ENVIRONMENTAL REPORT

WEST CORNWALL

WASTEWATER COLLECTION and TREATMENT PROJECT

CORNWALL, CT

September 2020



Prepared for:

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Table of Contents

Exe	cutive Summary	1
1.0	Purpose and Need of Proposal	2
1.	1 Project Description (Proposed Action)	2
2.0	Alternatives to the Proposed Action	2
3.0	Affected Environment/Environmental Consequences	3
3.	1 Land Use/Important Farmland/Formally Classified Lands	3
	3.1.1 Affected Environment	4
	3.1.2 Environmental Consequences	4
	3.1.3 Mitigation	4
3.	2 Floodplains	4
	3.2.1 Affected Environment	4
	3.2.2 Environmental Consequences	4
	3.2.3 Mitigation	4
3.	3 Wetlands	5
	3.3.1 Affected Environment	5
	3.3.2 Environmental Consequences	5
	3.3.3 Mitigation	5
3.	4 Historic Properties	5
	3.4.1 Affected Environment	5
	3.4.2 Environmental Consequences	6
	3.4.3 Mitigation	6
3.	5 Biological Resources	6
	3.5.1 Affected Environment	6
	3.5.2 Environmental Consequences	6
	3.5.3 Mitigation	6
3.	6 Water Quality Issues	6
	3.6.1 Affected Environment	7
	3.6.2 Environmental Consequences	7
	3.6.3 Mitigation	7



3	3.7 Coastal Resources	7
	3.7.1 Affected Environment	7
	3.7.2 Environmental Consequences	7
	3.7.3 Mitigation	7
3	3.8 Socio-Economic/Environmental Justice Issues	7
	3.8.1 Affected Environment	8
	3.8.2 Environmental Consequences	8
	3.8.3 Mitigation	8
3	3.9 Miscellaneous Issues	8
	3.9.1 Affected Environment	8
	3.9.2 Environmental Consequences	8
	3.9.3 Mitigation	8
4.0	Summary of Mitigation	8
5.0	Correspondence and Coordination	9
6.0	Exhibits	10
7.0	List of Preparers.	10



Executive Summary

The Town of Cornwall has undertaken a wastewater management study of West Cornwall. The study was completed by WMC Consulting Engineers, a firm that the Town retained based upon their qualifications and expertise in evaluating septic system concerns and developing innovative solutions to wastewater disposal concerns and potable water supply issues.

West Cornwall lies in the north western part of Connecticut, just east of the iconic covered bridge at the intersection of Route 7 and 128. The study area comprises the central village area and the residences in immediate proximity. Within those areas there are approximately 65 dwellings/businesses, most of which are full-time residences with a smaller portion being summer use only and small businesses. Currently, several of the buildings in the central village area are vacant.

Historically, there have been concerns with wastewater disposal in the study area, as the lot sizes are relatively small, which inhibits the installation of Connecticut Public Health Code compliant septic systems. Because of this, some businesses cannot have a septic system at all and other businesses and residential properties cannot improve their properties. Additionally, due to the site constraints there are properties where their water supply well is not on their property. Another concern is the quality of the surface water and groundwater in the village area, as pollutants from the existing septic systems may be reaching the Housatonic River and Mill Brook as well as individual wells.

The Torrington Area Health District (TAHD) has records of existing septic systems which indicate that the majority of the systems do not meet Public Health Code requirements, which are designed to protect the surface and groundwater's of the State of Connecticut.

The water quality of the Housatonic River and potable wells is of concern to not only the residents of Cornwall, but to the TAHD and to the users of the Housatonic River. The Housatonic River has a large drainage area that extends north into Massachusetts and west into New York. The confluence with Mill Brook, just north of the covered bridge, enters the Housatonic River as it runs through West Cornwall. The TAHD has expressed concerns about system performance and space requirements for new or expanded systems in this area of Cornwall.

This wastewater management study concluded that the existing subsurface wastewater treatment and disposal systems contain a significant potential to detrimentally affect the water quality of potable wells and the Housatonic River.

After site inspections, assessments of septic system sizes, water quality sampling and soil investigations were concluded, our consulting engineer is of the opinion that West Cornwall could benefit from having a sanitary sewer disposal system. Small lots sizes, the high percentage of systems operating with concern, local soil conditions, lack of availability of a public water supply and proximity to potable wells all factor into this opinion.



1.0 Purpose and Need of Proposal

The reader is referred to the Engineering Report for a detailed description of the purpose and need of the proposal, however in summary, the wastewater management study concluded that the existing subsurface wastewater treatment and disposal systems contain a significant potential to detrimentally affect the water quality of potable wells and the Housatonic River. The purpose of the proposed action is to effectively treat wastewater in West Cornwall by installing a gravity sanitary sewer with an enhanced treatment system discharging renovated wastewater to the Housatonic River. The project would allow Cornwall to properly implement a successful wastewater management program in the West Cornwall area

1.1 Project Description (Proposed Action)

After a review of the options for effectively treating wastewater in West Cornwall, it was concluded that installation of a gravity sanitary sewer with an enhanced wastewater treatment system discharging renovated wastewater to the Housatonic River appears to be the least expensive approach that would allow Cornwall to properly implement a successful wastewater management program in the West Cornwall area. The installation of sewers can be limited in area and/or phased to accommodate future needs, available funding, connection limitations and operational concerns.

2.0 Alternatives to the Proposed Action

The alternatives to the proposed action include:

- Conventional Upgrades to Septic Systems
- Innovative/Alternative Upgrades to Individual Existing Septic Systems
- Wastewater Collection System
- Connection to Existing Sewers

Conventional Individual Septic Systems

Compared to the other wastewater management options considered, a district-wide conventional upgrade for each individual subsurface wastewater treatment and disposal system has only a minimal operations cost, entirely comprised of Town permitting and health department oversight. As such, an upgrade program can be seen as the most cost-effective option. Conventional upgrades (i.e. septic tanks and leaching fields, drywells) would be on-site repairs and/or replacements compliant to the current Connecticut Public Health Code and Torrington Area Health District (TAHD) regulations. However a conventional upgrade would do little to eliminate the potential nutrient discharge to the Housatonic River. Small lot sizes also limit the feasibility of constructing conventional treatment systems to the standards established in the public health code. Additionally, even with the best site conditions, conventional upgrades can still have a limited life and over time these systems may need replacing. Furthermore, while any option implemented will require financial input from the property owners, the entire cost of conventional subsurface system upgrades is typically borne by the homeowner. Although the Town could provide some funding assistance for such upgrades, it is possible that such a proposal would not be viewed favorably



from the rest of the residents of Cornwall. Therefore based on the uncertain long term environmental benefits and costs, an upgrade to the existing systems is not recommended.

Individual I/A Systems

The installation of individual I/A systems is another approach that Cornwall could implement to address water quality of the Housatonic River. The Town would need to consider the level of management that would be necessary if such an approach is undertaken. The DEEP has made it clear that the Town, not the individual homeowner, will ultimately be responsible for ensuring these systems are functioning and maintained correctly. The Town, either through its own staff or by contract with certified operators, would be responsible for managing and maintenance of a significant number of individual systems. While this is not an insurmountable task, it is one that will likely require additional Town resources to properly implement. From an annual cost-based perspective, the implementation of a District-wide individual I/A treatment program does not compare favorably to other options. If wastewater treatment within the District is desired, economy of scale dictates that the construction of a community wastewater treatment facility would be a more economically feasible option.

Wastewater Collection System

Installation of a gravity sanitary sewer with an enhanced treatment system appears to be the least expensive approach that would allow Cornwall to properly implement a successful wastewater management program in the West Cornwall area. The installation of sewers can be limited in area and phased to accommodate available funding, connection limitations and operational concern areas.

Connection to Existing Sewers

A connection to an existing treatment facility would not be feasible for this area for several reasons. Economically it would incur a very high cost given that a treatment facility is not in close proximity. The closest existing sewage collection and treatment system is in Torrington which is approximately 20 miles from West Cornwall. This distance would greatly increase costs associated with roadway restoration and main line installation. Installing sewers and several pump stations over this distance would result in a cost of over \$25 million. Additionally, upgrades to the existing treatment facility may be needed to accommodate the proposed flows.

