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May 6, 2004

Ms. Pamela Katz
Chairman
Connecticut Siting Council
10 Franklin Square
New Britain, CT 06501

Re: Docket No. 272

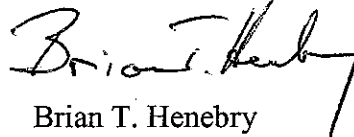
Dear Ms. Katz:

As a supplement to The Connecticut Light and Power Company and The United Illuminating Company's filing of correspondence with federal, state, and local agencies found in Volume 4 of the Application, enclosed are 20 copies of the following additional agency correspondence:

- November 20, 2001 letter from Daniel A. Peracchio of Ferrucci & Walicki, LLC to Jeffrey Borne of Northeast Utilities
- April 14, 2003 letter from Donald D. Biondi of Northeast Utilities to Dawn McKay of the State of Connecticut, Department of Environmental Protection
- October 9, 2003 letter from Kenneth J. Metzler of the State of Connecticut, Department of Environmental Protection to Donald Biondi of Northeast Utilities
- November 3, 2003 letter from Peter Aarrestad of the State of Connecticut, Department of Environmental Protection to Donald D. Biondi of Northeast Utilities

Copies of these documents have been served on the service list by mail and to the e-mail service list.

Very truly yours,



Brian T. Henebry

BTH/dab
Enclosures

{W1299885}

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Ferrucci & Walicki, LLC Forestland Management Consultants
1353 Boston Post Road, Suite 7, Madison, Connecticut 06443

203-245-7436
fax 203-245-7135

November 20, 2001

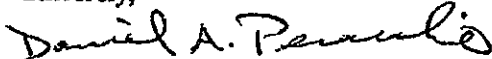
Jeffrey Borne, Senior Scientist
Northeast Utilities
PO Box 270
Hartford, CT 06101

Dear Mr. Borne,

Enclosed is a copy of the Natural Diversity Database request made for the new
Environmental Impact Statement project.

If you have any questions, please call or e-mail me at the office.

Sincerely,



Daniel A. Peracchio
Certified Forester #516
Ferrucci & Walicki, LLC

REQUEST FORM
CONNECTICUT NATURAL DIVERSITY DATA BASE

Date: 11/14/2001

REQUESTER: Dan Peracchio

AFFILIATION: Ferrucci & Walcki, LLC

TITLE: Assistant Forester

ADDRESS: 1353 Boston Post Road, Suite 7, Madison CT 06443

PHONE: 203-245-7436

Middle Haddam, Haddam, Middletown,
Durham, Wallingford, Mount Carmel,
New Haven, Ansonia, and Milford

PROJECT LOCATION
TOWN: See Below

USGS QUAD NAME: _____

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED ACTIVITIES:

Middletown, Haddam, Durham, Middlefield, Meriden, Wallingford, Cheshire

Hamden, Bethany, Woodbridge, Orange, and Milford

Environmental review for Northeast Utilities.

HOW WILL THE CT NATURAL DIVERSITY DATA BASE INFORMATION BE USED?

To determine the presence of rare wildlife, plants, and habitats.

YOUR REQUEST MUST INCLUDE A COPY OF A USGS TOPOGRAPHIC MAP WITH
THE PROJECT BOUNDARY CLEARLY DELINEATED.

THIS INFORMATION SUPPLIED ABOVE IS COMPLETE AND ACCURATE. ANY
MATERIAL SUPPLIED BY THE CTNDDDB WILL NOT BE PUBLISHED WITHOUT
PRIOR PERMISSION.

Date needed by: ASAP

Signature _____

RETURN COMPLETED FORM TO:

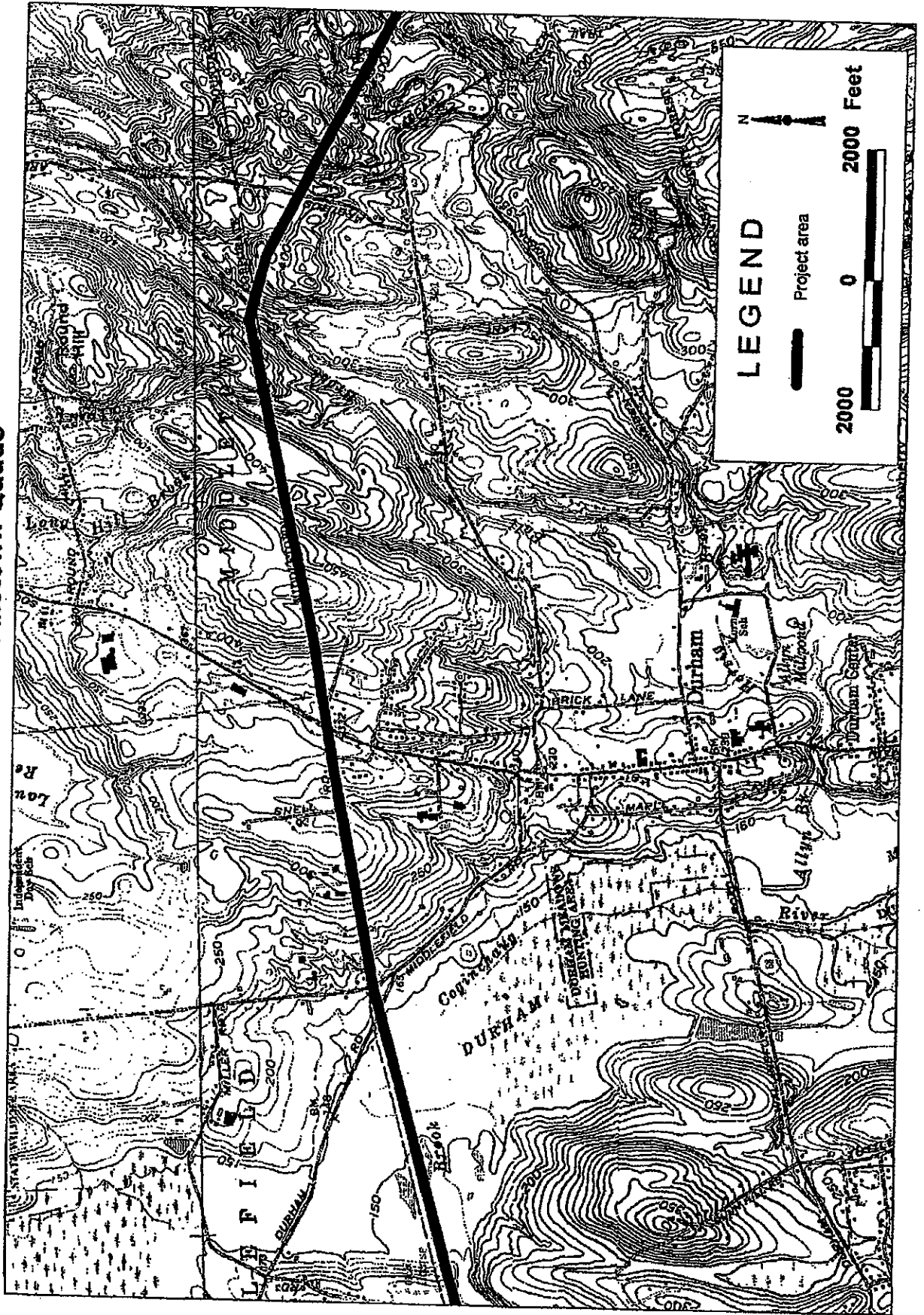
DEF-NATURAL RESOURCES CENTER
Connecticut Natural Diversity Data Base
79 Elm St.
Hartford, CT 06106

