <https://portal.ct.gov/deep/business-and-financial-assistance/grants-financial-assistance/materials-management-infrastructure-grant-program>. Copies of the EIE are also available for inspection at the office of the Town Clerk at 389 Route 2, Town Hall, Preston, CT 06365; the Preston Public Library, 389 Route 2, Preston, CT 06365; and at DEEP Headquarters, MMCA Bureau, 79 Elm Street, 4th Floor, Hartford, CT 06103.

The deadline for submission of comments is **January 2, 2026**. If a public hearing is requested by twenty-five or more persons, or by an association having not less than twenty-five persons, DEEP will schedule a public hearing on the EIE. Such requests for a public hearing must be made by contacting the DEEP staff member identified below by **November 28, 2025**.

Written comments about this EIE, questions about this EIE, or a request for a public hearing should be sent to:

Name: Michael T. Looney  
Agency: Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP)  
Address: 79 Elm Street, Hartford, CT 06106-5127  
Phone: 860-424-3530  
E-Mail: Michael.Looney@ct.gov

Inquiries and requests to view and or copy documents, pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act, must be submitted to the sponsoring state agency:

Name: Michael T. Looney  
Agency: Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP)  
Address: 79 Elm Street, Hartford, CT 06106-5127  
Phone: 860-424-3530  
E-Mail: Michael.Looney@ct.gov

**What happens next:** DEEP will review the comments received and may conduct further environmental study and analysis or amend the evaluation. DEEP will prepare responses to the substantive issues raised in review of and comment on the EIE and any supplemental materials or amendments. Those responses and all supplemental materials and comments shall be made available in a "Record of Decision", which will appear in the Environmental Monitor for public inspection.

Jennifer L. Perry, P.E.  
Bureau Chief  
Bureau of Materials Management and Compliance Assurance (MMCA)

The Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection is an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Employer that is committed to complying with the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act. Please contact us at (860) 418-5910 or [deep.accommodations@ct.gov](mailto:deep.accommodations@ct.gov) if you: have a disability and need a communication aid or service; have limited proficiency in English and may need information in another language; or if you wish to file an ADA or Title VI discrimination complaint.

El Departamento de Energía y Protección Ambiental de Connecticut es un Empleador de Acción Afirmativa/Igualdad de Oportunidades comprometido a cumplir con los requisitos de la Ley de Estadounidenses con Discapacidades. Por favor, contáctenos al (860) 418-5910 o [deep.accommodations@ct.gov](mailto:deep.accommodations@ct.gov) si: tiene una discapacidad y necesita una ayuda o servicio de comunicación; tiene un dominio limitado del inglés y puede necesitar información en otro idioma; o si desea presentar una queja por discriminación ADA o Título VI. Cualquier persona que necesite una adaptación auditiva puede llamar al número de relé del Estado de Connecticut: 711. Las solicitudes de adaptaciones deben hacerse al menos dos semanas antes de cualquier audiencia, programa o evento de la agencia.

# Invoice

Invoice No. 233001-924769

Date: December 18, 2025



55 Merritt Boulevard

Trumbull, CT 06611

Tel: 203.549.0060

Accounting Fax: 203.502-8876

Email: AccountingDept@GraystoneAdv.com

Federal ID# 06-1422266

CT Dept. of Energy and Environmental Protection  
Attn: Taiwo Onawoga  
Financial Management  
79 Elm Street  
Hartford, CT 06106-5127

Order No: DEPM1-0000070402

Blanket Order No:

Contact: Taiwo Onawoga

Job No: 233001

Ad Title: Public Notice of Availability of Environmental Impact Evaluation - Preston

	Insert Date	Size	Description	Amount	
Norwich Bulletin	11/18/2025	2 x 25.507	In Column	\$ 1,266.72	
			Mand Online	+\$ 5.00	
			Affidavit charge	+\$ 25.00	
			10.00% Admin Fee	+\$ 129.67	
					Ad Subtotal \$1,426.39
					INVOICE TOTAL \$1,426.39

Payment Terms: Strictly 30 days. Due Date: 1/17/2026

Finance Charges of 1.50% per month if not paid within terms.

Amount Due if paid  
after due date:

\$1,447.78

Graystone Group provides quality advertising services at very close margins therefore  
prompt processing of this invoice would be appreciated!

## Affidavit of Publication

State of Connecticut  
County of Fairfield

I, Elaine Purdy, a billing representative of Graystone Group Advertising, 55 Merritt Blvd., Trumbull, CT 06611, do solemnly swear that on:

Date:	Nov. 18, 2025
Ad Title:	CT DEEP
	Legal Notice Public Notice of Availability of Environmental Impact Evaluation
Appeared in:	Norwich Bulletin (The Bulletin)
Job #:	233001

publication and the newspaper extracts, hereto annexed were clipped from the above named issue of said newspaper.

Signature of Billing Representative

Elaine Purdy

Subscribed to and sworn to before me, this 17 day of December, 2025.

Dorothy Schreiner  
Notary Public





**LEGAL NOTICE**  
**DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL**  
**PROTECTION**

**Public Notice of Availability of**  
**Environmental Impact Evaluation**

The Department of Energy & Environmental Protection (DEEP) hereby gives notice that an Environmental Impact Evaluation (EIE) has been prepared pursuant to Section 22a-1d of the Connecticut Statutes and Section 22a-1a-8 of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies for the Building a Regional Composting Facility for Southeastern Connecticut Project in Preston, CT. Utilizing a grant award from DEEP through its MMI Grant Program, the Southeastern Connecticut Regional Resources Recovery Authority (SCRRRA) proposes to construct and operate the first large-scale aerobic food waste composting facility in southeastern Connecticut, fulfilling an infrastructure need in an historically underserved region. The facility will utilize an innovative hybrid compost system, combining aerated static pile (ASP) processing with open windrows for curing, resulting in quicker composting times and reduced operational costs. The facility will be situated on approximately six acres of land owned by the Authority at 132 Military Highway (Route 12) in the town of Preston. It is anticipated that the volume of source-separated organics diverted will be approximately 5,500 tons per year, and the anticipated volume of wood waste diverted will be approximately 8,500 tons per year.

Local zoning approval for the facility has been acquired and the required state-level solid waste permit application is currently under review by DEEP. A robust environmental justice public participation plan has also been developed and approved by DEEP, in consideration of Preston's status as a distressed municipality.

Copies of this EIE are available by emailing Michael T. Looney, Senior Advisor to the Commissioner, at [michael.looney@ct.gov](mailto:michael.looney@ct.gov), or at <https://portal.ct.gov/dep/business-and-financial-assistance/grants-financial-assistance/materials-management-infrastructure-grant-program>. Copies of the EIE are also available for inspection at the office of the Town Clerk at 389 Route 2, Town Hall, Preston, CT 06365; the Preston Public Library, 389 Route 2, Preston, CT 06365; and at DEEP Headquarters, MMCA Bureau, 79 Elm Street, 4th Floor, Hartford, CT 06103.

The deadline for submission of comments is **January 2, 2026**. If a public hearing is requested by twenty-five or more persons, or by an association having not less than twenty-five persons, DEEP will schedule a public hearing on the EIE. Such requests for a public hearing must be made by contacting the DEEP staff member identified below by **November 28, 2025**.

Written comments about this EIE, questions about this EIE, or a request for a public hearing should be sent to:

Name: Michael T. Looney  
Agency: Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP)  
Address: 79 Elm Street, Hartford, CT 06106-5127  
Phone: 860-424-3530  
E-Mail: [Michael.Looney@ct.gov](mailto:Michael.Looney@ct.gov)

Inquiries and requests to view and or copy documents, pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act, must be submitted to the sponsoring state agency:

Name: Michael T. Looney  
Agency: Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP)  
Address: 79 Elm Street, Hartford, CT 06106-5127  
Phone: 860-424-3530  
E-Mail: [Michael.Looney@ct.gov](mailto:Michael.Looney@ct.gov)

**What happens next:** DEEP will review the comments received and may conduct further environmental study and analysis or amend the evaluation. DEEP will prepare responses to the substantive issues raised in review of and comment on the EIE and any supplemental materials or amendments. Those responses and all supplemental materials and comments shall be made available in a "Record of Decision", which will appear in the Environmental Monitor for public inspection.

Jennifer L. Perry, P.E.  
Bureau Chief  
Bureau of Materials Management and Compliance Assurance (MMCA)

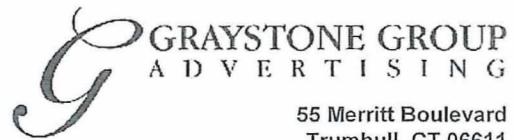
The Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection is an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Employer that is committed to complying with the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act. Please contact us at (860) 418-5910 or [deep.accommodations@ct.gov](mailto:deep.accommodations@ct.gov) if you: have a disability and need a communication aid or service; have limited proficiency in English and may need information in another language; or if you wish to file an ADA or Title VI discrimination complaint.

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# Invoice

Invoice No. 233172-924761

Date: December 18, 2025



55 Merritt Boulevard  
Trumbull, CT 06611  
Tel: 203.549.0060

Accounting Fax: 203.502-8876  
Email: AccountingDept@GraystoneAdv.com  
Federal ID# 06-1422266

CT Dept. of Energy and Environmental Protection  
Attn: Taiwo Onawoga  
Financial Management  
79 Elm Street  
Hartford, CT 06106-5127

Order No: DEPM1-0000070402  
Contact: Taiwo Onawoga

Blanket Order No:  
Job No: 233172

Ad Title: Public Notice of Availability of Environmental Impact Evaluation - Preston, CT

	Insert Date	Size	Description	Amount
Norwich Bulletin	11/25/2025	2 x 25.507	In Column	\$ 1,266.72
			Mand Online	+ \$ 5.00
			Affidavit charge	+ \$ 25.00
			10.00% Admin Fee	+ \$ 129.67
				<b>Ad Subtotal</b> \$1,426.39
				<b>INVOICE TOTAL</b> \$1,426.39

Payment Terms: Strictly 30 days. Due Date: 1/17/2026

Finance Charges of 1.50% per month if not paid within terms.

Amount Due if paid  
after due date: \$1,447.78

Graystone Group provides quality advertising services at very close margins therefore  
prompt processing of this invoice would be appreciated!

## Affidavit of Publication

State of Connecticut  
County of Fairfield

I, Elaine Purdy, a billing representative of Graystone Group Advertising, 55 Merritt Blvd., Trumbull, CT 06611, do solemnly swear that on:

Date:	Nov. 25, 2025
Ad Title:	CT DEEP
	Legal Notice Public Notice of Availability of Environmental Impact Evaluation
Appeared in:	Norwich Bulletin (The Bulletin)
Job #:	233172

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Signature of Billing Representative

Elaine Purdy

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Dorothy Schreiner  
Notary Public





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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

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Bureau Chief  
Bureau of Materials Management and Compliance Assurance (MMCA)

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**\* INVOICE \***

**vanguard**

519 Eighth Avenue - 23rd Floor  
New York, NY 10018  
(212)-736-0770 Fax: (212)-736-6828  
web: [www.hellovanguard.com](http://www.hellovanguard.com)

INVOICE NUMBER 1653387  
INVOICE DATE 12/03/2025  
CUSTOMER NUMBER 01-1246000  
CLIENT ORDER NUMBER DEPM1-81409

SOLD TO		SHIPPED TO					
OUR ORD. NO		DATE SHIPPED	CONTRACT NUMBER	SALESPERSON	TERMS		
QTY ORD	QTY SHIPPED	DESCRIPTION / FORM NUMBER			UNIT PRICE	UNIT	AMOUNT
1	1	NOTICE FOR AVAILABILITY- ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT. EVAL. FOR SCRRRA NORWICH BULLETIN - 12/02/2025 ADPLACEMNT			1266.72	EACH	.00 1,266.72
.20	.20	AFFIDAVITE FEE			125.00	HOUR	25.00
2.60	2.60	ADMIN FEE			125.00	HOUR	325.00

COMMENTS:		Net Sale:	Sales Tax:	Freight:	Total:
* Thank you for your order*	Please make checks payable to: VANGUARD DIRECT EMail:ar@vanguarddirect.com	1,616.72	.00	.00	1,616.72

Affidavit of Publication

State of Connecticut  
County of Hartford

I, Melanie Meile, Senior Account Representative of Vanguard Direct, 716 Brook Street, Ste 124, Rocky Hill, CT 06067 do solemnly swear on:

Notary Date:	December 3, 2025
Ad Title:	CT DEEP – SCRRRA Presto
	Michael T. Looney 79 Elm Street, Hartford, CT 06106-5127 Application No: Section 22a-1d of the CT Statues and Section 22a-1a-8
Appeared in:	Norwich Bulletin (12/2/25)
VG Job#:	01-741648

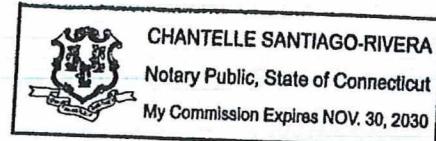
Publication and the newspaper extracts, hereto annexed were clipped from the above named issue of said newspaper.

Signature of Vanguard rep:

*Melanie Meile*

Subscribed to and sworn to before me, this 3 day of December, 2025.

*Chanelle Santiago-Rivera*  
Notary Public



# Classifieds

To Advertise, visit our website: Classifieds.norwichbulletin.com  
 █ Public Notices/Legals email: Norwichbulletinlegals@gannett.com  
 █ Business & Services email: NorwichbulletinBusServ@gannett.com  
 █ To post job openings, visit: Norwichbulletin.com/jobs



## TO ADVERTISE

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Classifieds herein are subject to the applicable laws and copies of which are available from our Advertising Dept. All ads are subject to approval before publication. The Norwich Bulletin reserves the right to edit, refuse, reject, classify or cancel any ad or any item. Errors must be reported in the first day of publication. The Norwich Bulletin shall not be liable for any loss or damage that results from an error or omission of an advertiser. We reserve the right to cancel any ad.

## STUFF

### Antiques & Collectibles

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 Trains, Military Items,  
 western, paintings, anything  
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 Call 860-707-2160

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 & OTHER SPORTS CARDS  
**CASH & TOP DOLLAR**  
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 sports artifacts  
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 Call or Text Henry @  
 917-273-2353

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 Large collections accepted.  
 Call Ben or Paul at  
 Main Bay Co. 860-771-2114

## BUSINESS & SERVICES

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 • Deck Cleaning  
 • LEAF REMOVAL  
 • Dump Runs  
 • Landscaping  
 • Odd Jobs  
 • Storm Cleanups  
 860-858-3202  
 Lic #0642389

## PUBLIC NOTICES

### Notice to Creditors

#### NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF  
 Vance R Carter  
 (28-00487)

The Hon. Caroline Rows  
 Judge of Probate, Probate  
 District of Plain-  
 field - Killingly Probate  
 Court, by decree dated  
 November 25, 2025, ordered  
 that all claims must be  
 presented to the fiduciary at  
 the address below. Failure  
 to promptly present any  
 such claim may result in the  
 loss of rights to recover on  
 such claim.

Michelle R. Gunn,  
 Clerk Clerk

The fiduciary is:

Joan M. Carter  
 c/o EVELINA MOUNI  
 RUSTINSON, THE PRUE  
 LAW GROUP, LTD, 230 MAIN  
 ST 4TH FL, WILLIMANTIC, CT  
 06226

#11871770

NB 12/2/25

### Notice To Creditors

ESTATE OF Isabelle E.  
 Popperton (25-00714)

The Hon. Charles K. Norris,  
 Judge of the Court of  
 Probate, District of Norwich  
 Probate Court, by decree dated  
 November 25, 2025, ordered  
 that all claims must be  
 presented to the fiduciary at  
 the address below. Failure  
 to promptly present any  
 such claim may result in the  
 loss of rights to recover on  
 such claim.

Monica Brumkamp,  
 Assistant Clerk

The fiduciary is: Sonja  
 Smillich c/o DONALD B H  
 CABRAL, ELDER LAW  
 OFFICES OF CONNECTICUT,  
 131 NEW LONDON AVE,  
 PINE, STE 102, GLASTON-  
 BURY, CT 06033

#11872761

Norwich Bulletin 12/2/25

### Public Notices

#### PROPERTY AUCTION

The Town of Brooklyn  
 auctioned the following  
 properties to the highest  
 bidder for past due  
 property delinquent taxes and  
 charges on November 20,  
 2025:

239 Mason Road owned by  
 the Estate of Grace Ann  
 Gallicchio was sold to Equity  
 Trust Co., FBO Mark  
 Thompson, 18A Old Town  
 Woods Road, Old Lyme, CT  
 06371 for \$10,000.00.

#634 acres on Paradise  
 Drive owned by James E.  
 Ranchow & his Estate and  
 the Estate of James E.  
 Ranchow was sold to Timothy  
 T. Zedora of 122 Thompson  
 St, Willimantic, CT 06221 for  
 \$16,000.00.

The redemption period  
 expires on May 19, 2026. If  
 redemption does not take  
 place by the date stated and  
 in accordance with the law,  
 the delinquent taxpay-  
 ers, and all mortgages,  
 leases, and other  
 encumbrances who have  
 received actual or construct-  
 ed notice of sale, shall be  
 provided by law, or hereinafter  
 notified that their respective  
 titles, mortgages, leases,  
 liens, and other rights and  
 other encumbrances in such  
 properties shall be extin-  
 guished.

#11665970  
 NB 12/2/25

### Homes



1

#11852372

NB 12/2/25

### Public Notices

#### DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

#### Public Notice of Availability of

#### Environmental Impact Evaluation

The Department of Energy & Environmental Protection (DEEP) has prepared pursuant to Section 22a-1d of the Connecticut Statutes and Section 22a-8 of the Regulations of the Connecticut State Agency for the Environment, a public notice of availability of the Southwicks Connect Project in Preston, CT. Utilizing a grant award from DEEP through its BAMI Grant Program, the Southeastern Connecticut Regional Solid Waste Authority (SCRRA) proposes to construct and operate the first large-scale aerobic food waste composting facility in southeast Connecticut, fulfilling a long-standing need in an historically underserved region. The facility will utilize an innovative hybrid compost system, combining aerated static pile (ASP) processing with open windrows for curing, and will be designed to produce high quality compost at minimal costs. The facility will be situated on approximately six acres of land owned by the Authority at 132 Military Street, Preston, CT 06470. DEEP anticipates that the volume of source-separated organics diverted will be approximately 5,800 tons per year, and the anticipated volume of food waste diverted will be approximately 4,500 tons per year.

Local zoning approval for the facility has been acquired and the remaining state-level solid waste permit application is currently under review by DEEP. A robust environmental justice public participation plan has also been developed and will be used in the consideration of Preston's status as a distressed municipality.

Copies of this EIE are available by emailing Michael T. Looney, Senior Advisor to the Commissioner, at michael.looney@ct.gov, or at <https://portal.ct.gov/dep/businesses-and-financial-assistance/department-of-energy-and-environmental-infrastructure-grant-program>. Copies of the EIE are also available for inspection at the office of the Town Clerk at 28 Elm Street, Preston, CT 06470, at the Preston Public Library, 389 Route 2, Preston, CT 06485; and at DEEP Headquarters, MMCA Bureau, 79 Elm Street, 4th Floor, Hartford, CT 06105.

The deadline for submission of comments is January 2, 2026. A public hearing is required by twenty-five days after the date of the public hearing notice, not later than twenty-five persons. DEEP will schedule a public hearing on the EIE. Such requests for a public hearing must be made by DEEP staff member identified below by November 28, 2025.

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Jennifer L. Perry, P.E.  
 Bureau Chief  
 Bureau of Materials Management and Compliance Attorney (MMCA)  
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 UNLIKE  
 SOME PEOPLE,  
 CROSSWORDS  
 HAVE A GLUE



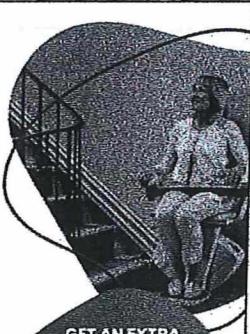
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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY &

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Bureau Chief  
Bureau of Materials Management and Compliance Assurance (MMCA)

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El Departamento de Energía y Protección Ambiental de Connecticut es un Empleador de Acción Afirmativa/Igualdad de Oportunidades comprometido a cumplir con los requisitos de la Ley de Estadounidenses con Discapacidades. Por favor, contáctenos al (860) 418-5910 o [deep.accommodations@ct.gov](mailto:deep.accommodations@ct.gov) si: tiene una discapacidad y necesita una ayuda o servicio de comunicación; tiene un dominio limitado del inglés y puede necesitar información en otro idioma; o si desea presentar una queja por discriminación ADA o Título VI. Cualquier persona que necesite una adaptación auditiva puede llamar al número de rele del Estado de Connecticut: 711. Las solicitudes de adaptaciones deben hacerse al menos dos semanas antes de cualquier audiencia, programa o evento de la agencia.

## **APPENDIX C**

### **Public Comments on the EIE**



## STATE OF CONNECTICUT

# COUNCIL ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

### VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

Keith Ainsworth  
*Acting Chair*

Timothy J. Bishop

Linda Bowers

Christopher Donnelly

David Kalafa

Cinzia Lettieri

Aimee Petras

Denise Rodosevich

William Warzecha

Paul Aresta  
*Executive Director*

September 24, 2025

Michael T. Looney  
Department of Energy and Environmental Protection  
79 Elm Street, Hartford, CT 06106  
Michael.Looney@ct.gov

Re: Environmental Impact Evaluation (EIE) for Building a Regional Composting Facility for Southeastern Connecticut in Preston

Dear Michael T. Looney,

The Council on Environmental Quality (Council) provides the following comments regarding the EIE for Building a Regional Composting Facility for Southeastern Connecticut in Preston.

The Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) proposes to provide funds to the Southeastern Connecticut Regional Resource Recovery Authority (SCRRA) to construct an aerobic food waste composting facility in Preston that would be able to accommodate 5,000 tons of food waste and 8,500 tons of woody waste annually. The proposed facility would be situated on approximately six (6) acres of land owned by the SCRRA at 132 Military Highway (Route 12), near an existing trash to energy facility.

#### Noise

The EIE states that “during operation of the compost facility, there will be noise from equipment, such as from an industrial grinder and front-end loaders” and “the blended mixture will then be placed in a concrete ASP bay, complete with forced aeration...” While the EIE states that “operational noise is not expected to disturb residents and other sensitive noise receptors above current levels”, it is unclear if a noise analysis was completed for all of the proposed equipment that could confirm compliance with applicable noise regulations at the adjacent noise zones. It is also unclear where the residents and other sensitive noise receptors are located in relation to the proposed facility. It would be helpful to include information regarding the calculated noise level for all equipment likely to be operated, and the distance from the proposed equipment to the “residents and other sensitive noise receptors” at the adjacent noise zones. The EIE also states that “with the implementation of proper mitigation measures, the potential operational noise impacts will be less than significant”; however, it is unknown what the operational mitigation measures would be since they are not described or listed in section 4.14.

#### Rare, Threatened and Endangered Species

The EIE states that “the State Natural Diversity Data Base (NDDB) map for the Town of Preston shows the project area and its proximity to areas where state and federal listed species and significant natural communities may exist.” However, it is unclear if consultation with NDDB has occurred and what species might be present proximate to the proposed project site since the EIE states that “an NDDB request would be submitted as part of the permitting process and the proposed action would comply with requests from the NDDB program to the extent

practicable.” Consultation with the NDDB should be a first step in complying with the requirement of the RCSA Section 22a-1a-3(b)(5) to consider the “effect on natural communities and upon critical plant and animal species and their habitat; interference with the movement of any resident or migratory fish or wildlife species;” when performing a review in accord with the regulations that apply to the Connecticut Environmental Policy Act (CEPA).

The EIE notes that a report generated through the United States Fish and Wildlife Service’s (USFWS) Information for Planning and Consultation (IPaC) website identified three (3) species “potentially impacted that are listed as threatened, endangered, or candidate species in the area of the site of the proposed action”; they are Northern Long-eared Bat (Endangered), Tricolored Bat (Proposed Endangered), and Monarch Butterfly (Proposed Threatened). The EIE also states that “the proposed action will involve the removal of a significant number of trees within the approximately 6 acres of site disturbance for construction of the proposed composting facility.” Potential use of the USFWS Range-wide Northern Long-eared Bat determination key (Dkey) and consultation with DEEP’s Wildlife Division would be appropriate in assessing potential effects on tree nesting bat species that might be present at the proposed site. Pursuant to RCSA Section 22a-1a-8(f)(6)(E), mitigation measures should be developed to a level of detail commensurate with the magnitude of the potential environmental effects, which could include time of year restrictions for tree clearing during the bats’ breeding season.