For these reasons this alternative is not technically feasible, practical or economically viable.

3.0 Affected Environment/Environmental Consequences

The proposed action will have de minimus long term negative environmental impacts or consequences, as the action will occur in previously disturbed areas, primarily on Town roadways.

3.1 Land Use/Important Farmland/Formally Classified Lands

The proposed project is consistent with the Conservation and Development Policies Plan for Connecticut 2013-2018 (C&D Plan). It provides for addressing growth related projects while sustaining village character within Village Priority Funding Areas. The project also qualifies for an exemption from the Farmland Protection Policy Act (FPPA) requirements, due to the project



"area with a structural density of 30 or more structures per 40 acres". Included in the appendix are a USDS Natural Resources Conservation Service "Farmland Classification" map and an aerial exhibiting farmland soils and structural density in the West Cornwall section of Cornwall, CT.

3.1.1 Affected Environment

As noted, the project will affect areas that lie within lands classified as Village Priority Funding Areas by the Conservation and Development Policies Plan for Connecticut 2013-2018 (C&D Plan) and areas exempt from FPPA.

3.1.2 Environmental Consequences

Since there are no new land disturbances proposed as part of the project, there will be no lands affected by the proposed action and therefore there will be no significant environmental consequences.

3.1.3 Mitigation

Since there are no affected lands, there is no mitigation required.

3.2 Floodplains

According to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) dated August 16, 1998 (Map Number 090045 0004 A) it appears that minor portions of the proposed project area lie adjacent to the 100 year floodplain. Since the residential development already exists, there are no feasible alternatives which would avoid construction in these areas if these areas were serviced. Proposed construction will not increase flood elevations or flood hazards and will not decrease flood storage. Due to the proximity of construction, coordination will be made in order to comply with permitting procedures.

The limits of the floodplain are essentially the top of the river bank at elevation 508.

3.2.1 Affected Environment

As noted the designated floodplain in the project area is at elevation 508.

3.2.2 Environmental Consequences

There are no environmental consequences anticipated as a result of the designated floodplain as construction is proposed in already existing developed areas and is proposed not to increase flood elevations or flood hazards nor decrease flood storage.

No work will be proposed below this elevation as this is a requirement of the Connecticut DEEP with the exception of the treated effluent outfall pipe, which will be buried.

3.2.3 Mitigation

No mitigation is required.



3.3 Wetlands

Inland wetlands and watercourse environments exist throughout the proposed construction area. During construction, wetlands will be adjacent to construction sites and proper erosion and sedimentation measures will be installed. Since the majority of the project is proposed to take place on existing roads and developed lots, it is anticipated that impacts to wetlands will be negligible. Wetlands have not been field identified, but during the design process wetlands will be identified, if there appears to be any wetlands that may be disturbed by construction action will be taken to comply with local and state permit processes. A National Wetlands Inventory Map has been included for the overall project area and for the treatment facility location in the appendices.

3.3.1 Affected Environment

It is anticipated no affected environment as wetlands and watercourses are unlikely to be disturbed. Construction activities may occur within Town regulated areas adjacent to wetlands and watercourses; however no direct impacts are anticipated to occur.

3.3.2 Environmental Consequences

Since wetlands and watercourse impacts are not anticipated by the project there will be minimal environmental consequences. Potential consequences may be siltation of wetlands resulting from construction in areas in proximity to wetlands, and some dust and noise.

3.3.3 Mitigation

Mitigation, in terms of replacing disturbed wetlands, is not required, as no wetlands are anticipated to be disturbed as part of the project. To mitigate any erosion and sedimentation concerns due to work in areas in proximity to wetlands, appropriate erosion and sedimentation controls using best management practices will be specified in the construction plans and specifications and will be adhered to by the construction contractors. Weekly inspections of the controls will be performed by the construction inspector and they will also be checked prior to and after significant rainfall events.

3.4 Historic Properties

This project is proposed to take place on developed property which has already been disturbed by both the construction of roads and the existing dwellings. Since pre-existing disturbance from construction exists, it is not anticipated that any impacts on historical/archaeological sites will be experienced. If such resources are located or discovered during construction, local and state officials with responsibility for such matters will be consulted prior to resuming activities on such sites.

3.4.1 Affected Environment

There are no historic properties that will be impacted or disturbed by the proposed action.



3.4.2 Environmental Consequences

As no historic properties will be impacted, no environmental consequences are anticipated.

3.4.3 Mitigation

No mitigation is required.

3.5 Biological Resources

According to the DEEP Natural Diversity Data Base Area (June 2020) plan for Cornwall, the project area lies within habitat for State and Federal listed species of concern. Consultation with the Connecticut DEEP and United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFW) "Information for Planning and Consultation (IPaC)" have been included in the appendix and construction. "No critical habitats" in the project area and the USFW are reviewing the Northern Long-eared Bat request submitted August 9, 2020. The CT DEEP determined "no conflict" and that construction activities are not anticipated to cause negative impacts to State listed species.

3.5.1 Affected Environment

There are no anticipated effects on any State and Federal Listed Species or Significant Natural Communities, due to construction activities taking place on developed properties, in existing roadways and with no anticipated tree removals.

3.5.2 Environmental Consequences

There are no anticipated environmental consequences resulting from the work anticipated as part of this project.

3.5.3 Mitigation

All appropriate measures for erosion and sedimentation control will be utilized in the construction of the project and therefore no other mitigation measures are required. Also, further coordination with DEEP with be performed prior to construction to verify any changes in the NDDB requirements and all applicable measures to protect species of concern in the project area will be added to the contract documents.

3.6 Water Quality Issues

The only potential negative water quality issues are potential short term impacts to the Housatonic River and Mill River resulting from erosion and sedimentation from construction activities. No activities are proposed in any surface water body or wetland. In fact all work will be performed on existing roads and developed properties.

The positive long term impact will be the improvement in water quality of the Housatonic River and Mill River.



3.6.1 Affected Environment

The affected environment would be the Housatonic River and Mill River.

3.6.2 Environmental Consequences

As noted above there is some potential for short term negative impacts to the Housatonic River and Mill River. resulting from construction activities. The long term impacts that are anticipated will be improvements in the Housatonic River and Mill River water quality resulting from resolving problems and concerns with the existing subsurface wastewater disposal systems.

3.6.3 Mitigation

Mitigation will be appropriate plans and specifications for erosion and sedimentation controls in the construction documents followed by strict adherence to these documents during construction. Construction inspection of the work will be performed and specific emphasis will be placed upon environmental controls. Monitoring will consist of checking that required controls are in place before construction is started followed by periodic inspection of the controls to ensure that they remain in place and are maintained. The controls will be checked prior to and after significant rainfall events.

3.7 Coastal Resources

The West Cornwall section of Cornwall is located in northwestern Connecticut above 500 feet in elevation; therefore the project is not near any coastal resources.

3.7.1 Affected Environment

Not applicable

3.7.2 Environmental Consequences

Not applicable

3.7.3 Mitigation

Not applicable

3.8 Socio-Economic/Environmental Justice Issues

The proposed project is designed to serve existing residential dwellings and businesses only and is not designed to serve future areas that may be developed or that are currently undevelopable.

The project will have no negative effect on environmental justice issues. The project area is a not a low income area, and the project will have a positive long term impact on the residents by providing adequate and environmentally sound wastewater disposal. This project will provide a positive impact on human health by removing potential source of pollution and contamination from the project area including the Housatonic River and Mill River.



3.8.1 Affected Environment

The affected environment is the proposed service area of approximately 20 dwellings and businesses.

3.8.2 Environmental Consequences

There are no anticipated negative environmental consequences resulting from the project as the project will not encourage increased development and zoning will remain the same. The population of the project area therefore will remain relatively the same as existing.

3.8.3 Mitigation

No mitigation is required other than to maintain existing zoning, which is the intention.

