

New Hampshire Fish and Game Permit Conditions:

1. **No work shall occur in Nottingham from line 307 structure 184 to 175 or in Madbury from line 307 structure 107 to Madbury road from September 15<sup>th</sup> to May 15<sup>th</sup> in order to minimize impacts to Northern black racers.**
2. **No work shall occur in Deerfield and Nottingham from the Deerfield substation to line 307 structure 185 and from line 307 structure 174 to Stage Road from May 15<sup>th</sup> to September 15<sup>th</sup> in order to minimize impacts to rare turtles. The following exception shall apply:**
  - a. **Work pads at structures 188 and 189 may be constructed for wire pulling and structure replacements between August 15<sup>th</sup> and September 15<sup>th</sup>. Please note that a qualified biological monitor shall be on site at all times at all active work areas at these structures. See recommendation 4.**
3. Blanding's turtle (state endangered), spotted turtle (state threatened), wood turtle (state species of special concern), New England cottontail (state endangered), and Northern black racer (state threatened) occur within the vicinity of the project area. All operators and personnel working on or entering the site shall be made aware of the potential presence of these species and shall be provided flyers that help to identify these species, along with NHFG contact information. Rare species information (e.g. identification, observation and reporting of observations, when to contact NHFG immediately and NHFG contact information) shall be posted on site at all times and communicated during morning tailgate meetings prior to work commencement. See the Project Permit Plans for the species-specific flyers.
4. At least one qualified biological monitor shall be on-site at all times at all active work areas (including work pads, staging areas, access roads, vegetation removal/maintenance, etc.) in Deerfield and Nottingham from the Deerfield substation to Stage Road in Nottingham. A qualified biological monitor shall be someone with training and experience in turtle and reptile identification and handling techniques and shall operate under the guidance of a qualified herpetologist. A qualified herpetologist shall be a wildlife biologist well versed on and with extensive experience in turtle identification, life history, habitat preference, handling, and documentation, i.e. activity, sexing, aging, etc. Provide qualifications of both to NHFG.
  - a. The qualified herpetologist shall be responsible for:
    - i. Searching for, identifying, documenting, reporting and relocating any state-listed herpetofauna within the work areas.
    - ii. Instructing and guiding biological monitor on matters pertaining to herpetofauna.
    - iii. Ensuring proper documentation and handling techniques are abided to by the construction personnel and the biological monitor.
    - iv. At the end of the project, the qualified herpetologist shall provide Eversource Licensing and Permitting staff a report, which includes a summary of observations, reporting logs documenting any documented state-listed species, and mapping and .shp files showing the location of any observed state-listed species. The report shall be reviewed and provided to NHFG for their records.
  - b. The biological monitor shall:
    - i. Inspect all work areas for S&E controls, the presence of state-listed species, to ensure compliance with environmental regulations and permit conditions.
    - ii. Maintain regular contact with the project's qualified herpetologist on all matters pertaining to herpetofauna protection and surveys.
    - iii. Report observations of state-listed species immediately to EL&P staff who shall in turn report those observations immediately to NHFG.
    - iv. Document field activities and observations daily.
5. Observations of Northern black racers at any time shall be reported immediately to the New Hampshire Fish and Game Department Nongame and Endangered Wildlife Environmental Review Program. Please contact Melissa Winters (603-479-1129) or Brendan Clifford (603-944-0885). Please include photograph with text if feasible.
6. Turtles and snakes may be attracted to disturbed ground during nesting season. Turtle nesting season occurs approximately May 15<sup>th</sup> – June 30<sup>th</sup>. Nesting areas may include work pads and access roads that are not hard pack gravel and other sandy/gravel work areas. All turtle species nests are protected by NH laws. Be aware of the potential to encounter nesting wildlife in these areas.
7. If a nest is observed or suspected, operators shall contact Melissa Winters (603-479-1129) or Josh Megyesy (978-578-0802) at NHFG immediately for further consultation. The nest or suspected nest shall be marked (surrounding roped off or cone buffer) and avoided; this shall be communicated to all personnel onsite. Site activities shall not occur in the area surrounding the nest or suspected nest until further guidance is provided by NHFG.
8. Vernal pools and potential vernal pools shall be flagged prior to work, and impacts shall be avoided. No disturb vegetative buffers of 50' shall be maintained. Provide location of vernal pools on plan sheets to NHFG.
9. All matting which will be placed in waterbodies deemed suitable for hibernating rare turtles will be placed prior to the start of the inactive season (October 16-March 31) so as to prevent accidental placement atop hibernating turtles. Immediately prior to matting placement in these wetlands, the area shall be swept by a qualified biologist or herpetologist. They shall watch for signs that turtles are being disturbed in the area (ex. Heads coming above water, animals moving in water). Contact NHFG if biologist/herpetologist sees or suspects turtles in matting areas. Areas identified as suitable hibernation habitat shall be identified on plan sheets and provided to NHFG at least two weeks prior to beginning work. Biologist qualifications shall be provided to NHFG.
10. From the Deerfield substation to Stage Road in Nottingham, immediately prior to the placement of matting in wetlands during the active season (April 1-October 15), the areas shall be cleared by a qualified biologist or herpetologist. Biologist qualifications shall be provided to NHFG.
  - a. In all other work areas, immediately prior to the placement of matting in wetlands during the active season (April 1-October 15), the areas shall be cleared by a trained individual. A trained individual shall be defined as any contractor who has gone through project-species protection education conducted by the qualified biologist on rare wildlife species at the site.
11. In all work areas in Dover, native topsoil shall be stockpiled prior to the placement of gravel required for access road improvements and work pad construction. Upon the completion of structure replacement work, gravel roads shall be top-dressed with stockpiled topsoil and work pads shall be reduced to 30' by 60'. Vegetation shall be allowed to regrow on top of graveled areas.
12. All work activities shall be restricted to the defined roads, construction areas, and staging areas, with no equipment or materials staged or stored outside of the defined areas as shown on plan sheets.
13. Work, pull pads, and access shall be minimized to the greatest extent possible.
14. Works pads shall be reduced post-construction to 30' x 60' and restored with a native vegetation seed mix.
15. All manufactured erosion and sediment control products, with the exception of turf reinforcement mats, utilized for, but not limited to, slope protection, runoff diversion, slope interruption, perimeter control, inlet protection, check dams, and sediment traps shall not contain plastic, or multifilament or monofilament polypropylene netting or mesh with an opening size of greater than 1/8 inches;