Attention: Data Request

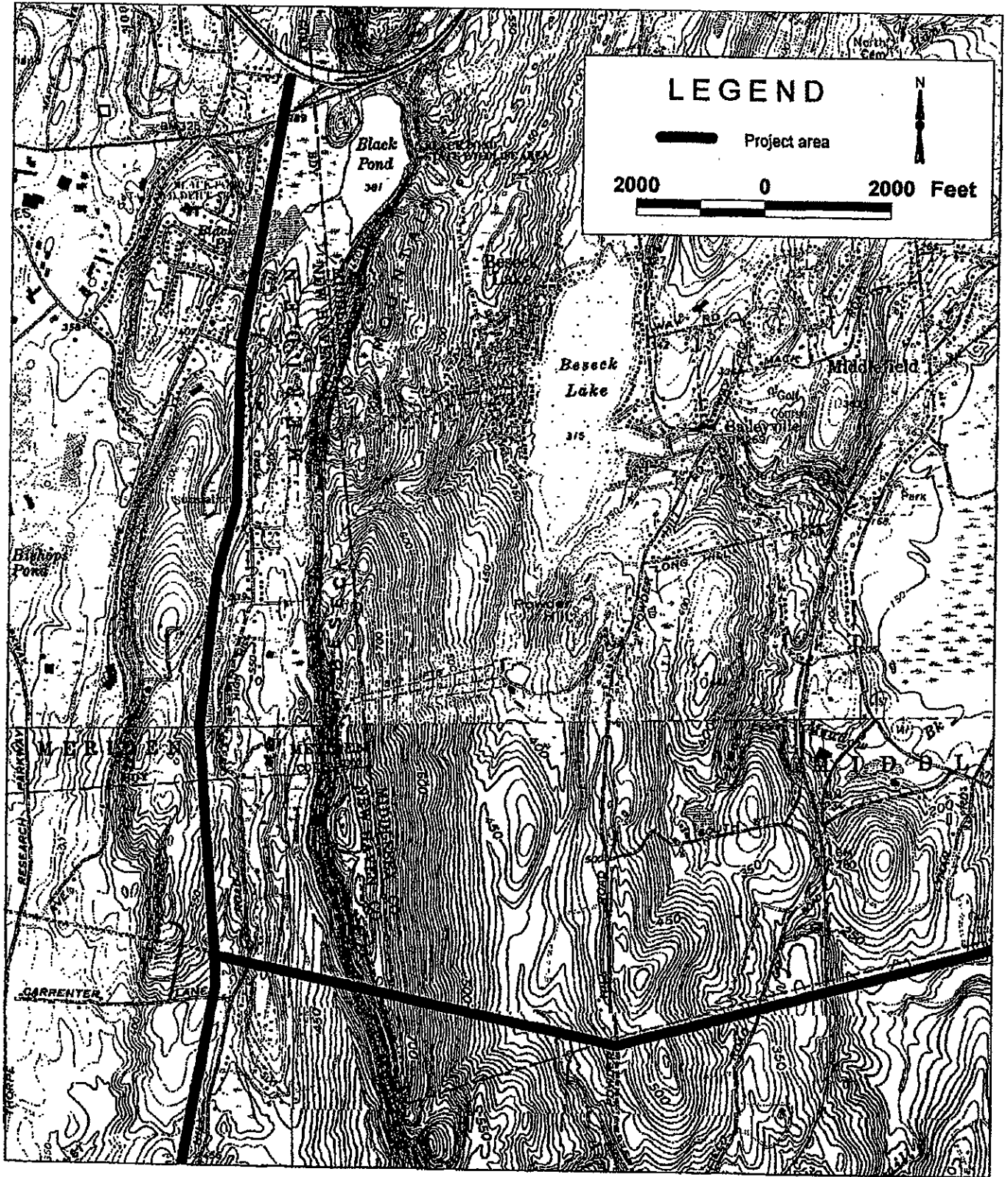
**Northeast Utilities
Natural Diversity Database
Middle Haddam, Haddam, Durham, and Middletown Quads**