The Council notes that the EIE includes several references to a qualitative assessment that certain potential impacts to environmental and community resources would be “less than significant”. The provision of quantitative data could assist the public and other individuals to assess the potential direct, indirect, and cumulative effects to environmental and community resources listed in the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies (RCSA) Section 22a-1a-3(b). The Council also notes that several maps within the EIE fail to depict the location of the proposed facility including, but not limited to, the land use map, the Regional Plan of Conservation and Development, the 2025-2030 Locational Guide Map, National Historic Districts map, the floodzone map, etc., which might make it difficult for members of the public and other individuals to independently assess that information.

Thank you for your consideration of the Council’s comments.

Sincerely,



Paul Aresta  
Executive Director

**APPENDIX D**

**Supporting Documentation for Responses to**

**Public Comments on the EIE**

## **Noise Analysis – Preston EIE**

Construction activities for the proposed aerated static pile (ASP) composting facility will create low to moderate levels of noise; however, these noise levels would return to baseline conditions upon completion of project construction. The temporary impacts would be the result of heavy equipment operation. The construction activities would occur during daytime hours and on weekdays when noise levels of a low to moderate range would be more frequently expected and better tolerated.

In an effort to minimize any potential annoyances caused by a temporary increase in noise levels, construction activities should be limited to between 7:00am and 10:00pm. This mitigation measure would further ensure no significant impacts as a result of a short-term increase in noise. Given the site of the proposed action being approximately 400 feet distant from the nearest residential properties, construction noise is not expected to disturb residents and other sensitive noise receptors above current levels. The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) data indicates that typical construction equipment and vehicles such as front-end loaders, dump trucks, bulldozers, and excavators have a maximum noise level generally between 80 decibels and 85 decibels at a distance of 50 feet. To calculate noise at a given distance (400 feet from residential properties) based upon this information, the following equation is used:

$$dB_1 = dB_0 + 20\log(d_0/d_1), \text{ where:}$$

$dB_1$  = the new sound level

$dB_0$  = the original sound level

$d_0$  = is the original distance from the source

$d_1$  = is the new distance from the source

Utilizing this equation results in the following:

$$dB_1 = 85 + 20\log(50/400)$$

$$dB_1 = 85 + 20\log(0.125)$$

$$dB_1 = 85 + (-18.0618)$$

$$dB_1 = 85 - 18.0618$$

$$\mathbf{dB_1 = 66.9 \text{ dBA}}$$

However, noise attenuating features are already present in and around the site of the proposed action or will be added as part of the proposed action. Between the site of the proposed action and the nearest residential properties lies an approximately 120-foot wide area of trees and heavy vegetation. According to the U.S. Forest Service, a 100-foot wide planted buffer will reduce noise by 5 to 8 decibels. Thus, at a width of 120 feet, it is expected that the buffer area would reduce noise levels by between 6 and 9.6 decibels. In addition, a 6-foot high landform/earthen berm will be installed along the southern and southeastern perimeter of the site of the proposed action, in the

direction of the nearest residential properties. A variety of sources indicate that such a feature can reduce noise levels by an additional 5 to 10 decibels.

Applying the noise attenuating effects of the tree and vegetation buffer and the landform/earthen berm reduces the construction period noise level as follows:

$$dB_1 = 66.9 - (6.0 \text{ to } 9.6) - (5.0 \text{ to } 10.0)$$

$$dB_1 \text{ min} = 47.3$$

$$dB_1 \text{ max} = 55.9$$

During the operational phase of the proposed ASP composting facility, there will be noise from basic equipment. ASP systems generate minimal noise, with one or more fans typically producing around 75 decibels (dB) at 5 feet, which drops to less than 40 dBA at 500 feet. The dominant noise source comes from the small fans (<2 horsepower) used to circulate air through the compost piles, though this noise is significantly attenuated by distance, keeping it well below existing background levels at surrounding residences.. In addition, vibrating screens or trommels can reach 90 dBA at 50 feet, and front-end loaders have a maximum noise level generally between 80 decibels and 85 decibels.

Taking a worst-case assumption of 90 dBA generated by the facility at a distance of 50 feet results in the following noise level calculation:

$$dB_1 = dB_0 + 20\log(d_0/d_1)$$

$$dB_1 = 90 + 20\log(50/400)$$

$$dB_1 = 90 + 20\log(0.125)$$

$$dB_1 = 90 + (-18.0618)$$

$$dB_1 = 90 - 18.0618$$

$$dB_1 = 71.9 \text{ dBA}$$

Applying the noise attenuating effects of the tree and vegetation buffer reduces the noise level as follows:

$$dB_1 = 71.9 - (6.0 \text{ to } 9.6) - (5.0 \text{ to } 10.0)$$

$$dB_1 \text{ min} = 52.3$$

$$dB_1 \text{ max} = 60.9$$

The Town of Preston does not have a municipal noise ordinance. The World Health Organization (WHO) recommends general daytime noise levels of less than 55 dBA to prevent significant community annoyance. More specifically for Connecticut, Section 22a-69-3.5 of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies (RCSA) provides specific "noise zone standards" for different classes of land uses, cross-referenced by noise emitters versus noise receptors. The proposed action constitutes a "Class C" noise

emitter, while the nearest residential property constitutes a “Class A” noise receptor. Under RCSA Section 22a-69-3.5, a Class C emitter has a noise level threshold at a Class A receptor of 61 dBA during the day and 51 dBA at night. Above these thresholds, noise levels are considered to be “excessive noise.”

Based upon the analysis above, construction period noise levels are expected to range from 47.3 to 55.9 decibels. Therefore, the noise impacts are expected to be less than significant, especially with the implementation of the BMP limiting hours of construction to 7:00am to 10:00pm. For the operational period, noise levels are expected to range from 52.3 to 60.9 decibels. Given that the maximum expected noise levels based upon this analysis are below the state regulations’ threshold, the noise impacts of the proposed action during the operational period are expected to be less than significant. To mitigate any potential night impacts, the operation should be required to only operate during the times of 7:00am to 10:00pm daily, in compliance with the definition of “nighttime” under RCSA Section 22a-69-1.1.

Vehicular traffic noise associated with the operation and maintenance of the facility will be incidental when considered in combination with the existing traffic use of surrounding roadways (see Section 4.10 for traffic data) and the existing truck traffic into and out of the adjacent landfill operation.

With the implementation of proper mitigation measures discussed above, the potential construction and operational noise impacts will be less than significant.



Generated by eNDDDB on:  
9/29/2025

Michael Looney  
Looney  
79 Elm St  
Hartford, CT 06106  
[michael.looney@ct.gov](mailto:michael.looney@ct.gov)

Subject: SCRRRA Regional Composting Facility  
Filing # 133547  
NDDB – New Determination Number: 202507194  
132 ROUTE 12  
PRESTON

Expiration Date: 9/29/2027

Based on current data maintained by the Natural Diversity Database (NDDB) and housed in the DEEP ezFile portal, no extant populations of Federal or State Endangered, Threatened or Special Concern species (RCSA Sec. 26-306) are known to occur within the project area delineated for the Building and Infrastructure Development (including stormwater discharge associate with construction) / New Commercial, Industrial, Governmental, SCRRRA Regional Composting Facility.

This NDDB – New determination may be utilized to fulfill the Endangered and Threatened Species requirements for state-issued permit applications, licenses, registration submissions, and authorizations. However, please be aware of the following limitations and conditions:

- This determination does not preclude the possibility that listed species may be encountered on site. Should this occur, a report must be submitted to the Natural Diversity Database promptly and additional action may be necessary to remain in compliance with certain state permits. Please fill out the [appropriate survey form](#) and follow the instructions for submittal.
- 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 9/29/2027.

The NDDB – New determination for the SCRRRA Regional Composting Facility at 132 ROUTE 12, PRESTON as described in the submitted information and summarized at the end of this document is valid for two years from the date on this letter.

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.

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 Determination 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:	No
Project involves state funds, state agency action, or relates to CEPA request:	Yes
Project requires state permit, license, registration, or authorization:	Yes
DEEP enforcement action related to project:	
Project Type:	Building and Infrastructure Development (including stormwater discharge associate with construction)
Project Sub-type:	New Commercial, Industrial, Governmental
Project Name:	SCRRRA Regional Composting Facility
Project Description:	

# SCRRRA Regional Composting Facility Map



September 24, 2025

1:9,597

0 0.075 0.15 0.25 0.3 mi  
0 0.125 0.25 0.5 km

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

Filing #133547 ezFile NDDB System



# United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE  
New England Ecological Services Field Office  
70 Commercial Street, Suite 300  
Concord, NH 3301-5094  
Phone: (603) 223-2541 Fax: (603) 223-0104



In Reply Refer To:

11/07/2025 14:16:08 UTC

Project code: 2026-0013452

Project Name: Regional ASP Composting Facility - Preston, CT

Federal Nexus: no

Federal Action Agency (if applicable): Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental

**Subject:** Technical assistance for 'Regional ASP Composting Facility - Preston, CT'

Dear Michael Looney:

This letter records your determination using the Information for Planning and Consultation (IPaC) system provided to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) on November 07, 2025, for 'Regional ASP Composting Facility - Preston, CT' (here forward, Project). This project has been assigned Project Code 2026-0013452 and all future correspondence should clearly reference this number. **Please carefully review this letter. Your Endangered Species Act (Act) requirements are not complete.**

## Ensuring Accurate Determinations When Using IPaC

The Service developed the IPaC system and associated species' determination keys in accordance with the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (ESA; 87 Stat. 884, as amended; 16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.) and based on a standing analysis. All information submitted by the Project proponent into IPaC must accurately represent the full scope and details of the Project. **Failure to accurately represent or implement the Project as detailed in IPaC or the Northern Long-eared Bat and Tricolored Bat Range-wide Determination Key (Dkey), invalidates this letter.**

## Determination for the Northern Long-Eared Bat and Tricolored Bat

Based on your IPaC submission and a standing analysis completed by the Service, you determined the proposed Project will have the following effect determinations:

Species	Listing Status	Determination
Northern Long-eared Bat ( <i>Myotis septentrionalis</i> )	Endangered	May affect
Tricolored Bat ( <i>Perimyotis subflavus</i> )	Proposed	May affect
	Endangered	

Federal agencies must consult with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service under section 7(a)(2) of the Endangered Species Act (ESA) when an action *may affect* a listed species. Tricolored bat is proposed for listing as endangered under the ESA, but not yet listed. For actions that may affect a proposed species, agencies cannot consult, but they can *confer* under the authority of section 7(a)(4) of the ESA. Such conferences can follow the procedures for a consultation and be adopted as such if and when the proposed species is listed. Should the tricolored bat be listed, agencies must review projects that are not yet complete, or projects with ongoing effects within the tricolored bat range that previously received a NE or NLAA determination from the key to confirm that the determination is still accurate. Projects that receive a may affect determination for tricolored bat through the key, should contact the appropriate Ecological Services Field Office if they want to conference on this species.

### **Other Species and Critical Habitat that May be Present in the Action Area**

The IPaC-assisted determination key for the northern long-eared bat and tricolored bat does not apply to the following ESA-protected species and/or critical habitat that also may occur in your Action area:

- Monarch Butterfly *Danaus plexippus* Proposed Threatened

You may coordinate with our Office to determine whether the Action may cause prohibited take of the species listed above.

### **Conclusion**

Further coordination with the Service is voluntary for those species with a determination of “May Affect.” A “May Affect” determination in this key indicates that the project, as entered, is not consistent with the questions in the key. Not all projects that reach a “May Affect” determination are anticipated to result in adverse impacts to listed species. Through the technical assistance process, the Service might be able to provide information that either indicates incidental take is not reasonably certain to occur, or the Service might be able to provide recommendations that enable the project to be conducted in a way that avoids the likelihood of incidentally taking listed bats. Please contact our New England Ecological Services Field Office for more information. The Service has developed interim voluntary guidance for non-federal actions involving forest habitat modification that may affect the northern long-eared bat. Review the guidance posted here for more information for NLEB: <https://www.fws.gov/species/northern-long-eared-bat-myotis-septentrionalis> and TCB: <https://www.fws.gov/species/tricolored-bat-perimyotis-subflavus>

**Action Description**

You provided to IPaC the following name and description for the subject Action.

**1. Name**

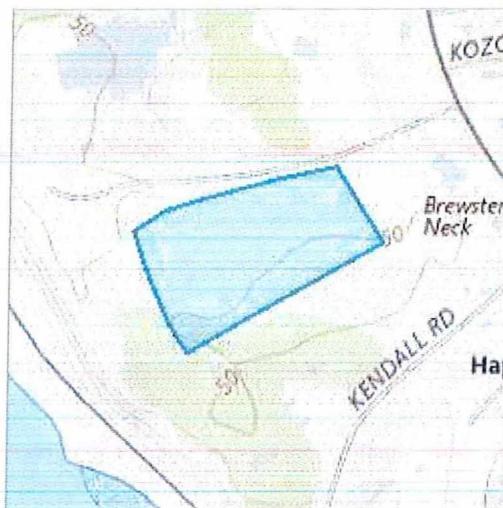
Regional ASP Composting Facility - Preston, CT

**2. Description**

The following description was provided for the project 'Regional ASP Composting Facility - Preston, CT':

CT DEEP grant funding will be utilized by the Southeastern Connecticut Regional Resource Recovery Authority (SCRRRA) to construct the first large-scale aerobic food waste composting facility in southeastern Connecticut, fulfilling an infrastructure need in a historically underserved region. The facility will utilize an innovative hybrid compost system, combining aerated static pile (ASP) processing with open windrows for curing, resulting in quicker composting times and reduced operational costs. The facility will be situated on approximately six (6) acres of land owned by the SCRRRA at 132 Military Highway (Route 12) in the Town of Preston, CT.

The approximate location of the project can be viewed in Google Maps: <https://www.google.com/maps/@41.47397714999996,-72.06704320806938,14z>



## DETERMINATION KEY RESULT

Based on the answers provided, the proposed Action is consistent with a determination of "may affect" for at least one species covered by this determination key.

## QUALIFICATION INTERVIEW

1. Does the proposed project include, or is it reasonably certain to cause, intentional take of listed bats or any other listed species?

**Note:** Intentional take is defined as take that is the intended result of a project. Intentional take could refer to research, direct species management, surveys, and/or studies that include intentional handling/encountering, harassment, collection, or capturing of any individual of a federally listed threatened, endangered or proposed species?

*No*

2. Is the action area wholly within Zone 2 of the year-round active area for northern long-eared bat and/or tricolored bat?

**Automatically answered**

*No*

3. Does the action area intersect Zone 1 of the year-round active area for northern long-eared bat and/or tricolored bat?

**Automatically answered**

*No*

4. Does any component of the action involve leasing, construction or operation of wind turbines? Answer 'yes' if the activities considered are conducted with the intention of gathering survey information to inform the leasing, construction, or operation of wind turbines.

*No*

5. Is the proposed action authorized, permitted, licensed, funded, or being carried out by a Federal agency in whole or in part?

**Note for projects in Pennsylvania:** Projects requiring authorization under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act and/or Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act would be considered as having a federal nexus. Since the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) has issued the Pennsylvania State Programmatic General Permit (PASPGP), which may be verified by the PA Department of Environmental Protection or certain Conservation Districts, the need to receive a Corps authorization to perform the work under the PASPGP serves as a federal nexus. As such, if proposing to use the PASPGP, you would answer 'yes' to this question.

*No*

6. [Semantic] Is the action area located within 0.5 miles of a known bat hibernaculum or winter roost? Note: The map queried for this question contains proprietary information and cannot be displayed. If you need additional information, please contact your state wildlife agency.

**Automatically answered**

**No**

7. Does the action area contain any winter roosts or caves (or associated sinkholes, fissures, or other karst features), mines, rocky outcroppings, or tunnels that could provide habitat for hibernating bats?

**No**

8. Does the action area contain (1) talus or (2) anthropogenic or naturally formed rock shelters or crevices in rocky outcrops, rock faces or cliffs?

**No**

9. Will the action cause effects to a bridge?

**Note:** Covered bridges should be considered as bridges in this question.

**No**

10. Will the action result in effects to a culvert or tunnel at any time of year?

**No**

11. Are trees present within 1000 feet of the action area?

**Note:** If there are trees within the action area that are of a sufficient size to be potential roosts for bats answer "Yes". If unsure, additional information defining suitable summer habitat for the northern long-eared bat and tricolored bat can be found in Appendix A of the USFWS' Range-wide Indiana Bat and Northern long-eared bat Survey Guidelines at: <https://www.fws.gov/media/range-wide-indiana-bat-and-northern-long-eared-bat-survey-guidelines>.

**Yes**

12. Does the action include the intentional exclusion of bats from a building or building-like structure? **Note:** Exclusion is conducted to deny bats' entry or reentry into a building. To be effective and to avoid harming bats, it should be done according to established standards. If your action includes bat exclusion and you are unsure whether northern long-eared bats or tricolored bats are present, answer "Yes." Answer "No" if there are no signs of bat use in the building/structure. If unsure, contact your local Ecological Services Field Office to help assess whether northern long-eared bats or tricolored bats may be present. Contact a Nuisance Wildlife Control Operator (NWCO) for help in how to exclude bats from a structure safely without causing harm to the bats (to find a NWCO certified in bat standards, search the Internet using the search term "National Wildlife Control Operators Association bats"). Also see the White-Nose Syndrome Response Team's guide for bat control in structures.

**No**

13. Does the action involve removal, modification, or maintenance of a human-made building-like structure (barn, house, or other building) **known or suspected to contain roosting bats?**

*No*

14. Will the action cause construction of one or more new roads open to the public?

For federal actions, answer 'yes' when the construction or operation of these facilities is either (1) part of the federal action or (2) would not occur but for an action taken by a federal agency (federal permit, funding, etc.).

*No*

15. Will the action include or cause any construction or other activity that is reasonably certain to increase average night-time traffic permanently or temporarily on one or more existing roads? **Note:** For federal actions, answer 'yes' when the construction or operation of these facilities is either (1) part of the federal action or (2) would not occur but for an action taken by a federal agency (federal permit, funding, etc.). .

*No*

16. Will the action include or cause any construction or other activity that is reasonably certain to increase the number of travel lanes on an existing thoroughfare?

For federal actions, answer 'yes' when the construction or operation of these facilities is either (1) part of the federal action or (2) would not occur but for an action taken by a federal agency (federal permit, funding, etc.).

*No*

17. Will the proposed Action involve the creation of a new water-borne contaminant source (e.g., leachate pond, pits containing chemicals that are not NSF/ANSI 60 compliant)?

**Note:** For information regarding NSF/ANSI 60 please visit <https://www.nsf.org/knowledge-library/nsf-ansi-standard-60-drinking-water-treatment-chemicals-health-effects>

*No*

18. Will the proposed action involve the creation of a new point source discharge from a facility other than a water treatment plant or storm water system?

*No*

19. Will the action include drilling or blasting?

*No*

20. Will the action involve military training (e.g., smoke operations, obscurant operations, exploding munitions, artillery fire, range use, helicopter or fixed wing aircraft use at night)?

*No*

21. Will the proposed action involve the use of herbicides or pesticides (e.g., fungicides, insecticides, or rodenticides)?

*No*

22. Will the action include or cause activities that are reasonably certain to cause chronic or intense nighttime noise (above current levels of ambient noise in the area) in suitable summer habitat for the northern long-eared bat or tricolored bat during the active season?

Chronic noise is noise that is continuous or occurs repeatedly again and again for a long time. Sources of chronic or intense noise that could cause adverse effects to bats may include, but are not limited to: road traffic; trains; aircraft; industrial activities; gas compressor stations; loud music; crowds; oil and gas extraction; construction; and mining.

**Note:** Additional information defining suitable summer habitat for the northern long-eared bat and tricolored bat can be found in Appendix A of the USFWS' Range-wide Indiana Bat and Northern long-eared bat Survey Guidelines at: <https://www.fws.gov/media/range-wide-indiana-bat-and-northern-long-eared-bat-survey-guidelines>.

*No*

23. Does the action include, or is it reasonably certain to cause, the use of permanent or temporary artificial lighting within 1000 feet of suitable northern long-eared bat or tricolored bat roosting habitat?

**Note:** Additional information defining suitable summer habitat for the northern long-eared bat and tricolored bat can be found in Appendix A of the USFWS' Range-wide Indiana Bat and Northern long-eared bat Survey Guidelines at: <https://www.fws.gov/media/range-wide-indiana-bat-and-northern-long-eared-bat-survey-guidelines>.

*Yes*

24. Will the action cause an increase in the extent of suitable forested habitat exposed to artificial lighting?

*No*

25. Will the action include tree cutting or other means of knocking down or bringing down trees, tree topping, or tree trimming?

*Yes*

26. Is the project related to the production of coal, including projects that support the mining of coal, as well as the production and/or distribution of energy produced from coal?

*No*

27. Will the proposed action occur exclusively in an already established and currently maintained utility right-of-way?

*No*

28. Does the action include emergency cutting or trimming of hazard trees in order to remove an imminent threat to human safety or property? See hazard tree note at the bottom of the key for text that will be added to response letters

**Note:** A "hazard tree" is a tree that is an immediate threat to lives, public health and safety, or improved property.

*No*

29. Does the project intersect with the 0- 9.9% forest density category?

**Automatically answered**

*No*

30. Does the project intersect with the 10.0- 19.9% forest density category map?

**Automatically answered**

*No*

31. Does the project intersect with the 20.0- 29.9% forest density category map?

**Automatically answered**

*No*

32. Does the project intersect with the 30.0- 100% forest density category map?

**Automatically answered**

*Yes*

33. Will the action cause trees to be cut, knocked down, or otherwise brought down across an area greater than 100 acres in total extent?

*No*

34. Will the proposed action result in the use of prescribed fire?

**Note:** If the prescribed fire action includes other activities than application of fire (e.g., tree cutting, fire line preparation) please consider impacts from those activities within the previous representative questions in the key. This set of questions only considers impacts from flame and smoke.

*No*

35. Does the action area intersect the northern long-eared bat species list area?

**Automatically answered**

*Yes*

36. [Semantic] Is the action area located within 0.5 miles of radius of an entrance/opening to any known NLEB hibernacula or winter roost? Note: The map queried for this question contains proprietary information and cannot be displayed. If you need additional information, please contact your State wildlife agency.

**Automatically answered**

*No*

37. [Semantic] Is the action area located within 0.25 miles of a culvert that is known to be occupied by northern long-eared or tricolored bats? **Note:** The map queried for this question contains proprietary information and cannot be displayed. If you need additional information, please contact your State wildlife agency.

**Automatically answered**

*No*

38. [Semantic] Is the action area located within 150 feet of a documented northern long-eared bat roost site?

**Note:** The map queried for this question contains proprietary information and cannot be displayed. If you need additional information, please contact your State wildlife agency. Have you contacted the appropriate agency to determine if your action is within 150 feet of any documented northern long-eared bat roosts?

**Note:** A document with links to Natural Heritage Inventory databases and other state-specific sources of information on the locations of northern long-eared bat roosts is available here. Location information for northern long-eared bat roosts is generally kept in state natural heritage inventory databases – the availability of this data varies by state. Many states provide online access to their data, either directly by providing maps or by providing the opportunity to make a data request. In some cases, to protect those resources, access to the information may be limited.

**Automatically answered**

**No**

39. Is suitable summer habitat for the northern long-eared bat present within 1000 feet of project activities?

If unsure, answer "Yes."

**Note:** Additional information defining suitable summer habitat for the northern long-eared bat and tricolored bat can be found in Appendix A of the USFWS' Range-wide Indiana Bat and Northern long-eared bat Survey Guidelines at: <https://www.fws.gov/media/range-wide-indiana-bat-and-northern-long-eared-bat-survey-guidelines>.

**Yes**

40. Has a presence/probable absence summer bat survey targeting the northern long-eared bat following the Service's [Range-wide Indiana Bat and Northern Long-Eared Bat Survey Guidelines](#) been conducted within the project area?

**No**

41. Are any of the trees proposed for cutting or other means of knocking down, bringing down, topping, or trimming suitable for northern long-eared bat roosting (i.e., live trees and/or snags  $\geq 3$  inches dbh that have exfoliating bark, cracks, crevices, and/or cavities)?

**Note:** Additional information defining suitable summer habitat for the northern long-eared bat and tricolored bat can be found in Appendix A of the USFWS' Range-wide Indiana Bat and Northern long-eared bat Survey Guidelines at: <https://www.fws.gov/media/range-wide-indiana-bat-and-northern-long-eared-bat-survey-guidelines>.

**Yes**

42. Will any tree cutting/trimming or other knocking or bringing down of trees occur during the **Summer Occupancy season** for northern long-eared bats in the action area? **Note:** Bat activity periods for your state can be found in Appendix 2 of the Service's [Northern long-eared Bat and Tricolored Bat Voluntary Environmental Review Process for Development Projects](#).

Yes

43. Does the action area intersect the tricolored bat species list area?

**Automatically answered**

Yes

44. Is the action area located within 0.5-mile of radius of an entrance/opening to any known tricolored bat hibernacula or winter roost?

Note: The map queried for this question contains proprietary information and cannot be displayed. If you need additional information, please contact your state wildlife agency.

