



Connecticut Department of
Energy & Environmental Protection
Bureau of Natural Resources
Wildlife Division

CPPU USE ONLY

App #: _____

Doc #: _____

Check #: No fee required

Program: Natural Diversity Database
Endangered Species

Hardcopy _____ Electronic _____

Request for Natural Diversity Data Base (NDDB) State Listed Species Review

Please complete this form in accordance with the [instructions](#) (DEEP-INST-007) to ensure proper handling of your request.

There are no fees associated with NDDB Reviews.

Part I: Preliminary Screening & Request Type

Before submitting this request, you must review the most current Natural Diversity Data Base "State and Federal Listed Species and Significant Natural Communities Maps" found on the [DEEP website](#). These maps are updated twice a year, usually in June and December.

Does your site, including all affected areas, fall in an NDDB Area according to the map instructions:

☒ Yes ☐ No **Enter the date** of the map reviewed for pre-screening: December 2016

This form is being submitted for a :

- ☒ New NDDB request
- ☐ Renewal/Extension of a NDDB Request, **without** modifications and within **two years** of issued NDDB determination (no attachments required)

[CPPU Use Only - NDDB-Listed Species Determination # 1736]

Enter NDDB Determination Number for Renewal/Extension:

- ☐ New **Safe Harbor Determination** (optional) must be associated with an application for a GP for the Discharge of Stormwater and Dewatering Wastewaters from Construction Activities
- ☐ Renewal/Extension of an existing Safe Harbor Determination
- ☐ With modifications
- ☐ Without modifications (no attachments required)

[CPPU Use Only - NDDB-Safe Harbor Determination # 1736]

Enter Safe Harbor Determination Number for Renewal/Extension:

Part II: Requester Information

If the requester is a corporation, limited liability company, limited partnership, limited liability partnership, or a statutory trust, it must be registered with the Secretary of State. If applicable, the name shall be stated **exactly as it is registered with the Secretary of State. Please note, for those entities registered with the Secretary of State, the registered name will be the name used by DEEP. This information can be accessed at the Secretary of the State's database CONCORD. (www.concord-sots.ct.gov/CONCORD/index.jsp)*

If the requester is an individual, provide the legal name (include suffix) in the following format: First Name; Middle Initial; Last Name; Suffix (Jr, Sr., II, III, etc.).

If there are any changes or corrections to your company/facility or individual mailing or billing address or contact information, please complete and submit the [Request to Change company/Individual Information](#) to the address indicated on the form.

1. Requester*

Company Name: **Amec Foster Wheeler**

Contact Name: **Ryan Hale, PWS**

Address: **271 Mill Road, 3rd Floor**

City/Town: **Chelmsford**

State: **MA**

Zip Code: **01824**

Business Phone: **978-392-5370**

ext.

E-mail: **ryan.hale@amecfw.com

**By providing this email address you are agreeing to receive official correspondence from the department, at this electronic address, concerning this request. Please remember to check your security settings to be sure you can receive emails from "ct.gov" addresses. Also, please notify the department if your e-mail address changes

a) Requester can best be described as:

☐ Individual ☐ Federal Agency ☐ State agency ☐ Municipality ☐ Tribal

☒ *business entity (* if a business entity complete i through iii):

i) Check type ☐ corporation ☐ limited liability company ☐ limited partnership

☐ limited liability partnership ☐ statutory trust ☒ Other: public limited company

ii) Provide Secretary of the State Business ID #: This information can be accessed at the Secretary of the State's database (CONCORD). (www.concord-sots.ct.gov/CONCORD/index.jsp)

iii) ☒ Check here if your business is **NOT** registered with the Secretary of State's office.

b) Acting as (Affiliation), pick one:

☐ Property owner ☒ Consultant ☐ Engineer ☐ Facility owner ☐ Applicant

☐ Biologist ☐ Pesticide Applicator ☐ Other representative:

2. List Primary Contact to receive Natural Diversity Data Base correspondence and inquiries, if different from requester.

Company Name: **Same as requester**

Contact Person:

Title:

Mailing Address:

City/Town:

State:

Zip Code:

Business Phone:

ext.

**E-mail:

Part III: Site Information

This request can only be completed for one site. A separate request must be filed for each additional site.