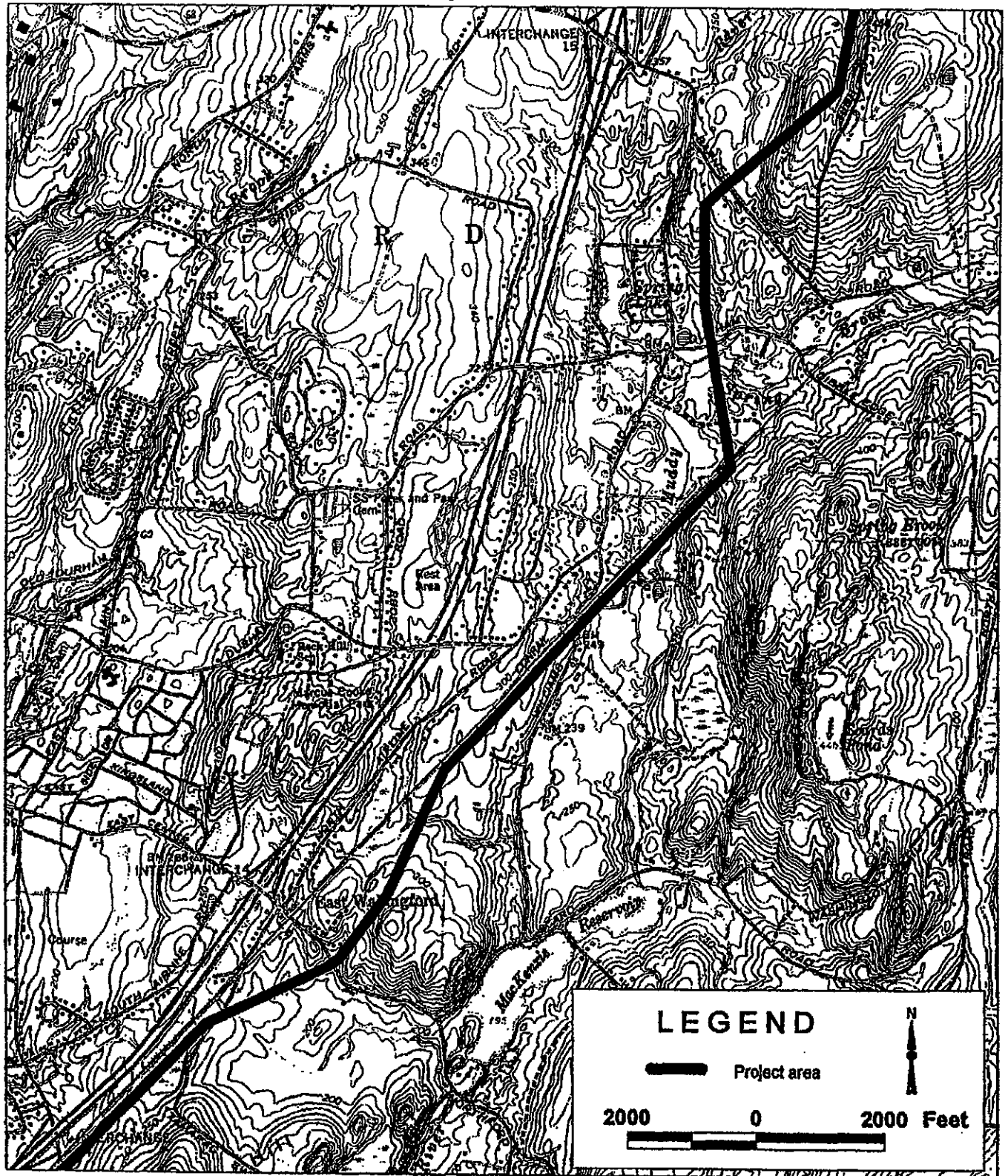
Northeast Utilities Natural Diversity Database Durham and Middletown Quads



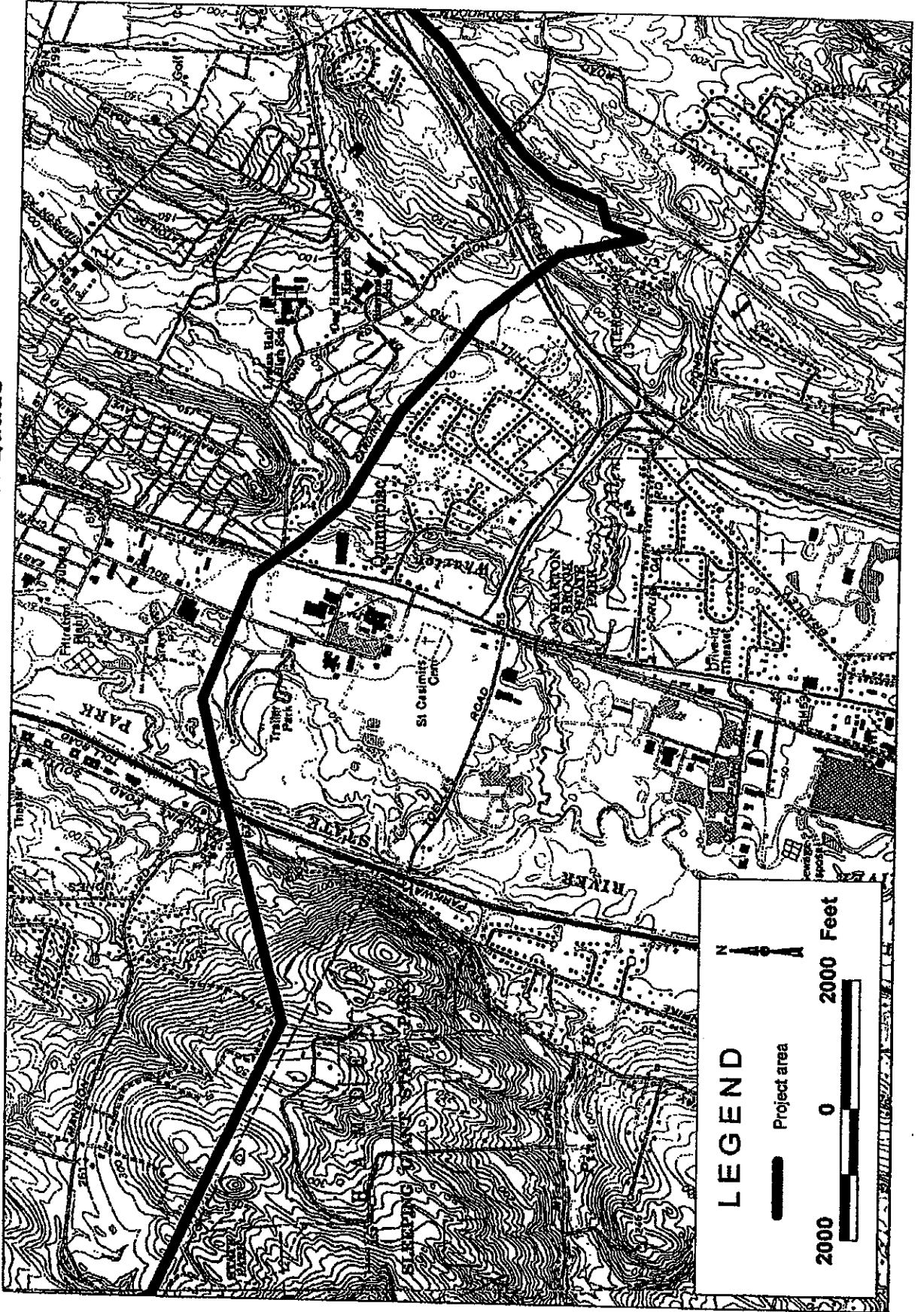
Northeast Utilities
Natural Diversity Database
Durham, Middletown, Meriden, and Wallingford Quads