**Automatically answered**

No

45. [Semantic] Is the action area located within 0.25 miles of a culvert that is known to be occupied by northern long-eared or tricolored bats? **Note:** The map queried for this question contains proprietary information and cannot be displayed. If you need additional information, please contact your State wildlife agency.

**Automatically answered**

No

46. Has a presence/probable absence bat survey targeting the [tricolored bat and following the Service's Range-wide Indiana Bat and Northern Long-Eared Bat Survey Guidelines](#) been conducted within the project area?

No

47. Is suitable summer habitat for the tricolored bat present within 1000 feet of project activities?

(If unsure, answer ""Yes."")

**Note:** If there are trees within the action area that may provide potential roosts for tricolored bats (e.g., clusters of leaves in live and dead deciduous trees, Spanish moss (*Tillandsia usneoides*), clusters of dead pine needles of large live pines) answer ""Yes." For a complete definition of suitable summer habitat for the tricolored bat, please see Appendix A in the [Service's Range-wide Indiana Bat and Northern long-eared Bat Survey Guidelines](#).

Yes

48. Do any of the trees proposed for cutting or other means of knocking down, bringing down, topping, or trimming provide potential roosts for tricolored bats (e.g., clusters of leaves in live and dead deciduous trees, Spanish moss (*Tillandsia usneoides*), clusters of dead pine needles of large live pine trees)?

**Note:** Additional information defining suitable summer habitat for the northern long-eared bat and tricolored bat can be found in Appendix A of the USFWS' Range-wide Indiana Bat and Northern long-eared bat Survey Guidelines at: <https://www.fws.gov/media/range-wide-indiana-bat-and-northern-long-eared-bat-survey-guidelines>.

Yes

49. Will any tree cutting/trimming or other knocking or bringing down of trees be conducted during the Pup Season for tricolored bat? **Note:** Bat activity periods for your state can be found in Appendix 2 of the Service's [Northern Long-eared Bat and Tricolored Bat Voluntary Environmental Review Process for Developmental Projects](#).

Yes

50. Do you have any documents that you want to include with this submission?

No

## PROJECT QUESTIONNAIRE

Enter the extent of the action area (in acres) from which trees will be removed - round up to the nearest tenth of an acre. For this question, include the entire area where tree removal will take place, even if some live or dead trees will be left standing.

6

## IPAC USER CONTACT INFORMATION

Agency: Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental

Name: Michael Looney

Address: 79 Elm Street

City: Hartford

State: CT

Zip: 06103

Email: michael.looney@ct.gov

Phone: 8604243530



ADOPTED 2025-2030 LOCATIONAL GUIDE MAP

## BACKGROUND

### **What is the Locational Guide Map?**

Based on a new methodology, this Locational Guide Map seeks to identify activity zones of varying types and intensities across the state. It is intended to be descriptive, not prescriptive, and considered alongside the C&D Plan's policies and implementation measures so that state agencies may better target plans, programs, and actions appropriately.

## What are Activity Zones?

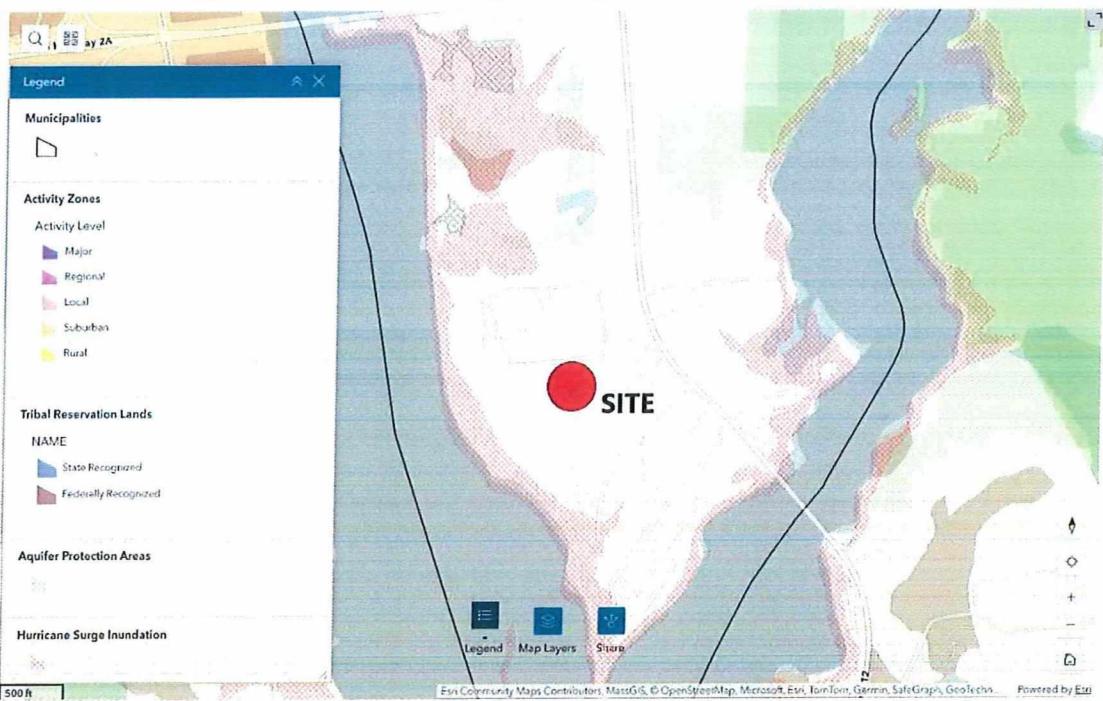
Activity Zones are where employment hubs, medical and educational institutions, civic and commercial uses, cultural attractions, and transportation assets cluster at local scales.

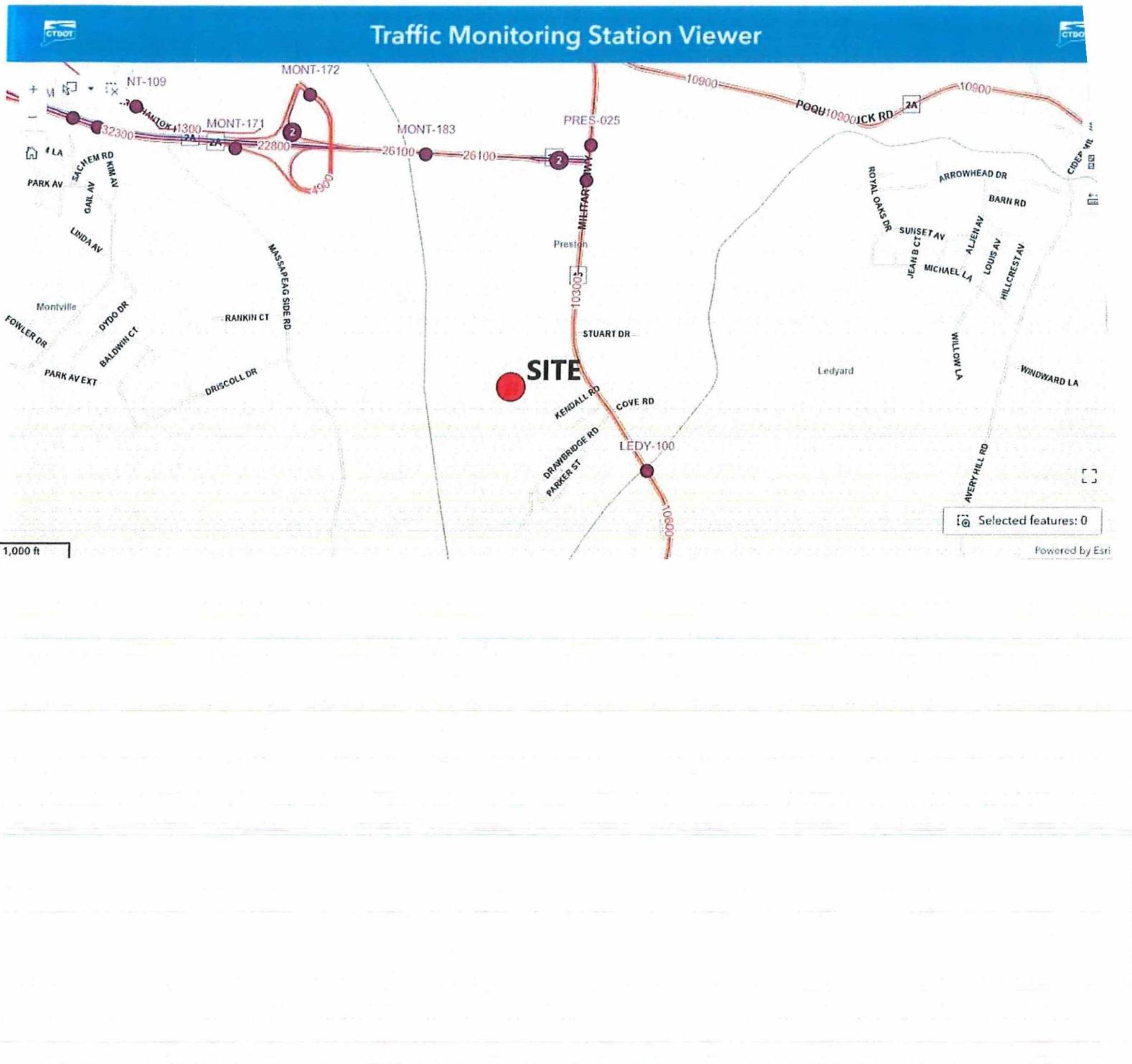
Activity zones were classified based on the types of activity present within them and ranked according to their relative intensities:

- Major
- Regional

## HOW TO USE THIS MAP

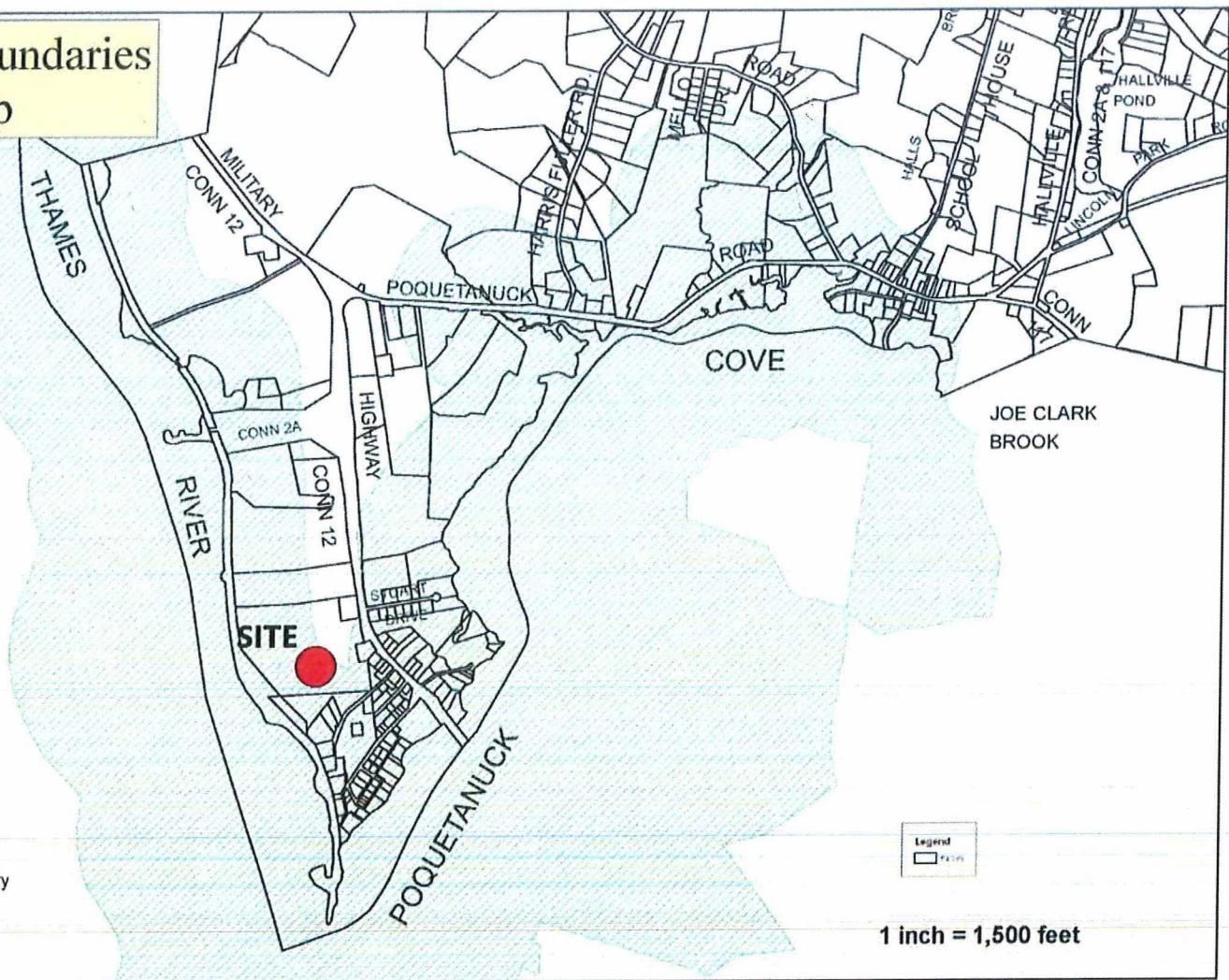
- To view a list of the layers on the LGM, click on the "Map Layers" widget. Once this pane is open, turn off individual layers by hovering over the layer you wish to disable and clicking on the eye symbol on the right. A slash should appear through the eye







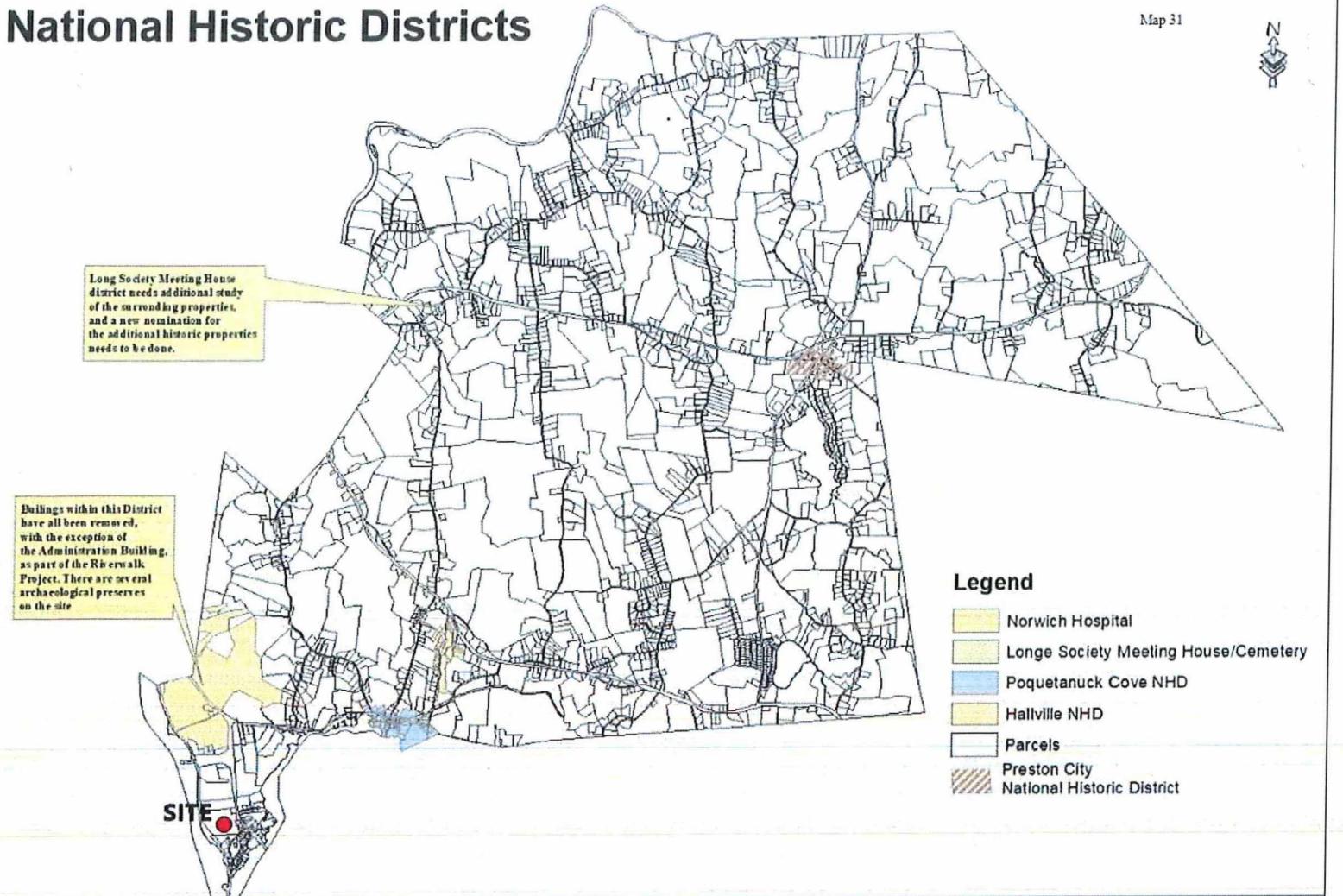
# Coastal Boundaries Map



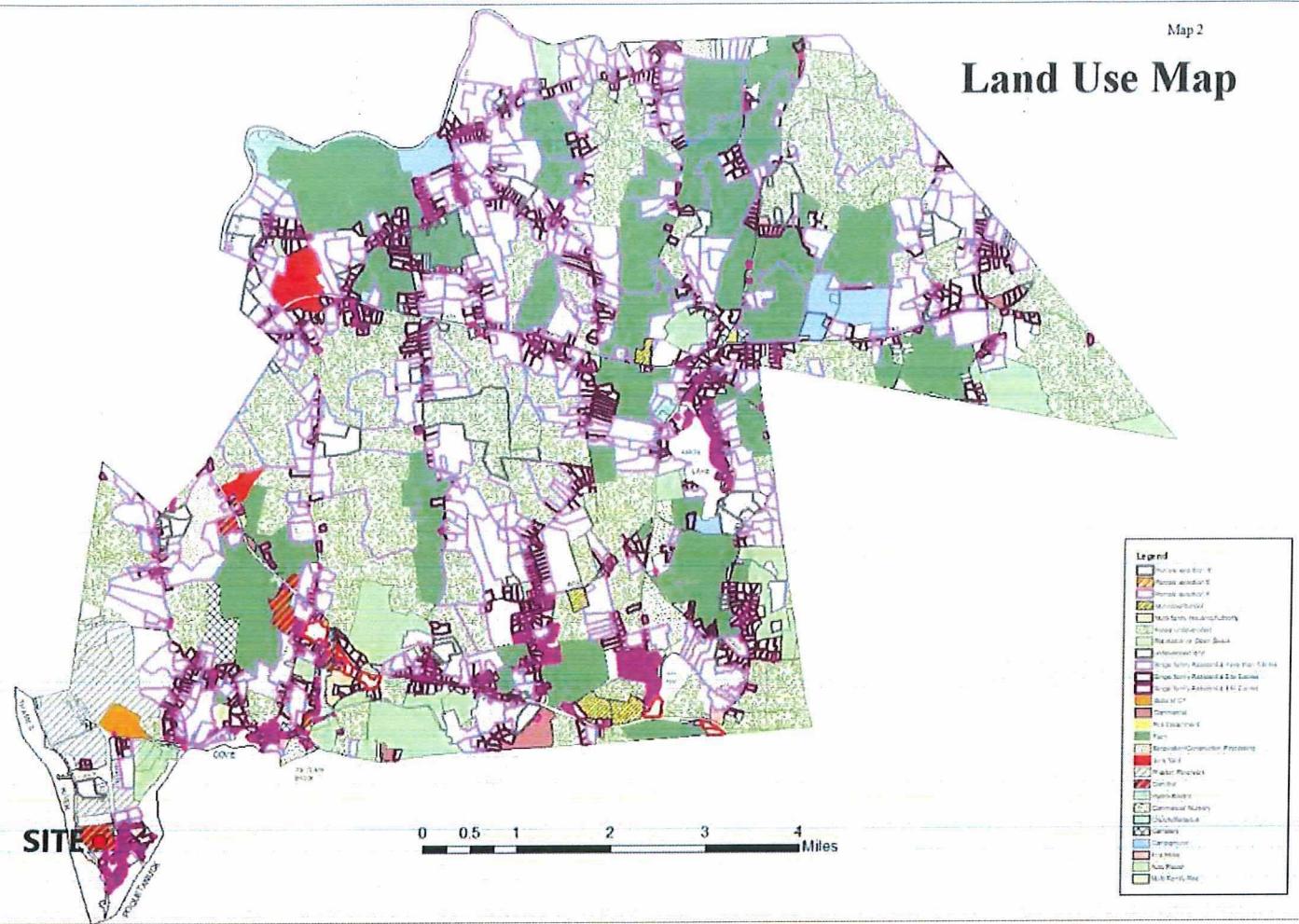
# National Historic Districts

Map 31

N



## Land Use Map



## Natural Diversity Data Base

### Areas

PRESTON, CT  
June 2024

- State and Federal Listed Species
- Critical Habitat
- Town Boundary

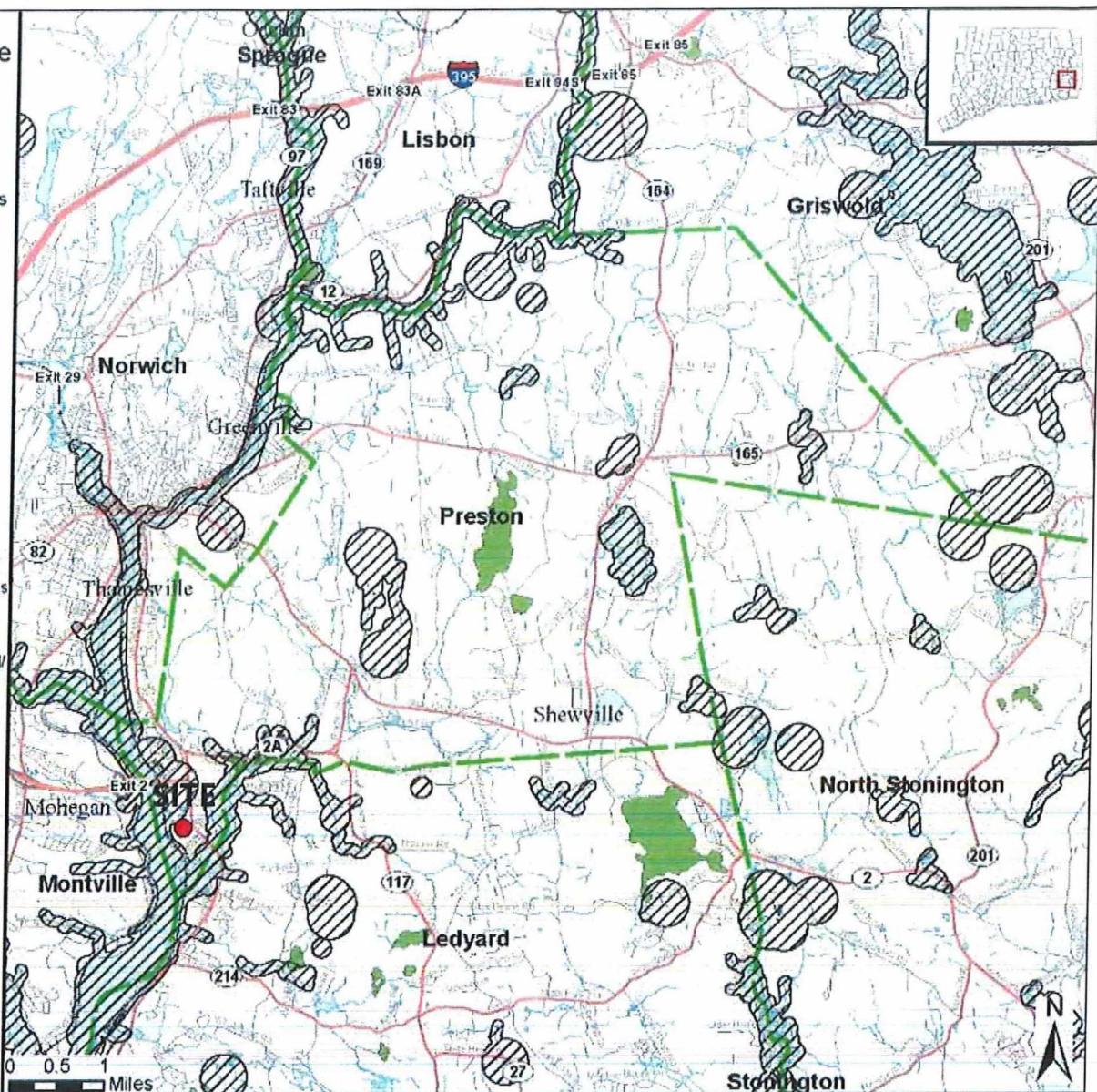
**NOTE:** This map shows known locations of State and Federal Listed Species and Critical Habitats. Information on listed species is collected and compiled by the Natural Diversity Data Base (NDDB) from a variety of data sources. Exact locations of species have been buffered to produce the generalized locations.