3.9 Miscellaneous Issues

Miscellaneous issues include air and noise pollution. Currently Connecticut, in the Cornwall region, is in attainment for all air pollution parameters except ozone. The proposed project is short duration (12-18 months) and air pollution resulting from construction activities is not anticipated to have short or long term effects on local air pollution.

There will be minor short term negative impacts resulting from noise of construction vehicles. Again, these impacts are considered to be short term impacts that can be mitigated.

3.9.1 Affected Environment

The affected environment is air pollution directly related to construction activities. The number of construction vehicles anticipated to be utilized would be less than ten vehicles and short term impacts on air pollution are considered to be insignificant.

3.9.2 Environmental Consequences

There are no long term anticipated consequences from construction activities. This is a short duration project with a relatively insignificant number of construction vehicles. It is likely that there are over 100 vehicles in the project area and therefore the construction vehicles represent less than 10% of the vehicles in the project area.

3.9.3 Mitigation

Mitigation of the minor air pollution and noise impacts will be mitigated by ensuring that all vehicles have up to date appropriate emissions controls as well as muffling devices. Work hours will be limited to daytime normal working hours (7:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.) and weekdays only with pre-approval. Also, appropriate dust control measures (water, calcium chloride) will be utilized as required and appropriate.

4.0 Summary of Mitigation

As indicated in Section 3 of this report, there are few, if any, negative environmental impacts associated with this project. Potential impacts are primarily related to sedimentation and erosion



that may occur during construction. Since the proposed construction work consists primarily of excavation in existing roadways and developed properties, excavation is anticipated.

In all cases, appropriate Best Management Practices for erosion and sedimentation control measures, in compliance with State and Federal guidelines, will be utilized. The measures may include silt fencing, hay bales, stone check dams, temporary sedimentation basins, silt sacks and similar measures. These measures will be part of the construction specifications and they will be installed and inspected prior to construction. The mitigation measures will be monitored on a weekly basis and before and after any significant storm events.

Other potential impacts are minor short term impacts related to construction activities such as noise and air pollution. These impacts will be short term over a period of months and they will be mitigated by the use of appropriate muffling and emissions control devices on equipment, limitations on work hours (typically 7:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.) and by the use of dust control measures such as water and calcium chloride. There will be construction inspection during all construction operations, in order to ensure compliance with construction specifications for noise, emission and dust control.

5.0 Correspondence and Coordination

Formal correspondence with ant State agencies has not occurred. However, informal correspondence has occurred with the Connecticut DEEP and Torrington Area Health District, whom are supportive of the project.



6.0 Exhibits

Please see attached maps in Appendix A:

- 1. Location Map
- 2. USDA NCRS "Farmland Classification Soils Map"
- 3. Aerial Pan exhibiting structural density
- 4. FEMA FIRM Panel Map
- 5. USFW National Wetlands Inventory Map (Project Area)
- 6. USFW National Wetlands Inventory Map (Treatment Facility)
- 7. NDDB Map (June 2020)
- 8. CT DEEP NDDB Response
- 9. USFW IPaC "Letter" (Northern Long-eared Bat)
- 10. USFW "List of threatened and endangered species"
- 11. Collection system map

7.0 List of Preparers

This report was prepared by Wengell, McDonnell & Costello, Inc.:

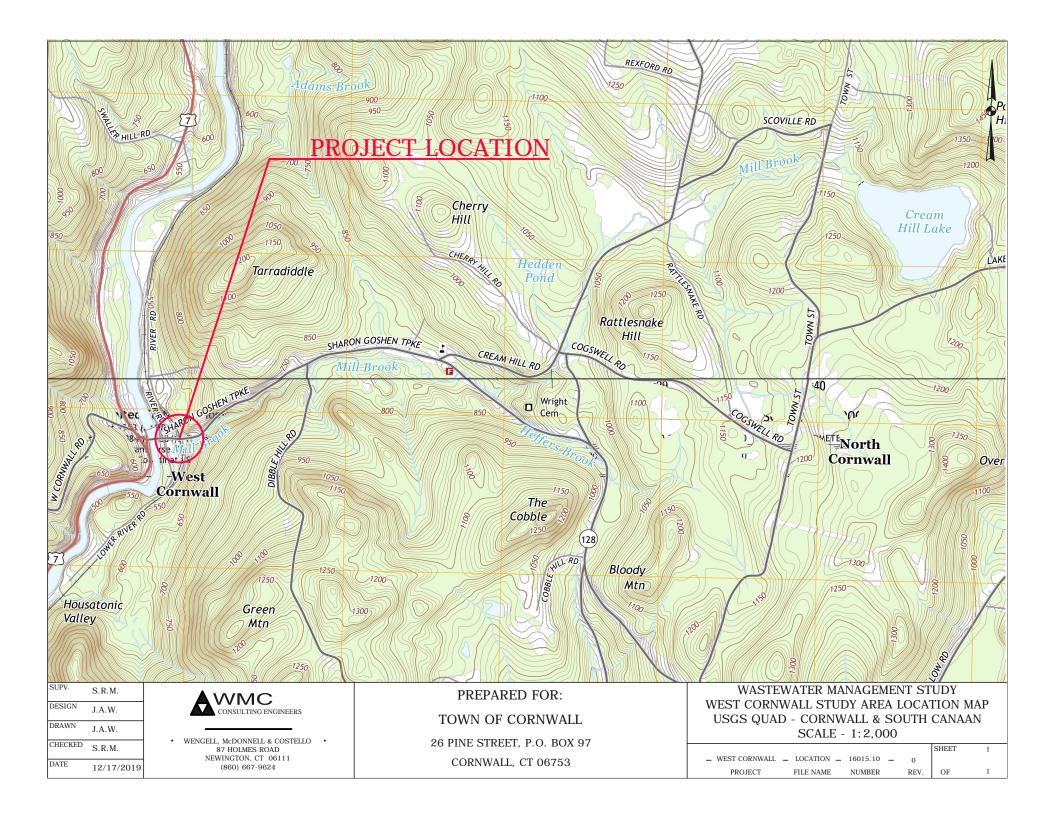
Stephen M. McDonnell, P.E., Vice President

