

Number: <u>2017-01</u>

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## OFFICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING DIRECTIVE

Director- Bureau of Policy & Planning

## **Expedited PNDF Process for Projects**

We have implemented an expedited PNDF process in an effort to minimize the timeframes for determining whether or not resource coordination or a permit is needed for "simpler" project types. It applies to certain project types, which typically involve minimal ground disturbance. Using the guidelines discussed during several meetings between representatives from OEP, EPC and Traffic Engineering, project types are identified which will typically require <u>no</u> PNDF review by OEP. They are as follows:

- No PNDF is required for the following seven (7) project types:
  - 1. Pavement Preservation (mill/fill only)
  - 2. Crack Sealing
  - 3. Pavement Markings
  - 4. Rumble Strip
  - 5. Channel Post Signing (Wrong way, Multiway Stop, School warning, Pedestrian crossing, Non-mechanical railroad crossing, Reference location (mileage), etc.)
  - 6. Conversion of HPS highway illumination to LED (heads & lightbulbs only-no ground disturbance involved)
  - 7. LED Relamping
- No PNDF is required for the following eight (8) project types, with the below **Exceptions**:
  - 1. Traffic Control Signals
  - 2. Accessible Pedestrian Signals (APS)
  - 3. Sidewalk ramp installation/upgrades (ADA)
  - 4. Highway Signing (other than with Channel Posts)
  - 5. Timber ties- Replacement on Railroads
  - 6. Railroad Bridge Dapping Program- when not over water
  - 7. Structure Repairs-when not over water
  - 8. Railroad/Highway At-Grade Crossings- Upgrade can include railroad signs, flashers, gate arms, pedestrian bells- (Minimal ground disturbance involved)

## **Exceptions:**

- a) If the project falls within the coastal boundary the Designer should notify OEP so they can complete the internal CAM (Coastal Consistency Review Form). Maps are stored in this location in Projectwise 03.3 Environmental Resources CAM Maps folder (CAM Maps)
- b) If the project falls within an aquifer protection area (APA) (see maps at link <a href="http://www.ct.gov/deep/cwp/view.asp?a=2685&q=322248">http://www.ct.gov/deep/cwp/view.asp?a=2685&q=322248</a>), the Designer should include the Section 1.10- Environmental Compliance specification with the additional verbiage for Article 1.10.03-Water Pollution Control: BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES. (at the link <a href="http://www.ct.gov/dot/lib/dot/documents/dpolicy/waternoisecompliance/helpfuldesign/apa\_&\_ssa.pdf">http://www.ct.gov/dot/lib/dot/documents/dpolicy/waternoisecompliance/helpfuldesign/apa\_&\_ssa.pdf</a>)
- c) If the project is located in one of the following Sole Source Aquifer Protection Area towns below or a Public Water Supply Watershed. This map is stored in this location in Projectwise 03.3 Environmental Resources Public Water Supply Watershed Maps folder (Public Water Supply Watershed Maps)

Easton Sterling
Monroe Stonington
Newtown Voluntown
North Stonington

the Designer should contact OEP to determine if the project limits are located within the sole source aquifer area (SSA) or the public water supply watershed. If so, the Section 1.10-Environmental Compliance specification mentioned in b) above will need to be included.

For these fifteen (15) project types, <u>no PNDF form should be sent to OEP</u>. The Designer should document in the project file that no PNDF is required based on this Directive. Additionally, the Designer should include the sentence "NDDB coordination will not be required - a project of this magnitude will not have any adverse effects on any natural resources/State listed species" in the project documentation.

- For the following three (3) project types, a meeting will be scheduled between OEP and the Designer:
  - 1. Repair to Existing Catenary Towers (painting, welding...)
  - 2. Railroad/Highway At-Grade Crossings- Upgrade can include railroad signs, flashers, gate arms, pedestrian bells- (when minor ground disturbance is involved-new/replacement of foundations etc.)
  - 3. Conversion of HPS Highway Illumination to LED (when minor ground disturbance is involved- new/replacement of foundations etc.)

At the meeting for these three (3) project types, it can be determined if a PNDF is necessary depending on the project scope. Additionally, based on the project location, the need for an internal CAM sign-off by OEP as well as the need to include the APA/SSA specification can be discussed.

It must be qualified that this Directive is for the typical minimal-impact projects listed above. If one of these type projects has work involving more than the typical minor earth disturbance, impacts in or very

near to what appear to be sensitive areas or involves significant tree clearing, (including work for access
roads), it should be brought to OEP to check the "PNDF not required" designation.