

From: [Wadiak, Kathleen](#)
To: [Kurt I. Nelson](#)
Cc: [FGC: NHFG review](#); [Erausquin, Richard](#); [Winters, Melissa](#); [Mauck, Ridgely](#)
Subject: NHFG Review NHB22-3689 Eversource M183 Structure Replacement Madbury Dover AoT SPN
Date: Thursday, February 16, 2023 3:41:19 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[racer flyer_2023.pdf](#)
[NEC Contractor Flyer_2020.pdf](#)
[Spotted Blandings Flyer_Dec2022.pdf](#)

Kurt,

NHFG has reviewed the materials submitted for consultation on January 4, 2023 for consultation on NHB22-3689. The proposed project is for the replacement of 21 structures on the M183 transmission line along with associated work pads and access in Madbury and Dover.

Permit applications associated with this review:

- NHDES Alteration of Terrain permit
- NHDES Utility Statutory Permit by Notification

Vegetation disturbance and removal should be limited to the extent possible in order to maintain habitat for New England cottontail which require dense vegetative cover. The sensitivity of this habitat should be emphasized to personnel.

Notify NHFG if/when phases (vegetation removal, structure replacements, restoration, etc.) on this project begin and finish. Please use subject line "NHB22-3689 Eversource M183 Work Start/End Notification." Notify NHFG if there are any breaks in the schedule for active work zones.

Please note that "active season" dates for rare species are variable based on weather and other environmental factors. NHFG may recommend dates that vary from initial reviews based on available information of animal activity.

As stated in the recommendations below, provide NHFG with the locations of waterbodies that are proposed to be impacted that have been identified as suitable hibernating habitat for rare turtles at least two weeks prior to the start of work. This includes Blanding's, spotted, and wood turtles. Provide a brief explanation of who made this assessment and how they drew their conclusions.

Recommended BMPs shall apply to all work areas unless otherwise specified by NHFG.

Based on the NHB datacheck results letter and the information provided in the submission, we request the following recommended permit conditions. These conditions are recommended to be included in the permit if approved. Please incorporate recommendations along with associated materials as detailed, into the sheet plans as written below (updated highlighted text as applicable) and provide to NHDES and cc NHFG for final review.

New Hampshire Fish and Game Permit Conditions:

- Blanding's turtle (state endangered), spotted turtle (state threatened), Northern black racer (state threatened), and New England cottontail (state endangered) 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 Plan Sheet xxxxxx. *Include attached flyers to plan sheet set.*

- For all work areas in Dover and Rollinsford, 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.
- Turtles and snakes may be attracted to disturbed ground during nesting season. Turtle nesting season occurs approximately May 15th – June 30th. 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.
- 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.
- Observations of Northern black racers in the months of April-May and September-October may indicate the potential for a den site on or near the project site. Observations of this species during this timeframe shall be reported immediately to the New Hampshire Fish and Game Department Nongame and Endangered Wildlife Environmental Review Program, and work should cease until further coordination with NHFG. Please contact Melissa Winters (603-479-1129) or Brendan Clifford (603-944-0885). Observations of this species outside of this timeframe can follow general reporting guidance. Please include photograph with text if feasible.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.

- Searches and sweeps shall be conducted immediately before the start of construction and movement of equipment in order to minimize the chance of animals entering an area between the sweep and work.
- Work, pull pads, and access shall be minimized to the greatest extent possible.
- Works pads shall be reduced post-construction to 30' x 60' and restored with a native vegetation seed mix.
- 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;
- 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, with the email subject line containing the NHB DataCheck tool results letter assigned number, the project name, and the term Wildlife Species Observation;
- 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;
- 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.
 - 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.
- The NHFG, including its employees and authorized agents, shall have access to the property during the term of the permit.

NHFG has completed our review of materials submitted for consultation under FIS 1004. No further coordination with NHFG is requested, and the final recommendations have been transmitted to the applicable permitting agency. Questions or concerns on NHFG recommendations must follow FIS 1004.12. Note that NHFG recommendations may be withdrawn pursuant to FIS 1004.13.

Let me know if you have any questions.

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Thank you,
Kat

Kat Wadiak

Wildlife Biologist
Nongame & Endangered Wildlife Program
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New Hampshire Fish and Game requirements for environmental review consultation can be found at: https://gencourt.state.nh.us/rules/state_agencies/fis1000.html. ALL requests for consultation and submittals should be sent via email to NHFGreview@wildlife.nh.gov or can be sent hardcopy by mail. **The NHB datacheck results letter number needs to be included in the email subject line to read as "NHBxx-xxxx_Project Name_FIS 1004 Consultation Submittal"**.

The requirements for consultation (Fis 1004) shall not apply to the following: statutory permit by notification, permit by rule, permit by notification, routine roadway registration, docking structure registration, or conditional authorization by rule. Review requests for these projects or other project types should be submitted to NHFGreview@wildlife.nh.gov or can be sent hardcopy by mail – email or mail subject line for these review requests should read **"NHBxx-xxxx_Project Name_ Env. Review Request"**.