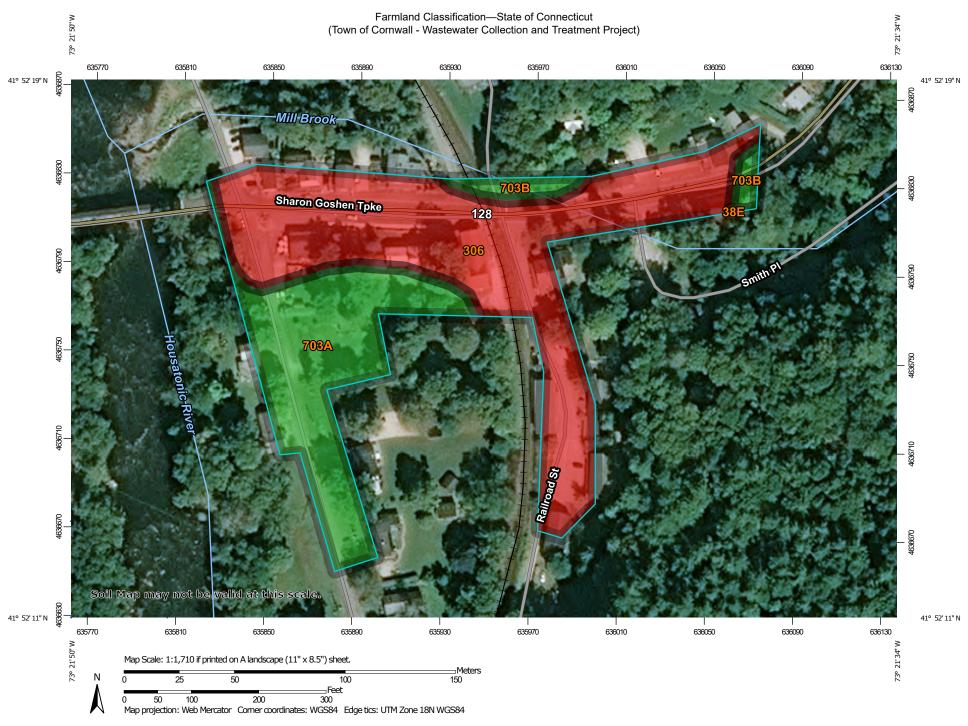
John A. Wengell Project Manager



Appendix A - Figures







MAP LEGEND						
Area of Interest (AOI) Area of Interest (AOI) Soils Soil Rating Polygons	Prime farmland if subsoiled, completely removing the root inhibiting soil layer Prime farmland if irrigated and the product of I (soil	Farmland of statewide importance, if drained and either protected from flooding or not frequently flooded during the growing season	Farmland of statewide importance, if irrigated and reclaimed of excess salts and sodium Farmland of statewide importance if drained or	Farmland of unique importance Not rated or not available Soil Rating Lines		
Not prime farmland All areas are prime farmland Prime farmland if drained Prime farmland if protected from flooding or not frequently flooded during the growing season Prime farmland if irrigated Prime farmland if drained and either protected from flooding or not frequently flooded during the growing season Prime farmland if irrigated and drained Prime farmland if irrigated and either protected from flooding or not frequently flooded during the growing season	and the product of I (soil erodibility) x C (climate factor) does not exceed 60 Prime farmland if irrigated and reclaimed of excess salts and sodium Farmland of statewide importance Farmland of statewide importance, if drained Farmland of statewide importance, if protected from flooding or not frequently flooded during the growing season Farmland of statewide importance, if irrigated	growing season Farmland of statewide importance, if irrigated and drained Farmland of statewide importance, if irrigated and either protected from flooding or not frequently flooded during the growing season Farmland of statewide importance, if subsoiled, completely removing the root inhibiting soil layer Farmland of statewide importance, if irrigated and the product of I (soil erodibility) x C (climate factor) does not exceed 60	importance, if drained or either protected from flooding or not frequently flooded during the growing season Farmland of statewide importance, if warm enough, and either drained or either protected from flooding or not frequently flooded during the growing season Farmland of statewide importance, if warm enough Farmland of statewide importance, if thawed Farmland of local importance Farmland of local importance, if irrigated	Not prime farmland All areas are prime farmland Prime farmland if drained Prime farmland if protected from flooding or not frequently flooded during the growing season Prime farmland if irrigated Prime farmland if drained and either protected from flooding or not frequently flooded during the growing season Prime farmland if irrigated and drained Prime farmland if irrigated and either protected from flooding or not frequently flooded during the growing season Prime farmland if irrigated and either protected from flooding or not frequently flooded during the growing season		

Farmland Classification—State of Connecticut (Town of Cornwall - Wastewater Collection and Treatment Project)

,000	Prime farmland if subsoiled, completely	~	Farmland of statewide importance, if drained and	payer	Farmland of statewide importance, if irrigated	~	Farmland of unique importance	Prime farmland if subsoiled, completely
	removing the root inhibiting soil layer		either protected from flooding or not frequently		and reclaimed of excess salts and sodium	100	Not rated or not available	removing the root inhibiting soil layer
-	Prime farmland if irrigated and the product of I (soil erodibility) x C (climate	~	flooded during the growing season Farmland of statewide	-	Farmland of statewide importance, if drained or either protected from	Soil Rat	ting Points Not prime farmland	Prime farmland if irrigated and the product of I (soil erodibility) x C
	factor) does not exceed 60		importance, if irrigated and drained		flooding or not frequently flooded during the		All areas are prime farmland	(climate factor) does not exceed 60
~	Prime farmland if irrigated and reclaimed of excess salts and sodium	~	Farmland of statewide importance, if irrigated and either protected from	~	growing season Farmland of statewide importance, if warm	•	Prime farmland if drained Prime farmland if	Prime farmland if irrigated and reclaimed of excess salts and
-	Farmland of statewide importance		flooding or not frequently flooded during the growing season		enough, and either drained or either protected from flooding or	_	protected from flooding or not frequently flooded during the growing	sodium Farmland of statewide
~	Farmland of statewide importance, if drained	***	Farmland of statewide importance, if subsoiled,		not frequently flooded during the growing	_	season Prime farmland if irrigated	importance Farmland of statewide importance, if drained
~	Farmland of statewide importance, if protected from flooding or not		completely removing the root inhibiting soil layer Farmland of statewide	-	season Farmland of statewide importance, if warm		Prime farmland if drained and either protected from	Farmland of statewide importance, if protected
	frequently flooded during the growing season Farmland of statewide		importance, if irrigated and the product of I (soil		enough Farmland of statewide		flooding or not frequently flooded during the growing season	from flooding or not frequently flooded during the growing season
	importance, if irrigated		erodibility) x C (climate factor) does not exceed 60	-	importance, if thawed Farmland of local importance		Prime farmland if irrigated and drained	Farmland of statewide importance, if irrigated
				~	Farmland of local importance, if irrigated		Prime farmland if irrigated and either protected from flooding or not frequently flooded during the	
							growing season	

Farmland Classification—State of Connecticut (Town of Cornwall - Wastewater Collection and Treatment Project)

- Farmland of statewide importance, if drained and either protected from flooding or not frequently flooded during the growing season Farmland of statewide importance, if irrigated and drained Farmland of statewide importance, if irrigated flooded during the growing season Farmland of statewide
 - and either protected from flooding or not frequently
 - importance, if subsoiled. completely removing the root inhibiting soil layer
 - Farmland of statewide importance, if irrigated and the product of I (soil erodibility) x C (climate factor) does not exceed

- Farmland of statewide importance, if irrigated and reclaimed of excess salts and sodium
- Farmland of statewide importance, if drained or either protected from flooding or not frequently flooded during the growing season
- Farmland of statewide importance, if warm enough, and either drained or either protected from flooding or not frequently flooded during the growing season
- Farmland of statewide importance, if warm enough
- Farmland of statewide importance, if thawed
- Farmland of local importance
- Farmland of local importance, if irrigated

- Farmland of unique importance
- Not rated or not available

Water Features

Streams and Canals

Transportation

Rails ---

Interstate Highways

US Routes

Major Roads Local Roads

Background

04

Aerial Photography

The soil surveys that comprise your AOI were mapped at 1:12.000.

Warning: Soil Map may not be valid at this scale.

Enlargement of maps beyond the scale of mapping can cause misunderstanding of the detail of mapping and accuracy of soil line placement. The maps do not show the small areas of contrasting soils that could have been shown at a more detailed scale.

Please rely on the bar scale on each map sheet for map measurements.

Source of Map: Natural Resources Conservation Service Web Soil Survey URL:

Coordinate System: Web Mercator (EPSG:3857)

Maps from the Web Soil Survey are based on the Web Mercator projection, which preserves direction and shape but distorts distance and area. A projection that preserves area, such as the Albers equal-area conic projection, should be used if more accurate calculations of distance or area are required.

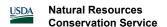
This product is generated from the USDA-NRCS certified data as of the version date(s) listed below.

Soil Survey Area: State of Connecticut Survey Area Data: Version 20, Jun 9, 2020

Soil map units are labeled (as space allows) for map scales 1:50,000 or larger.

Date(s) aerial images were photographed: Aug 23, 2018—Sep 17, 2019

The orthophoto or other base map on which the soil lines were compiled and digitized probably differs from the background imagery displayed on these maps. As a result, some minor shifting of map unit boundaries may be evident.



Farmland Classification

Map unit symbol	Map unit name	Rating	Acres in AOI	Percent of AOI			
38E	Hinckley loamy sand, 15 to 45 percent slopes	Not prime farmland	0.0	0.0%			
306	Udorthents-Urban land complex	Not prime farmland	2.9	64.0%			
703A	Haven silt loam, 0 to 3 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland	1.4	31.6%			
703B	Haven silt loam, 3 to 8 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland	0.2	4.3%			
Totals for Area of Inter	est	4.6	100.0%				

Description

Farmland classification identifies map units as prime farmland, farmland of statewide importance, farmland of local importance, or unique farmland. It identifies the location and extent of the soils that are best suited to food, feed, fiber, forage, and oilseed crops. NRCS policy and procedures on prime and unique farmlands are published in the "Federal Register," Vol. 43, No. 21, January 31, 1978.