This map is intended for use as a preliminary screening tool for conducting a Natural Diversity Data Base Review Request. To use the map, locate the project boundaries and any additional affected areas. If the project is within a hatched area there may be a potential conflict with a listed species. For more information, use DEEP ezFile <https://filings.deep.ct.gov/DEEPPortal/> to submit a Request for Natural Diversity Data Base State Listed Species Review or Site Assessment. More detailed instructions are provided along with the request form on our website, <https://portal.ct.gov/deep-nddbrequest>

Use the CTECO Interactive Map Viewers at <http://cteco.uconn.edu> to more precisely search for and locate a site and to view aerial imagery with NDDB Areas.

**QUESTIONS:** Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP)  
79 Elm St, Hartford, CT 06106  
email: [deep.nddbrequest@ct.gov](mailto:deep.nddbrequest@ct.gov)  
Phone: (860) 424-3011

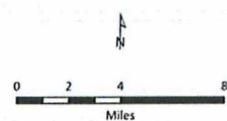
 Connecticut  
Department of Energy &  
Environmental Protection



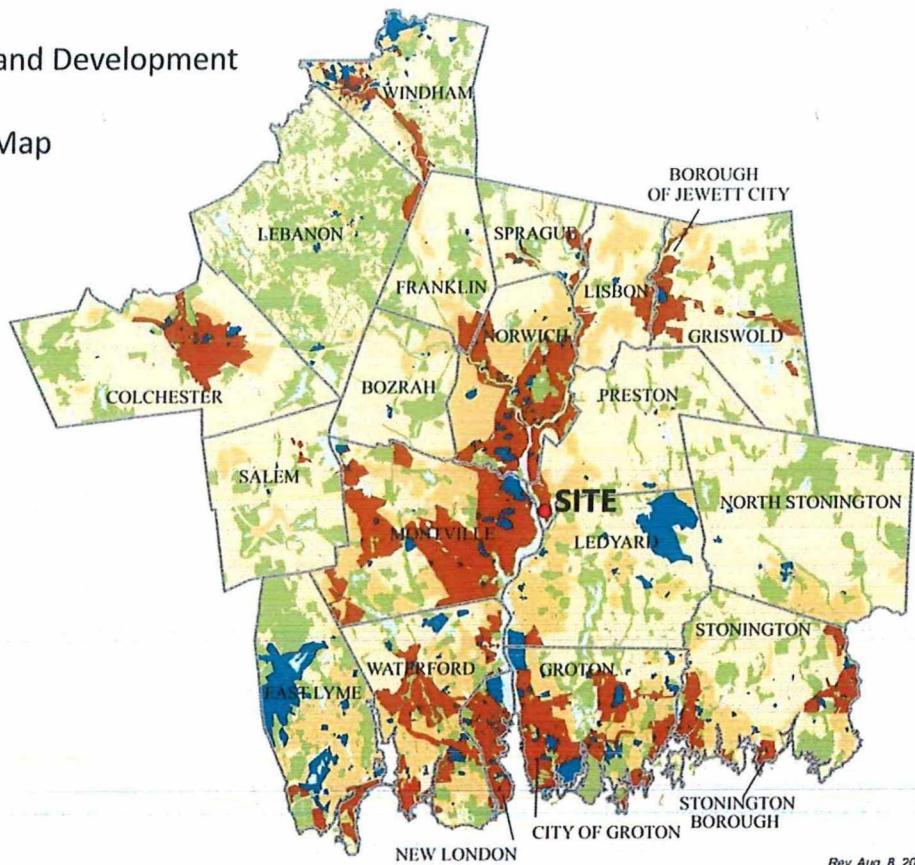
Regional Plan of Conservation and Development  
2017  
Future Land Use Map

Land Use

- Recreation/Open Space/Conservation
- Rural/Low-Intensity
- Suburban/Medium-Intensity
- Urban/High-Intensity
- Institutional/Tribal

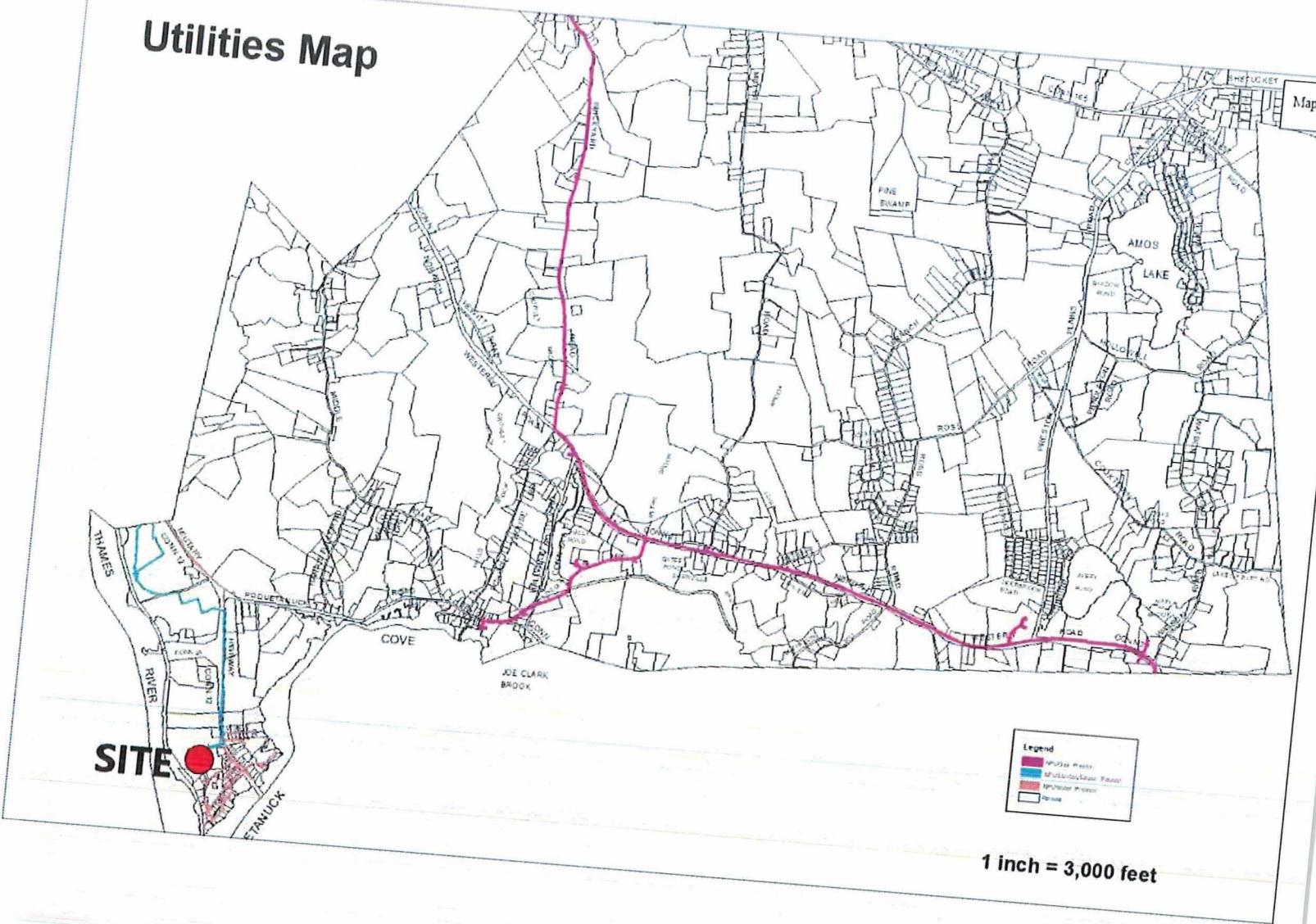


SCCOG Southeastern Connecticut Council of Governments



Rev Aug. 8, 2017

## Utilities Map



## **APPENDIX E**

### **Environmental Impact Evaluation**

**ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT EVALUATION**

**FOR THE BUILDING OF A**  
**REGIONAL COMPOSTING FACILITY FOR**  
**SOUTHEASTERN CONNECTICUT**

**TOWN OF PRESTON – SCRRRA**

**January 2026**

**Final Record Copy**

## **Table of Contents**

1.0 Introduction.....	1
1.1 Background/Purpose & Need.....	1
1.2 Public Involvement.....	2
2.0 Alternatives .....	3
2.1 Alternative 1 – The Proposed Action .....	3
2.2 Alternative 2 – No Action .....	6
3.0 Required Licenses, Permits, and Certifications to Implement the Proposed Action.....	6
4.0 Affected Environment and Environmental Consequences .....	7
4.1 Land Use Planning and Controls.....	7
4.2 Air Quality and Resources .....	10
4.3 Use and Conservation of Energy Resources.....	12
4.4 Cultural, Historic, and Archaeological Resources.....	13
4.5 Noise, Vibration, and Odors .....	14
4.6 Geological and Soil Resources.....	17
4.7 Water Resources .....	19
4.8 Biological Resources.....	22
4.9 Hazardous and Toxic Materials and Waste .....	28
4.10 Transportation Resources.....	29
4.11 Community Services and Utility Resources.....	30
4.12 Environmental Justice.....	30
4.13 Discussion of Committed Resources.....	32
4.14 Mitigation Measures for Potential Adverse Impacts.....	32
5.0 Comments Received Pursuant to RSCA Section 22a-1a-6.....	34

APPENDIX A – Nddb L1 Approval Letter and IPaC Technical Assistance Letter

APPENDIX B – Nationwide Avoidance & Minimization Measures  
for Birds

## **List of Acronyms**

ASP – Aerobic Static Pile  
BMP – Best Management Practices  
CEJST – United States’ Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool  
CEPA – Connecticut Environmental Policy Act  
CFR – Code of Federal Regulations  
CMMS – Comprehensive Materials Management Strategy  
CS – Carbon Disulfide  
CTDOT – State of Connecticut Department of Transportation  
DEEP – State of Connecticut Department of Energy & Environmental Protection  
DEM – Digital Elevation Model  
DMDS – Dimethyl Disulfide  
DMS – Dimethyl Sulfide  
ECD – Environmental Classification Document  
EIE – Environmental Impact Evaluation  
FEMA – Federal Emergency Management Agency  
FIRM – Flood Insurance Rate Map  
GHG – Greenhouse Gases  
H2S – Hydrogen Sulfide  
HAP – Hazardous Air Pollutants  
IWQR – Integrated Water Quality Report  
kWh – Kilowatt Hours  
MMI – Material Management Infrastructure  
MSW – Municipal Solid Waste  
NAAQS – National Ambient Air Quality Standards  
NDDB – National Diversity Database  
NMFS – National Marine Fisheries Service  
NPDES – National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System  
NRCS – Natural Resources Conservation Service  
OPM – State of Connecticut Office of Policy Management  
PILOT – Payment in Lieu of Taxes  
PM – Particulate Matter  
POCD – Plan of Conservation & Development  
RCSA – Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies  
SCRRRA – Southeastern Connecticut Regional Resource Recovery Authority  
SEAT – Southeast Area Transit District  
SECOG – Southeastern Connecticut Council of Governments  
SHPO – State of Connecticut Historic Preservation Office  
SOP – Standard Operating Procedure  
SSO – Source-Separated Organics  
SSURGO – Soil Survey Geographic Database  
TRD – Thames River District  
USEPA – United States Environmental Protection Agency

USFWS – United States Fish & Wildlife Service

VFA – Volatile Fatty Acids

VOC – Volatile Organic Compounds

WTE – Waste-to-Energy

## **1.0 INTRODUCTION**

### **1.1 Background/Purpose & Need**

The Purpose of this Materials Management Infrastructure (MMI) Grant administered by the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) is to provide funds to the Southeastern Connecticut Regional Resource Recovery Authority (SCRRRA) to construct the first large-scale aerobic food waste composting facility in southeastern Connecticut, fulfilling an infrastructure need in a historically underserved region. The facility will utilize an innovative hybrid compost system, combining aerated static pile (ASP) processing with open windrows for curing, resulting in quicker composting times and reduced operational costs. The facility will be situated on approximately six (6) acres of land owned by the SCRRRA at 132 Military Highway (Route 12) in the Town of Preston.

With this facility, SCRRRA will provide the infrastructure to create a sustainable, scalable system for diverting Source Separated Organics (SSO) from the Municipal Solid Waste (MSW) stream, to be turned into a high-quality soil amendment – compost – for farmers and gardeners. Creation of this facility will save towns money in the face of rising waste management costs, reduce greenhouse gas emissions produced by trucks and landfilling, sequester carbon in the natural process of composting, help alleviate the state's waste disposal crisis by reducing MSW tonnages, and help advance progress towards the statewide 60% diversion rate set forth in Connecticut's Comprehensive Materials Management Strategy (CMMS). The project will be completed in general conformance with the MMI grant application as submitted by the Contractor and further described in a Grant Assistance Agreement to be executed by and between DEEP and SCRRRA.

This EIE is intended to assess any potential environmental impacts of the proposed action being funded under this specific MMI Grant award. The review and detailed analysis preset herein utilized publicly available quantitative and qualitative information for both the existing and proposed conditions. If during the course of implementing the proposed action described in this EIE re-evaluation of the project results in modifications to the proposed action, it is not anticipated that minor changes, amendments, or adjustments would require the development of a new EIE.

In accordance with the regulations of the Connecticut Environmental Policy Act Sections 22a-1a-1 to 22a-1a-12, the findings of the environmental review are summarized below.

The agency contact for this project is:

Michael T. Looney  
Connecticut Department of Energy & Environmental Protection  
79 Elm Street, Hartford, CT 06106-5127

Phone: 860-424-3530  
Email: [michael.looney@ct.gov](mailto:michael.looney@ct.gov)

### **1.2 Public Involvement**

Given that the proposed action would constitute a state-funded action that could have impacts on the environment, the Connecticut Environmental Policy Act (CEPA) was investigated to determine its pertinence to the proposed action and the process for appropriate environmental review and noticing. DEEP operates its CEPA process under the Generic Environmental Classification Document (ECD) as promulgated by the Office of Policy and Management (OPM) for use by state agencies that do not have their own agency-specific ECD. Examination of this document and the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies (RCSA), Sections 22a-1a-1 to 22a-1a-12, determined that a Notice of Scoping needed to be prepared, followed by a Post Scoping Notice after the required 30 day public comment period. The next steps after the Post Scoping Notice were to be determined by the comments received during the public comment period and the specifics of the CEPA statutes and regulations.

In the May 20, 2025 issue of the Environmental Monitor, a Notice of Scoping for Building a Regional Composting Facility for Southeastern Connecticut was published. The public comment period concluded on June 19, 2025, and one comment was submitted to DEEP during that timeframe. The comment was made by the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) about possible archaeological impacts from the proposed action. After being provided with site location and information, and evidence of previous site disturbance, SHPO indicated that they had no concerns about archaeological impacts and that further analysis was not warranted.

Upon review of the ECD, it was determined that as a “regional solid waste facility,” the proposed action necessitated the completion and publishing of an Environmental Impact Evaluation (EIE). On May 20, 2025, DEEP published a Notice of Scoping in the Environmental Monitor to solicit public comments. During the scoping period, one comment was received regarding clarification of the location of the project; please see Section 5.0 for a summary of this comment and response. In the August 5, 2025 issue of the Environmental Monitor, a Post-Scoping Notice for Building a Regional Composting Facility for Southeastern Connecticut was published, which explained that an EIE was being prepared for the proposed action, as the current ECD lists regional solid waste facilities as requiring an EIE. This Draft EIE is available for public review and comment.

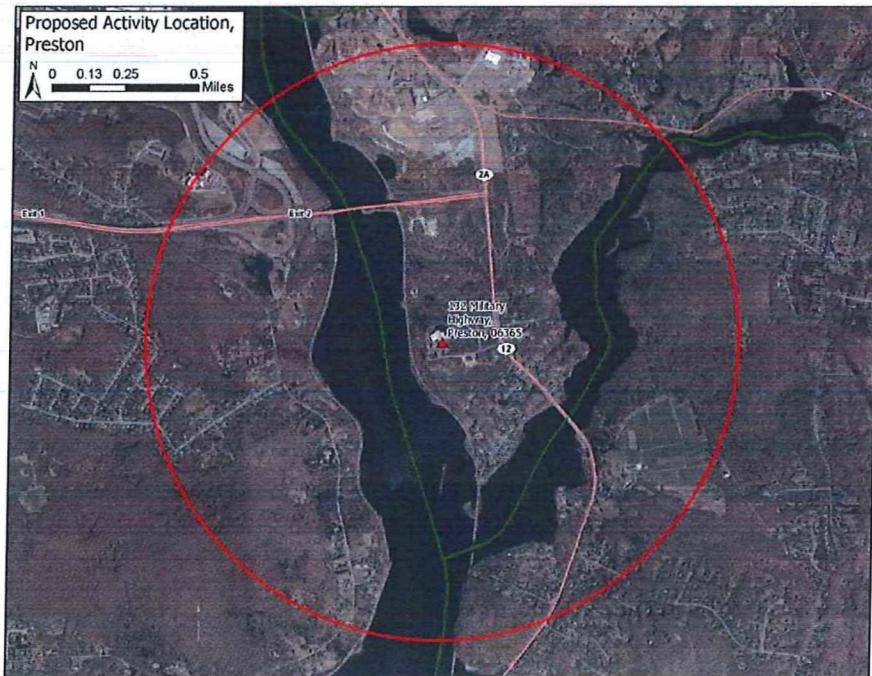
## **2.0 ALTERNATIVES**

This section describes the alternatives considered for the regional compost facility. DEEP has evaluated the following alternatives as part of its review:

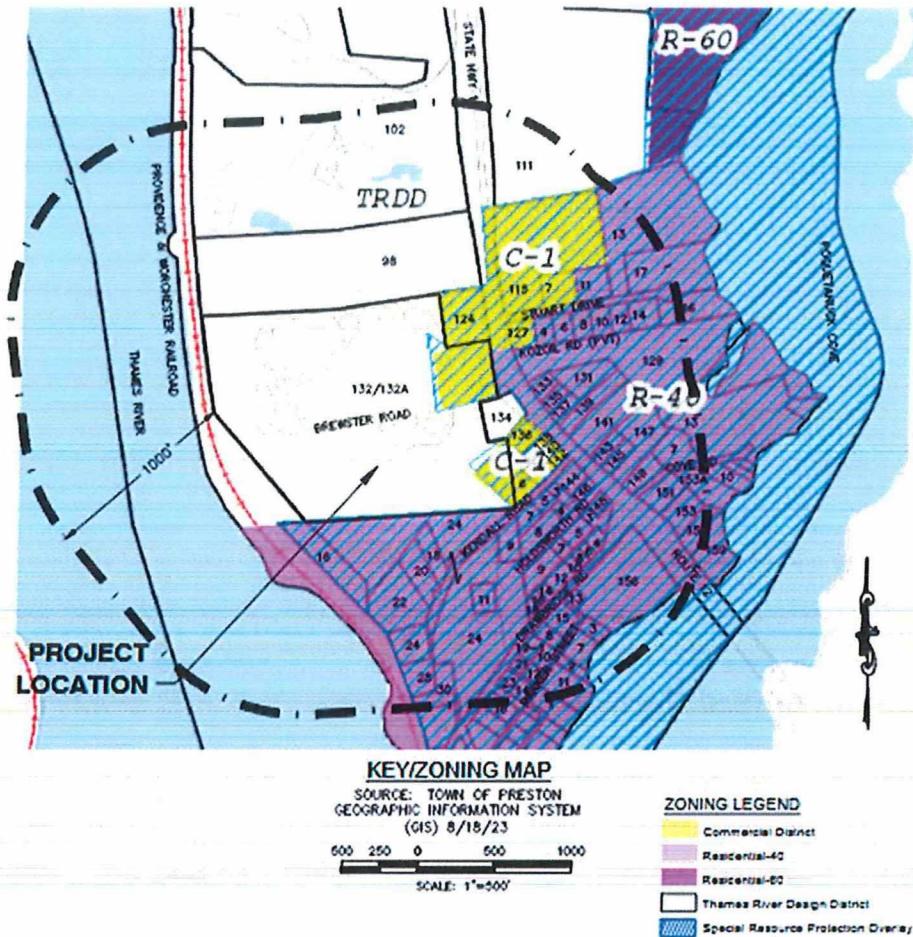
- **Proposed Action:** Execute the grant assistance agreement for the SCRRRA Regional Composting Facility.
- **No Action:** Not execute the grant for the SCRRRA Regional Composting Facility.

### **2.1 Alternative 1 – The Proposed Action (as provided in SCRRRA's MMI grant application)**

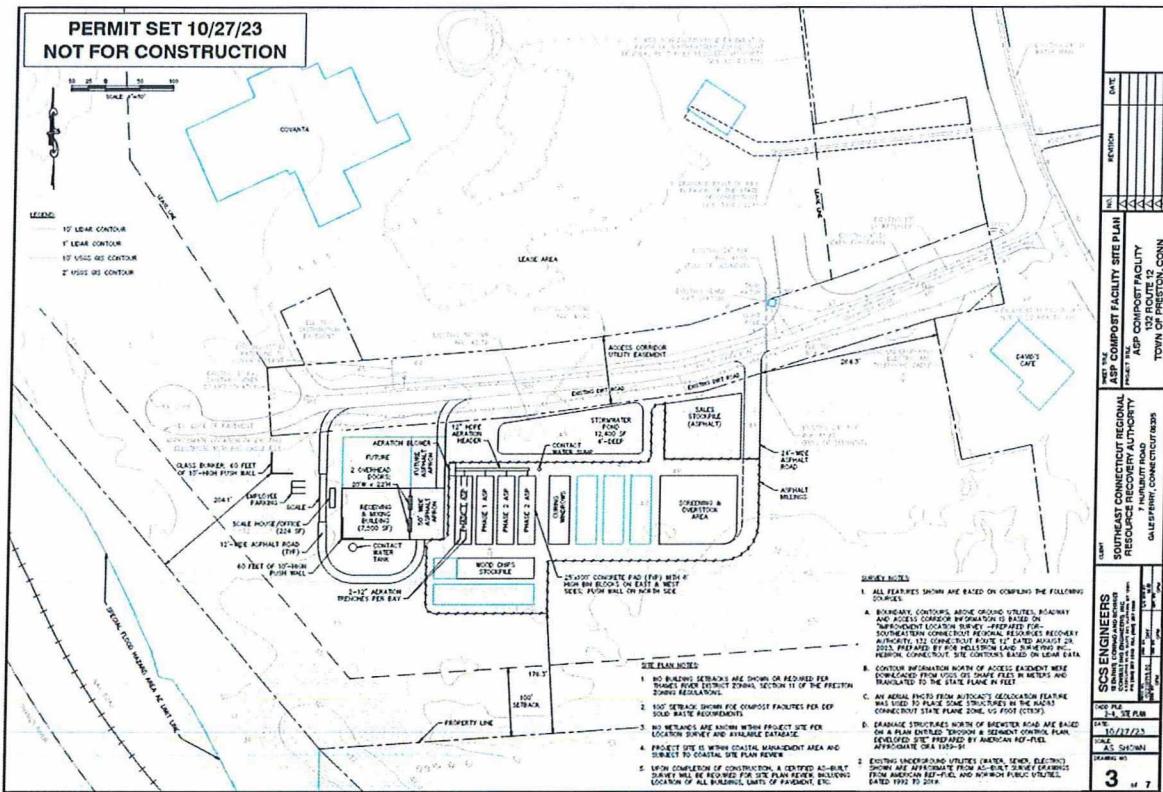
SCRRRA proposes to construct and operate southeastern Connecticut's first commercial-scale food waste composting facility. The facility will utilize an innovative hybrid compost system, combining aerated static pile (ASP) processing with open windrows for curing, resulting in quicker composting times and reduced operational costs. The facility will be situated on approximately six (6) acres of land owned by the Authority at 132 Military Highway (Route 12) in the Town of Preston. Local zoning approval for the facility has been acquired and the required state-level solid waste permit application is currently under review by DEEP. A robust environmental justice public participation plan has also been developed and approved by DEEP, in consideration of Preston's status as a distressed municipality, and all twelve of the member municipalities are in full support of the project, as evidenced by their letters of support which were submitted with the grant application.



PROJECT ADDRESS:  
132 ROUTE 12  
PRESTON, CONNECTICUT 06365



The facility will include a receiving area, a processing area, and a storage/sales area. The receiving area will be located on the west side of the property and will consist of a covered building on a concrete slab with a roll-up door. Upon receipt, the food scraps will be blended with a carbon source (mulch, leaf waste) and water as necessary. This immediate, daily step of processing incoming feedstock, undertaken inside a closed receiving building, will minimize odors. The blended mixture will then be placed in a concrete ASP bay, complete with forced aeration, temperature monitoring, and the provision of moisture as determined via continuous data inputs. Each bay will be operated at sufficient temperatures to sterilize the compost, rendering any pathogens inert and killing any unwanted seeds.