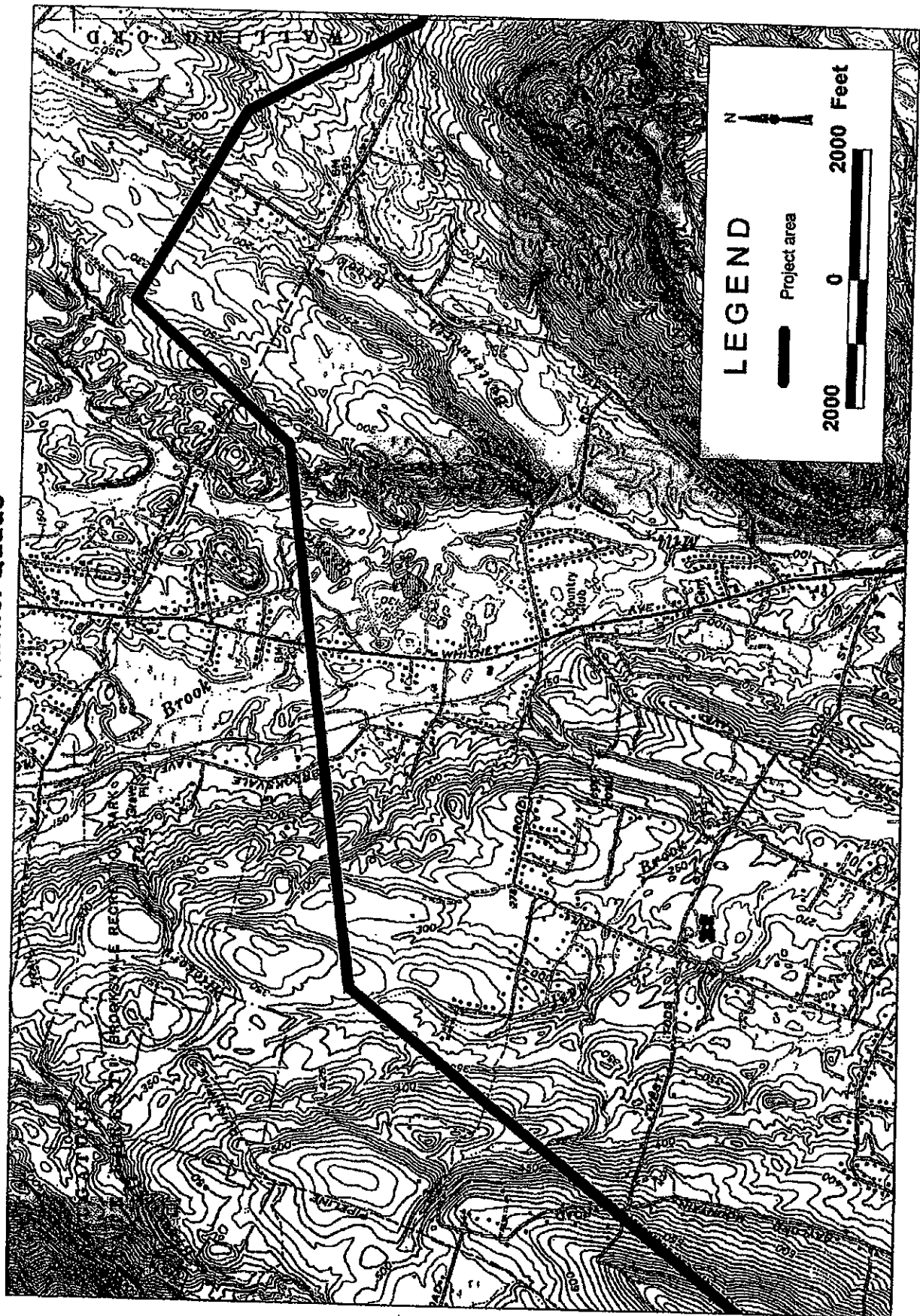
Northeast Utilities
Natural Diversity Database
Wallingford Quad



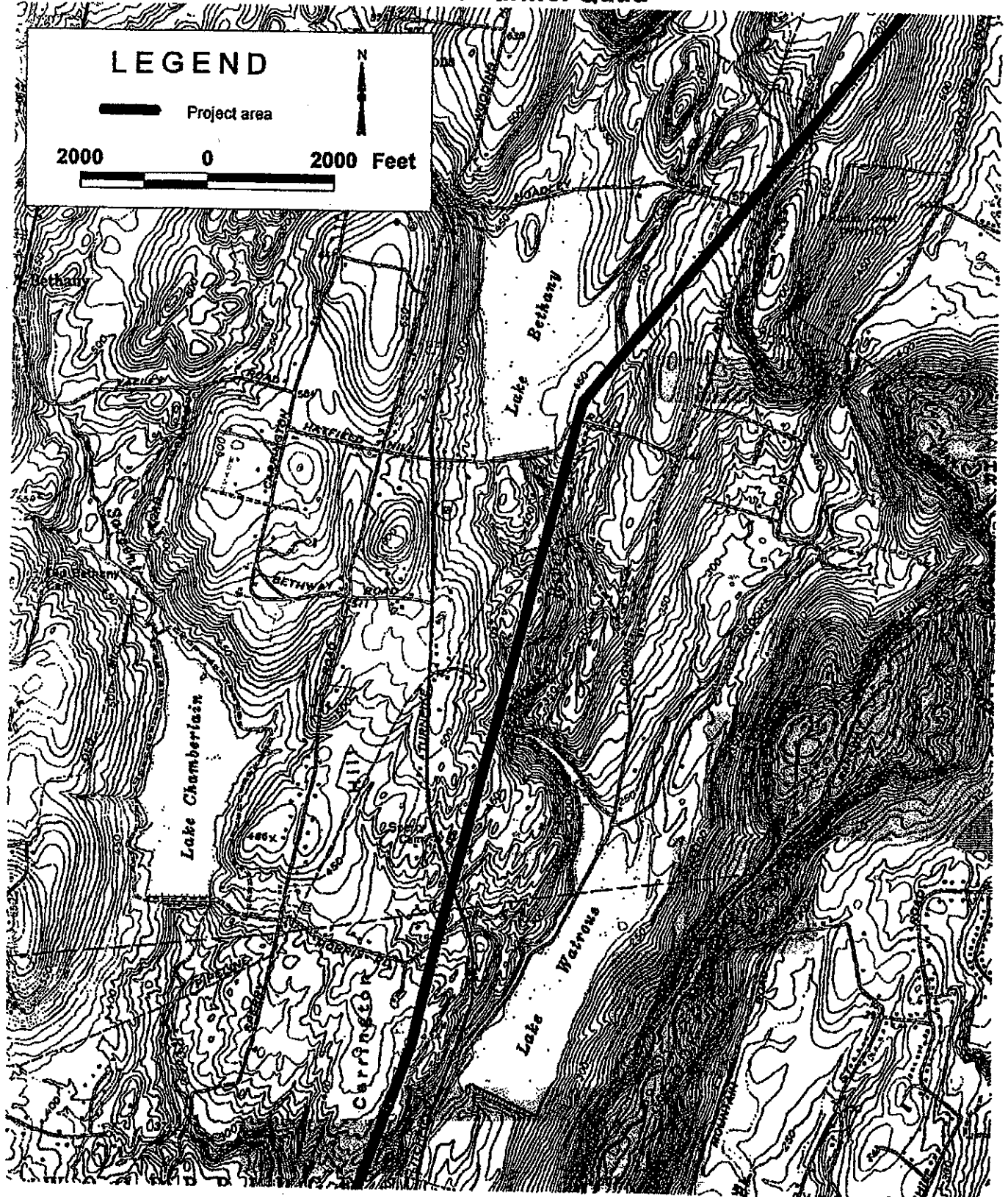
**Northeast Utilities
Natural Diversity Database
Wallingford and Mount Carmel Quads**