Rating Options

Aggregation Method: No Aggregation Necessary

Tie-break Rule: Lower

Prime and other Important Farmlands

This table lists the map units in the survey area that are considered important farmlands. Important farmlands consist of prime farmland, unique farmland, and farmland of statewide or local importance. This list does not constitute a recommendation for a particular land use.

In an effort to identify the extent and location of important farmlands, the Natural Resources Conservation Service, in cooperation with other interested Federal, State, and local government organizations, has inventoried land that can be used for the production of the Nation's food supply.

Prime farmland is of major importance in meeting the Nation's short- and long-range needs for food and fiber. Because the supply of high-quality farmland is limited, the U.S. Department of Agriculture recognizes that responsible levels of government, as well as individuals, should encourage and facilitate the wise use of our Nation's prime farmland.

Prime farmland, as defined by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, is land that has the best combination of physical and chemical characteristics for producing food, feed, forage, fiber, and oilseed crops and is available for these uses. It could be cultivated land, pastureland, forestland, or other land, but it is not urban or built-up land or water areas. The soil quality, growing season, and moisture supply are those needed for the soil to economically produce sustained high yields of crops when proper management, including water management, and acceptable farming methods are applied. In general, prime farmland has an adequate and dependable supply of moisture from precipitation or irrigation, a favorable temperature and growing season, acceptable acidity or alkalinity, an acceptable salt and sodium content, and few or no rocks. The water supply is dependable and of adequate quality. Prime farmland is permeable to water and air. It is not excessively erodible or saturated with water for long periods, and it either is not frequently flooded during the growing season or is protected from flooding. Slope ranges mainly from 0 to 6 percent. More detailed information about the criteria for prime farmland is available at the local office of the Natural Resources Conservation Service.

For some of the soils identified in the table as prime farmland, measures that overcome a hazard or limitation, such as flooding, wetness, and droughtiness, are needed. Onsite evaluation is needed to determine whether or not the hazard or limitation has been overcome by corrective measures.

A recent trend in land use in some areas has been the loss of some prime farmland to industrial and urban uses. The loss of prime farmland to other uses puts pressure on marginal lands, which generally are more erodible, droughty, and less productive and cannot be easily cultivated.

Unique farmland is land other than prime farmland that is used for the production of specific high-value food and fiber crops, such as citrus, tree nuts, olives, cranberries, and other fruits and vegetables. It has the special combination of soil quality, growing season, moisture supply, temperature, humidity, air drainage, elevation, and aspect needed for the soil to economically produce sustainable high yields of these crops when properly managed. The water supply is dependable and of adequate quality. Nearness to markets is an additional consideration. Unique farmland is not based on national criteria. It commonly is in areas where there is a special microclimate, such as the wine country in California.

In some areas, land that does not meet the criteria for prime or unique farmland is considered to be *farmland of statewide importance* for the production of food, feed, fiber, forage, and oilseed crops. The criteria for defining and delineating farmland of statewide importance are determined by the appropriate State agencies. Generally, this land includes areas of soils that nearly meet the requirements for prime farmland and that economically produce high yields of crops when treated and managed according to acceptable farming methods. Some areas may produce as high a yield as prime farmland if conditions are favorable. Farmland of statewide importance may include tracts of land that have been designated for agriculture by State law.

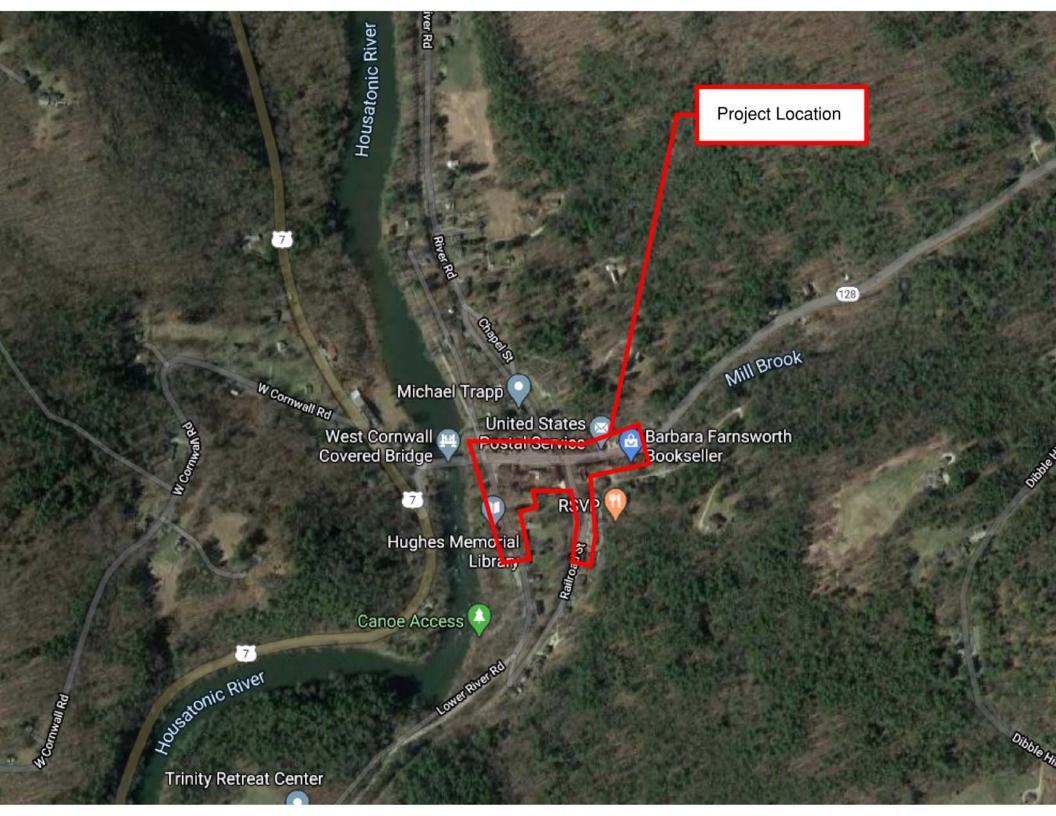
In some areas that are not identified as having national or statewide importance, land is considered to be *farmland of local importance* for the production of food, feed, fiber, forage, and oilseed crops. This farmland is identified by the appropriate local agencies. Farmland of local importance may include tracts of land that have been designated for agriculture by local ordinance.

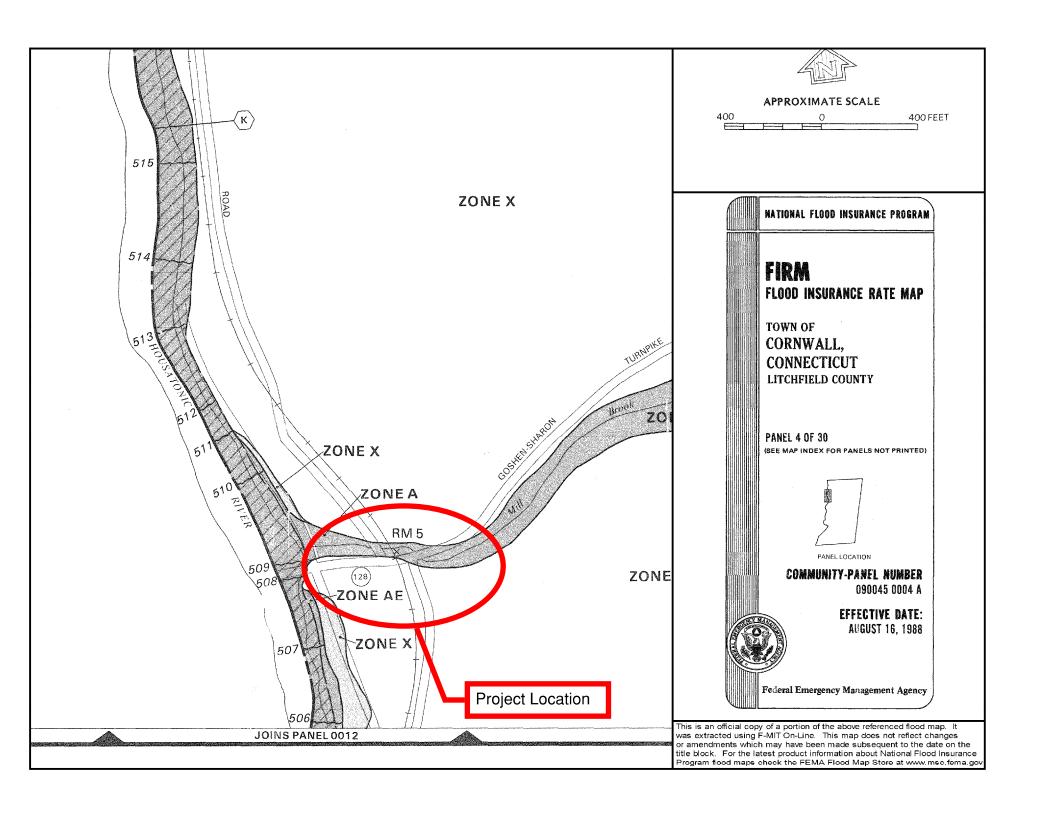
Report—Prime and other Important Farmlands

