

## **American Recovery and Reinvestment Act**

### **Connecticut DEP**

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

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##### **Description of the Grant and Summary of Activities:**

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

In the period from November 2009 through January 2010 DEP activities included:

- **DESIGN:** The consulting engineer Milone and MacBroom (M&M) has submitted final review plans and draft specifications to DEP. DEP, NOAA, and the Town of Seymour are reviewing the final review plans. DEP has submitted a draft report on the soil quality to NOAA. NOAA has submitted comments to DEP. When completed, the soils quality report will be included in the bid documents.
- **PERMITTING:** DEP's Planning and Standards Division of the Bureau of Water Protection and Land Reuse has received the Dam Safety Permit from the DEP's Inland Water Resources Division. DEP received a determination from the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers that the Tingue Dam Bypass Project is authorized as a Category 1 activity.
- **LAND ACQUISITION AND CONSTRUCTION EASEMENTS:** DEP and M&M have had several meetings with the Town of Seymour and a private property owner to discuss property easements. Town of Seymour is actively pursuing acquisition of the last parcel needed to be acquired before construct can begin. The Town of Seymour is also pursuing additional parking that will be necessary during construction.
- **CONTRACTING:** DEP has received permission to enter into a sole source contract with M&M for construction management and administration services. M&M has submitted a scope of services for this work and DEP is developing a personal services agreement with M&M.
- **OUTREACH:** DEP has met with the Town of Seymour on several occasions to reintroduce the project to town staff and the new first selectman.

**Construction Start Date:** The construction start date has been modified to May 2010.

January 2010

**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 amount of miles in 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 sea-run 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 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter:

Report	Submitted to	Due Date	Status	Quality Assurance
State Monthly Report	CT OPM	9/4/09	Submitted	Review Complete
Quarterly Report	US OMB	10/10/09	Submitted	Review Complete
2 <sup>nd</sup> 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	Submitted	Review Complete
State Monthly Report	CT OPM	12/4/09	Submitted	Review Complete
State Monthly Report	CT OPM	1/4/10	Submitted	Review Complete
State Monthly Report	CT OPM	1/15/10	Submitted	Review Complete

Quarterly Report	US OMB	1/15/10	Submitted	Review Complete
3 <sup>rd</sup> Quarter Programmatic Report	NOAA	1/31/10	Submitted	Review Complete
State Monthly Report	CT OPM	2/15/10	To Be Submitted	Pending
State Monthly Report	CT OPM	3/15/10	To Be Submitted	Pending
Quarterly Report	US OMB	4/10/10	To Be Submitted	Pending
State Monthly Report	CT OPM	4/15/10	To Be Submitted	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:**

The Town of Seymour is still in the process of acquiring the last parcel needed before construction can begin and DEP is pursuing property easements. Negotiations are taking longer than originally expected and will require more time. We believe we can conclude negotiations in the next quarter. We anticipate no problem meeting the 18 month construction completion date. DEP is remaining in close communication with NOAA on project deliverables and timeframes.

### **Forecast of Next Quarter Activities:**

During the next quarter, DEP will be focusing on assisting the Town of Seymour in acquiring the last parcel needed for construction and finalizing negotiations to obtain easements from the Town of Seymour and the Department of Transportation. DEP will enter into a PSA with M&M for construction management and administration services.

DEP will continue to work with M&M to finalize plans and specifications in preparation for bidding. A public informational meeting will be held in Seymour to make citizens aware of the project and potential inconveniences during construction.