After two to three weeks in the ASP bay, the mixture will be moved to open windrows to further cure. By this stage, the compost will look and feel like rich, black soil. After about two months of curing, the finished compost product will be moved to the designated area for screening, storage, and sale to the public. The finished compost will be sold at market prices and will greatly benefit local farmers and gardeners, who currently source their fertilizers and compost from out of region and/or out of state. A portion will be designated for disadvantaged communities at a reduced price, including free compost for a limited quantity, to be used for community gardens and beautification projects.

Based on state and locally generated data, it is anticipated that most of the facility's feedstocks will be sourced within the region or New London County. SCRRRA's twelve municipal transfer stations have an abundance of yard and wood waste which SCRRRA will grind for use in the facility. SCRRRA will collaborate with experienced organics haulers like Black Earth Compost and Blue Earth Compost to collect source-separated organics (SSO), targeting larger institutional, commercial, and residential SSO generators, as well as smaller generators, such as municipal transfer stations and curbside pickup.

The proposed project will:

- establish compost infrastructure that will facilitate diversion of approximately 5,500 tons annually of food waste from the MSW stream for 25+ years;

- save towns money by lowering waste disposal costs, forecasted to reach an estimated annual savings of \$850,000 annually;
- establish large-scale capacity for organics recycling;
- reduce greenhouse gas emissions created by incineration, trucking of ash out of the region, and trucking of purchased soil amendments into the region;
- sequester carbon in the natural process of composting;
- provide a local source of soil amendment/fertilizer alternative, some of which will be provided free to disadvantaged communities for their community gardens;
- reduce the amount of waste being sent to incinerators and landfills; and
- educate local communities about organics recycling and compost.

## **2.2 Alternative 2 – No Action**

The No Action Alternative consists of not constructing the proposed regional composting facility. Given the realities of the Connecticut waste management infrastructure network, the No Action Alternative does not meet the purpose and need for waste reduction and waste diversion from the region's and the State of Connecticut's waste streams. Food waste diversion will be further constrained in the region; although small local composting operations will continue to function, it will be very difficult to expand and increase waste diversion opportunities. Without increased capacity in waste diversion infrastructure, the region will need to continue incinerating its waste at roughly the same rate as in 2025 for the foreseeable future, incurring the cumulative environmental impacts associated with this form of disposal.

Additionally, being unable to utilize the MMI grant would have negative impacts on both the Town of Preston and the SCRRRA region. First, if the 14,000 tons of food scraps and wood waste that will be processed through the proposed action needed to be incinerated instead of being composted, residents of the town and region would be impacted by the additional emissions from the WTE plant, especially particulate matter PM 10 and PM 2.5. Second, the towns within the SCRRRA region would be financially impacted by the differential between the higher cost of disposing of the food scraps via incineration versus the lower cost of composting.

Utilizing the MMI grant now for this infrastructure project is important and essential to enhancing the waste management system in southeastern Connecticut and prevent negative impacts from additional incineration of waste, and missing this opportunity would be a significant financial and public health setback. Therefore, DEEP has determined that the No Action Alternative is not a feasible alternative.

## **3.0 Required Licenses, Permits, and Certifications to Implement the Proposed Action**

It is expected that in order to operate the proposed regional composting facility in Preston, SCRRRA will need to obtain a DEEP Permit for Construction and Operation of a Solid Waste

Facility from the department's Waste Engineering and Enforcement Division. The project will also require a Discharge of Stormwater and Dewatering Wastewater Associated with Construction Activities – General Permit Registration, an NDDB Review Request (endangered, threatened, and special concern species and habitats), and an Individual NPDES Wastewater Permit for Discharge of Leachate or Co-Mingled Stormwater. In addition, local building permits will be required prior to site disturbance and construction activities commencing. Land use/zoning permits for the project have already been obtained by SCRRRA.

#### **4.0 Affected Environment and Environmental Consequences**

The following subsections address the various environmental and development areas of consideration and potential impacts associated with the proposed action. Specific mitigation measures for identified impacts stemming from the execution of the proposed action are described as applicable, inclusive of the necessity to adopt such mitigation measures to avoid any potential significant impacts.

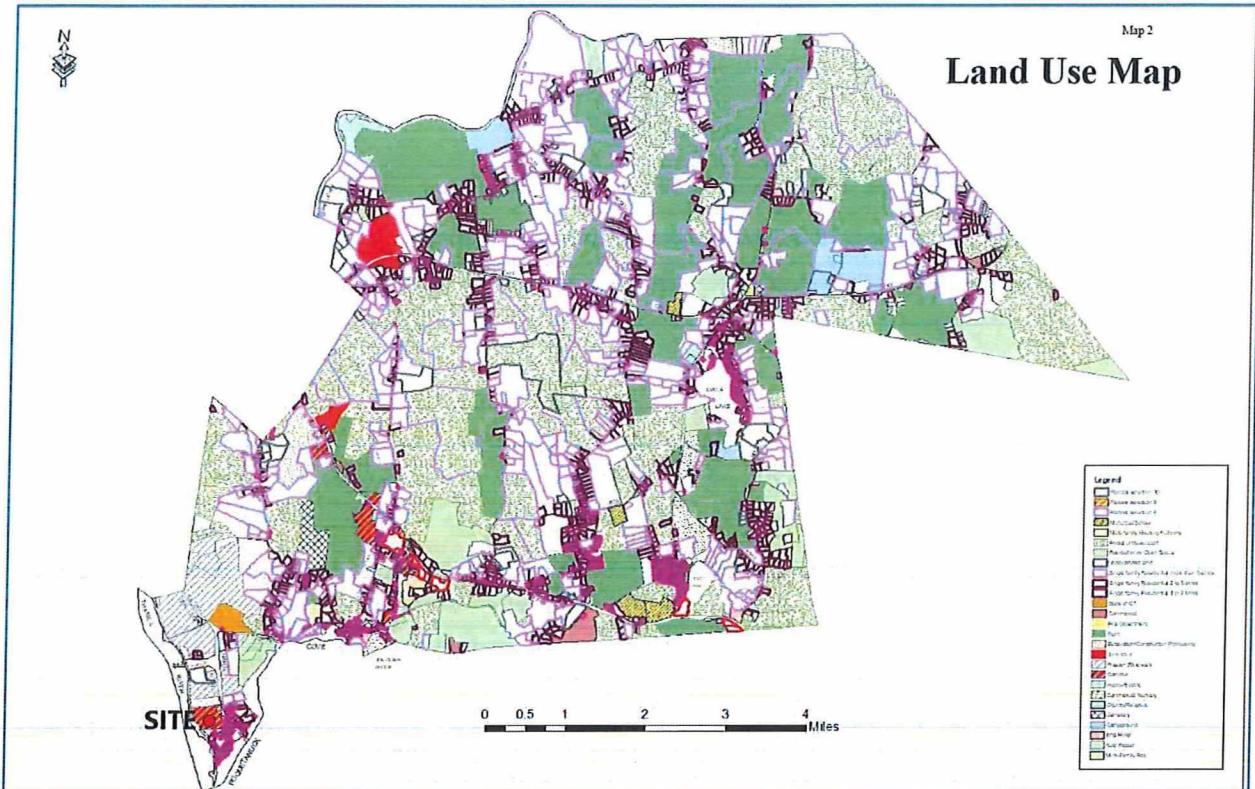
#### **4.1 Land Use Planning and Controls**

The site of the proposed action is located within the Thames River District (TRD) zone under the Town's Zoning Regulations. The Zoning Regulations note that "the purpose of this district is to promote an energy efficient, pedestrian friendly, planned mixed-use development that includes a variety of commercial uses and will in its design consider the zones' unique locational features such as the campus setting, historic assets, and proximity to State Highways, rail line, the Thames River, natural resources, public utilities, and area attractions."<sup>1</sup> As such, these existing land use regulations provide significant control over potential areas of environmental impact as a result of the proposed action.

In the Town of Preston's 2024 Plan of Conservation and Development, the Existing Land Use Map has the site of the proposed action identified as "Commercial/Industrial," as proposed site shares a parcel with the existing ReWorld waste to energy plant. In reviewing the Goals & Objectives of the Plan of Conservation Development, the proposed action is consistent with the Plan and its recommendations for the future of the Town, with one specific action item related to the Coastal Management Area that is directly applicable to the site of the proposed action (discussed further in Section 4.7 – Water Resources below.)

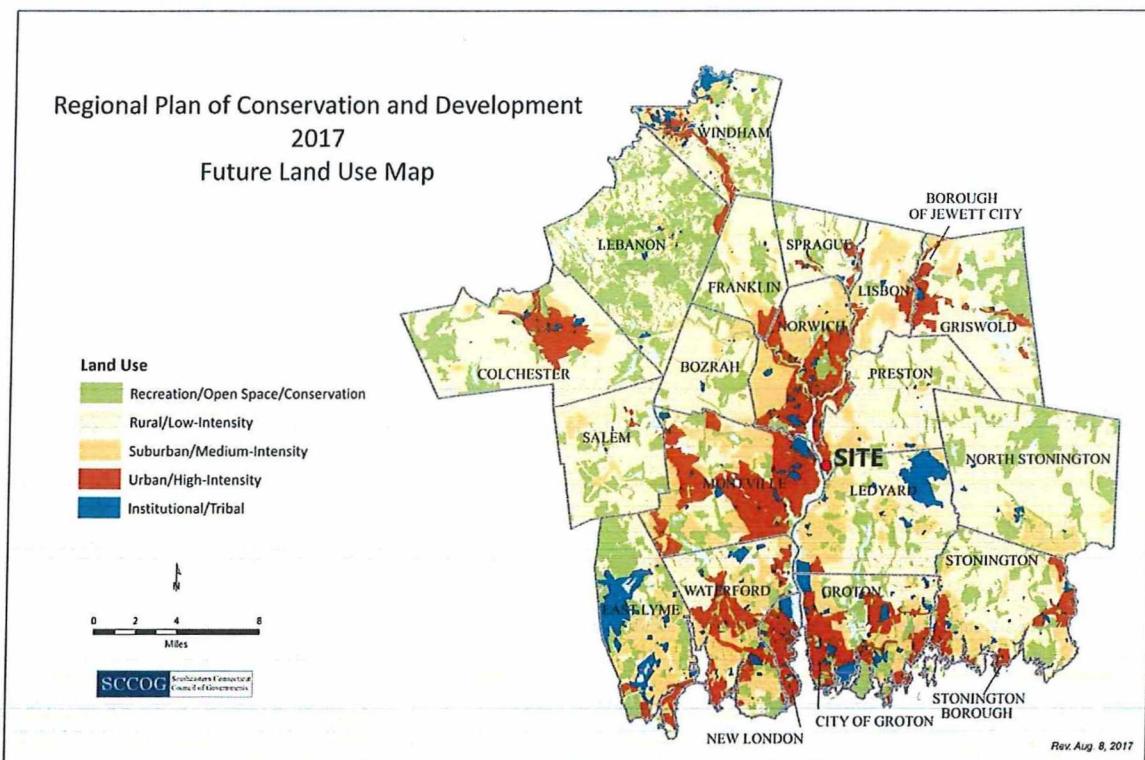
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<sup>1</sup> Town of Preston Zoning Regulations, Section 11.1, pg. 38.



The 2017 Southeastern Connecticut Council of Governments (SECOG) Regional Plan of Conservation and Development (POCD) is the regional planning document that provides guidance to the Town of Preston and impacts the development of the site of the proposed action. Under the 2017 Regional POCD, the Future Land Use Map identifies the site of the proposed action as “Institutional/Tribal” and the surrounding area as “Urban/High-Intensity.” As a point of reference, “Institutional/Tribal” is defined in the POCD as *“lands that belong to federally-recognized sovereign tribal nations, federal, state, or local governments, or educational institutions. They are categorized together here because these properties have similar characteristics – they are often extremely large parcels used for many different uses, and are often owned by the same entity for multiple decades.”*<sup>2</sup> This designation is reflective of the parcel underlying the site of the proposed action being owned by SCRRRA and the future use being in alignment with SCRRRA waste management operations. As such, the proposed action is consistent with the Regional POCD’s future development objectives and is not inconsistent with any of the POCD’s identified goals and strategies for regional development.

<sup>2</sup> 2017 Southeastern Connecticut Council of Governments Regional Plan of Conservation and Development, pg. 149.

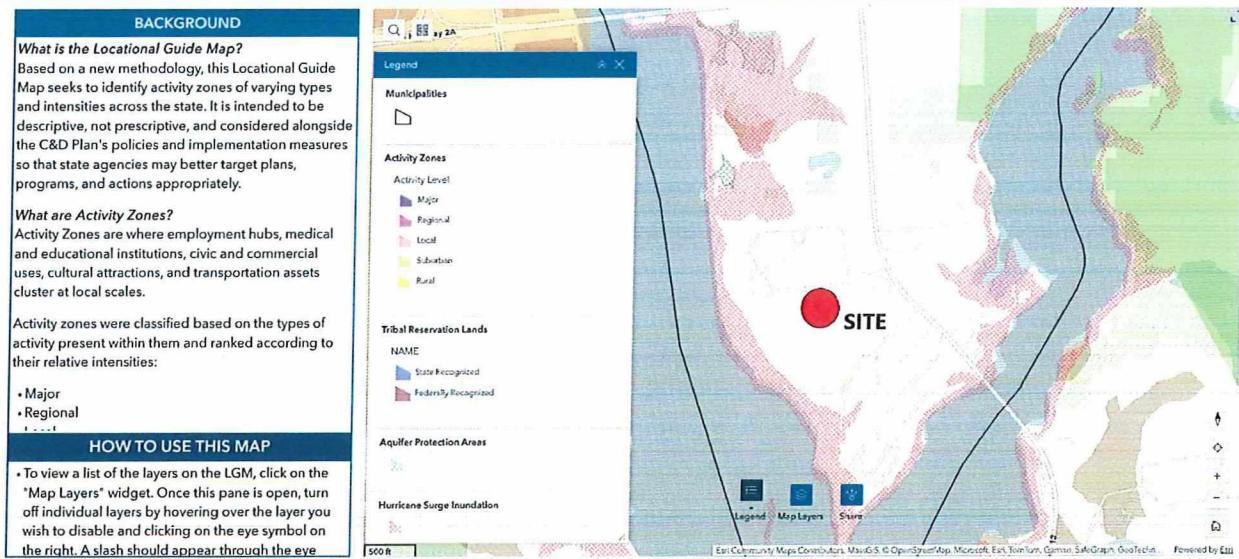


The Connecticut Conservation and Development Policies Plan, 2025-2030 (C&D Plan) was adopted by the Connecticut General Assembly via House Joint Resolution No.67 on March 5, 2025. The Adopted 2025-2030 Locational Guide Map does not indicate any specific Activity Zone designation for the site of the proposed action. In the associated text section, the Plan notes that *“it is important to note that areas falling outside of these activity zones are not devoid of activity – rather, that the activity present there may be of a different nature, density, and/or intensity. For example, areas outside of activity zones may be more lightly developed and/or consist of mostly residential or agricultural uses. As this iteration of the LGM is not intended to be used for site-specific decision-making, and is meant to be descriptive, rather than prescriptive, location outside of an activity zone does not preclude state investment. Rather, it should merely help agencies contemplate the appropriateness of certain actions, such as large-scale development, in places that may not have the density of resources to support such development in a sustainable manner.”*<sup>3</sup> Given the fact that the site of the proposed action shares a parcel with a pre-existing waste-to-energy plant and is relative low-intensity in its use, the proposed action meets the threshold of appropriateness. In addition, the site of the proposed action is located in one of the few areas of Preston where public sewer service and public water service are available, further supporting the location as an appropriate location for development in the Town.

<sup>3</sup> Connecticut Conservation and Development Policies Plan, 2025-2030, pg. 37.



## ADOPTED 2025-2030 LOCATIONAL GUIDE MAP



The proposed action is either consistent with or not inconsistent with the policies and implementation measures identified for the State of Connecticut in the C&D Plan, including:

- Promote reduction of greenhouse gas emissions
- Develop coordinated capacity and infrastructure for solid waste management that provides efficient, equitable and sustainable systems that incorporate source reduction, recycling and composting
- Increasing capacity and sustainability of in-state management of Municipal Solid Waste

### **4.2 Air Quality and Resources**

Impacts on air quality are determined by analyzing current environmental characteristics in comparison to the potential emissions from the proposed action. The focus is placed on whether the proposed action will cause emissions concentration to exceed any NAAQS or is additive to a present NAAQS violation, delays the attainment of any NAAQS within a reasonable timeframe, significantly increases GHG emissions above current levels, or impairs visibility of any "Class I" national park or wilderness area.

According to data from USEPA and DEEP, all of the State of Connecticut is currently in attainment for all criteria air pollutants with the exception of ozone. The site of the proposed action is located in the Greater Connecticut Ozone non-attainment area; this area, encompassing Hartford, Litchfield, New London, Tolland, and Windham counties, is also classified as "moderate" nonattainment for ozone. In addition, the Greater Connecticut area was recently reclassified from "moderate" to "serious" nonattainment for the 2015 ozone NAAQS, according to the Federal Register. This reclassification was

requested by the State and indicates how difficult meeting federal ozone standards has been for the larger region.

The Clean Air Act also provides a heightened level of air quality protection for “Class I” areas, which are specifically-identified national park and wilderness areas in the nation provided with special protection under the Clean Air Act. The Town of Preston is not in a Class I Protected Area under the Clean Air Act, nor are there any Class I areas within the larger SCRRRA region.

The construction of the regional compost facility will involve site preparation and construction activity. Land development typically causes dust and particulate matter (PM), including PM 2.5 and PM 10 from “fugitive” or non-point emission sources. Smaller amounts of other air pollutants generated by the operation of construction equipment are also present. PM 10 and PM 2.5 emissions from construction can vary greatly based upon the level of activity during a particular timeframe and site-specific characteristics such as soil composition and weather. Larger diameter dust particles (greater than 30 microns) tend to be deposited in and around the area of disturbance, while smaller diameter particles (PM 10 and PM 2.5) remain airborne until deposited through weather effects and are more likely to have human health impacts.

Construction of the proposed composting facility will have very minor and localized impacts on air quality. To minimize any impacts, all construction vehicles must have effective emission controls and must be operated in compliance with BMPs such as reducing vehicle speeds, anti-idling requirements, etc. Impacts to air quality during construction will be localized, short-term, and less than significant with the implementation of BMPs.

Table 1 provides the estimated greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions savings from increased diversion of approximately 5,500 tons of source-separated organic material (SSOM) and 8,500 tons of wood waste per year from the incinerator in Preston. To the extent that the region ships its municipal solid waste to out-of-state landfills, the emissions savings from the composting of food scraps will be even more positive. EPA’s WARM v.16 model has been used for calculating emissions in Table 1.

**TABLE 1**

<b>Proposed Action Total Organic Waste (Food Scraps &amp; Wood) Composted GHG Emissions</b>	<b>2027 Proposed Action Projection*</b>
Baseline (Landfill)	N/A
Incineration	(1,216.33)
Proposed Action (Composting)	(1,736.94)
<b>Incremental GHG Emissions (MTCO<sub>2</sub>E):</b>	<b>(520.61)</b>

\*GHG Emissions Savings in Metric Tons of carbon dioxide equivalent (MTCO2E).

Source: U.S. EPA, Waste Reduction Model Tool, Version 16.

As this table indicates, the proposed action will reduce greenhouse gas emissions by over 520 metric tons annually as compared to incineration of the food scraps and wood waste, and by over 1,736 metric tons annually as compared to landfilling out of state.

The Town of Preston is home to two stationary source air emitters: the Tunnel Hydroelectric Station and the ReWorld Southeastern Connecticut Resource Recovery waste to energy (WTE) facility, which is located directly across the street from the site of the Proposed Action. Table 2 below illustrates the air emission characteristics of these two facilities.

**TABLE 2**

Facility	VOC	NOx	CO	PM10-PRI	PM2.5-PRI	SO2	NH3	Lead
Tunnel Station	0.00	0.91	0.00	0.02	0.02	0.14	0	0.0000
ReWorld WTE Plant	0.36	367.29	69.87	1.21	0	24.47	5.01	0.0271

*Source: CT DEEP, 2017 Periodic Emissions Inventory, Table C-1: 2017 Annual Emissions of Connecticut Point Sources.*

The construction of the compost facility's effect on air quality will be very minor, localized, and short-term, with no significant impacts. Cumulative impacts in air quality in the Town of Kent are expected to be low, since neither the proposed action nor the "no action" scenario would have considerable air quality impacts in the area, an area marked by generally good air quality.

#### **4.3 Use and Conservation of Energy Resources**

Energy expenditure for the proposed action has two components: construction phase and operations phase. In terms of the construction phase, energy consumption would primarily include power for construction vehicles, production of project components, and assembly of these project components at the site of the proposed action. These energy expenditures will be quite minor in scale. In terms of the operations phase, the energy expenditures would consist of resources to operate the composting facility and equipment supporting the operations.

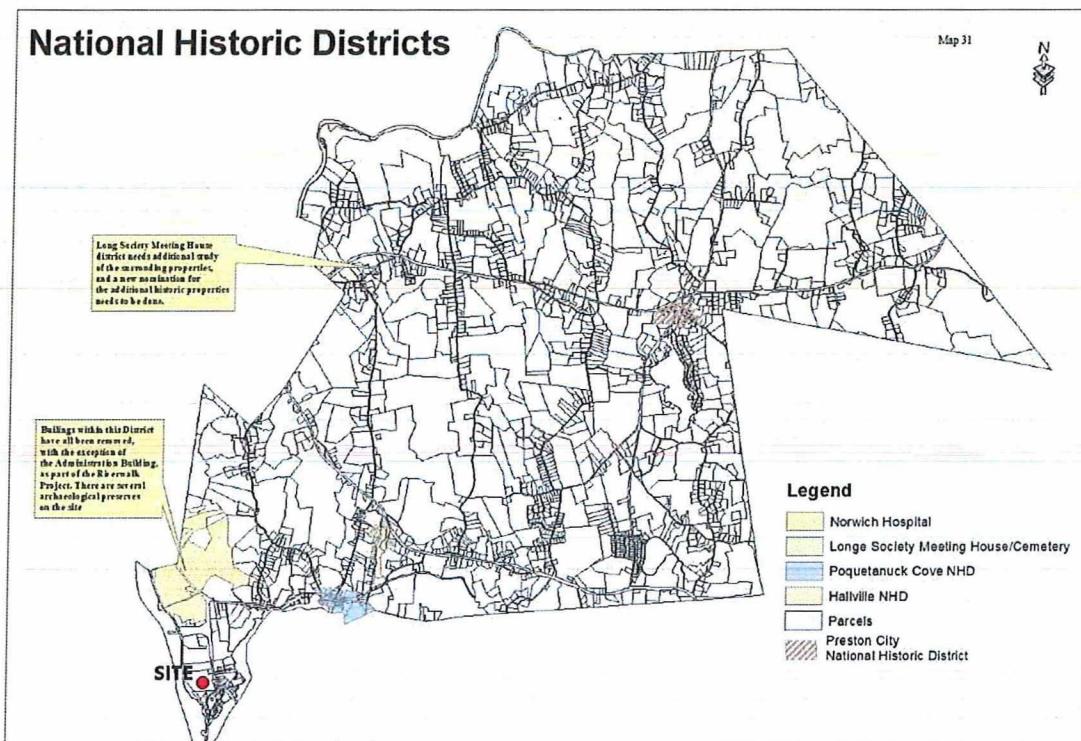
One study estimated the total energy requirements for ASP composting at 18.3 kWh per ton of feedstock, which included 15.00 kWh/ton for fuel and 3.3 kWh/ton for electricity. Other studies have reported figures ranging from 25.2 kWh per metric ton to 30-60 kWh per metric ton. Using the first metric, at 14,000 tons of annual feedstock, the proposed action would draw approximately 256,200 kWh annually. This figure is equivalent to the energy required to power roughly 24 single family homes per year, based upon the US Energy Information Administration's estimate of 10,500 kWh/year for a residential household. Therefore, within the scale of regional energy markets, the impact of the proposed action on energy resources is expected to be less than significant.

ASP (Aerated Static Pile) composting facilities like the one in the proposed action generally have lower power consumption compared to other methods like turned windrow composting due to reduced need for turning the piles. Such facilities can also

focus on energy efficiency through controlled aeration, efficient duct design, and appropriate fan selection.

#### **4.4 Cultural, Historic, and Archaeological Resources**

Portions of the Town of Preston are designated as historical areas; however, the site of the proposed action is outside of these areas and would not impact historical or cultural resources. The Historic and Archaeological Resources section of the 2024 Town of Preston Plan of Conservation and Development identifies these areas as further north and east from the site of the proposed action, specifically in Hallville, Preston City, Poquetanuck Cove, and the area around the former Norwich Hospital campus, which all have National Historic District designations. All of the proposed work would be outside of these areas and in relatively recently disturbed areas of the subject property.