Prime and other Important Farmlands-State of Connecticut					
Map Symbol	Map Unit Name	Farmland Classification			
38E	Hinckley loamy sand, 15 to 45 percent slopes	Not prime farmland			
306	Udorthents-Urban land complex	Not prime farmland			
703A	Haven silt loam, 0 to 3 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland			
703B	Haven silt loam, 3 to 8 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland			

Data Source Information

Soil Survey Area: State of Connecticut Survey Area Data: Version 20, Jun 9, 2020



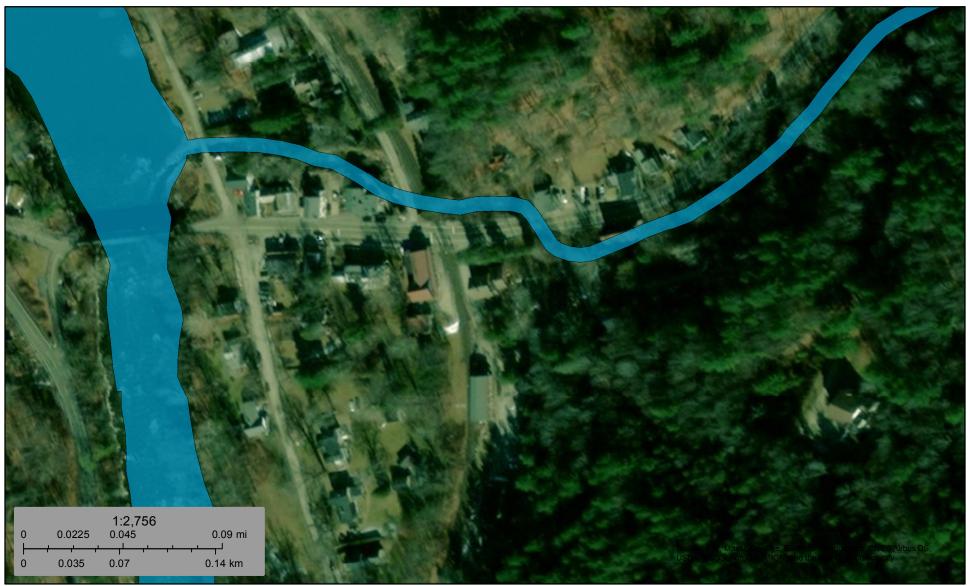




U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

National Wetlands Inventory

Town of Cornwall, Wastewater Collection a



September 6, 2020

Wetlands

Estuarine and Marine Deepwater

Estuarine and Marine Wetland

Freshwater Emergent Wetland

Freshwater Forested/Shrub Wetland

Freshwater Pond

Lake

Other

Riverine

___ Oule

This map is for general reference only. The US Fish and Wildlife Service is not responsible for the accuracy or currentness of the base data shown on this map. All wetlands related data should be used in accordance with the layer metadata found on the Wetlands Mapper web site.

PISH A WILDLIPE SERVICE

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

National Wetlands Inventory

Treatment Facility



September 6, 2020

Wetlands

Estuarine and Marine Deepwater

Estuarine and Marine Wetland

Freshwater Emergent Wetland

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This map is for general reference only. The US Fish and Wildlife Service is not responsible for the accuracy or currentness of the base data shown on this map. All wetlands related data should be used in accordance with the layer metadata found on the Wetlands Mapper web site.

Natural Diversity Data Base Areas

CORNWALL, CT

June 2020

State :

State and Federal Listed Species



Critical Habitat



Town Boundary

NOTE: This map shows general locations of State and Federal Listed Species and Critical Habitats. Information on listed species is collected and compiled by the Natural Diversity Data Base (NDDB) from a variety of data sources. Exact locations of species have been buffered to produce the generalized locations.

This map is intended for use as a preliminary screening tool for conducting a Natural Diversity Data Base Review Request. To use the map, locate the project boundaries and any additional affected areas. If the project is within a hatched area there may be a potential conflict with a listed species. For more information, complete a Request for Natural Diversity Data Base State Listed Species Review form (DEP-APP-007), and submit it to the NDDB along with the required maps and information. More detailed instructions are provided with the request form on our website.

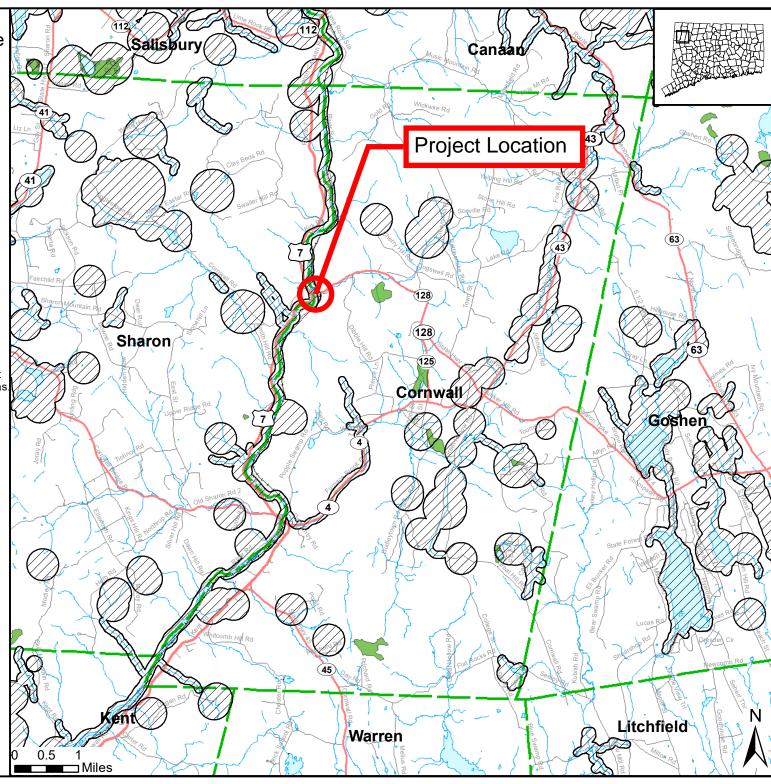
www.ct.gov/deep/nddbrequest

Use the CTECO Interactive Map Viewers at http://cteco.uconn.edu to more precisely search for and locate a site and to view aerial imagery with NDDB Areas.