16. All observations of threatened or endangered species on the project site shall be reported immediately to the NHFG nongame and endangered wildlife environmental review program by phone at 603-271-2461 and by email at [NHFGreview@wildlife.nh.gov](mailto:NHFGreview@wildlife.nh.gov), with the email subject line containing the NHB DataCheck tool results letter assigned number, the project name, and the term Wildlife Species Observation;
17. Photographs of the observed species and nearby elements of habitat or areas of land disturbance shall be provided to NHFG in digital format at the above email address for verification, as feasible;
18. In the event a threatened or endangered species is observed on the project site during the term of the permit, the species shall not be disturbed, handled, or harmed in any way prior to consultation with NHFG and implementation of corrective actions recommended by NHFG.
  - a. Site operators shall be allowed to relocate wildlife encountered if discovered within the active work zone and if in direct harm from project activities. Wildlife shall be relocated in close proximity to the capture location but outside of the work zone and in the direction the individual was heading. NHFG shall be contacted immediately if this action occurs.
19. The NHFG, including its employees and authorized agents, shall have access to the property during the term of the permit.

Additional Recommendations:

- Smooth green snakes (state species of special concern) occur within the vicinity of the project site. All operators and personnel working on or entering the site should be made aware of the potential presence of these species and should be provided flyers that help to identify these species, along with NHFG contact information. Rare species information (e.g. identification, observation and reporting of observations, when to contact NHFG immediately and NHFG contact information) should be posted on site at all times and communicated during morning tailgate meetings prior to work commencement. See Project Permit Plans for the species-specific flyer.