1. SITE NAME AND LOCATION

Site Name or Project Name: **Candlewood Solar Project**

Town(s): **New Milford**

Street Address or Location Description:

Between Candlewood Mountain Road and Kent Road, north of Candlewood Lake; parcels - off Candlewood Mountain Road (parcel 26/67.1); 221 Kent Road (parcel 9/6); 201 Kent Road (parcel 34/31.1); and 200 Kent Road (parcel 34/31.2)

Size in acres, or site dimensions: **86.6 acres (solar array); ~6,998 linear feet (interconnect)**

Latitude and longitude of the center of the site in decimal degrees (e.g., 41.23456 -71.68574):

Latitude: **41.57347**

Longitude: **-73.452006**

Method of coordinate determination (check one):

☐ GPS ☐ Photo interpolation using [CTECO map viewer](#) ☒ Other (specify): **GIS**

2a. Describe the current land use and land cover of the site.

The proposed solar array location currently consists of forested areas and hay fields/pasture. The existing access road leading from Candlewood Mountain Road consists of vegetation and dirt/gravel. The proposed interconnect route currently consists of forested areas at its southwest extent, existing access roadways, and a maintained cleared fiber line right-of-way.

b. Check all that apply and enter the size in acres or % of area in the space after each checked category.

☐ Industrial/Commercial _____	☐ Residential _____	☒ Forest <u>72.1 ac.</u>
☐ Wetland _____	☐ Field/grassland _____	☒ Agricultural <u>15.9 ac.</u>
☐ Water _____	☒ Utility Right-of-way <u>0.9 ac.</u>	
☒ Transportation Right-of-way <u>2.3 ac.</u>	☐ Other (specify): _____	

Part IV: Project Information

1. PROJECT TYPE:

Choose Project Type: Utility construction/modification , If other describe: _____

2. Is the subject activity limited to the maintenance, repair, or improvement of an existing structure within the existing footprint? ☐ Yes ☒ No If yes, explain.

Part IV: Project Information (continued)

3. Give a detailed description of the activity which is the subject of this request and describe the methods and equipment that will be used. Include a description of steps that will be taken to minimize impacts to any known listed species.

Candlewood Solar LLC intends to install a ground-mounted solar array on a 163.5-acre predominantly undeveloped parcel of land (parcel 26/67.1), located adjacent to the east of Candlewood Mountain Road in the Town of New Milford, Litchfield County, Connecticut. The Project Site consists of approximately 86.6 acres of the parcel that is proposed to be occupied by the solar array, subject to modification depending upon final design, but will be limited to the subject property. An existing approximately 0.2-mile long existing access road leads east from Candlewood Mountain Road to the proposed array location and an approximately 6,998-foot long linear electric interconnect route passes through three parcels to the east from the array (parcels 9/6, 34/31.1, and 34.31.2), which extends along forested areas, existing access roadways, and existing maintained cleared fiber line right-of-way to its terminus with the existing Rocky River Substation located between Kent Road and the Housatonic River..

The primary construction activities will generally consist of the following:

- **install erosion/sedimentation controls prior to work activities;**
- **removal of trees, stumps, and other vegetation as needed with chainsaws, stump grinders, and brush hogs, or similar;**
- **minor re-grading if necessary with an excavator and/or bulldozer;**
- **improve the existing access road if needed by minor re-grading and/or addition of gravel;**
- **augur one- to two-inch diameter to depths specified by the solar panel manufacturer, pilot holes into the soil for the installation of the solar array using a machine-mounted power auger;**
- **install electrical conduit via trenching and/or overhead utility poles (to be determined) via an excavator;**
- **re-vegetate disturbed areas, and remove erosion/sedimentation controls once all disturbed areas have been permanently stabilized.**

Under the currently anticipated project schedule, work would commence in late 2017 assuming all required approvals are obtained, and would be completed in mid-2018. Erosion/sedimentation controls would be removed once permanent stabilization is achieved thereafter.

It is unknown which listed species may be present at the Project Site. Once determined, appropriate mitigation measures will be taken to avoid and minimize impacts, and ensure protection of the listed species, if present.

4. If this is a renewal or extension of an existing Safe Harbor request *with* modifications, explain what about the project has changed.

N/A

5. Provide a contact for questions about the project details if different from Part II primary contact.

Name: **Same as Part II primary contact**

Phone:

E-mail:

Part V: Request Requirements and Associated Application Types

Check *one* box from either Group 1, Group 2 *or* Group 3, indicating the appropriate category for this request.