QUESTIONS: Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) 79 Elm St, Hartford, CT 06106 email: deep.nddbrequest@ct.gov Phone: (860) 424-3011



Connecticut Department of Energy & Environmental Protection Bureau of Natural Resources Wildlife Division



79 Elm Street • Hartford, CT 06106-5127

www.ct.gov/deep

Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Employer

August 18, 2020

Jay A. Costello PE Wengell, McDonnell & Costello Inc 87 Holmes Rd Newington CT 06111 Jcostello@wmcengineers.com

Project: Town of Cornwall Wastewater Collection and Treatment Project, West Cornwall, CT

NDDB Determination No.: 20209366

Dear Mr. Costello,

I have reviewed Natural Diversity Database (NDDB) maps and files regarding the preliminary area of work provided for the installation of a new wastewater collection system and treatment facility in West Cornwall, Connecticut. I do not anticipate negative impacts to State-listed species (RCSA Sec. 26-306) resulting from your proposed activity at the site based upon the information contained within the NDDB. The result of this review does not preclude the possibility that listed species may be encountered on site and that additional action may be necessary to remain in compliance with certain state permits. This determination is good for two years. Please re-submit a new NDDB Request for Review if the scope of work changes or if work has not begun on this project by August 18, 2022.

Natural Diversity Data Base information includes all information regarding critical biological resources available to us at the time of the request. This information is a compilation of data collected over the years by the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection's Natural History Survey, cooperating units of DEEP, landowners, private conservation groups and the scientific community. This information is not necessarily the result of comprehensive or site-specific field investigations. Consultations with the NDDB should not be substitutes for on-site surveys necessary for a thorough environmental impact assessment. Current research projects and new contributors continue to identify additional populations of species and locations of habitats of concern, as well as, enhance existing data. Such new information is incorporated into the database as it becomes available.

Please contact me if you have further questions at (860) 424-3378, or karen.zyko@ct.gov. Thank you for consulting the Natural Diversity Database.

Sincerely,

Karen Zyko

Haun zh

Environmental Analyst



United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

New England Ecological Services Field Office 70 Commercial Street, Suite 300 Concord, NH 03301-5094 Phone: (603) 223-2541 Fax: (603) 223-0104

http://www.fws.gov/newengland



In Reply Refer To: August 09, 2020

Consultation Code: 05E1NE00-2020-TA-3616

Event Code: 05E1NE00-2020-E-11107

Project Name: Town of Cornwall - Wastewater collection and Treatment Project

Subject: Verification letter for the 'Town of Cornwall - Wastewater collection and Treatment

Project' project under the January 5, 2016, Programmatic Biological Opinion on Final

4(d) Rule for the Northern Long-eared Bat and Activities Excepted from Take

Prohibitions.

Dear John Wengell:

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) received on August 09, 2020 your effects determination for the 'Town of Cornwall - Wastewater collection and Treatment Project' (the Action) using the northern long-eared bat (*Myotis septentrionalis*) key within the Information for Planning and Consultation (IPaC) system. This IPaC key assists users in determining whether a Federal action is consistent with the activities analyzed in the Service's January 5, 2016, Programmatic Biological Opinion (PBO). The PBO addresses activities excepted from "take" prohibitions applicable to the northern long-eared bat under the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (ESA) (87 Stat.884, as amended; 16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.).

Based upon your IPaC submission, the Action is consistent with activities analyzed in the PBO. The Action may affect the northern long-eared bat; however, any take that may occur as a result of the Action is not prohibited under the ESA Section 4(d) rule adopted for this species at 50 CFR §17.40(o). Unless the Service advises you within 30 days of the date of this letter that your IPaC-assisted determination was incorrect, this letter verifies that the PBO satisfies and concludes your responsibilities for this Action under ESA Section 7(a)(2) with respect to the northern long-eared bat.

Please report to our office any changes to the information about the Action that you submitted in IPaC, the results of any bat surveys conducted in the Action area, and any dead, injured, or sick northern long-eared bats that are found during Action implementation. If the Action is not completed within one year of the date of this letter, you must update and resubmit the information required in the IPaC key.

This IPaC-assisted determination allows you to rely on the PBO for compliance with ESA Section 7(a)(2) <u>only</u> for the northern long-eared bat. It **does not** apply to the following ESA-protected species that also may occur in the Action area:

- Bog Turtle, *Clemmys muhlenbergii* (Threatened)
- Small Whorled Pogonia, Isotria medeoloides (Threatened)

If the Action may affect other federally listed species besides the northern long-eared bat, a proposed species, and/or designated critical habitat, additional consultation between you and this Service office is required. If the Action may disturb bald or golden eagles, additional coordination with the Service under the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act is recommended.

[1] Take means to harass, harm, pursue, hunt, shoot, wound, kill, trap, capture, or collect, or to attempt to engage in any such conduct [ESA Section 3(19)].

Action Description

You provided to IPaC the following name and description for the subject Action.

1. Name

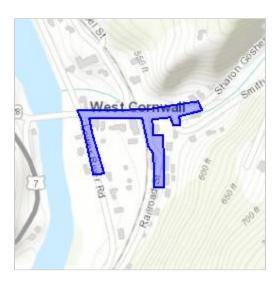
Town of Cornwall - Wastewater collection and Treatment Project

2. Description

The following description was provided for the project 'Town of Cornwall - Wastewater collection and Treatment Project':

The project is proposed in the West Cornwall section of Cornwall, CT. The project proposes to install a wastewater collection system within the existing highway right of way and a treatment facility. The project will provide approximately 30 homes/businesses with sanitary sewer in the densely developed portion of West Cornwall. The approximate project size is 3 acres. The project is located in an area identified by CT DEEP NDDB as an area known to have listed species. The Town of Cornwall is seeking funding through the USDA-RD program.

Approximate location of the project can be viewed in Google Maps: https://www.google.com/maps/place/41.871101959919095N73.36140346522816W



Determination Key Result

This Federal Action may affect the northern long-eared bat in a manner consistent with the description of activities addressed by the Service's PBO dated January 5, 2016. Any taking that may occur incidental to this Action is not prohibited under the final 4(d) rule at 50 CFR

§17.40(o). Therefore, the PBO satisfies your responsibilities for this Action under ESA Section 7(a)(2) relative to the northern long-eared bat.

Determination Key Description: Northern Long-eared Bat 4(d) Rule

This key was last updated in IPaC on May 15, 2017. Keys are subject to periodic revision.

This key is intended for actions that may affect the threatened northern long-eared bat.

The purpose of the key for Federal actions is to assist determinations as to whether proposed actions are consistent with those analyzed in the Service's PBO dated January 5, 2016.

Federal actions that may cause prohibited take of northern long-eared bats, affect ESA-listed species other than the northern long-eared bat, or affect any designated critical habitat, require ESA Section 7(a)(2) consultation in addition to the use of this key. Federal actions that may affect species proposed for listing or critical habitat proposed for designation may require a conference under ESA Section 7(a)(4).

Determination Key Result

This project may affect the threatened Northern long-eared bat; therefore, consultation with the Service pursuant to Section 7(a)(2) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (87 Stat.884, as amended; 16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.) is required. However, based on the information you provided, this project may rely on the Service's January 5, 2016, *Programmatic Biological Opinion on Final 4(d) Rule for the Northern Long-Eared Bat and Activities Excepted from Take Prohibitions* to fulfill its Section 7(a)(2) consultation obligation.

Qualification Interview

- 1. Is the action authorized, funded, or being carried out by a Federal agency? *Yes*
- 2. Have you determined that the proposed action will have "no effect" on the northern long-eared bat? (If you are unsure select "No")

 No
- 3. Will your activity purposefully **Take** northern long-eared bats? *No*
- 4. [Semantic] Is the project action area located wholly outside the White-nose Syndrome Zone?

Automatically answered No

5. Have you contacted the appropriate agency to determine if your project is near a known hibernaculum or maternity roost tree?

Location information for northern long-eared bat hibernacula is generally kept in state Natural Heritage Inventory databases — the availability of this data varies state-by-state. Many states provide online access to their data, either directly by providing maps or by providing the opportunity to make a data request. In some cases, to protect those resources, access to the information may be limited. A web page with links to state Natural Heritage Inventory databases and other sources of information on the locations of northern long-eared bat roost trees and hibernacula is available at www.fws.gov/midwest/endangered/mammals/nleb/nhisites.html.

