



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
FRANKLIN WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA



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

November 7, 2006

Ms. Nicole Dentamaro
Vanasse Hangen Brustlin, Inc.
54 Tuttle Place
Middletown, CT 06457-1847

re: Telecommunication facility, Cove Road, Haddam, CT

Dear Ms. Dentamaro:

Your request was forwarded to me on 10/31/06 from Dawn McKay of the Department of Environmental Protection's (DEP) Natural Diversity Data Base. They have records of a state endangered and federally threatened wintering bald eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*) use the shoreline trees of Connecticut River in this area and two species of special concern, Eastern Box turtle (*Terrapene c. carolina*) and Wood Turtle (*Glpytemys insculpta*) in the vicinity of this project.

This project appears to be far enough away from the Connecticut River so that it will not impact wintering eagles.

Eastern box turtles require old field and deciduous forests habitats, which can include power lines and logged woodlands. They are often found near small streams and ponds, the adults are completely terrestrial but the young may be semiaquatic, and hibernate on land by digging down in the soil from October to April. They have an extremely small home range and can usually be found in the same area year after year.

Wood turtles require riparian habitats bordered by flood plains, woodlands or meadows. Their summer habitat includes pastures, old fields, woodlands, power line cuts and railroad beds bordering or adjacent to streams and rivers. This species has recently been negatively impacted by the loss of suitable habitat.

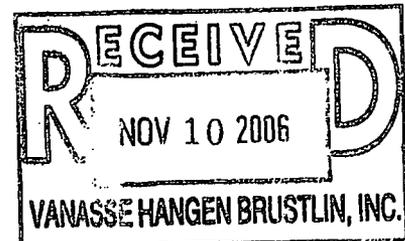
If Eastern box or wood turtle habitat exists on the proposed site, the Wildlife Division recommends that a herpetologist familiar with the habitat requirements of this species conduct surveys between April and September to see if they are present. A report summarizing the results of such surveys should include habitat descriptions, reptile species list and a statement/resume giving the herpetologist' qualifications. The DEP doesn't maintain a list of qualified herpetologists. A DEP Wildlife Division permit may be required by the herpetologist to conduct survey work, you should ask if your herpetologist has one. The results of this investigation can be forwarded to the Wildlife Division and, after evaluation, recommendations for additional surveys, if any, will be made.

Please be advised that the Wildlife Division has not made a field inspection of the project nor have we seen detailed timetables for work to be done. Should state permits be required or should state involvement occur in some other fashion, specific restrictions or conditions relating to the species discussed above may apply. In this situation, additional evaluation of the proposal by the DEP Wildlife Division should be requested.

Consultation with the Wildlife Division should not be substituted for site-specific surveys that may be required for environmental assessments. If you have any additional questions, please feel free to contact me (860-642-7239). 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 - (14730?), 14897

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United States Department of the Interior



FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
New England Field Office
70 Commercial Street, Suite 300
Concord, New Hampshire 03301-5087

November 21, 2006

Reference: Project Location
 Tower replacement Haddam, CT

Nicole Dentamaro
Vanasse Hangen Brustlin, Inc.
54 Tuttle Place
Middletown, CT 06457-1847

Dear Ms. Dentamaro:

This responds to your recent correspondence requesting information on the presence of federally-listed and/or proposed endangered or threatened species in relation to the proposed activity(ies) referenced above.

Based on information currently available to us, no federally-listed or proposed, threatened or endangered species or critical habitat under the jurisdiction of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service are known to occur in the project area(s). Preparation of a Biological Assessment or further consultation with us under Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act is not required.

This concludes our review of listed species and critical habitat in the project location(s) and environs referenced above. No further Endangered Species Act coordination of this type is necessary for a period of one year from the date of this letter, unless additional information on listed or proposed species becomes available.

Thank you for your coordination. Please contact us at 603-223-2541 if we can be of further assistance.

Sincerely yours,

Suzanne Van Oettingen

for Anthony P. Tur
Endangered Species Specialist
New England Field Office