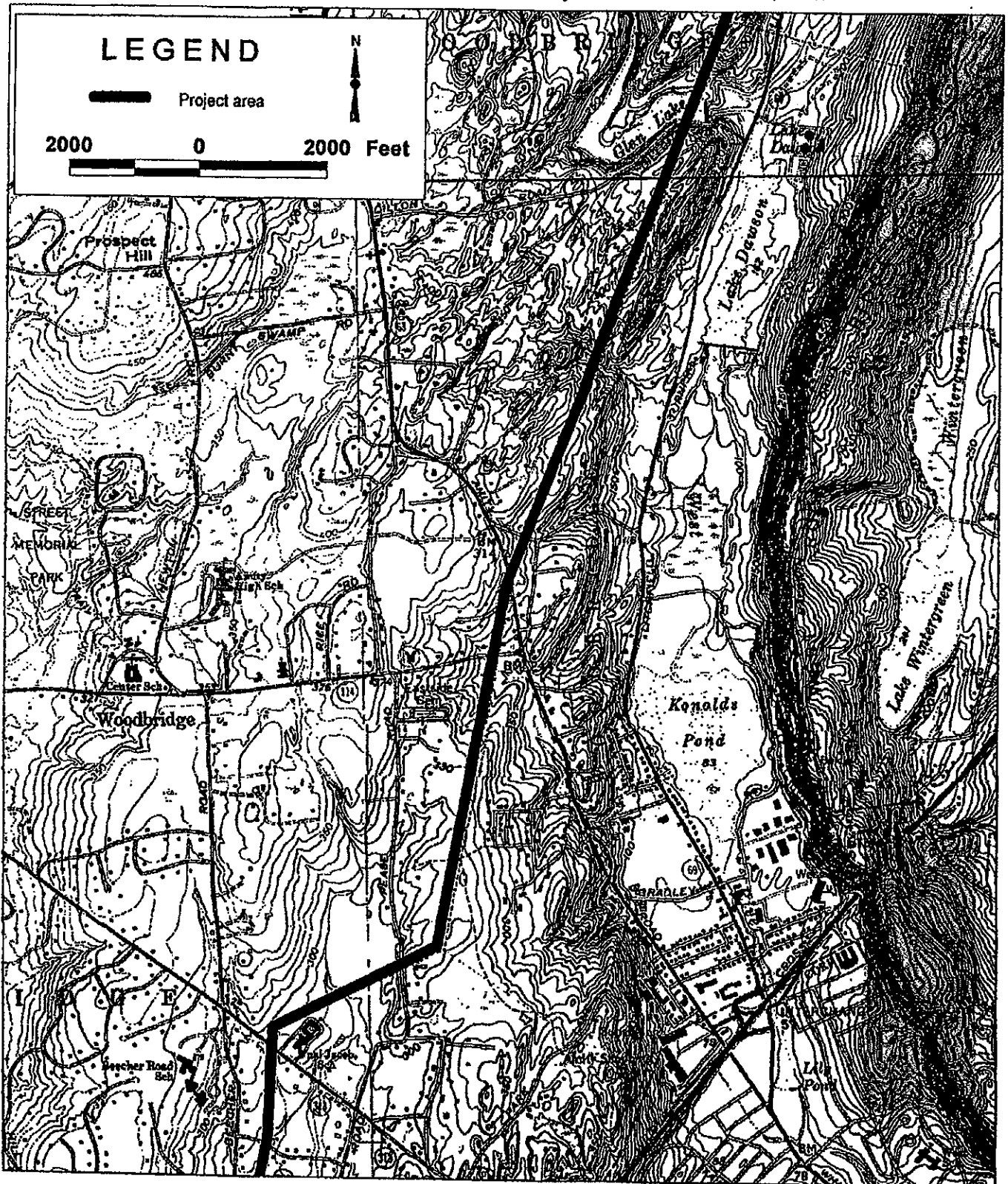
**Northeast Utilities
Natural Diversity Database
Mount Carmel Quads**