Yes

6.	Will the action affect a cave or mine where northern long-eared bats are known to
	hibernate (i.e., hibernaculum) or could it alter the entrance or the environment (physical or
	other alteration) of a hibernaculum?

No

7. Will the action involve Tree Removal?

No

Project Questionnaire

If the project includes forest conversion, report the appropriate acreages below. Otherwise, type '0' in questions 1-3.

Estimated total acres of forest conversion:
 If known, estimated acres of forest conversion from April 1 to October 31
 If known, estimated acres of forest conversion from June 1 to July 31

If the project includes timber harvest, report the appropriate acreages below. Otherwise, type '0' in questions 4-6.

- 4. Estimated total acres of timber harvest *0*
- 5. If known, estimated acres of timber harvest from April 1 to October 31 $\it 0$
- 6. If known, estimated acres of timber harvest from June 1 to July 31 *0*

If the project includes prescribed fire, report the appropriate acreages below. Otherwise, type '0' in questions 7-9.

- 7. Estimated total acres of prescribed fire *0*
- 8. If known, estimated acres of prescribed fire from April 1 to October 31 $\it o$
- 9. If known, estimated acres of prescribed fire from June 1 to July 31 \boldsymbol{o}

If the project includes new wind turbines, report the megawatts of wind capacity below. Otherwise, type '0' in question 10.

10. What is the estimated wind capacity (in megawatts) of the new turbine(s)?

0



United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

New England Ecological Services Field Office 70 Commercial Street, Suite 300 Concord, NH 03301-5094 Phone: (603) 223-2541 Fax: (603) 223-0104

http://www.fws.gov/newengland



In Reply Refer To: August 09, 2020

Consultation Code: 05E1NE00-2020-SLI-3616

Event Code: 05E1NE00-2020-E-11106

Project Name: Town of Cornwall - Wastewater collection and Treatment Project

Subject: List of threatened and endangered species that may occur in your proposed project

location, and/or may be affected by your proposed project

To Whom It May Concern:

The enclosed species list identifies threatened, endangered, proposed and candidate species, as well as proposed and final designated critical habitat, that may occur within the boundary of your proposed project and/or may be affected by your proposed project. The species list fulfills the requirements of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) under section 7(c) of the Endangered Species Act (Act) of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*).

New information based on updated surveys, changes in the abundance and distribution of species, changed habitat conditions, or other factors could change this list. Please feel free to contact us if you need more current information or assistance regarding the potential impacts to federally proposed, listed, and candidate species and federally designated and proposed critical habitat. Please note that under 50 CFR 402.12(e) of the regulations implementing section 7 of the Act, the accuracy of this species list should be verified after 90 days. This verification can be completed formally or informally as desired. The Service recommends that verification be completed by visiting the ECOS-IPaC website at regular intervals during project planning and implementation for updates to species lists and information. An updated list may be requested through the ECOS-IPaC system by completing the same process used to receive the enclosed list.

The purpose of the Act is to provide a means whereby threatened and endangered species and the ecosystems upon which they depend may be conserved. Under sections 7(a)(1) and 7(a)(2) of the Act and its implementing regulations (50 CFR 402 *et seq.*), Federal agencies are required to utilize their authorities to carry out programs for the conservation of threatened and endangered species and to determine whether projects may affect threatened and endangered species and/or designated critical habitat.

08/09/2020

A Biological Assessment is required for construction projects (or other undertakings having similar physical impacts) that are major Federal actions significantly affecting the quality of the human environment as defined in the National Environmental Policy Act (42 U.S.C. 4332(2) (c)). For projects other than major construction activities, the Service suggests that a biological evaluation similar to a Biological Assessment be prepared to determine whether the project may affect listed or proposed species and/or designated or proposed critical habitat. Recommended contents of a Biological Assessment are described at 50 CFR 402.12.

If a Federal agency determines, based on the Biological Assessment or biological evaluation, that listed species and/or designated critical habitat may be affected by the proposed project, the agency is required to consult with the Service pursuant to 50 CFR 402. In addition, the Service recommends that candidate species, proposed species and proposed critical habitat be addressed within the consultation. More information on the regulations and procedures for section 7 consultation, including the role of permit or license applicants, can be found in the "Endangered Species Consultation Handbook" at:

http://www.fws.gov/endangered/esa-library/pdf/TOC-GLOS.PDF

Please be aware that bald and golden eagles are protected under the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act (16 U.S.C. 668 *et seq.*), and projects affecting these species may require development of an eagle conservation plan (http://www.fws.gov/windenergy/eagle_guidance.html). Additionally, wind energy projects should follow the wind energy guidelines (http://www.fws.gov/windenergy/) for minimizing impacts to migratory birds and bats.

Guidance for minimizing impacts to migratory birds for projects including communications towers (e.g., cellular, digital television, radio, and emergency broadcast) can be found at: http://www.fws.gov/migratorybirds/CurrentBirdIssues/Hazards/towers/towers.htm; http://www.towerkill.com; and http://www.fws.gov/migratorybirds/CurrentBirdIssues/Hazards/towers/comtow.html.

We appreciate your concern for threatened and endangered species. The Service encourages Federal agencies to include conservation of threatened and endangered species into their project planning to further the purposes of the Act. Please include the Consultation Tracking Number in the header of this letter with any request for consultation or correspondence about your project that you submit to our office.

Attachment(s):

Official Species List

Official Species List

This list is provided pursuant to Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act, and fulfills the requirement for Federal agencies to "request of the Secretary of the Interior information whether any species which is listed or proposed to be listed may be present in the area of a proposed action".

This species list is provided by:

New England Ecological Services Field Office 70 Commercial Street, Suite 300 Concord, NH 03301-5094 (603) 223-2541

Project Summary

Consultation Code: 05E1NE00-2020-SLI-3616

Event Code: 05E1NE00-2020-E-11106

Project Name: Town of Cornwall - Wastewater collection and Treatment Project

Project Type: WASTEWATER FACILITY

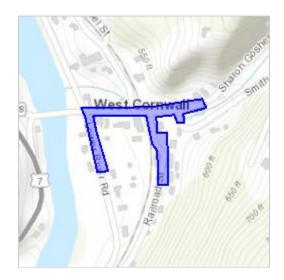
Project Description: The project is proposed in the West Cornwall section of Cornwall, CT.

The project proposes to install a wastewater collection system within the existing highway right of way and a treatment facility. The project will provide approximately 30 homes/businesses with sanitary sewer in the densely developed portion of West Cornwall. The approximate project size is 3 acres. The project is located in an area identified by CT DEEP NDDB as an area known to have listed species. The Town of Cornwall is

seeking funding through the USDA-RD program.

Project Location:

Approximate location of the project can be viewed in Google Maps: https://www.google.com/maps/place/41.871101959919095N73.36140346522816W



Counties: Litchfield, CT

Endangered Species Act Species

There is a total of 3 threatened, endangered, or candidate species on this species list.

Species on this list should be considered in an effects analysis for your project and could include species that exist in another geographic area. For example, certain fish may appear on the species list because a project could affect downstream species.

IPaC does not display listed species or critical habitats under the sole jurisdiction of NOAA Fisheries¹, as USFWS does not have the authority to speak on behalf of NOAA and the Department of Commerce.

See the "Critical habitats" section below for those critical habitats that lie wholly or partially within your project area under this office's jurisdiction. Please contact the designated FWS office if you have questions.

1. NOAA Fisheries, also known as the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), is an office of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration within the Department of Commerce.

Mammals

NAME	STATUS
Northern Long-eared Bat Myotis septentrionalis	Threatened
No critical habitat has been designated for this species.	

Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9045

Reptiles

Bog Turtle *Clemmys muhlenbergii*

Population: Wherever found, except GA, NC, SC, TN, VA No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/6962

Flowering Plants

NAME **STATUS**

Small Whorled Pogonia *Isotria medeoloides*

No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/1890

Threatened

Threatened

Critical habitats

THERE ARE NO CRITICAL HABITATS WITHIN YOUR PROJECT AREA UNDER THIS OFFICE'S JURISDICTION.

