

## **SECTION 1.10 ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE**

### **In Article 1.10.03-Water Pollution Control: REQUIRED BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES**

*Add the following after Required Best Management Practices Number 13:*

14. The Contractor is hereby notified that the State listed species of Special Concern eastern ribbon snake (*Thamnophis sauritus*), is present within the Project limits. In Connecticut, the eastern ribbon snake uses a variety of habitats including shallow water, marshy areas, grassy and shrubby areas that border streams and wooded swamps. They can often be seen basking along water's edge. Snakes cannot regulate their body temperature internally and must warm themselves in the sun. Eastern ribbon snakes want to avoid humans and their first line of defense is to flee. They may release musk when handled, and rarely may bite. The eastern ribbon snakes are **NOT venomous**. They are harmless snakes. Eastern ribbon snakes hibernate near streams in the winter from about October to March. They will use muskrat bank burrows or houses, ant mounds, crayfish burrows or vole burrows for dens.

All construction activities taking place within the Project will need to be coordinated with the Office of Environmental Planning (OEP) through the Engineer. At least 10 days prior to the commencement of any construction activities, the Contractor shall, through the Engineer, arrange for a CT DOT Environmental Inspector from the OEP or their authorized delegate to meet and discuss proper protocol for maintaining environmental commitments made for the protection of this species and habitat. OEP will provide oversight through the Engineer to ensure that the following protocols are followed and maintained during the course of the Project.

For any work done during eastern ribbon snakes active period (April 1 to October 1), the Department will require precautionary measures to protect the eastern ribbon snake and eastern ribbon snake habitat:

- a. All construction personnel working within the ribbon snake habitat must be apprised of the species description and the possible presence of this listed species.
- b. Exclusionary practices will be required where wetlands are present in order to prevent any eastern ribbon snake access into construction areas. These measures will need to be installed at the limits of disturbance as shown on the plans.
- c. Exclusionary fencing shall be at least 20" tall and must be secured to and remain in contact with the ground. It shall be regularly inspected / maintained to prevent any gaps or openings at ground level. Standard silt fence is adequate; fencing with netting shall not be used.
- d. All staging and storage areas in the vicinity of the snake's habitat, outside of previously paved locations, regardless of the duration of time they will be utilized,

- must be reviewed by and receive written approval from OEP through the Engineer.
- e. Exclusionary fencing shall be removed when it is no longer needed, and silt fence shall be removed as soon as the area is stable to allow for reptile and amphibian passage to resume.
  - f. Any eastern ribbon snakes encountered within the immediate work area shall be carefully moved to an adjacent area outside of the excluded area and the Engineer shall be immediately informed in order to contact OEP with the location.
  - g. No heavy machinery or vehicles may be parked in any eastern ribbon snake habitat.
  - h. The Contractor must search the work area each morning for the presence of this listed species prior to any work being done.

Work may take place during the eastern ribbon snake's inactive (hibernation) period (October 1 to March 31) with the following additional precautionary measure:

- a. Exclusionary fencing must be installed and the area inspected for the eastern ribbon snake by the Engineer or Engineer's approved representative prior to October 1.

These practices will be applied to the entire Project unless a sketch is attached, which identifies specific areas of concern.

This species is protected by State laws which prohibit killing, harming, taking, or keeping them in your possession. Photographs and the laws protecting the eastern ribbon snake shall be posted in the Contractor's and DOT field office (species ID sheets will be provided by OEP).