Group 1. If you check one of these boxes, complete Parts I – VII of this form and submit the required attachments A and B.

- ☐ Preliminary screening was negative but an NDDB review is still requested
- ☐ Request regards a municipally regulated or unregulated activity (no state permit/certificate needed)
- ☐ Request regards a preliminary site assessment or project feasibility study
- ☐ Request relates to land acquisition or protection
- ☐ Request is associated with a *renewal* of an existing permit, with no modifications

Group 2. If you check one of these boxes, complete Parts I – VII of this form and submit required attachments A, B, and C.

- ☒ Request is associated with a *new* state or federal permit application
- ☐ Request is associated with modification of an existing permit
- ☐ Request is associated with a permit enforcement action
- ☐ Request regards site management or planning, requiring detailed species recommendations
- ☐ Request regards a state funded project, state agency activity, or CEPA request

☐ **Group 3.** If you are requesting a **Safe Harbor Determination**, complete Parts I-VII and submit required attachments A, B, and D. Safe Harbor determinations can only be requested if you are applying for a GP for the Discharge of Stormwater and Dewatering Wastewaters from Construction Activities

If you are filing this request as part of a state or federal permit application(s) enter the application information below.

Permitting Agency and Application Name(s):

CT DEEP Stormwater Construction General Permit; CSC Petition for Declaratory Ruling; others, if applicable, to be determined

State DEEP Application Number(s), if known: _____

State DEEP Enforcement Action Number, if known: _____

State DEEP Permit Analyst(s)/Engineer(s), if known: _____

Is this request related to a previously submitted NDDB request? ☐ Yes ☒ No

If yes, provide the previous NDDB Determination Number(s), if known: _____

Part VI: Supporting Documents

Check each attachment submitted as verification that *all* applicable attachments have been supplied with this request form. Label each attachment as indicated in this part (e.g., Attachment A, etc.) and be sure to include the requester's name, site name and the date. **Please note that Attachments A and B are required for all new requests and Safe Harbor renewals/extensions with modifications.** Renewals/Extensions with no modifications do not need to submit any attachments. Attachments C and D are supplied at the end of this form.

☒ Attachment A:	Overview Map: an 8 1/2" X 11" print/copy of the relevant portion of a USGS Topographic Quadrangle Map clearly indicating the exact location of the site.
☒ Attachment B:	Detailed Site Map: fine scaled map showing site boundary and area of work details on aerial imagery with relevant landmarks labeled. (Site and work boundaries in GIS [ESRI ArcView shapefile, in NAD83, State Plane, feet] format can be substituted for detailed maps, see instruction document)
☒ Attachment C:	Supplemental Information, Group 2 requirement (attached, DEEP-APP-007C) ☒ Section i: Supplemental Site Information and supporting documents ☒ Section ii: Supplemental Project Information and supporting documents
☐ Attachment D:	Safe Harbor Report Requirements, Group 3 (attached, DEEP-APP-007D)

Part VII: Requester Certification

The requester *and* the individual(s) responsible for actually preparing the request must sign this part. A request will be considered incomplete unless all required signatures are provided.

"I have personally examined and am familiar with the information submitted in this document and all attachments thereto, and I certify that based on reasonable investigation, including my inquiry of the individuals responsible for obtaining the information, the submitted information is true, accurate and complete to the best of my knowledge and belief."	
Ryan Hale Signature of Requester (a typed name will substitute for a handwritten signature)	04/11/2017 Date
Ryan Hale, PWS Name of Requester (print or type)	Permitting Specialist Title (if applicable)
Signature of Preparer (if different than above)	Date
Same as above Name of Preparer (print or type)	Title (if applicable)

Note: Please submit the completed Request Form and all Supporting Documents to:

CENTRAL PERMIT PROCESSING UNIT
 DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
 79 ELM STREET
 HARTFORD, CT 06106-5127

Or email request to: deep.nddbrequest@ct.gov

Attachment C: Supplemental Information, Group 2 requirement

Section i: Supplemental Site Information

1. Existing Conditions

Describe all natural and man-made features including wetlands, watercourses, fish and wildlife habitat, floodplains and any existing structures potentially affected by the subject activity. Such features should be depicted and labeled on the site plan that must be submitted. Photographs of current site conditions may be helpful to reviewers.

