

## Snyder, Kimberly

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**From:** Wadiak, Kathleen  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 16, 2022 12:05 PM  
**To:** Ford, Michelle T  
**Cc:** Winters, Melissa; FGC: NHFG review; Mauck, Ridgely; Nelson, Kurt I  
**Subject:** NHFG Review NHB22-0740 NHB21-3366 NHB22-0862 NHB22-0743 Line 380 326 Structure Replacement Pelham Litchfield Londonderry Hudson AoT 220401-070

Michelle,

New Hampshire Fish and Game has completed our review of materials submitted for consultation April 19, 2022 prepared by Kurt Nelson on Eversource. The proposed project is for the replacement of 37 existing wooden utility poles with weathered steel poles along the 380 and 326 transmission line in Pelham, Litchfield, Londonderry, and Hudson.

NHB Datacheck Letters associated with this project:

- NHB22-0740 (Pelham)
- NHB21-3366 (Litchfield)
- NHB22-0862 (Londonderry)
- NHB22-0743 (Hudson)

These recommendations area associated with the following permits:

- NHDES Statutory Permit by Notification
- NHDES Shoreland Permit by Notification
- NHDES Alteration of Terrain Permit 220401-070

NHFG appreciates Eversource's cooperation in our ongoing efforts to evolve the process of how BMPs and rare species information are incorporated into plan sheets and other materials given to site operators. To the extent currently possible, please include all BMPs on all plan sheets for work occurring in the listed sections of line.

Recommendations shall apply to all work areas in specified town or section of town.

**Based on the NHB datacheck results letter and the information provided in the submission, we request the following recommended permit conditions be incorporated into the sheet plans as written below (updated highlighted text as applicable) and provided to NHDES and cc NHFG for final review.**

### NHB22-0740 Pelham

No records of rare wildlife were returned on the NHB Datacheck letter.

### NHB21-3366 Litchfield

- Blanding's turtle (state endangered), spotted turtle (state threatened), and Eastern hognose snake (state endangered) occur within the vicinity of the project site. Site operators shall be informed of the potential presence of these species and shall be provided a flyer that helps to identify these species along with NHFG contact information. See Plan Sheet xxxxxx. *Include attached flyers to plan sheet set.*
- Vernal pools and potential vernal pools shall be flagged prior to work and all impacts to vernal pools and potential vernal pools shall be avoided.
- Turtles may be attracted to disturbed ground during nesting season (May 15<sup>th</sup> – June 30<sup>th</sup>). All turtle species nests are protected by NH laws. If a nest is observed or suspected, contact Melissa Winters (603-479-1129) or Josh Megyesy (978-578-0802) at NHFG immediately for further consultation.

- All observations of Eastern Hognose snake seen at any time shall be immediately reported to the NHFG Department (Melissa Winters (603-479-1129 cell) or Josh Megyesy (978-578-0802 cell)) for further instructions. Please attempt to photograph this species to send to us for verification.
- Prior to daily construction activities, timber matting shall be swept for snakes and turtles.
- Any rare species that are observed in work areas and are in immediate danger shall be moved away from impact area in the direction the animal was moving. Any handling of rare species shall be reported to NHFG immediately.
- All manufactured erosion and sediment control products, with the exception of turf reinforcement mats, utilized for, but not limited to, slope protection, runoff diversion, slope interruption, perimeter control, inlet protection, check dams, and sediment traps shall not contain plastic, or multifilament or monofilament polypropylene netting or mesh with an opening size of greater than 1/8 inches;
- All observations of threatened or endangered species on the project site shall be reported immediately to the NHFG nongame and endangered wildlife environmental review program by phone at 603-271-2461 and by email at [NHFGreview@wildlife.nh.gov](mailto:NHFGreview@wildlife.nh.gov), with the email subject line containing the NHB DataCheck tool results letter assigned number, the project name, and the term Wildlife Species Observation;
- Photographs of the observed species and nearby elements of habitat or areas of land disturbance shall be provided to NHFG in digital format at the above email address for verification, as feasible;
- In the event a threatened or endangered species is observed on the project site during the term of the permit, the species shall not be disturbed, handled, or harmed in any way prior to consultation with NHFG and implementation of corrective actions recommended by NHFG, if any, to assure the project does not appreciably jeopardize the continued existence of threatened and endangered species as defined in Fis 1002.04; and
- The NHFG, including its employees and authorized agents, shall have access to the property during the term of the permit.

