

## **SECTION 1.10 ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE**

### **In Article 1.10.03-Water Pollution Control: BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES**

*Add the following after Best Management Practice Number 14:*

15. The Contractor is hereby notified that the State listed species of Special Concern Eastern box turtle (*Terrapene carolina*), is present within the Project limits. In Connecticut, this terrestrial turtle lives in a variety of habitats, including woodlands, field edges, thickets, marshes, bogs, and stream banks. Typically, however, Eastern box turtles are found in well-drained forest bottomlands and open deciduous forests. They will use wetland areas at various times during the season. During the hottest part of a summer day, they will wander to find springs and seepages where they can burrow into the moist soil. Eastern box turtles overwinter in upland forest, a few inches under the soil surface, typically covered by leaf litter or woody debris. As soil temperatures drop, the turtles burrow into soft ground. There will be no clearing or grubbing activities permitted between November 1<sup>st</sup> and April 1<sup>st</sup> unless the area is searched prior to October 15<sup>th</sup> by the Office of Environmental Planning (OEP) and exclusionary practices are immediately put into place around the site.

If work must be done during the Eastern box turtle's active period (April 1<sup>st</sup> to November 1<sup>st</sup>) the Department will require precautionary measures to protect the Eastern box turtle and Eastern box turtle habitat. All construction activities taking place within the turtle's active period will need to be coordinated with the Department.

The Contractor shall through the Engineer at least 10 days prior to the commencement of any construction activities, arrange for a CT DOT Environmental Inspector from the OEP or their authorized delegate to be available to meet and discuss proper protocol for maintaining environmental commitments made to the protection of this species and habitat. OEP will provide oversight through the District to ensure that the following protocols are followed and maintained during the course of the Project:

- a. Exclusionary practices will be required to prevent any turtle access into construction areas. These measures will need to be installed at the limits of disturbance as shown on the plans.
- b. All staging and storage areas, outside of previously paved locations, regardless of the duration of time they will be utilized, must be reviewed by and receive written approval from OEP through the District.
- c. All construction personnel working within the Eastern box turtle habitat must be apprised of the species description and the possible presence of a listed species.

- d. In areas where silt fence is used for exclusion, it shall be removed as soon as the area is stable to allow for reptile and amphibian passage to resume.
- e. Any Eastern box turtles encountered within the immediate work area shall be carefully moved to an adjacent area outside of the excluded area and the field inspector must immediately contact OEP with the location.
- f. No heavy machinery or vehicles may be parked in any Eastern box turtle habitat.
- g. Special precautions must be taken to avoid degradation of wetland habitats including any wet meadows and seasonal pools.
- h. The Contractor must search the work area each morning prior to any work being done.

The Eastern box turtle is protected by state laws which prohibit killing, harming, taking, or keeping them in your possession. Workers shall be notified of their existence in this area and be apprised of the laws protecting them. Photographs and the laws protecting this species (species ID sheets will be provided by OEP) shall be posted in the Contractor's and DOT field office. Any observations of this species are to be immediately reported to OEP at (860) 594-2937 or (860) 594-2938.