



**STATE OF CONNECTICUT
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
FRANKLIN WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA**

391 ROUTE 32
NORTH FRANKLIN, CT 06254
TELEPHONE: (860) 642-7239



September 18, 2008

Mr. John Zimmer
ENSR
95 State Road
Sagamore Beach, MA 02562-2415

re: Algonquin Gas Transmission "Kleen Energy Project", Middletown

Dear Mr. Zimmer:

Your letter was received by me on 8/8/08 detailing the effects of your project on the two listed species; the state threatened species, Tidewater mucket (*Leptodea ochracea*) and a species of special concern; Eastern Box Turtle (*Terrapene carolina*).

Since you indicate that there will be no in-water work or riverbank work: the DEP Wildlife Division concurs with your assessment that the Tidewater mucket will not be impacted by this project.

The Wildlife Division agrees with your recommendations to avoid impacts to Eastern Box Turtles, namely:

1. to hire an environmental inspector to conduct daily surveys during the turtle's active season (April - October), identify and relocate any turtles located within the project workspace out of harm's way but to keep them as close to the area that they were found in as this species has a relatively small home range.
2. to educate contractors about the identification of box turtles and the actions they should take when one is encountered.
3. to place box turtle educational signs along the limits of the workspace.

Enclosed is a copy of the DEP Natural Diversity Database Special Animal Survey Form. The information required on this form, along with a photo of the turtle, will be all that is necessary for data collection.

Unless your environmental inspector is conducting a long-term study on Eastern box turtles, marking of turtles is not recommended. In cases where marking is being performed a scientific collectors permit is required for all activities that involve capture, marking, salvage or release or disturbance of a protected wildlife species. The application can be found at:

http://www.ct.gov/dept/lib/dept/wildlife/forms_applications/collectwild.pdf

Standard protocols for the protection of wetlands should be followed and maintained during the course of the project. Additionally, all silt fencing should be removed after soils are stable so that reptile and amphibian movement between uplands and wetlands is not restricted.

If you have any additional questions, please feel free to contact me at Julie.Victoria@ct.gov, please reference the NDDB # at the bottom of this letter when you e-mail or write. Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

Julie Victoria
Wildlife Biologist
Franklin Swamp Wildlife Management Area
391 Route 32
N. Franklin, CT 06254

cc: NDDB - 16137