

From: [Faunce, Jasmin - FS, NH](#)
To: [Hillman, Brett - FS, NH](#)
Subject: RE: Eversource Getech Investigations
Date: Tuesday, February 11, 2025 11:34:00 AM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)
[image003.png](#)
[image004.png](#)
[image005.png](#)

Yup, still the same 15 drilling locations and a few other areas for helicopter landing areas. I can get you specifics if you need to re-acclimate.

From: Hillman, Brett - FS, NH <brett.hillman@usda.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, February 11, 2025 11:32 AM
To: Faunce, Jasmin - FS, NH <jasmin.faunce@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: Eversource Getech Investigations

Probably not. Is this going to take place within the same area we analyzed?



Mr. Brett Hillman
Wildlife Biologist
Forest Service
White Mountain National Forest, Pemigewasset Ranger District
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From: Faunce, Jasmin - FS, NH <jasmin.faunce@usda.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, February 11, 2025 11:30 AM
To: Hillman, Brett - FS, NH <brett.hillman@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: Eversource Getech Investigations

Thrilled, yes.

This project does not involve tree clearing or trimming. Just a few holes in the frozen ground. So no concerns from wildlife's end? Since there was no Form 2, are there any design features you would like included in the permit document?

I appreciate you,
Jasmin

From: Hillman, Brett - FS, NH <brett.hillman@usda.gov>

Sent: Tuesday, February 11, 2025 11:19 AM

To: Faunce, Jasmin - FS, NH <jasmin.faunce@usda.gov>; Prout, Leighlan - FS, NH <leighlan.prout@usda.gov>

Subject: RE: Eversource Getech Investigations

Hey Jasmin! Welcome back! I'm sure you're thrilled about all the changes you missed... I was in the same boat as you last week after coming back from vaca.

This project is an unusual one in that a different agency (the Army Corps) did the consultation with USFWS. This is because our ownership covers only a small part of the total project area. The Corps and the USFWS agreed to avoid tree clearing and trimming from April 15 through October 31 because some of the project area occurs near bat hibernacula.

Do these Geotechnical Investigations involve tree clearing or trimming? If not, you're good to go. If so, I think the Corps (or their designated representative) would have to reach out to the USFWS.

We shouldn't have to worry about the BCS because, as I understand it, this project only involves tree trimming in an existing right-of-way. The BCS does not establish any time-of-year restrictions on this type of activity.



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From: Faunce, Jasmin - FS, NH <jasmin.faunce@usda.gov>

Sent: Tuesday, February 11, 2025 10:37 AM

To: Prout, Leighlan - FS, NH <leighlan.prout@usda.gov>; Hillman, Brett - FS, NH <brett.hillman@usda.gov>

Subject: RE: Eversource Getech Investigations

Hi Leighlan, Sorry I still have vacation brain, I should've gone to Brett with this question. But I appreciate your insight!

Mr. Hillman, hello, penny for your thoughts?

Thanks!

From: Prout, Leighlan - FS, NH <leighlan.prout@usda.gov>

Sent: Tuesday, February 11, 2025 9:05 AM

To: Faunce, Jasmin - FS, NH <jasmin.faunce@usda.gov>

Subject: RE: Eversource Getech Investigations

Hi Jasmin,

I'm not familiar with this project, but I think I recognize the name as one that's gone through Small Projects Day, correct? I would ask the bio who did the BE. If they consulted saying that the proponent would completely stay out of the active season, they'd need to reconsult if they want to go past April 15. I realize it's only one day, but that's the date we committed to with the Fish and Wildlife Service if we said the project is consistent with the BCS. We can do that reconsultation if we need to.

And FYI, it generally doesn't matter what the state agrees to. Federal agencies are held to a higher standard with Endangered Species Act stuff, plus the agreement we have with the Fish and Wildlife Service allows us to push through a lot of projects easily if we follow the BCS. The tradeoff may be that things like this are a little less flexible. But see what the bio who worked on the project thinks since they'll be way more familiar with the project than me. Or I can do it if you'd prefer, just tell me what district it's on.

