American Recovery and Reinvestment Act

Connecticut DEP

NOAA Coastal and Marine Habitat Restoration Project Grants
Tingue Dam Bypass Channel
Naugatuck River, Seymour, CT

Description of the Grant and Summary of Activities:

Connecticut DEP (CTDEP) was awarded $2.50 Million in competitive NOAA Coastal and Marine Restoration Project funds for construction of the Tingue Fish Bypass on the Naugatuck River in Seymour, CT. CTDEP committed $2,250,000 in State match for this project for an overall project cost of $4,750,000.

CTDEP was awarded this NOAA grant on August 21, 2009. Since receiving the grant, CTDEP has been working to finalize pre-construction activities for construction of this bypass channel. Activities that have been conducted include:

- **DESIGN:** All review comments on the design plans from CTDEP Inland Water, CTDEP Fisheries, NOAA and US Fish and Wildlife were transmitted to design/engineering sub contractor. This contractor is working to revise plans, specifications and bid documents under a non-ARRA contract that was executed prior to CTDEP receiving ARRA funding.
- **PERMITTING:** CTDEP has received confirmation from CT OPM that Connecticut Environmental Policy Act requirements have been satisfied. CTDEP is providing support information to NOAA as they develop NEPA (National Environmental Policy Act) documents.
- **LAND ACQUISITION AND CONSTRUCTION EASEMENTS:** CTDEP, NOAA and the engineer have had several meetings with the Town of Seymour to discuss property/construction easements. The Town of Seymour is actively pursuing acquisition of the final piece of land necessary to construct the project.
- **GRANTS MANAGEMENT:** ARRA Fraud Training slides were sent to CTDEP from NOAA on 9/28/09. Training slides were reviewed by numerous CTDEP personnel, including Project Manager, Grants Manager, Division Director, Bureau Chief and DEP Chief of Staff/ Agency Chief Accountability Officer for ARRA.

Project Timeline: The construction of the project is expected to begin by January 2010 and the project is expected to be completed within 18 months of the project start date, with substantial completion within the first 12 months. While final property acquisition and permitting is still underway, CTDEP anticipates no problems meeting the 18 month construction completion date.

Project Scope: Major construction activities include creation of a fish bypass channel around the Tingue Dam on the Naugatuck River through excavation and removal of fill. The channel will include habitat features to ensure diadromous fish passage success. The site will be stabilized and streamside habitat restored to promote infiltration of stormwater by the use of pervious paving and native vegetation landscaping techniques. Post-construction activities will include monitoring the fishway in two ways: visual observations of fishes actively migrating up the fishway, and documentation of physical and hydraulic conditions (comparing design flow characteristics with actual flow characteristics).

Coastal and marine habitats to benefit from the project: The removal (bypass) of Tingue Dam, an in-stream barrier to diadromous fish passage on the Naugatuck River, will immediately restore access to 32 miles of essential habitat for spawning, and juvenile rearing and growth of American shad, blueback herring, alewife and American eel, four species of regional and national significance. The distance in miles within the mainstem between the Tingue Dam and the upstream Plume-Atwood Dam (targeted for eventual removal) is 24 miles and the amount of habitat initially opened on seven tributaries will be 8 miles, which will also increase when several targeted dams are eventually removed. The Naugatuck River watershed (310 square miles) joins the Housatonic River eight miles upstream from Long Island Sound, near the head of tide. In turn, the Housatonic River basin is the largest watershed with the greatest amount of historical diadromous fish freshwater habitat in the western Long Island Sound. Passage around the Tingue Dam complements a series of eight dam removal and fish passage projects, including six on the Naugatuck River from Ansonia, CT, near the confluence of the Naugatuck and Housatonic Rivers, upstream approximately 23 miles to Thomaston, CT, and two on tributaries. The Naugatuck River, once dominated by untreated sewage and industrial waste, has undergone marked improvements in water quality and has become a coldwater fishing destination in Connecticut. The restoration of fish passage for anadromous herrings and searun brown trout will extend these improvements. The Naugatuck River is a highly-urbanized watershed and will afford greater access and value to urban residents for recreation and aesthetics in an economically disadvantaged area.

Reports Required Through 3rd Quarter:

Report	Submitted to	Due Date	Status	Quality Assurance
State Monthly Report	CT OPM	9/4/09	Submitted	Review Complete
Second Quarterly Report	US OMB	10/10/09	Submitted	Review Complete
2nd Quarter Programmatic Report	NOAA	10/14/09	Submitted	Review Complete
State Monthly Report	CT OPM	10/15/09	Submitted	Review Complete
State Monthly Report	CT OPM	11/4/09	Pending	Pending
State Monthly Report	CT OPM	12/4/09	Pending	Pending
State Monthly Report	CT OPM	1/4/10	Pending	Pending
Third Quarterly Report	US OMB	1/10/10	Pending	Pending
3rd Quarter Programmatic Report	NOAA	1/31/10	Pending	Pending

Data Reported:

The activities in this quarter resulted in no ARRA expenses being recorded, as final permit processing, plan revision and creation of bid documents are being undertaken under a non-ARRA contract.

Addressing Challenges:

While final property acquisition and permitting is still underway, and will require some more time, CTDEP believes all permitting will be completed in the next quarter. CTDEP anticipates no problem meeting the 18 month construction completion NOAA deadline. CTDEP is remaining in close communication with NOAA on project deliverables and timeframes.

Forecast of Next Quarter Activities:

Permits and Approvals: This project has been designed but small modifications are necessary to reflect NOAA requirements and changes to state/federal bid requirements. Once final design plans are available, all remaining permits will be processed. In the next quarter, CTDEP anticipates receipt and approval of the Army Corps of Engineer Cat 1 Programmatic General Permit, State Dam Safety permit and State Flood Management Certification. These permits had previous been issued but had expired, therefore, reissuance of applicable permits (dam safety, flood management, 401 water quality, and ACOE PGP) is expected prior to the construction start date.

Contract Award: As soon CTDEP is in receipt of all required permits and federal NEPA approval, procurement of a Vendor will commence. The selected Vendor will begin construction implementation. In addition, CTDEP will be requesting sole-source approval for the design consultant to continue and to provide construction oversight and ARRA compliance.