From an archaeological standpoint, the 2024 POCD identifies the areas in Preston that have the highest archaeological sensitivity as being in close proximity Poquetanuck Cove; Dickerman's Brook; Hallville and Gay Ponds; and Shewville Brook. According to the POCD, *"Eighteen (18) prehistoric Native American camp and village sites have been discovered in areas near Poquetanuck Cove and have been recorded in the Connecticut Archaeological Site Files and Maps. Discoveries of Native American artifacts also have been reported on the Norwich State Hospital site eastward along Poquetanuck Cove and northward along Dickerman's Brook. Types of artifacts recovered from these sites include stone axes for felling trees and adzes for making*

*dugout canoes from large logs. Remnants of larger village sites are also located in this area.”<sup>4</sup>*

Consideration was given to the location of the site of the proposed action being in a part of Connecticut that has a long history of indigenous people's settlement, activity, and distribution of artifacts. During the pre-scoping public comment phase of the CEPA process, a comment was made by the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) about possible archaeological impacts from the proposed action. After being provided with site location and information, and evidence of previous site disturbance, SHPO indicated that they had no concerns about archaeological impacts and that further analysis was not warranted. Therefore, no significant impacts are expected to cultural, historic, and/or archaeological resources as a result of the proposed action.

#### **4.5 Noise, Vibration, and Odors**

**Noise and Vibrations:** Construction activities for the proposed aerated static pile (ASP) composting facility will create low to moderate levels of noise; however, these noise levels would return to baseline conditions upon completion of project construction. The temporary impacts would be the result of heavy equipment operation. The construction activities would occur during daytime hours and on weekdays when noise levels of a low to moderate range would be more frequently expected and better tolerated.

In an effort to minimize any potential annoyances caused by a temporary increase in noise levels, construction activities should be limited to between 7:00am and 10:00pm. This mitigation measure would further ensure no significant impacts as a result of a short-term increase in noise. Given the site of the proposed action being approximately 400 feet distant from the nearest residential properties, construction noise is not expected to disturb residents and other sensitive noise receptors above current levels. The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) data indicates that typical construction equipment and vehicles such as front-end loaders, dump trucks, bulldozers, and excavators have a maximum noise level generally between 80 decibels and 85 decibels at a distance of 50 feet. To calculate noise at a given distance (400 feet from residential properties) based upon this information, the following equation is used:

$$dB_1 = dB_0 + 20\log(d_0/d_1), \text{ where:}$$

$dB_1$  = the new sound level

$dB_0$  = the original sound level

$d_0$  = is the original distance from the source

$d_1$  = is the new distance from the source

---

<sup>4</sup> 2024 Town of Preston Plan of Conservation and Development, pg. 161.

Utilizing this equation results in the following:

$$dB_1 = 85 + 20\log(50/400)$$

$$dB_1 = 85 + 20\log(0.125)$$

$$dB_1 = 85 + (-18.0618)$$

$$dB_1 = 85 - 18.0618$$

$$\mathbf{dB_1 = 66.9 \text{ dBA}}$$

However, noise attenuating features are already present in and around the site of the proposed action or will be added as part of the proposed action. Between the site of the proposed action and the nearest residential properties lies an approximately 120-foot wide area of trees and heavy vegetation. According to the U.S. Forest Service, a 100-foot wide planted buffer will reduce noise by 5 to 8 decibels. Thus, at a width of 120 feet, it is expected that the buffer area would reduce noise levels by between 6 and 9.6 decibels. In addition, a 6-foot high landform/earthen berm will be installed along the southern and southeastern perimeter of the site of the proposed action, in the direction of the nearest residential properties. A variety of sources indicate that such a feature can reduce noise levels by an additional 5 to 10 decibels.

Applying the noise attenuating effects of the tree and vegetation buffer and the landform/earthen berm reduces the construction period noise level as follows:

$$dB_1 = 66.9 - (6.0 \text{ to } 9.6) - (5.0 \text{ to } 10.0)$$

$$\mathbf{dB_1 \text{ min} = 47.3}$$

$$\mathbf{dB_1 \text{ max} = 55.9}$$

During the operational phase of the proposed ASP composting facility, there will be noise from basic equipment. ASP systems generate minimal noise, with one or more fans typically producing around 75 decibels (dB) at 5 feet, which drops to less than 40 dBA at 500 feet. The dominant noise source comes from the small fans (<2 horsepower) used to circulate air through the compost piles, though this noise is significantly attenuated by distance, keeping it well below existing background levels at surrounding residences.. In addition, vibrating screens or trommels can reach 90 dBA at 50 feet, and front-end loaders have a maximum noise level generally between 80 decibels and 85 decibels.

Taking a worst-case assumption of 90 dBA generated by the facility at a distance of 50 feet results in the following noise level calculation:

$$dB_1 = dB_0 + 20\log(d_0/d_1)$$

$$dB_1 = 90 + 20\log(50/400)$$

$$dB_1 = 90 + 20\log(0.125)$$

$$dB_1 = 90 + (-18.0618)$$

$$dB_1 = 90 - 18.0618$$

$$dB_1 = 71.9 \text{ dBA}$$

Applying the noise attenuating effects of the tree and vegetation buffer reduces the noise level as follows:

$$dB_1 = 71.9 - (6.0 \text{ to } 9.6) - (5.0 \text{ to } 10.0)$$

$$dB_1 \text{ min} = 52.3$$

$$dB_1 \text{ max} = 60.9$$

The Town of Preston does not have a municipal noise ordinance. The World Health Organization (WHO) recommends general daytime noise levels of less than 55 dBA to prevent significant community annoyance. More specifically for Connecticut, Section 22a-69-3.5 of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies (RCSA) provides specific "noise zone standards" for different classes of land uses, cross-referenced by noise emitters versus noise receptors. The proposed action constitutes a "Class C" noise emitter, while the nearest residential property constitutes a "Class A" noise receptor. Under RCSA Section 22a-69-3.5, a Class C emitter has a noise level threshold at a Class A receptor of 61 dBA during the day and 51 dBA at night. Above these thresholds, noise levels are considered to be "excessive noise."

Based upon the analysis above, construction period noise levels are expected to range from 47.3 to 55.9 decibels. Therefore, the noise impacts are expected to be less than significant, especially with the implementation of the BMP limiting hours of construction to 7:00am to 10:00pm. For the operational period, noise levels are expected to range from 52.3 to 60.9 decibels. Given that the maximum expected noise levels based upon this analysis are below the state regulations' threshold, the noise impacts of the proposed action during the operational period are expected to be less than significant. To mitigate any potential night impacts, the operation should be required to only operate during the times of 7:00am to 10:00pm daily, in compliance with the definition of "nighttime" under RCSA Section 22a-69-1.1.

Vehicular traffic noise associated with the operation and maintenance of the facility will be incidental when considered in combination with the existing traffic use of surrounding roadways (see Section 4.10 for traffic data) and the existing truck traffic into and out of the adjacent landfill operation.

With the implementation of proper mitigation measures discussed above, the potential construction and operational noise impacts will be less than significant.

**Odors:** Composting facilities, while beneficial for diverting waste from landfills and creating valuable soil amendments, can generate unpleasant odors that can be a source of concern for nearby communities. These odors result from the biological activity of microorganisms during the decomposition of organic materials and can

impact both air quality and human health. The two most important site management practices to reduce odors are rigorous housekeeping and water management.

Several classes of compounds contribute to compost odors:

- **Volatile Fatty Acids (VFAs):** These are produced as carbohydrates, fats, and oils decompose, and can create "sour-smelling" odors like vinegar (acetic acid) or rancid smells (butyric acid).
- **Volatile Nitrogen Compounds:** This group includes:
  - **Ammonia:** A pungent, irritating odor, especially when processing high-nitrogen feedstocks like manure or fish waste.
  - **Amines:** Foul-smelling compounds like putrescine and cadaverine, which are associated with decaying flesh.
  - **Indoles:** Compounds like indole and skatole, which can have a fecal odor.
- **Volatile Sulfur Compounds:** These are highly offensive and include:
  - **Hydrogen sulfide (H<sub>2</sub>S):** The characteristic "rotten egg" smell, a sign of anaerobic decomposition.
  - **Mercaptans:** Strong, pungent odors reminiscent of rotten cabbage, garlic, or skunks.
  - **Organic sulfides:** Compounds like dimethyl disulfide (DMDS), dimethyl sulfide (DMS), and carbon disulfide (CS), which are also associated with strong, offensive odors.
- **Other VOCs:** Ketones, aldehydes, and alcohols also contribute to the overall odor profile of a composting facility.

The proper implementation of appropriate BMPs for odor control must be included as part of the proposed action to ensure that potential impacts from odors will be less than significant. Section 4.14 on Mitigation Measures for Potential Adverse Impacts provides additional specifics on implementing BMPs for odor control.

## **4.6 Geological and Soil Resources**

**Geological Resources:** The statewide 10-foot Digital Elevation Model (DEM) surface based on the Connecticut 2000 LiDAR ground elevation data indicates that the site of the proposed action has relatively flat topography. As such, development of the site under the proposed action would require limited excavation and grading activities, thereby reducing potential impacts to the surrounding environment. The site of the proposed action is intersected by the "Zp" and "Zw" bedrock geology typologies. The "Zp" category is defined as the Plainfield Formation consisting of interlayered thinly bedded quartzite, mica schist, and dark-gray gneiss. The "Zw" category is defined as the Waterford Group Formation consisting of light to dark medium-grained gneiss. The

quaternary geology mapping indicates that the site of the proposed action includes “Sediment Dammed Lake and Pond Deposits” consisting of sand and gravel overlying sand overlying fines. No apparent geological hazards are apparent from the mapping.

**Soil Resources:** Soil information is available through the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and DEEP’s online GIS mapping. Soils and topography at a project site are characterized prior to construction to suitability for construction and potential for erosion or other related hazards.

The soil on the site of the proposed action includes categories “36A – Windsor loamy sand, 0 to 3 percent slopes” and “38A – Hinckley gravelly sandy loam, 0 to 3 percent slopes.” Windsor loamy sand offers advantages for development due to its well-drained nature, but it is important to address the potential for groundwater contamination and the need for proper soil management to prevent erosion and ensure long-term stability. Hinckley gravelly sandy loam soils do not have many inherent limitations for building foundations, but their rapid permeability, droughtiness, and potential for erosion, especially on slopes, can pose challenges for development. Given the characteristics of the site of the proposed action such as relatively level topography and availability of a public sewer connection, as well as the nature of the proposed action, no significant impacts to geological resources are expected as a result of the proposed action.

Soil erosion is best controlled using appropriate erosion and sediment control measures and typical BMPs such as sandbag or hay bale installations, erosion blankets, and silt fences. Other BMPs can also be specified in the proposed action’s stormwater pollution prevention plan, dust control plan, and/or erosion and sedimentation control plan.

**Hydric Soils:** No hydric soils are present on the site of the proposed action.

**Prime Farmland:** The site of the proposed action consists of soils identified as “Statewide Important Farmland Soils” in the Soil Survey Geographic (SSURGO) database for the State of Connecticut’ geographic data layer. Such soils are defined as soil types “that fail to meet one or more of the requirements of prime farmland, but are important for the production of food, feed, fiber, or forage crops. They include those soils that are nearly prime farmland and that economically produce high yields of crops when treated and managed according to acceptable farming methods.” This category of potential farmland soils is the second level of importance out of the three farmland soil categories (after Prime Farmland Soils).

While the proposed action would impact some farmland soils, several factors associated with the proposed action significantly reduce any potential impacts to farmland as a whole. First, the site of the proposed action does not include any Prime Farmland Soils as mapped in the Farmland Soils Map, in accordance with the Code of

Federal Regulations, CFR title 7, part 657. These are the most critical soils for farmland preservation and have a greater priority than the other two categories of soils on the map. Second, given the fact that the site of the proposed action shares a land parcel with the pre-existing ReWorld waste-to-energy plant, it is exceedingly unlikely that the site would be available in the future for utilization as actively managed farmland. Finally, the very close proximity of the WTE plant to the site of the proposed action, and the general incompatibility of such a use with active farming essentially preclude any farming use of the site of the proposed action going forward.

In terms of impacts as from the proposed action, construction will involve soil-disturbing activities, including some excavation and grading necessary to establish level surfaces and tree and vegetation removal. Approximately 6 acres will be affected by the soil-disturbing activities for the development of the composting facility. Stormwater for the proposed action is further discussed in Section 4.7 Water Resources below.

Based upon this analysis, impacts on geologic and soil resources are anticipated to be less than significant with permit compliance requirements and the use of appropriate BMPs to control stormwater runoff.

#### **4.7 Water Resources**

**Surface Water and Water Quality:** Connecticut Water Quality mapping indicates that the Thames River adjacent to the site of the proposed action is designated Class SB waters, which is reflective of water quality that is not appropriate for drinking. Class SB waters are salt water bodies with designated uses such as habitat for marine fish and aquatic life and wildlife, commercial shellfish harvesting, recreation, industrial water supply, and navigation. As part of the 2022 Integrated Water Quality Report (2022 IWQR) report process, an IWQR 305(b) cycle assessment was completed for the segment of the Thames River Estuary adjacent to the site of the proposed action. This assessment determined that Aquatic Life Attainment Use and Recreation Use were “Not Supporting” and Fish Consumption was “Insufficient Information.”

During construction, the proposed action will include a Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan with various BMPs for controlling stormwater and any potential spills. A Discharge of Stormwater and Dewatering Wastewater Associated with Construction Activities – General Permit Registration will also be obtained. Compliance with the requirements and conditions of the Individual NPDES Wastewater Permit for Discharge of Leachate or Co-Mingled Stormwater during the operations phase of the proposed action will ensure that storm water run-off impacts from the proposed action will be less than significant. This project will include stormwater controls to be added to the site, which will be beneficial for the adjacent segment of the Thames River. Based on this, short-term and long-term impacts from the proposed action to surface waters and water quality are anticipated to be less than significant.

**Estuaries:** The Thames River adjacent to the site of the proposed action is a tidal estuary flowing south for 15 miles through eastern Connecticut, from Norwich to the Long Island Sound at New London and Groton. It is the southern end of the third largest watershed in Connecticut. The river is formed by the confluence of the Yantic and Shetucket rivers in Norwich. The river's estuary is a popular area for recreation, commerce, and defense, with historical sites like Fort Trumbull and Fort Griswold, and active waterfronts in New London and Groton. The mixing of saltwater and freshwater creates a unique environment that supports diverse marine life and allows for recreational activities like kayaking and fishing.

Adherence to the Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan and its associated BMPs during construction and compliance with the requirements of the storm water general permit during the operations phase of the composting facility will ensure that any potential impacts to the Thames River estuary will be less than significant.

**Freshwater Lakes and Reservoirs:** No freshwater lakes or reservoirs are located in close proximity to the site of the proposed action.

**Wild and Scenic Rivers:** National Wild and Scenic Rivers System mapping shows that the project area contains no wild and scenic rivers.

**Aquifers:** According to the state's Aquifer Protection Area Map, there are no aquifer protection areas identified within the Town of Preston. Surficial aquifer potential mapping indicates that the site of the proposed action is categorized as "Other Glacial Meltwater Deposits with lower potential yield." As such, the site does not have substantial potential as an aquifer area. Based upon Aquifer Protection Area Maps available from DEEP, the area of the project does not include aquifer protection areas. Furthermore, since the proposed action has access to public water service infrastructure, it is not anticipated to result in increased demand for existing potable groundwater supplies.

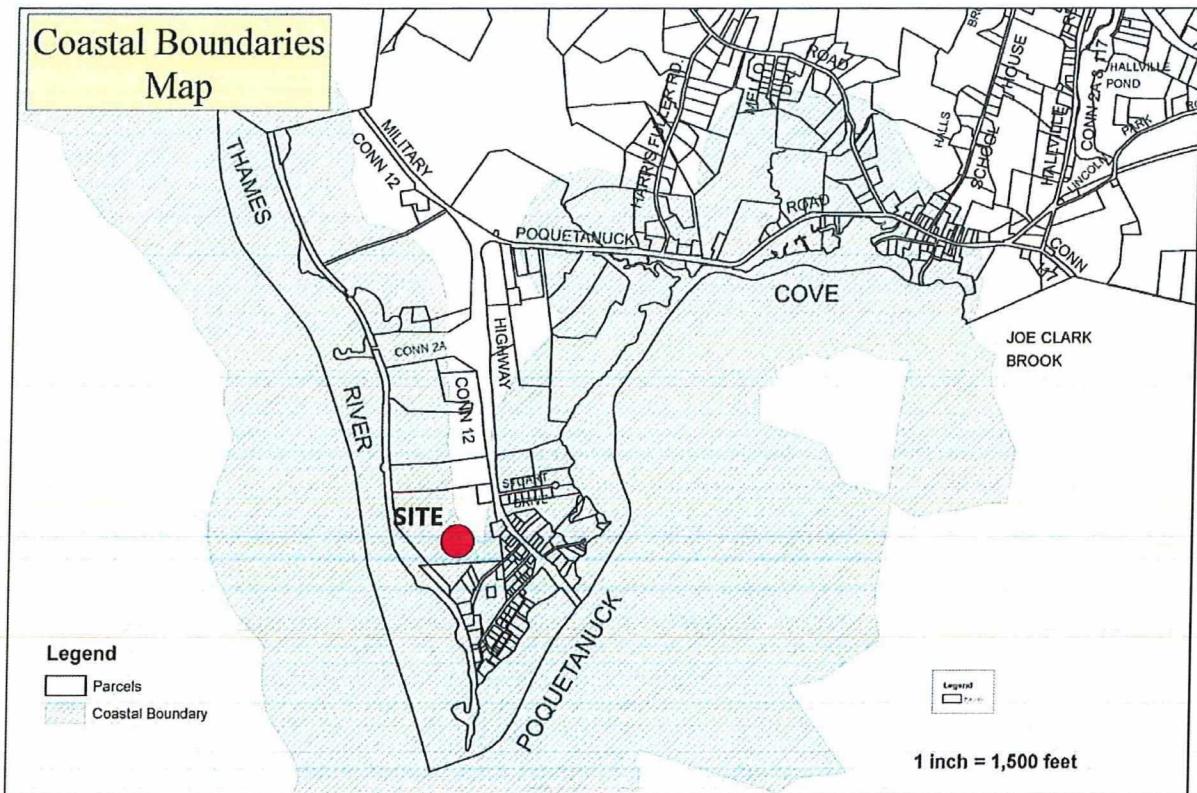
**Wetlands:** The site of the proposed action does not include any inland wetland soils or delineated wetland areas.

**Coastal Area Management:** The entire Town of Preston is included in the designated Coastal Management Area for the State of Connecticut, and the site of the proposed action is located within the Coastal Boundary Area. In addition, the 2024 Town POCD includes a specific objective and action item related to coastal area management:

*"Objective. Continue to meet the goals of Connecticut Coastal Management Act.*

*Action #1 Whenever activities occur or are proposed within or affecting Preston's*

coastal area, reasonable consideration should be given for the restoration and protection of the ecosystems and habitat of Long Island Sound, and require designs for structures and other features that reduce hypoxia, pathogens, toxic contaminants, and floating debris.”<sup>5</sup>

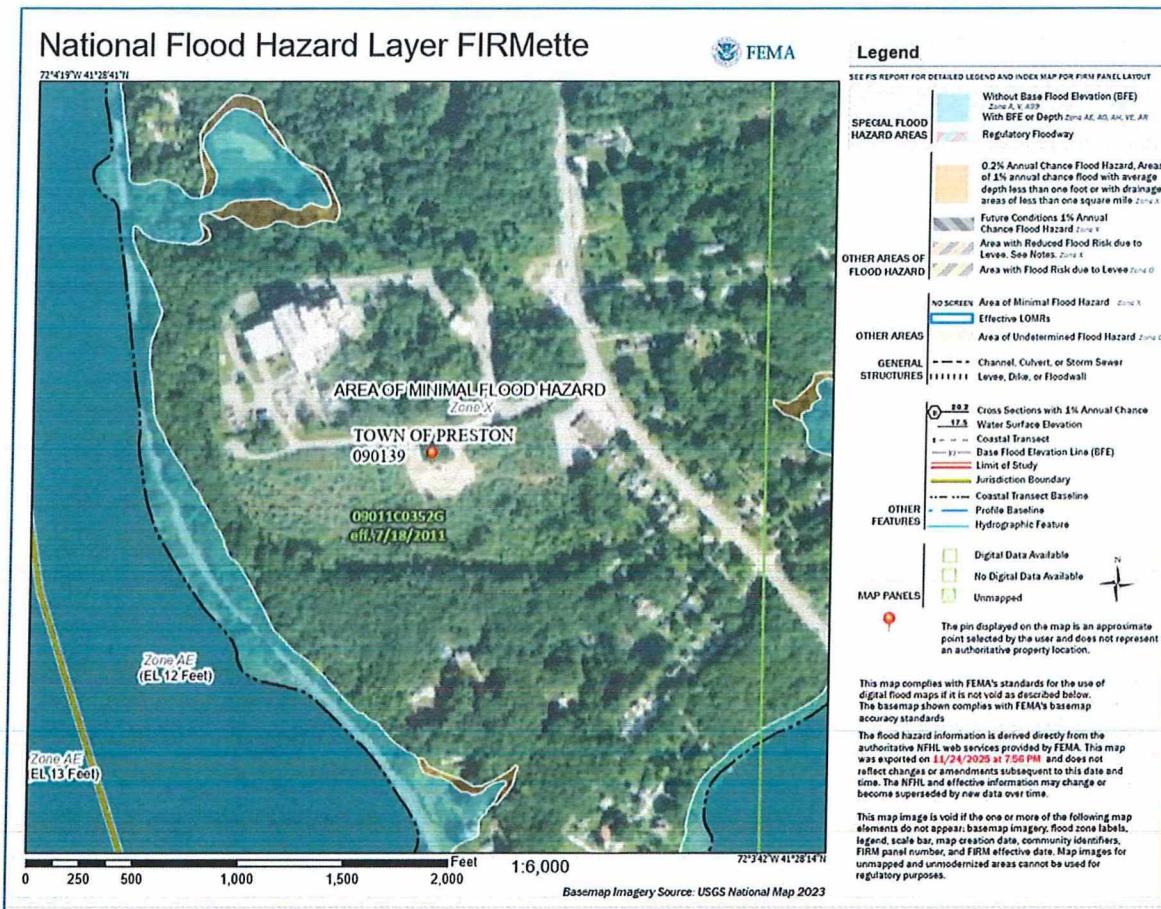


As a result of being located within the Coastal Boundary Area, the site of the proposed action is subject to the Connecticut Coastal Management Act. As part of the compliance with the Act, SCRRRA was required to submit a coastal site plan to the Town of Preston Planning & Zoning Commission for review, providing an additional opportunity for the Town and the public to assess and discuss any potential impacts from the proposed action with SCRRRA.

**Floodplains:** The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Q3 Flood zone data shown on FIRM Panel number 09011C0352G indicates that the site of the proposed action does not intersect with any designated floodplain areas.

The proposed action avoids impacting water resources to the maximum extent practical. The implementation of BMPs will include measures to reduce or eliminate sedimentation and manage stormwater at the site. Therefore, any impacts resulting from the proposed action are anticipated to be short-term and less than significant.

<sup>5</sup> 2024 Town of Preston Plan of Conservation and Development, pg. 223.



#### 4.8 Biological Resources

Impacts to biological resources resulting from the proposed action are anticipated to be less than significant and further mitigated through the implementation and use of BMPs and SOPs, appropriate construction phasing/timing, and site design measures. The subsections below discuss specific potential impacts for various components of the site area's biological resources.

**Vegetation/Flora:** Implementation of the proposed action would include some removal of a mix of trees and brush covering a significant portion of the roughly 6 acre development area, with some areas previously disturbed and already clear of vegetation. The proposed action will not likely cause disturbance to vegetation beyond the project site boundaries, and no protected species of vegetation have been identified on the site.

**Wildlife/Fauna:** The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's (USFWS) Information for Planning and Consultation (IPaC) website and mapping tool produces a report that finds that there are 11 migratory birds with potential to occur within the area of the proposed action. Implementation of the proposed action would include some removal of a mix of

trees and brush, so additional review, research, and analysis of potential impacts on migratory birds has been conducted.

The USFWS provides a number of resources for both assessing potential impacts to migratory birds and mitigating any such impacts. While site-specific information about specific species, including their permanent presence via nesting sites and use of the project site area as part of migratory patterns, the USFWS notes that “you can help proactively minimize significant impacts to all birds at your project location by implementing the measures”<sup>6</sup> through the consideration and implementation of best management practices (BMPs) provided in its “Nationwide Avoidance & Minimization Measures for Birds” guidance document. These BMPs provide direction in terms of general mitigation measures and habitat protection, as well as the management of “stressors” for birds including vegetation removal; invasive species introduction; artificial lighting; human disturbance; collision; entrapment; noise; chemical contamination; and fire. The development process for the proposed action should include considering and, where reasonable and appropriate, implementation of these BMPs.