The proposed solar array location is predominantly forested with hay field/pasture on the southern portion. Several old stone walls are present throughout the array area, and with the exception of a small shed on one of the pasture areas, no other man-made features are present. Wetlands, streams, and rock outcrops are present at various locations primarily along the eastern edge of the proposed arrays, and a vernal pool is present in the northeast portion of the property. The existing access road leading to the solar array location from Candlewood Mountain Road is vegetated in some areas and dirt/gravel in others. The interconnect extends east through forested areas then through existing access roadways and cleared fiber line right-of-way.

☒ **Site Photographs (optional) attached**

☒ **Site Plan/sketch of existing conditions attached**

2. Biological Surveys

Has a biologist visited the site and conducted a biological survey to determine the presence of any endangered, threatened or special concern species ☐ Yes ☒ No

If yes, complete the following questions and submit any reports of biological surveys, documentation of the biologist's qualifications, and any NDDB survey forms.

Biologist(s) name: _____

Habitat and/or species targeted by survey: _____

Dates when surveys were conducted: _____

☐ **Reports of biological surveys attached**

☐ **Documentation of biologist's qualifications attached**

☐ **[NDDB Survey forms](#) for any listed species observations attached**

Section ii: Supplemental Project Information

1. Provide a schedule for all phases of the project including the year, the month and/or season that the proposed activity will be initiated and the duration of the activity.

Under the currently anticipated project schedule, work would commence in late 2017 assuming all required approvals are obtained, and would be completed in mid-2018. Erosion/sedimentation controls would be removed once permanent stabilization is achieved thereafter.

2. Describe and quantify the proposed changes to existing conditions and describe any on-site or off-site impacts. In addition, provide an annotated site plan detailing the areas of impact and proposed changes to existing conditions.

As currently proposed, approximately 72.1 acres of forest will be cleared for installation of the solar array and interconnect, and following installation will return to herbaceous growth around the array and along that portion of the interconnect. The solar array will occupy approximately 15.9 acres of existing hay field/pasture which will remain as herbaceous growth following installation of the array. The existing access roadways and cleared fiber line right-of-way is not anticipated to change from current conditions following installation of the interconnect. Portions of the existing access road which have mowed and maintained vegetation may be graded and gravel may be added as needed which will remain for continued access.

☒ **Annotated Site Plan attached**

Attachment D: Safe Harbor Report Requirements

Submit a report, as Attachment D, that synthesizes and analyzes the information listed below. Those providing synthesis and analysis need appropriate qualifications and experience. A request for a safe harbor determination shall include:

1. Habitat Description and Map(s), including GIS mapping overlays, of a scale appropriate for the site, identifying:

-) wetlands, including wetland cover types;
-) plant community types;
-) topography;
-) soils;
-) bedrock geology;
-) floodplains, if any;
-) land use history; and
-) water quality classifications/criteria.

2. Photographs - The report should include photographs of the site taken from the ground and also all reasonably available aerial or satellite photographs and an analysis of such photographs.

