APPENDIX 15F: NEW HAMPSHIRE FISH AND GAME DEPARTMENT CORRESPONDENCE

# Houghton, Sandra

From: Sent: To: Cc: Subject: Houghton, Sandra Thursday, December 14, 2017 8:15 AM Henderson, Carol Tuttle, Kim; Doperalski, Melissa FW: Chinook Solar Project

#### Carol,

Little brown bats were detected at nearly all of the acoustic monitoring stations. My recommendation would be to confirm that tree removal will be in the winter (November 1-March 31) and where possible maintain forested corridors that connect suitable foraging habitat (wetlands/waterbodies). This may overlap with efforts to provide connectivity for the vernal pools as woodland seasonal pools are important foraging and water sources for the little brown bat.

Thank you, Sandi

Sandra Houghton Wildlife Diversity Biologist Nongame and Endangered Wildlife Program NH Fish and Game Department 11 Hazen Dr. Concord, NH 03301 603-271-5679

From: Moody, Kara [mailto:KMoody@trcsolutions.com] Sent: Wednesday, December 13, 2017 4:00 PM To: Henderson, Carol; Houghton, Sandra; Sanderson, Paul; Tuttle, Kim Cc: Aaron Svedlow (<u>Aaron.Svedlow@nexteraenergy.com</u>); Isabel Johnson (<u>isabel.johnson@nexteraenergy.com</u>); Trumbauer, Mark Subject: Chinook Solar Project

Hi Carol, Sandra, Paul, & Kim-

I'll be sending a CD containing the wetland and vernal pool report for the Chinook Solar Project, as well as the bat report. The reports are too large to email. Please let me know if you have any questions or concerns after you have time to look over the reports.

Also, we are currently in the process of conducting a habitat assessment based on our discussions during the scoping meeting. We will provide that report as soon as it's available.

Lastly, I have attached the notes from our meeting. Please don't hesitate to let me know if I missed anything in the notes – we certainly covered a lot of ground during that meeting.

Thanks, Kara

From:	Valleau, Dana
To:	Henderson, Carol
Cc:	Barefoot, Heath; Johnson, Isabel
Subject:	Chinook Solar wildlife protection measures
Date:	Wednesday, September 4, 2019 10:10:00 AM
Attachments:	image001.png

## Hi Carol,

Thank you for your time discussing the Chinook Solar project last Tuesday, 8/27/2019. To help refresh your memory, the project is a proposed 30 megawatt solar electric generation project is located in Fitzwilliam, NH and it will be the subject of an application to the New Hampshire Site Evaluation Committee. Below is a summary of the key wildlife protection strategies and best management practices the Chinook Solar Project will implement based on correspondence and recommendations from meetings with the NHF&G in 2017 and 2018. We kindly request your review of, and concurrence with, the wildlife protection measures identified herein.

## Fencing:

- The Project was designed to account for anticipated wildlife corridors through the Project area. Fencing for the solar panel arrays will be installed around discrete sections of the Project such that corridors for larger wildlife species will remain available.
- Fencing around the solar panel arrays will be a 7-foot tall chain link fence installed with an approximate 6-inch gap between the ground and the fence to allow smaller wildlife species to pass beneath the fence.
- The Project substation, about 2 acres in size, will be surrounded by a 7-foot tall chain link fence with no gap between the ground and the fence with an additional foot of barbed wire along the top of the fence for security purposes.

#### Protection for Bats:

- The Project design maintains forested corridors that connect potential foraging habitats (wetlands/waterbodies) for bats.
- Tree clearing for the Project will occur between November 1 and March 31 to avoid potential impacts to roosting bats during the summer season when they are active throughout the landscape.

Protection for Turtles:

- To help minimize the potential of turtles entering the Project area during construction, a perimeter silt fence will be installed around the entirety of the construction area as an exclusion barrier. The perimeter silt fence will be installed sometime following turtle hibernation and before emergence in the spring.
- Small ramps constructed of erosion control mix will be installed intermittently along the interior of the perimeter silt fence so that in the event that a turtle enters the construction area, it will be able to exit the exclusion area using one of the ramps.
- An environmental monitor (qualified biologist) will inspect the perimeter of the construction area prior to the start of construction each day to search for any turtles that may have entered the exclusion area and to inspect the condition of the perimeter silt fence. Any turtle found within the silt fence will be relocated outside of the construction area.
- Stormwater basins will be designed with sloped sides to provide for egress of turtles.
- Environmental training will be provided to all individuals working at the Project during

construction and operations. Training will include information regarding best management practices to implement if a turtle is encountered in the Project area.

• The NHF&G nongame species biologist contact information will be included on the Project construction plans in the event a turtle is found within the Project area.

Erosion Control:

• Erosion controls will not include any measures that utilize plastics.

Vegetation Maintenance:

- Chinook Solar is proposing to use a seed mix to revegetate the Project area following grading during construction that will meet the requirements and approval of the NHDES Alteration of Terrain Bureau for site stabilization. The seed mix will also be low-growing and will minimize the need for mowing.
- If mowing is needed to control the height of vegetation growing under and around the solar arrays, the blade height of mowers will be set to a minimum of 6 inches to avoid harming turtles and snakes.
- Herbicide will not be used unless there is a need to control invasive plants. If it is determined that control of invasive species is necessary, the NH Department of Agriculture herbicide application permitting requirements will be followed. Per discussions with NHF&G, purple loosestrife will not be controlled with herbicide due to this invasive species benefits to pollinator species.
- Vegetation removal (clearing or cutting) within 75 feet of wetlands will only be needed in very discrete locations of the Project.

When we have a plan set available for review, I will send a link for you to download the plans. If you need a printed set, please let me know.

Our team appreciates the opportunity to discuss the Project with the NHF&G. Please share this e-mail with your staff for review. If you would like to have another meeting we would be glad to schedule something at your convenience.

Dana

Dana Valleau Environmental Specialist



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Please note that our domain name and email addresses have changed