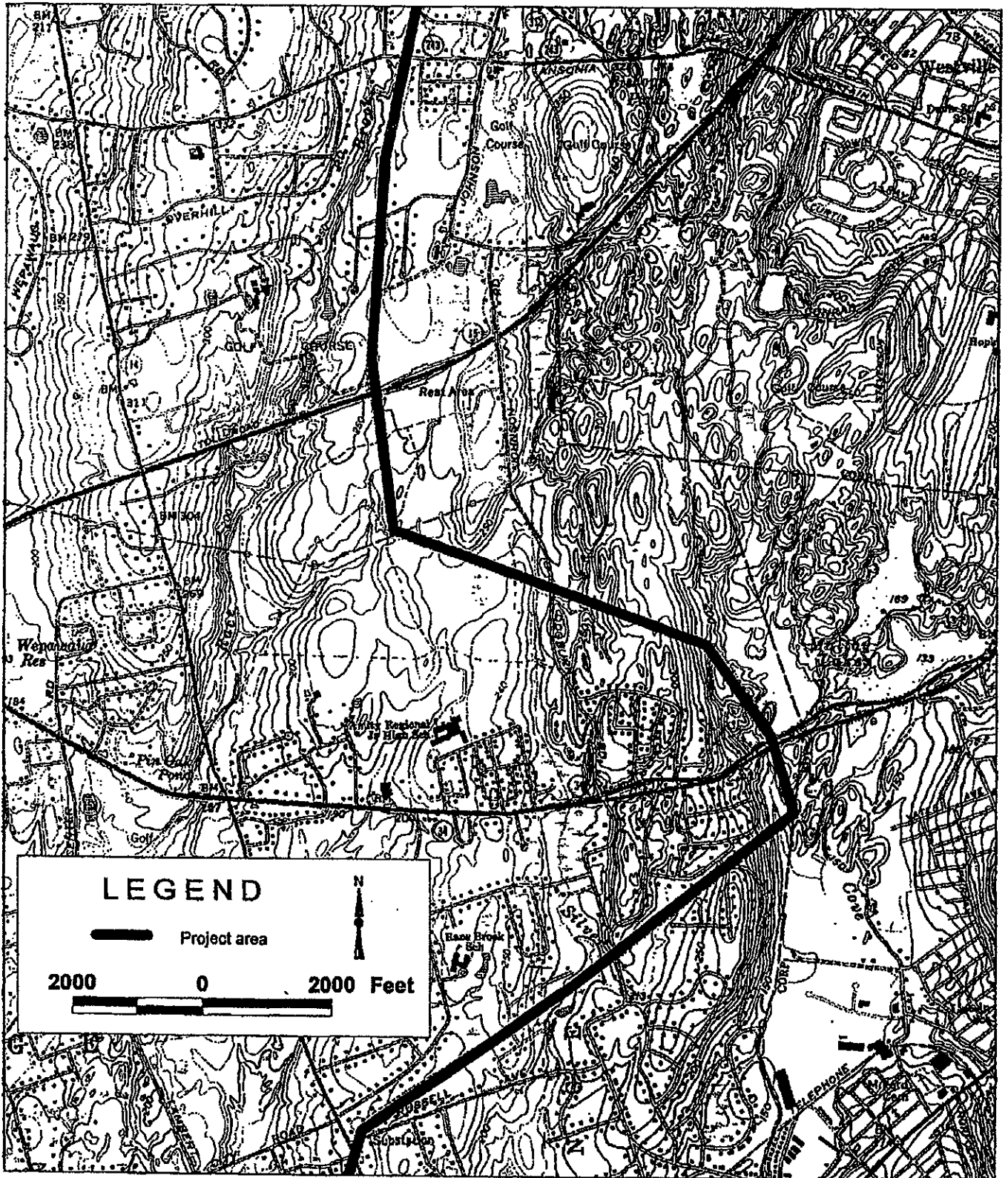
Northeast Utilities
Natural Diversity Database
Mount Carmel Quad



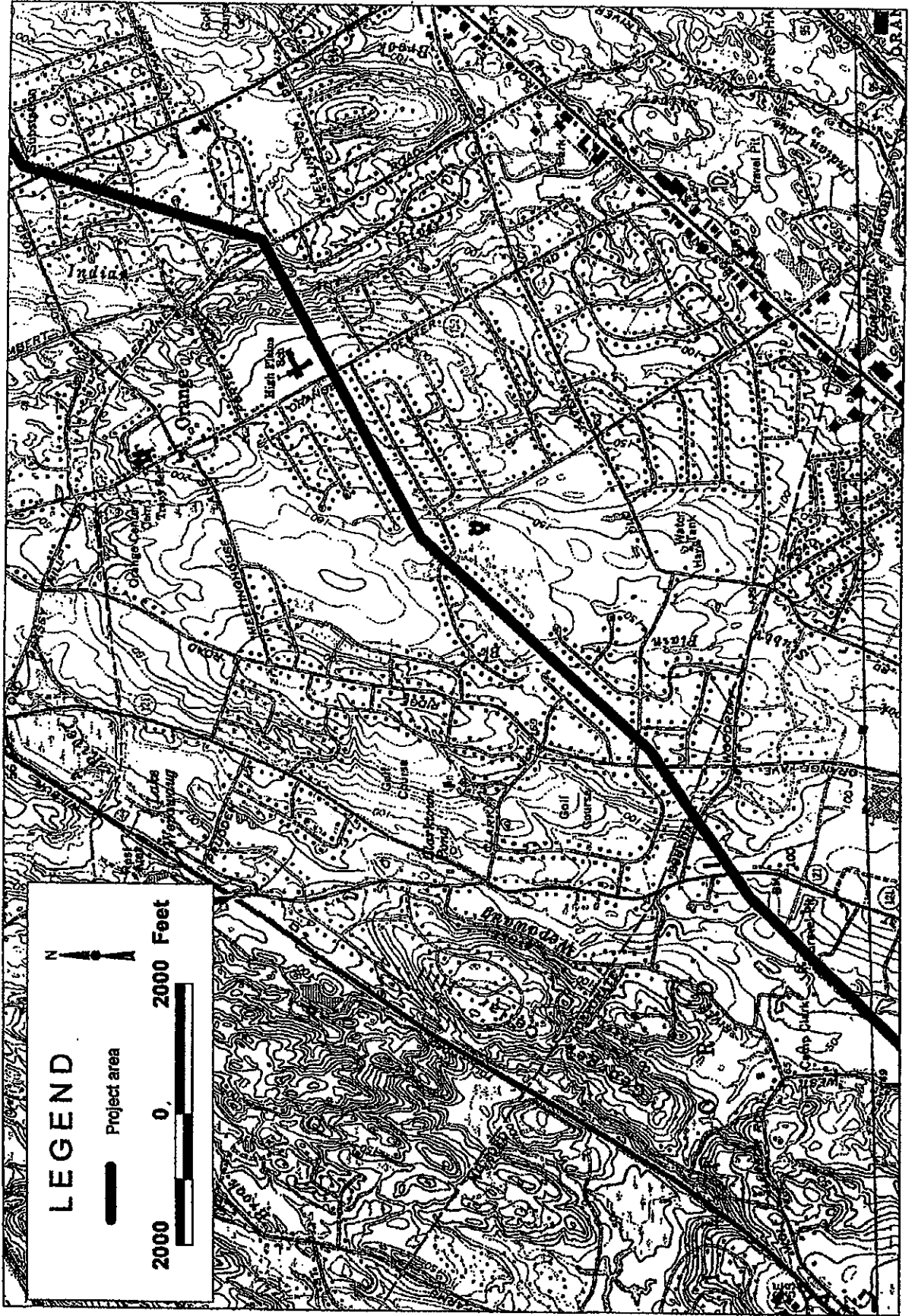
Northeast Utilities
Natural Diversity Database
Mount Carmel, New Haven, and Ansonia Quad