Given the characteristics of the proposed action, the relatively small size of the project site, and the previously disturbed nature of the project site, no impacts to migratory birds or their nesting sites are anticipated and no takings caused by activities associated with the proposed action will occur that may have a population-level effect on migratory birds. In addition, the USFWS notes that “the presence of structures can result in area avoidance by birds and act as a barrier to bird movements.”<sup>7</sup> With the large physical presence and heavy activities of the waste to energy incinerator adjacent to the project site, and its associated visual and audial impacts on the surrounding environment, it is likely that the site of the proposed action is not an attractive site for nesting for migratory birds.

The USFWS’ “Nationwide Avoidance & Minimization Measures for Birds” mitigation strategies document has been included in Appendix B.

**Rare, Threatened and Endangered Species:** The State Natural Diversity Data Base (NDDB) map for the Town of Preston shows the project area and its proximity to areas where state and federal listed species and significant natural communities may exist. No impacts to these species by the proposed action are expected as the project activities are not expected to impinge on the Thames River corridor. An NDDB request would be submitted as part of the permitting process and the proposed action would comply with requests from the NDDB program to the extent practicable. If the proposed impacted area is altered during design, DEEP/NDDB program staff would be consulted

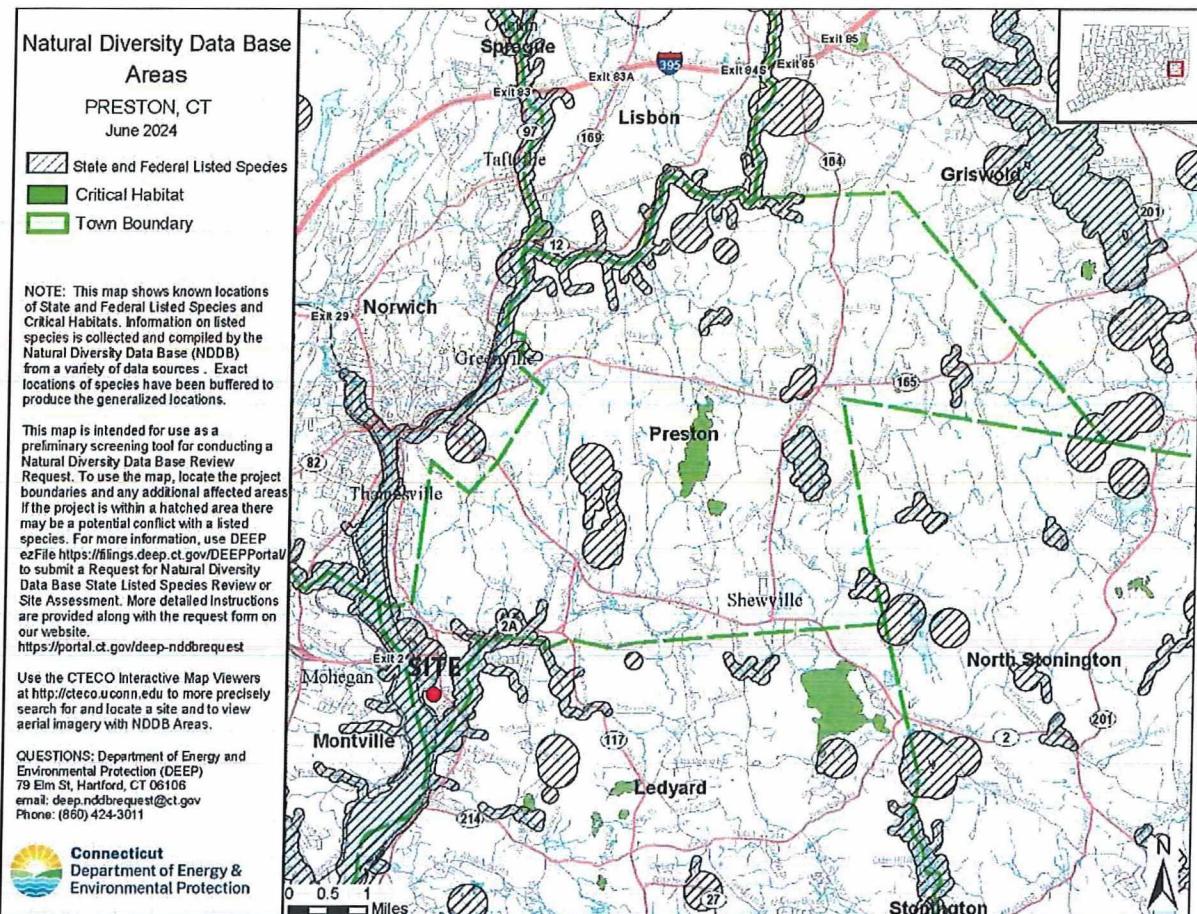
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<sup>6</sup> <https://ipac.ecosphere.fws.gov/project/67V25RQZS5CZXBVF3LYEZOSR4I/resources#migratory-birds>

<sup>7</sup> <https://www.fws.gov/node/5234591>

for additional measures that may be necessary to provide the required protection for these species.

A formal NDDB request was submitted as part of the preparation of this EIE, and an approval letter was obtained and is attached in Appendix A. The NDDB approval letter indicated that “no extant populations of Federal or State Endangered, Threatened or Special Concern species (RCSA Sec. 26-306) are known to occur within the project area...”



The construction of the proposed composting facility would not occur on the habitat of nor impact any endangered or threatened species, and there is no designated critical habitat within the project area. According to the National Marine Fisheries Service's (NMFS) Marine Mammal Species Range and Critical Habitat Mapper, no Critical Habitat was mapped that would be impacted by the proposed action.

The NMFS Essential Fish Habitat mapper determined that there are essential fish habitats in the project area for the following species:

- Atlantic Butterfish

- Atlantic Herring
- Atlantic Mackerel
- Black Sea Bass
- Bluefish
- Little Skate
- Longfin Inshore Squid
- Pollock
- Red Hake
- Scup
- Summer Flounder
- Windowpane Flounder
- Winter Flounder
- Winter Skate

In addition, approximately one-half mile south of the site of the proposed action, the neighboring Town of Ledyard maintains a roughly 4.2 acre managed shellfish bed at the entrance to Poquetanuck Cove. However, according to the IWQR 305(b) cycle assessment that was completed for the segment of the Thames River Estuary adjacent to the site of the proposed action, it was determined that shellfishing was “Not Supported” in this particular location due to the quality of the water.

The proposed action would have no effect on essential fish or shellfish habitat provided that stormwater runoff is properly managed through adherence to the requirements of the Discharge of Stormwater Associated with Commercial Activity – General Permit Registration and the Discharge of Stormwater and Dewatering Wastewater Associated with Construction Activities – General Permit Registration that will be required for the proposed action.

A report generated through the USFWS IPaC website identified that there are three (3) species potentially impacted that are listed as threatened, endangered, or candidate species in the area of the site of the proposed action. They are:

- Northern Long-eared Bat (Endangered)
- Tricolored Bat (Proposed Endangered)
- Monarch Butterfly (Proposed Threatened)

Additional information for each species from the USFWS is provided below:<sup>8</sup>

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<sup>8</sup> The three subsequent paragraphs are provided from the USFWS website at <https://ipac.ecosphere.fws.gov/location/YFJBIBDI7VCGPIEIPW7XCYBWS4/resources>.

### ***Northern Long-eared Bat***

The northern long-eared bat is a medium-sized bat about 3 to 3.7 inches in length but with a wingspan of 9 to 10 inches. As its name suggests, this bat is distinguished by its long ears, particularly as compared to other bats in its genus, *Myotis*, which are actually bats noted for their small ears (*Myotis* means mouse-eared). The northern long-eared bat is found across much of the eastern and north central United States and all Canadian provinces from the Atlantic coast west to the southern Northwest Territories and eastern British Columbia. The species' range includes 37 states. White-nose syndrome, a fungal disease known to affect bats, is currently the predominant threat to this bat, especially throughout the Northeast where the species has declined by up to 99 percent from pre-white-nose syndrome levels at many hibernation sites. Although the disease has not yet spread throughout the northern long-eared bat's entire range (white-nose syndrome is currently found in at least 25 of 37 states where the northern long-eared bat occurs), it continues to spread. Experts expect that where it spreads, it will have the same impact as seen in the Northeast.

### ***Tricolored Bat***

The tricolored bat is a small insectivorous bat that is distinguished by its unique tricolored fur and often appears yellowish to nearly orange. The once common species is wide ranging across the eastern and central United States and portions of southern Canada, Mexico and Central America. During the winter, tricolored bats are often found in caves and abandoned mines, although in the southern United States, where caves are sparse, tricolored bats are often found roosting in road-associated culverts where they exhibit shorter torpor bouts and forage during warm nights. During the spring, summer, and fall, tricolored bats are found in forested habitats where they roost in trees, primarily among leaves of live or recently dead deciduous hardwood trees, but may also be found in Spanish moss, pine trees, and occasionally human structures. Tricolored bats face extinction due primarily to the range-wide impacts of white-nose syndrome, a deadly disease affecting cave-dwelling bats across the continent. White-nose syndrome has caused estimated declines of more than 90 percent in affected tricolored bat colonies across the majority of the species' range. To address the growing threat of white-nose syndrome to the tricolored bat and other bats across North America, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is leading the White-nose Syndrome National Response Team, a coordinated effort of more than 150 non-governmental organizations, institutions, Tribes, and state and federal agencies. Together they are conducting critical white-nose syndrome research and developing management strategies to minimize impacts of the disease and recover affected bat populations.

### ***Monarch Butterfly***

Adult monarch butterflies are large and conspicuous, with bright orange wings surrounded by a black border and covered with black veins. The black border has a double row of white spots, present on the upper side of the wings. Adult monarchs are sexually dimorphic, with males having narrower wing venation and scent patches. The

bright coloring of a monarch serves as a warning to predators that eating them can be toxic.

During the breeding season, monarchs lay their eggs on their obligate milkweed host plant (primarily *Asclepias* spp.), and larvae emerge after two to five days. Larvae develop through five larval instars (intervals between molts) over a period of 9 to 18 days, feeding on milkweed and sequestering toxic chemicals (cardenolides) as a defense against predators. The larva then pupates into a chrysalis before emerging 6 to 14 days later as an adult butterfly. There are multiple generations of monarchs produced during the breeding season, with most adult butterflies living approximately two to five weeks; overwintering adults enter into reproductive diapause (suspended reproduction) and live six to nine months.

In many regions where monarchs are present, monarchs breed year-round. Individual monarchs in temperate climates, such as eastern and western North America, undergo long-distance migration, and live for an extended period of time. In the fall, in both eastern and western North America, monarchs begin migrating to their respective overwintering sites. This migration can take monarchs distances of over 3,000 km and last for over two months. In early spring (February-March), surviving monarchs break diapause and mate at the overwintering sites before dispersing. The same individuals that undertook the initial southward migration begin flying back through the breeding grounds and their offspring start the cycle of generational migration over again.

The proposed action will involve the removal of a significant number of trees within the approximately 6 acres of site disturbance for construction of the proposed composting facility. However, given the small relative size of the site area and the evidence of prior disturbance of the site, it is not expected that significant potential habitat for any of the three identified species of concern will occur. The IPaC report also indicates that there are no critical habitats that intersect the site of the proposed action. In addition, observation data and mapping from DEEP indicates that as of July 2023, there have been no reporting sightings of the Northern Long-eared Bat in the Town of Preston.

Additional investigation was completed regarding potential impacts on the Northern Long-eared Bat through consultation with DEEP Wildlife Division staff and USFWS resources. Specifically, the USFWS Range-wide Northern Long-eared Bat determination key (Dkey) was utilized, requiring the completion of an extensive questionnaire regarding the site of the proposed action and the characteristics of the proposed project. The completion of this questionnaire resulted in the generation of an IPaC Technical Assistance Letter, which is included in the attached Appendix. This letter indicated that the proposed project “May Affect” the Northern Long-eared Bat, but that “*further coordination with the Service is voluntary for those species with a determination of ‘May Affect.’ A ‘May Affect’ determination in this key indicates that the project, as entered, is not consistent with the questions in the key. Not all projects that reach a ‘May Affect’ determination are anticipated to result in adverse impacts to listed*

*species.*" It should be noted that review of habitat impacts by the USFWS is done at a very broad scale, and that state environmental agencies generally possess more granular and site-specific data.

Additional consultation with DEEP Wildlife Division staff was conducted to explore the issue further. Staff indicated that since the NDDB Approval Letter did not identify any extant endangered or threatened species on the site of the proposed action, this was indicative of DEEP not having any mapped potential impacts related to the Northern Long-eared Bat and that this was likely due to the agency having no reason to believe that this species was nesting in the immediate area. Thus, it would be unlikely that recommendations would be made for limiting site clearance activities as part of the permit review for the project. However, if recommendations were made, they would most likely be limited to requiring tree clearance on the site of the proposed action to occur during winter months when the bats would be hibernating.

In light of this additional investigation, the findings of the EIE hold that any impacts to the Northern Long-eared Bat are expected to be less than significant.

In addition, a formal NDDB application was submitted as part of the preparation of this EIE, and an approval letter was obtained and is attached in Appendix A of this EIE. The NDDB approval letter indicated that "no extant populations of Federal or State Endangered, Threatened or Special Concern species (RCSA Sec. 26-306) are known to occur within the project area..."

If the proposed impacted area is altered during design, DEEP/NDDB program staff would be consulted for additional measures that may be necessary to provide the required protection for these species. In conclusion, the impacts from the proposed action on biological resources are anticipated to be minimal and less than significant.

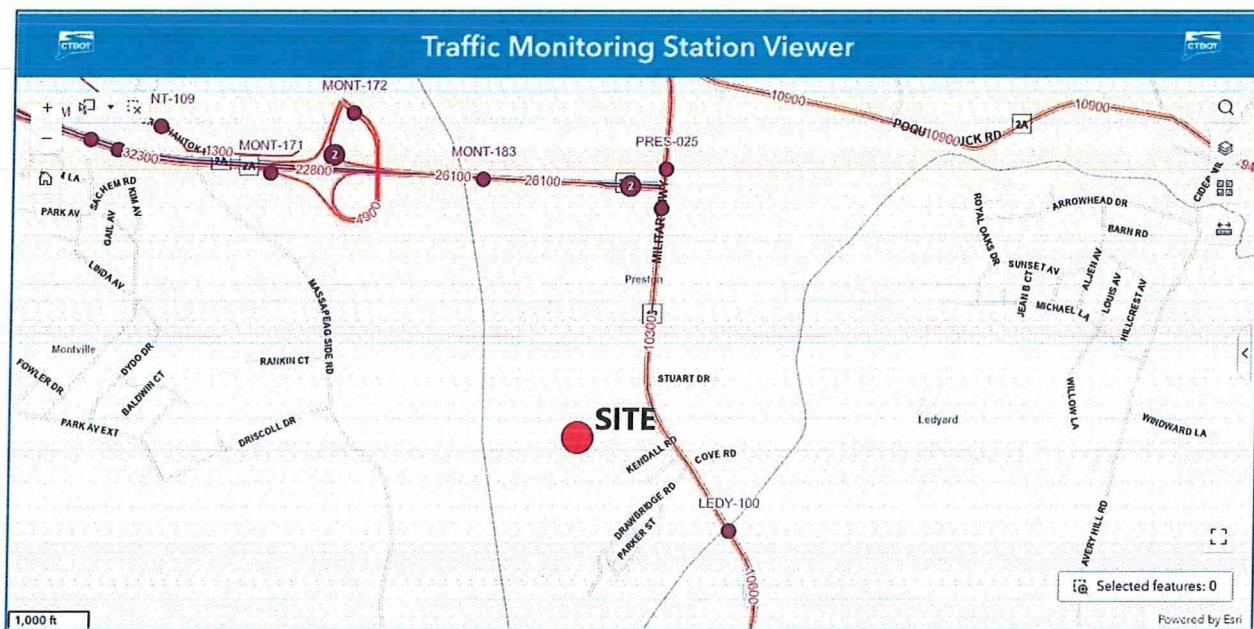
#### **4.9 Hazardous and Toxic Materials and Waste**

Construction activities associated with the proposed action could involve equipment that utilizes hazardous materials such as petroleum-based products. Accidental spills of such materials are always a concern during construction work. SCRRRA will be responsible for ensuring that any contractors or subcontractors working on the site of the proposed action are properly maintaining construction vehicles and equipment, inclusive of any hazardous materials required for the maintenance and operation of such equipment, per applicable state and federal laws and regulations. This responsibility further extends to any disposal of hazardous waste generated as part of the construction phase and operational phase of the proposed action, and the requirement that all such materials and wastes be handled in accordance with industry-standard safety data sheets. The implementation and use of BMPs and standard operating procedures for preventing and responding to spills and contamination, impacts are anticipated to be less than significant. In addition, the

operation of the compost facility is not expected to generate any significant hazardous waste or toxic materials.

#### **4.10 Transportation Resources**

Access to the site of the proposed action is provided by way of Military Highway, also identified as State Route 12. Although the potential traffic generated by the implementation of the proposed action will be entering and exiting the site via Route 12, the proposed action is not large enough to trigger the need for review by the Office of the State Traffic Administration. According to CTDOT's most recent traffic data for Preston from 2011, the segment of Route 12 that runs past the site of the proposed action experiences between 10,300 average daily trips (ADT).<sup>9</sup> Given this level of existing traffic, the relatively small size of the proposed composting facility, and the significant amount of truck traffic already accessing the adjacent ReWorld waste-to-energy plant, impacts to the traffic levels and roadway system connecting the site of the proposed action to the regional transportation network are expected to be less than significant.



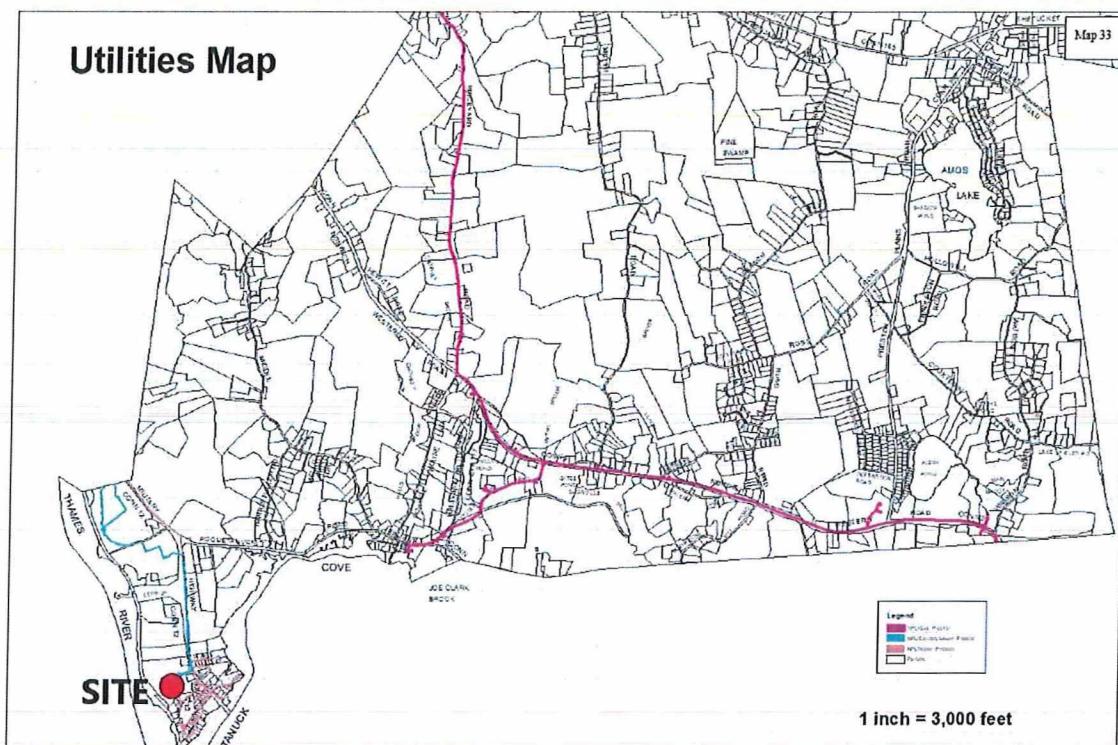
Presently, the Southeast Area Transit District (SEAT) operates two bus routes that utilize the portion of Route 12 that is adjacent to the site of the proposed action: the 980 Norwich – EB route and the 2 Norwich/New London Via Rt.12 & Groton route. The 2 Norwich/New London Via Rt.12 & Groton route has its nearest stop to the site located at the CTDOT Park & Ride Lot approximately 0.70 miles north of the site of the proposed action. The 980 Norwich – EB route only has stops in Norwich and Groton as it provides

<sup>9</sup> [https://portal.ct.gov/dot/travel-gateway/roads-and-highways/traffic-monitoring-data/traffic-monitoring?language=en\\_US](https://portal.ct.gov/dot/travel-gateway/roads-and-highways/traffic-monitoring-data/traffic-monitoring?language=en_US).

regional express service for riders. Given the characteristics of the proposed action, impacts to the regional mass transit system are expected to be less than significant.

#### **4.11 Community Services and Utility Resources**

The proposed action will not require new infrastructure to be constructed at, or connecting to, the site. Roads and utilities will extend from existing rights-of-way adjacent to the site. There are no projected interruptions in service to residents in the surrounding area that will occur during construction. The proposed action will not impact community services or utilities in the immediate area. The project will not cause an increase in monthly service rates for public utilities. The proposed action will not impact recreational and park resources, nor will it impact other general local governmental functions or services. Given these findings, impacts on community services and utility resources as a result of the proposed action are expected to be less than significant.



#### **4.12 Environmental Justice**

As discussed in the Environmental Justice section of the SCRRRA MMI Grant application, included below, the Proposed Action will uphold and promote environmental justice within the SCRRRA region. The twelve SCRRRA member municipalities are demographically, linguistically, and socioeconomically unique and diverse; Norwich, New London, and Groton, for example, have significant minority and immigrant populations. Several areas have been identified as "disadvantaged" by the United States' Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool (CEJST). The SCRRRA

region also encompasses two tribal nations, both identified as disadvantaged: the Mohegan of Connecticut and the Mashantucket Pequot.

The Town of Preston itself was formerly categorized by the State of Connecticut as an Environmental Justice Community and is currently considered a “distressed municipality.” The Proposed Action is sensitive to this in all aspects of the project and approach. A robust public participation plan was developed and approved by DEEP, including a public informational session held on November 25, 2024; a letter to all residents within a half-mile radius of the property; easy public access to all relevant project documents, and means to submit comments and questions.

The Proposed Action will promote environmental justice and benefit the region’s historically disadvantaged communities by:

- providing a Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILOT) to the municipality. Currently, the property is not subject to the local property tax. included in the Proposed Action’s business plan is a PILOT, which partially returns the property to the tax rolls.
- providing finished compost to the regional communities, as requested and at a reduced price, including free compost, which can be used for community gardens and beautification. SCRRRA has done this in previous projects; as part of SCRRRA’s 2021 pilot project, SCRRRA provided finished compost to several community gardens in New London that promote food justice and youth empowerment, as well as to the Ledyard Garden Club, which donates all produce grown to local food banks.
- providing the infrastructure needed for citizens to divert food scraps from their household trash, reducing the amount of overall MSW produced and the cost of disposal.
- providing an affordable, locally sourced high-quality soil amendment in support of organic farming and gardening, making for healthier and more sustainable communities.
- increasing awareness and understanding of environmental issues and recycling options.
- helping to shift mindsets to be more aware of what materials are used and what materials are wasted, creating more sustainability and environmentally-minded communities.

As a component of the Proposed Action, SCRRRA will continually engage with residents to ensure their meaningful participation by:

- providing project information and updates online, on our website and social media platforms, with pathways for residents to ask questions and get answers;
- providing information and resources in several languages; and
- holding public forums as required.

#### **4.13 Discussion of Committed Resources**

The implementation of the proposed action will consume nonrenewable resources during the construction of the composting facility (i.e., construction supplies, fuel, etc.), which are considered irreversibly and irretrievably committed. Additionally, the irreversible and irretrievable expenditure of \$4.5 million is expected for the construction of the proposed composting facility. After construction, maintenance and labor resources will be required long-term to operate and maintain the facility. There will be no irreversible or irretrievable impact to wild and scenic rivers, coastal zone management, endangered species, aesthetics, traffic, noise, air quality, water quality/quantity, or the above-referenced resources.