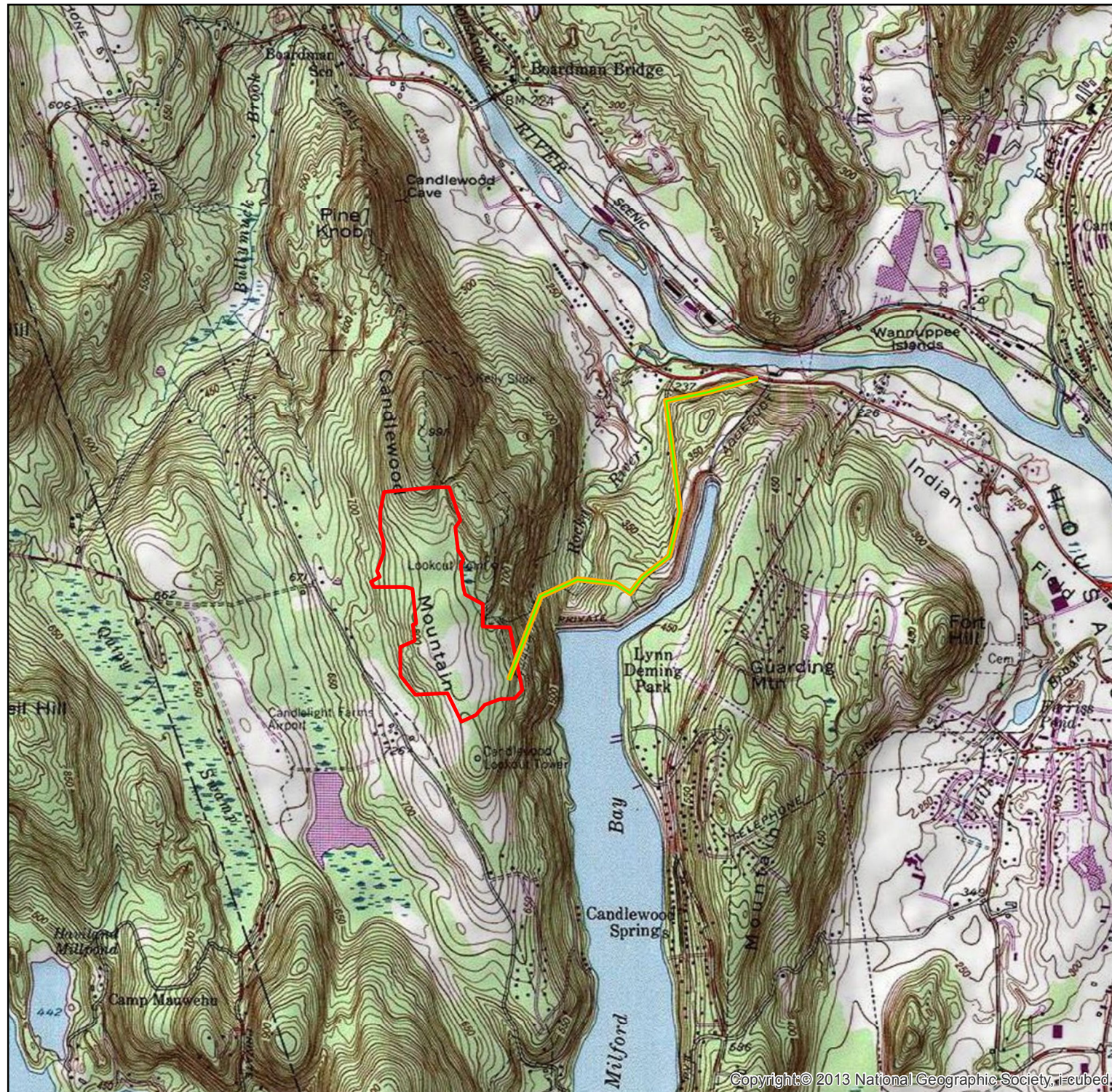
3. Inspection - A visual inspection(s) of the site should be conducted, preferably when the ground is visible, and described in the report. This inspection can be helpful in confirming or further evaluating the items noted above.

4. Biological Surveys - The report should include all biological surveys of the site where construction activity will take place that are reasonably available to a registrant. A registrant shall notify the Department's Wildlife Division of biological studies of the site where construction activity will take place that a registrant is aware of but are not reasonably available to the registrant.

5. Based on items #1 through 4 above, the report shall include a Natural Resources Inventory of the site of the construction activity. This inventory should also include a review of reasonably available scientific literature and any recommendations for minimizing adverse impacts from the proposed construction activity on listed species or their associated habitat.

6. In addition, to the extent the following is available at the time a safe harbor determination is requested, a request for a safe harbor determination shall include and assess:

-) Information on Site Disturbance Estimates/Site Alteration information
-) Vehicular Use
-) Construction Activity Phasing Schedules, if any; and
-) Alteration of Drainage Patterns



SITE LOCATION MAP

Candlewood Solar LLC

Candlewood Solar Project
New Milford, Connecticut

Legend

- Interconnect
- Proposed Solar Array
- Interconnect Lease Area

Location of Site



Notes & Sources

0 2,000 Feet



Amec Foster Wheeler
Environment & Infrastructure, Inc.
271 Mill Road
Chelmsford, MA 01824
(978) 692-9090



FIGURE

1



Photograph 1: View facing southwest of the hay field on the southern portion of the Site.



Photograph 2: View facing south of the pasture on the southern portion of the Site.



Photograph 3: View facing east down the slope on the eastern portion of the Site near the proposed interconnect route.



Photograph 4: View facing west from the eastern side of the Site.



Photograph 5: View of a rock outcrop on the eastern edge of the Site, near the location of Photograph 4.



Photograph 6: View facing south from the northern edge of the proposed arrays location.