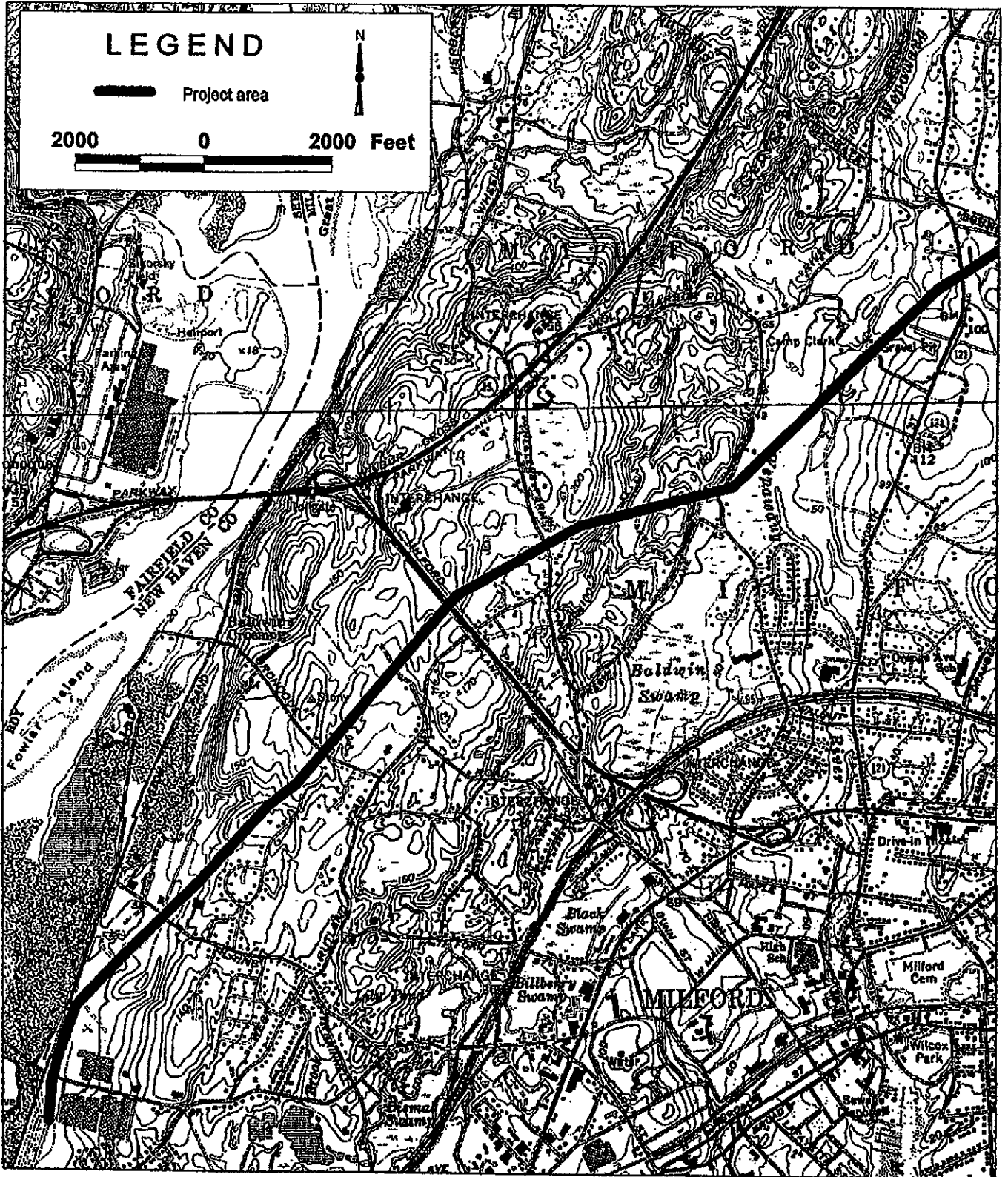
Northeast Utilities
Natural Diversity Database
New Haven and Ansonia Quads



**Northeast Utilities
Natural Diversity Database
Ansonia and Milford Quads**



Northeast Utilities
Natural Diversity Database
Ansonia and Milford Quads





**Northeast
Utilities System**

107 Selden Street, Berlin, CT 06037

Northeast Utilities Service Company
P.O. Box 270
Hartford, CT 06141-0270
(860) 665-5000

April 14, 2003

Environmental & Geographic Information Center
Natural Diversity Data Base
Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection
79 Elm Street
Hartford, CT 06106

Attention: Dawn M. McKay, Environmental Analyst/Biologist

Dear Ms. McKay:

As you know, Northeast Utilities (on behalf of The Connecticut Light and Power Company), and The United Illuminating Company (the Companies), are proposing to construct a new 345 kV electric transmission facility in southwest Connecticut. You have completed your review of the Middletown to Milford (overhead) portion of the project.

We are now requesting that you review the portion of the route which crosses the Housatonic River and proceeds westerly, underground (to be constructed in paved streets and roads), from Milford to Norwalk. Enclosed are USGS maps which show the proposed route.

Please feel free to contact us (Donald D. Biondi, 665-6716; Jeffrey Borne, 665-6715) if you have any questions regarding this request. The Companies look forward to working with your department in protecting and mitigating any potential impacts to critical habitats and species which may be affected by this proposed project.

Thank you for your assistance on this matter.