#### **4.14 Mitigation Measures for Potential Adverse Impacts**

The following mitigation measures are recommended for implementation to address any potential adverse impacts from the establishment and operation of the proposed action, based upon the analysis conducted in this EIE:

- In order to mitigate any potential impacts from odors, effective odor control must be included in the proposed action, involving a combination of preventative and treatment measures:
  - Optimizing the Composting Process:
    - Maintaining proper carbon-to-nitrogen ratios to ensure efficient decomposition and minimize the release of nitrogen-based odors.
    - Adequate aeration to ensure aerobic conditions, preventing the accumulation of foul-smelling compounds that thrive in anaerobic environments.
    - Controlling moisture levels to optimize microbial activity and prevent both excessively wet and excessively dry conditions.
    - Regulating pile temperature to maximize decomposition and minimize the volatilization of odorous compounds.
  - Feedstock Management:
    - Prompt processing of incoming feedstocks, particularly those with high odor potential, such as food waste or manure.
    - Mixing odorous materials with porous bulking agents like wood chips or leaves immediately upon arrival to promote aeration and reduce initial odor emissions.

- Odor Treatment Technologies:
  - Biofilters: These systems use layers of porous materials (e.g., cured compost, shredded yard waste) to biologically degrade odor compounds in the exhaust air.
  - Biocovers: Applying a layer of mature compost over fresh composting piles can help adsorb and biologically degrade odors before they are released into the atmosphere.
  - Chemical Treatment: Oxidizing chemicals like hydrogen peroxide or potassium permanganate can be used to chemically neutralize odors, though careful application is needed to avoid harming beneficial microorganisms.
  - Enzymatic Catalysts and Neutralizers: These products aim to break down or mask odorous compounds, though independent research on their effectiveness varies.
  - High Carbon Wood Ash: Studies have shown that adding high carbon wood ash can significantly reduce odor emissions.
- To minimize any potential significant impacts to migratory birds, the best management practices (BMPs) provided in the USFWS' "Nationwide Avoidance & Minimization Measures for Birds" should be considered and implemented where reasonable and appropriate.
- During operation of the compost facility, there will be noise from equipment, such as from an industrial grinder and front-end loaders. Noise from vehicular traffic created by operation and maintenance of the facility, in most cases, will be incidental in relation to the existing traffic use of surrounding roadways. With the implementation of proper mitigation measures in compliance with local ordinances, the potential operational noise impacts will be less than significant.
- Compliance with the required Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan and its associated BMPs, as well as with the Discharge of Stormwater Associated with Commercial Activity – General Permit Registration, during the operations phase of the proposed action must occur to mitigate any potential impacts to surface water, water quality, fish and marine life, estuaries, and soil resources.
- Erosion occurring after construction prior to site stabilization may require the implementation of BMPs such as seeding or planting stabilizing vegetation after disturbance, and silt fencing.

Adverse impacts related to construction activities will be short-term and can be mitigated to a large extent by including proper control measures in all construction contract documents, and enforcing said requirements as well as any permit conditions and requirements. Control measures may include: control of dust pollution by wetting the

ground surface periodically to reduce dust dispersion; requiring a traffic control plan to re-route traffic in the impacted areas to minimize traffic disruption, particularly the traffic flowing in and out of the ReWorld waste-to-energy plant; appropriate signage and traffic control personnel to route traffic in the impacted areas; and minimization of erosion through the use of hay bales and silt fences in strategic areas, such as around storm drains and the boundaries of the project site. In addition, the following mitigation measures have been identified:

- In order to mitigate any potential impacts to air quality, all construction equipment must have appropriate emission controls. Contractors working on the project must implement appropriate best management to reduce air quality impacts, including reducing vehicle speeds and adhering to anti-idling requirements.
- In order to mitigate any potential impacts from noise, construction activities should be limited to between 8:00am and 5:00pm, Monday through Friday.
- In order to mitigate any potential impacts from soil erosion, excavation, site grading, and/or the removal of trees and vegetation, contractors must utilize erosion control BMPs such as the use or installation of sandbags, silt fences, earthen berms, fiber rolls, sediment traps, and/or erosion control blankets.
- To minimize any potential significant impacts to migratory birds, the best management practices (BMPs) provided in the USFWS' "Nationwide Avoidance & Minimization Measures for Birds" should be considered and implemented where reasonable and appropriate.
- The proposed action must include a Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan with various BMPs for controlling stormwater and any potential hazardous materials spills. Compliance with the requirements and conditions of the Construction General Permit for Storm Water Discharges for Large and Small Construction Activities must occur so that storm water run-off impacts from the proposed action will be less than significant.
- In order to mitigate any potential impacts to biological resources, SCRRRA and its subcontractors must utilize site design, timing of construction activities, and implementation of best management practices and standard operating procedures (SOPs) to minimize noise, traffic, and natural landscape disturbance to the greatest extent feasible.

## **5.0 Comments Received Pursuant to RSCA Section 22a-1a-6**

On May 20, 2025, the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) published a Notice of Scoping in the Environmental Monitor to solicit comments for the proposed Building a Regional Composting Facility for Southeastern Connecticut

project in Preston, CT. One (1) comment was received during the public comment period from the State of Connecticut Historic Preservation Office (SHPO):

“I saw the Scoping Notice for the referenced project on the Environmental Monitor. This location is very sensitive for archaeological resources. Can you share a project map of where impacts are being proposed. I don’t think we would have concerns with activities within previously disturbed areas, but we likely would want to see an archaeological survey completed for areas that would be impacted and consist of intact soils.”

DEEP’s response to the comment received is here:

“The proposed site is immediately south of the Covanta plant in Preston on the other side of Brewster Road. Looks like the site has been previously disturbed with clearing of trees, dirt roads for truck traffic, and someone (sic) material laydown areas. See attached site plan and Google Earth image below.”

In reply, the original commenting party stated:

“Very helpful – thank you! No need to discuss it further, our office has no concerns. I understand that a concerned citizen contacted the applicant (SCRRRA) about potential archaeology. Should you speak with them, let them know that we would not request a survey.”

## **APPENDIX A**

### **Nddb L1 Approval Letter**



Generated by eNDDDB on:  
9/29/2025

Michael Looney  
Looney  
79 Elm St  
Hartford, CT 06106  
[michael.looney@ct.gov](mailto:michael.looney@ct.gov)

Subject: SCRRRA Regional Composting Facility  
Filing # 133547  
NDDB – New Determination Number: 202507194  
132 ROUTE 12  
PRESTON

Expiration Date: 9/29/2027

Based on current data maintained by the Natural Diversity Database (NDDB) and housed in the DEEP ezFile portal, no extant populations of Federal or State Endangered, Threatened or Special Concern species (RCSA Sec. 26-306) are known to occur within the project area delineated for the Building and Infrastructure Development (including stormwater discharge associate with construction) / New Commercial, Industrial, Governmental, SCRRRA Regional Composting Facility.

This NDDB – New determination may be utilized to fulfill the Endangered and Threatened Species requirements for state-issued permit applications, licenses, registration submissions, and authorizations. However, please be aware of the following limitations and conditions:

- This determination does not preclude the possibility that listed species may be encountered on site. Should this occur, a report must be submitted to the Natural Diversity Database promptly and additional action may be necessary to remain in compliance with certain state permits. Please fill out the [appropriate survey form](#) and follow the instructions for submittal.
- 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 9/29/2027.

The NDDB – New determination for the SCRRRA Regional Composting Facility at 132 ROUTE 12, PRESTON as described in the submitted information and summarized at the end of this document is valid for two years from the date on this letter.

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.

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 Determination 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:	No
Project involves state funds, state agency action, or relates to CEPA request:	Yes
Project requires state permit, license, registration, or authorization:	Yes
DEEP enforcement action related to project:	
Project Type:	Building and Infrastructure Development (including stormwater discharge associate with construction)
Project Sub-type:	New Commercial, Industrial, Governmental
Project Name:	SCRRRA Regional Composting Facility
Project Description:	

# SCRRRA Regional Composting Facility Map



September 24, 2025

1:9,597

0 0.075 0.15 0.3 mi  
0 0.125 0.25 0.5 km

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

Filing #133547 eZFile NDDB System

## **APPENDIX B**

### **Nationwide Avoidance & Minimization Measures for Birds**

## NATIONWIDE AVOIDANCE & MINIMIZATION MEASURES FOR BIRDS

Within this document are effective measures that should be employed at all project development sites nationwide as applicable and practicable with the goal of avoiding and minimizing impacts to birds and their habitats. These measures are grouped into three categories: General, Habitat Protection, and Stressor Management. These measures include information only related to federal regulations and laws, and do not encompass state and local regulations and laws. These measures may be updated through time. We recommend checking the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service's (FWS) [Avoiding and Minimizing Incidental Take of Migratory Birds](#) website regularly for the most up-to-date list.

## Contents

1. General Measures.....	2
2. Habitat Protection .....	2
3. Stressor Management.....	3
<b>Stressor: Vegetation Removal .....</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Stressor: Invasive Species Introduction .....</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Stressor: Artificial Lighting .....</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Stressor: Human Disturbance.....</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Stressor: Collision .....</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Stressor: Entrapment .....</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Stressor: Noise.....</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Stressor: Chemical Contamination .....</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Stressor: Fire .....</b>	<b>8</b>

## 1. General Measures

- a. Educate all employees, contractors, and/or site visitors of relevant rules and regulations that protect wildlife. See the FWS webpage on [Regulations and Policies](#) for more information on regulations that protect migratory birds.
- b. Prior to removal of an inactive nest, ensure that the nest is not protected under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) (see [list of endangered and threatened wildlife 50 CFR 17.11](#)) or the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act (the Eagle Act). Nests protected under ESA or the Eagle Act cannot be removed without a valid permit. More information is available on [Bird nests: what you need to know](#).
- c. Do not collect birds (live or dead) or their parts (e.g., feathers) or nests, or remove active nests without valid authorization or permit. Please visit the [FWS permits page](#) for more information on permits and general authorizations.
- d. Provide enclosed solid waste receptacles at all project areas. Non-hazardous solid waste (trash) should be collected and deposited in the on-site receptacles. Solid waste should be collected and disposed of by a local waste disposal contractor. For more information about solid waste and how to properly dispose of it, see the [EPA Non-Hazardous Waste](#) website.
- e. If you suspect birds were illegally killed or if five or more birds are found dead, notify the [local FWS Office of Law Enforcement](#), and follow the instructions provided.
- f. Consult and follow [beneficial practices for industry](#).

## 2. Habitat Protection

- a. Minimize project creep by clearly delineating and maintaining project boundaries (including staging areas).
- b. Minimize use of undisturbed land and maximize use of disturbed land for all project activities (i.e., siting, lay-down areas, and construction), except for where there may be species that are associated with disturbed land that require special conservation consideration (e.g., Mountain Plover).
- c. If considering development on undisturbed land, ensure that the area is not an area of high value to bird conservation (e.g., Important Bird Areas).
- d. Implement [wildlife-friendly soil erosion and dust control measures](#). For example:
  - i. Choose products with natural fiber netting, or no netting (such as spray on mulch)
  - ii. Choose products with 100% biodegradable materials
  - iii. Carefully install materials using natural stakes and bury edges
- e. Remove erosion control products when no longer needed. Design and build culverts, roadways, and other structures in tidal areas such that they do not restrict tidal flow. Restricted tidal flow leads to marsh degradation. For additional information, resources, and recommendations for facilitating tidal restriction avoidance and removal during development, please reference the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) and Federal Highway's (FHWA) [Tidal Restrictions Synthesis Review](#).

### 3. Stressor Management

#### Stressor: Vegetation Removal

**Conservation Goal:** Avoid direct take of adults, chicks, or eggs.

**Measure 1:** Schedule all vegetation removal and trimming, grading of vegetated areas, and prescribed fire outside of the peak bird breeding season to the maximum extent practicable. Use available resources, such as internet-based tools (e.g., the FWS's [Information, Planning and Consultation \(IPaC\)](#) and Avian Knowledge Network's [Rapid Avian Information Locator \(RAIL\)](#) tools) to identify peak breeding months for local bird species; or, contact your local FWS [Migratory Bird Program Office](#) or state wildlife agency for location-specific information.

**Measure 2:** When project activities cannot occur outside the bird nesting season, conduct surveys prior to scheduled activity to determine if active nests are present within the area of impact and buffer any nesting locations found during surveys.

- 1) Generally, the surveys should be conducted no more than five days prior to the scheduled activity.
- 2) Timing and dimensions of the area to be surveyed vary and will depend on the nature of the project, location, and expected level of vegetation disturbance.
- 3) If active nests or breeding behavior (e.g., courtship, nest building, territorial defense, etc.) are detected during these surveys, no vegetation removal activities should be conducted until nestlings have fledged, the nest fails, or breeding behaviors are no longer observed. If the activity must occur, establish a buffer zone around the nest and prohibit all activities within the buffer zone until nestlings have fledged and left the nest area. The dimension of the buffer zone will depend on the proposed activity, habitat type, and species present and should be coordinated with the local or regional FWS office.
- 4) When establishing a buffer zone, create a visible boundary (e.g., flagging tape, pin flags, and/or ropes/string) and signage to protect the area. If the boundary and/or signage is knocked down or destroyed, suspend work wholly, or in part, until the boundary is satisfactorily repaired.
- 5) When establishing a buffer zone, a qualified biologist should be present onsite to serve as a biological monitor during vegetation clearing and grading activities to ensure no take of migratory birds occurs. Prior to vegetation clearing, the monitor should ensure that the limits of construction have been properly staked and are readily identifiable. Any associated project activities that are inconsistent with the applicable avoidance and minimization measures, and activities that may result in the take of migratory birds will be immediately halted and reported to the appropriate FWS office within 24 hours.
- 6) If establishing a buffer zone is not feasible, contact the FWS for guidance to minimize impacts to migratory birds associated with the proposed project or removal of an active nest. To remove an active nest, the person removing the nest must have a [migratory bird permit](#) authorizing this action. The FWS recommends contacting a

federally permitted migratory bird rehabilitator prior to removing active nests for recommendations on disposition of nest contents.

7) When encountering a bird that is exhausted, ill, injured, or orphaned, you must immediately contact a federally permitted migratory bird rehabilitator and follow the rehabilitator's instructions. You may transport eggs or nestling to a federally permitted migratory bird rehabilitator, if the rehabilitator recommends that you do so.

**Measure 3:** Prepare a vegetation maintenance plan that outlines vegetation maintenance activities and schedules so that direct bird impacts do not occur.

### Stressor: Invasive Species Introduction

**Conservation Goal:** Prevent the introduction of noxious or invasive plants.

**Measure 1:** Prepare a weed abatement plan that outlines the areas where weed abatement is required and the schedule and method of activities to ensure bird impacts are avoided.

**Measure 2:** For temporary and permanent habitat restoration/enhancement, use only native and local (when possible) seed and plant stock.

**Measure 3:** Create a vehicle wash and boot washing/scrubbing stations prior to entering sensitive habitat areas to prevent accidental introduction of non-native plants.

**Measure 4:** Remove invasive/noxious species that pose an attractive nuisance to migratory birds.

### Stressor: Artificial Lighting

**Conservation Goal:** Reduce artificial nighttime lighting (e.g., light pollution).

**Measure 1:** To the maximum extent practicable, limit construction activities to the time between dawn and dusk to avoid the illumination of adjacent habitat areas, including the sky.

**Measure 2:** Follow any applicable recommendations on the FWS nighttime lighting guidance webpage. Some recommendations from this collection are called out in measures 3-5 below.

**Measure 3:** If construction activity time restrictions are not possible, use down shielding or directional lighting to avoid light trespass into bird habitat and the sky (e.g., use a down-shielded 'Cobra' style light rather than an omnidirectional light system to direct light down to the roadbed), and keep lighting as close to the ground as possible.

**Measure 4:** To the maximum extent practicable, while allowing for public safety, use low intensity energy-saving lighting (e.g., LEDs) that provides the minimum lumens needed for the task. Avoid bright white light, such as is often used in LEDS, metal halide, halogen, fluorescent, mercury vapor and incandescent lamps. Select lighting with a Correlated Color

Temperature (CCT) that does not exceed 3000K in urban areas and does not exceed 2200K in parks, wildlife refuges, Important Bird Areas, and areas prone to fog.

**Measure 5:** Minimize lighting on associated construction or operation structures by using motion sensors or heat sensors.

**Measure 6:** Take measures to limit lighting as described in the measures above year-round, but especially during peak migration periods in spring and fall. You can reference resources like [Birdcast](#) to find peak migration dates or speak with the FWS's [Migratory Bird Program Office](#) in your region or a contracted biologist for additional guidance on specific bird migration timeframes in your area.

### **Stressor: Human Disturbance**

**Conservation Goal:** Minimize prolonged human presence near nesting birds during construction and maintenance actions.

**Measure 1:** Restrict access to natural areas adjacent to the project site by erecting a barrier and/or avoidance buffers (e.g., gate, fence, wall) to minimize foot traffic and off-road vehicle uses.

### **Stressor: Collision**

**Conservation Goal:** Minimize collision risk with project infrastructure and vehicles.

**Measure 1:** Minimize collision risk with project infrastructure (e.g., temporary and permanent) by increasing visibility and decreasing collision risk through appropriate marking and design features (e.g., [bird-friendly lighting](#) (if lighting is necessary), wire marking, etc.).

**Measure 2:** On bridge crossing areas, use fencing or metal bridge poles that extend to the height of the tallest vehicles that will use the structure.

**Measure 3:** Install wildlife friendly culverts so rodents and small mammals can travel under any new roadways instead of over them. This may help reduce raptor deaths associated with being struck while tracking prey or scavenging roadkill on the roadway.

**Measure 4:** Promptly remove roadkill to prevent scavenging and bird congregations along roadways.

**Measure 5:** Avoid planting “hazardous attractants” (e.g. fruited or preferred nesting vegetation) in medians or rights-of-way.

**Measure 6:** Eliminate use of steady burning lights on structures. Light with flashing lights or motion-sensor lights if lighting is necessary.

**Measure 7:** Reduce potential impacts to birds from fencing as follows: (1) Build a wildlife-friendly fence ([see recommendations](#)); (2) Attach ribbons or other distinctive markers at three

foot intervals along the fence to make it more visible to birds ([see recommendations](#)); (3) ensure the fence is no higher than absolutely necessary to prevent obstruction to low-flying birds that predate close to the ground; (4) make sure fencing is maintained to avoid broken wires that may snag or injure birds; and (5) if lighting is necessary, make sure the lighting is turned on only when absolutely necessary (lighting attracts and disorients birds, disrupting their natural flight patterns and may cause collisions and entanglement in fencing).

**Measure 8:** For existing infrastructure, make structures with glass more bird-friendly to reduce and avoid collisions by applying a pattern to the outside surface of windows and any other transparent surface (e.g., glass balcony railings), install bird friendly glass, or ensure all windows have exterior window screens. To make glass bird friendly, patterns must be applied to the exterior surface of the glass, with markers at least  $\frac{1}{4}$ " wide, spaced no more than two inches apart. In new construction, minimizing the total area covered in glass will save energy, reduce costs, and save birds. For more recommendations, visit the FWS's [Buildings & Glass Collisions webpage](#).

**Measure 9:** Avoid use of transparent noise walls along roads. If transparent noise walls are installed patterns must be applied to the exterior of the transparent surface, with markers at least  $\frac{1}{4}$ " wide, spaced no more than two inches apart (FWS standards). Products with patterns exist, but not all are bird-safe according to FWS standards. Use products that have been tested and vetted and proven effective in preventing collisions.

### Stressor: Entrapment

**Conservation Goal:** Prevent birds from becoming trapped in project structures or perching and nesting in project areas that may endanger them.

**Measure 1:** Minimize entrapment and entanglement hazards through project design measures that may include:

1. Installing anti-perching devices on facilities/equipment where birds may commonly nest or perch.
2. Covering or enclosing all potential nesting surfaces on the structure with metal mesh netting, chicken wire fencing, or other suitable exclusion material prior to the nesting season to prevent birds from establishing new nests. The netting, fencing, or other material must have no opening or mesh size greater than  $3/4$ " and must be maintained until the structure is removed. Flexible nylon or polypropylene netting sometimes marketed as "bird netting" can entrap and kill birds and is not recommended.
3. Cover/seal all vertical pipes/holes less 12" in diameter where birds may enter and become trapped.
4. Chimney caps must have  $\frac{3}{4}$ " or smaller steel mesh under the cap to prevent birds from entering.
5. If you live in the eastern half of the U.S. (Chimney Swift [*Chaetura pelagica*] range) and your chimney was built before 1960 and it is at least one foot in diameter or diagonal across or otherwise has evidence of Chimney Swift roosting or nesting, then follow the best practices for Chimney Swifts instead of the above measures. Best practices for Chimney Swifts are found here:

<https://www.fws.gov/story/chimney-swifts>.

6. Cover all open-top containers, pits and ponds containing toxic waste (e.g., oil pits and evaporation ponds) to prevent entrapment and illness. Oil or waste fluid spills or leaks should be cleaned up immediately.
7. Water containment areas that have steep edges and cannot be easily covered (e.g., stock tanks) should include wildlife escape ramps. There are numerous videos on the web about how to make effective wildlife escape ramps.

**Measure 2:** Use the appropriate deterrents to prevent birds from nesting and perching on structures where they cause conflicts, may endanger themselves, or create a human health and safety hazard.

1. During the time that the birds are trying to build or occupy their nests (generally, between April and August, depending on the geographic location), potential nesting surfaces where bird use of structures is likely to cause take (e.g., electric poles where fire/electrocution is possible), should be monitored at least once every three days for any nesting activity. Depending on the species (e.g., inactive Bald and Golden eagle nests are protected under the Eagle Act and inactive nests associated with threatened and endangered species [(see [list of endangered and threatened wildlife 50 CFR 17.11](#))] may have special protections under ESA) and on state and local regulations, it may be permissible to remove inactive nests (without birds, eggs, or otherwise dependent young), partially completed nests, or new nests as they are built (prior to occupation). If birds have started to build any nests, the nests shall be removed before they are completed, unless the nest is protected by federal, state, or local regulations.
2. If an active nest becomes established (i.e., there are viable eggs or young in the nest), all work that could result in abandonment or destruction of the nest shall be avoided until the young have fledged or the nest is unoccupied. Construction activities that may displace birds after they have laid their eggs and before the young have fledged should not be permitted. If the project continues into the following spring, this cycle shall be repeated. When work on the structure is complete, all netting shall be removed and properly disposed of.
3. Where there will be exposed flames (e.g., methane or natural gas flares) at mines, landfills, or other operations, install fencing tall enough to prevent direct flights through the superheated air, and top fencing with perch deterrents.

### **Stressor: Noise**

**Conservation Goal:** Prevent the increase in noise above ambient levels during the bird breeding season.

**Measure 1:** Minimize an increase in noise above ambient levels during project construction by installing temporary structural barriers such as sandbags.

**Measure 2:** Avoid permanent additions to ambient noise levels from the proposed project by using baffle boxes or sound walls.

## Stressor: Chemical Contamination

**Conservation Goal:** Prevent the introduction of chemical contaminants into the environment.

**Measure 1:** Avoid chemical contamination of the project area by implementing a Hazardous Materials Plan. For more information on hazardous waste and how to properly manage hazardous waste, see the [EPA Hazardous Waste](#) website.

**Measure 2:** Avoid soil contamination by using drip pans underneath equipment and containment zones at construction sites and when refueling vehicles or equipment.

**Measure 3:** Avoid contaminating natural aquatic and wetland systems with runoff by limiting all equipment maintenance, staging laydown, and dispensing of fuel, oil, etc., to designated upland areas.

**Measure 4:** Application of any pesticide product, including rodenticides and avicides, must comply with requirements on the product label. Implement the following wildlife-friendly application measures wherever possible.

1. Choose [non-chemical](#) alternatives
2. See EPA's website for [general measures to reducing impacts on wildlife from pesticides](#).

## Stressor: Fire

**Conservation Goal:** Minimize potential fire impacts from project-related activities.

**Measure 1:** Reduce fire hazards from vehicles and human activities (e.g., use spark arrestors on power equipment, avoid driving vehicles off road).

**Measure 2:** Consider fire potential when developing vegetation management plans by planting temporary impact areas with low-growing, sparse, fire-resistant native species approved by the County Fire Department and local FWS Office.

**Measure 3:** Where there will be exposed flames (e.g., methane or natural gas flares) at mines, landfills or other operations, refer to beneficial practices to avoid and minimize bird injuries and mortalities from gas flares on the [FWS's website](#). For additional assistance with minimizing impacts from exposed flames, please contact your local FWS [Ecological FWS Field Office](#).

**Measure 4:** Schedule prescribed fire outside of the peak bird breeding season to the maximum extent practicable. Use available resources, such as internet-based tools (e.g., the FWS's [Information, Planning and Consultation \(IPaC\)](#) and Avian Knowledge Network's [Rapid Avian Information Locator \(RAIL\)](#) tools) to identify peak breeding months for local bird species; or, contact the FWS's [Migratory Bird Program Office](#) in your region for breeding bird information.