Leighlan

P.S. I'm assuming it's only bats that's the issue, but your comment below about Marianne's suggestion made me think that perhaps there are other specialists who requested a design feature where the work has to be done on frozen ground? (Frozen ground mitigation doesn't usually come from the bios). But if that's a design feature, then yes, it would be good to add so it's clear.

From: Faunce, Jasmin - FS, NH <jasmin.faunce@usda.gov>

Sent: Tuesday, February 11, 2025 8:49 AM

To: Prout, Leighlan - FS, NH <leighlan.prout@usda.gov>

Subject: FW: Eversource Getech Investigations

Good morning Leighlan,

Eversource is wondering if we have any issues or concerns with a April 1 start date for their X178 Geotechnical Investigations project. Even with the projected 16 work days, and assuming perfect weather conditions, that would interfere with the beginning of bat season on April 15. If NH state agencies approve the timeframe, would we as well? Looking for guidance on how to respond or your general input. Marianne suggested that I add another exhibit onto the permit document with WMNF specific stipulations (frozen ground...) and encourage them

to find another helicopter contractor that is available sooner.

Thanks,
Jasmin

From: Nelson, Kurt I <kurt.nelson@eversource.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 11, 2025 8:12 AM
To: Faunce, Jasmin - FS, NH <jasmin.faunce@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: Eversource Getech Investigations

Good morning Jasmin,

Thanks for following up. We've been in communication with our drilling contractor. They've informed us that their helicopter contractor availability for this project is April 1, which is a later start than what we were hoping for, but based on current weather projections, we think there is a very good chance there will be snow cover during that work window at the elevation we will be working. The work duration is still projected to be 16 days.

We've been in communication with the NH state agencies about the timeframe and are seeking their approval for the later start date.

Please let me know if there are any issues or concerns with the later start date.

Thank you.

From: Faunce, Jasmin - FS, NH <jasmin.faunce@usda.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, February 11, 2025 7:41 AM
To: Nelson, Kurt I <kurt.nelson@eversource.com>
Subject: RE: Eversource Getech Investigations

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Hi Kurt,

I'm following up on the approval for the proposed geotechnical investigations with a temporary

permit attached for you to review, sign, and return to me. Please confirm that March 15, 2025 is an appropriate expiration date. The associated SPD Form 1 and Final Summary documents will be attached to the permit as Exhibits A and B. Also enclosed is the permit bill. Please keep me informed on your schedule and progress and let me know if you have any questions or concerns.

Thanks,



Jasmin Faunce
Realty Specialist
Forest Service
White Mountain National Forest

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From: Leberman, Marianne - FS, NH
Sent: Friday, January 31, 2025 1:19 PM
To: Fennell, Jeremy D <jeremy.fennell@eversource.com>
Cc: Nelson, Kurt I <kurt.nelson@eversource.com>
Subject: FW: Eversource Getech Investigations

Please see below. This is all predicated on working on frozen ground. Please let Jasmin know when you plan to start. Thank you. -M.



Marianne Leberman
Special Use Program Manager
Forest Service
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Caring for the land and serving people

From: Brown, Brooke - FS, NH <brooke.brown@usda.gov>
Sent: Friday, January 31, 2025 11:54 AM
To: Leberman, Marianne - FS, NH <marianne.leberman@usda.gov>
Cc: Hall, Scott - FS, NH <scott.hall@usda.gov>
Subject: Eversource Getech Ivestigations

Hi Marianne,

Thank you for coordinating the review of the proposed geotechnical investigations for X178 with our specialists and sharing they have no concerns with these activities. This action is approved under a categorical exclusion, 36 CFR 220.6(d)(8)- Approve minor short-term special uses, and does not require a decision memo.

This category is applicable for this project because the geotechnical investigation work is temporary and of short duration to inform the proposed project which is located within an existing and maintained utility line right-of-way (ROW). Upon completion of the investigation, the transmission line ROW will continue to function and be maintained as an electrical utility line corridor.



Brooke M. Brown
District Ranger
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