Sincerely,

Donald D. Biondi
Land Planning Consultant

attachments: NDDB request form; USGS location maps
cc. J. Borne



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
ENVIRONMENTAL AND GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION CENTER

79 Elm Street, Store Level
Hartford, Connecticut 06106-5127
Natural Diversity Data Base



October 9, 2003

Mr. Donald Biondi
Northeast Utilities
P.O. Box 270
Hartford, CT 06141-0270

Re: Saugatuck River, Westport

Dear Mr. Biondi:

I have reviewed Natural Diversity Data Base maps and files regarding the area delineated on the map you provided and listed above. According to our information, there are no known extant populations of Federal or State Endangered, Threatened or Special Concern Species at the site in question.

Natural Diversity Data Base information includes all information regarding critical biologic resources available to us at the time of the request. This information is a compilation of data collected over the years by the Natural Resources Center's Geological and Natural History Survey and cooperating units of DEP, private conservation groups and the scientific community. This information is not necessarily the result of comprehensive or site-specific field investigations. Consultations with the Data Base should not be substituted for on-site surveys required for environmental assessments. 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 Data Base as it becomes available.

Please contact me if you have further questions regarding this information (424-3585). Thank you for consulting the Natural Diversity Data Base..

Sincerely,

Kenneth J. Metzler
Ecologist/Environmental Analyst III

KJM/md



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION



November 3, 2003

Mr. Donald D. Biondi
Land Planning Consultant
Northeast Utilities
P.O. Box 270
Hartford, CT 06141-0270

Re: Proposed construction of a 345-kV electric transmission line, with particular emphasis on the proposed crossing of the Housatonic River. (Basin # 6000)

Dear Mr. Biondi:

Per your request I am writing to follow-up on the telephone conversation we had on September 26, 2003. You called me with regard to a request you made to the Natural Diversity Database (NDDDB) on April 14, 2003, for which you received a written response from Dawn M. McKay, a biologist with the DEP Environmental and Geographic Information Center. Ms. McKay's letter of May 7, 2003 suggested that you contact me regarding the presence of State threatened Atlantic sturgeon in the Housatonic River.

Although the Housatonic River estuary provides habitat for numerous anadromous, catadromous, and marine fishes, I am limiting this discussion to Atlantic sturgeon.

It is my understanding that the proposed crossing could either be overhead, or installed under the bed of the river using horizontal directional drilling (HDD). An exact location for the proposed crossing has not yet been determined. As we discussed, this office has the opportunity to review and provide commentary on projects that are regulated by the DEP Inland Water Resources Division and by the Office of Long Island Sound Programs. In past reviews of projects involving HDD, the Inland Fisheries Division has requested monitoring for drilling fluid (i.e., bentonite) frack-outs (leakage into the aquatic environment), and containment and recovery if such leakage is observed. The Office of Long Island Sound Programs has developed rigorous protocols to deal with these issues and these protocols are required for all HDD projects that are approved by that office.

The Housatonic River no longer supports a spawning population of Atlantic sturgeon, though it did historically (Whitworth 1996, NMFS and USFWS 1998). Atlantic sturgeon is currently listed as threatened (by CT DEP) in the freshwaters of Connecticut, meaning those waters upstream of the inland/marine demarcation line. In the Housatonic River, the demarcation line is the Rte. 15 Bridge (aka Sikorsky Bridge). Atlantic sturgeon is expected to be reclassified as threatened in all state waters when the list of state endangered, threatened and special concern

Page 1 of 3

plants and animals is updated later this year.

Atlantic sturgeon recently captured in the Connecticut River likely originated from the Hudson River in New York (Savoy and Pacileo 2003). Likewise, those documented from the Housatonic (Aarrestad and Jacobson 1996) and Thames Rivers (Whitworth et al. 1975) likely originated from there as well. These sub-adult Atlantic sturgeon enter Connecticut's large coastal rivers in the summer, and are thought to do so for feeding purposes (Savoy and Pacileo 2003).

As we discussed, I am currently not aware of any critical Atlantic sturgeon foraging habitats in the Housatonic River. However, as part of our technical review during the permit review process, this office is likely to request the applicant be required to submit information characterizing the sediments and benthic community found within and adjacent to any proposed crossing route. Such information will allow this office to better assess potential impacts of a bentonite frack-out on all fisheries resources, including Atlantic sturgeon. There would be no need for this type of assessment if an overhead crossing were proposed.

Be advised that this office will provide advisory comment on other proposed crossing locations that may require inwater work in other Connecticut rivers and streams, whether they are regulated by the DEP Inland Water Resources Division, Office of Long Island Sound Programs, or both.

Literature Cited:

Aarrestad, P.J. and R.A. Jacobson. 1996. Spatial and Temporal Composition of the Fisheries Resources of the Lower Housatonic River, Connecticut. Federal Aid to Sport Fish Restoration Report F-61-T-9, Job 3., Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection, Bureau of Natural Resources, Hartford CT. 106p.

NMFS and USFWS (National Marine Fisheries Service and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service). 1998. Status Review of Atlantic sturgeon (*Acipenser oxyrinchus oxyrinchus*). Report prepared by the Atlantic sturgeon Status Review Team for the National Marine Fisheries Service (Northeast and Southeast Regions) and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Regions 4 and 5). 125p.

Savoy, T. and D. Pacileo. 2003. Movements and important habitats of subadult Atlantic sturgeon in Connecticut Waters. Transactions of the American Fisheries Society. 132(1): 1-8.

Whitworth, W.R. 1996. Freshwater fishes of Connecticut. Connecticut Geologic and Natural History Survey Bulletin No. 114. Hartford, CT. 243p.

Whitworth, W.R., D.R. Gibbons, J.H. Heuer, W.E. Johns, and R.E. Schmidt. 1975. A general survey of the fisheries resources of the Thames River watershed, Connecticut. p. 1-41. in R.L. Hames (ed.) An Evaluation of the Fishery Resources of the Thames River Watershed, Connecticut. Storrs Agricultural Experiment Station Bull. No. 435., Univ. Of Connecticut, Storrs, CT. 110p.

Sincerely,



Peter Aarrestad
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Habitat Conservation and Enhancement
Inland Fisheries Division

cc:

Mark Johnson, Habitat Conservation and Enhancement
Dawn McKay, Environmental and Geographic Information Center
Don Mysling, Habitat Conservation and Enhancement