#### Additional Recommendations

- Smooth green snake (state species of special concern) occurs within the vicinity of the project site. Site operators should be informed of the potential presences of this species and shall be provided a flyer that helps to identify this species along with NHFG contact information. See Plan Sheet **xxxxxx**. *Include attached flyers to plan sheet set.*

#### NHB22-0862 Londonderry

##### Londonderry EAST of Mammoth Road and SOUTH of Elwood Road

- Blanding's turtle (state endangered), spotted turtle (state threatened), and Northern black racer (state threatened) occur within the vicinity of the project site. Site operators shall be informed of the potential presence of these species and shall be provided a flyer that helps to identify these species along with NHFG contact information. See Plan Sheet **xxxxxx**. *Include attached flyers to plan sheet set.*
- Vernal pools and potential vernal pools shall be flagged prior to work and all impacts to vernal pools and potential vernal pools shall be avoided.
- Turtles and snakes may be attracted to disturbed ground during nesting season. Turtle nesting season occurs approximately May 15th – June 30th. Nesting areas may include work pads and access roads that are not hard pack gravel and other sandy/gravel work areas. All turtle species nests and Northern black racer nests are protected by NH laws. Be aware of the potential to encounter nesting wildlife in these areas.
- If a turtle or snake nest is observed or suspected, operators shall contact Melissa Winters (603-479-1129) or Josh Megyesy (978-578-0802) at NHFG immediately for further consultation.
- Prior to daily construction activities, timber matting shall be swept for snakes and turtles.
- Observations of Northern black racers in the months of April-May and September-October may indicate the potential for a den site on or near the project site. Observations of this species during this timeframe shall be reported immediately to the New Hampshire Fish and Game Department Nongame and Endangered Wildlife Environmental Review Program. Please contact Melissa Winters (603-479-1129) or Brendan Clifford (603-944-0885). Observations of this species outside of this timeframe can follow general reporting guidance. Please include photograph with text if feasible.

- Any rare species that are observed in work areas and are in immediate danger shall be moved away from impact area in the direction the animal was moving. Any handling of rare species shall be reported to NHFG immediately.
- All manufactured erosion and sediment control products, with the exception of turf reinforcement mats, utilized for, but not limited to, slope protection, runoff diversion, slope interruption, perimeter control, inlet protection, check dams, and sediment traps shall not contain plastic, or multifilament or monofilament polypropylene netting or mesh with an opening size of greater than 1/8 inches;
- All observations of threatened or endangered species on the project site shall be reported immediately to the NHFG nongame and endangered wildlife environmental review program by phone at 603-271-2461 and by email at [NHFGreview@wildlife.nh.gov](mailto:NHFGreview@wildlife.nh.gov), with the email subject line containing the NHB DataCheck tool results letter assigned number, the project name, and the term Wildlife Species Observation;
- Photographs of the observed species and nearby elements of habitat or areas of land disturbance shall be provided to NHFG in digital format at the above email address for verification, as feasible;
- In the event a threatened or endangered species is observed on the project site during the term of the permit, the species shall not be disturbed, handled, or harmed in any way prior to consultation with NHFG and implementation of corrective actions recommended by NHFG, if any, to assure the project does not appreciably jeopardize the continued existence of threatened and endangered species as defined in Fis 1002.04; and
- The NHFG, including its employees and authorized agents, shall have access to the property during the term of the permit.

Londonderry WEST of Mammoth Road and NORTH of Elwood Road

**The utility corridor WEST of Mammoth Road crosses through high priority and conservation-focused area for Blanding's and spotted turtles. NHFG works closely with state and local partners in this way through active habitat management activities and has identified this site as a long-term population monitoring site.**

**NHFG is aware that sections of this project overlaps with sections of the R187/S188/X116/Z119 LWS Project. If coordination is possible to use equipment and BMPs that are already in place to conduct work for this project, please notify NHFG so we can provide further instructions.**

- **No work shall occur in the Londonderry project sites west of Mammoth Road and North of Elwood Road until after October 15<sup>th</sup> 2022. NHFG shall be contacted prior to the start of work in these sections so that coordination can occur to minimize potential impacts to rare turtles.**
- All work activities shall be restricted to the defined roads, construction areas, and staging areas, with no equipment or materials staged or stored outside of the defined areas.
- All defined roads, construction areas, and staging areas shall be kept cleared of plant succession and pioneer vegetation to prevent turtles from seeking refuge and potentially being crushed if hidden.
- Blanding's turtle (state endangered), spotted turtle (state threatened), and Northern black racer (state threatened) occur within the vicinity of the project site. Site operators shall be informed of the potential presence of these species and shall be provided a flyer that helps to identify these species along with NHFG contact information. See Plan Sheet xxxxxx. *Include attached flyers to plan sheet set.*
- Vernal pools and potential vernal pools shall be flagged prior to work and all impacts to vernal pools and potential vernal pools shall be avoided.
- Turtles and snakes may be attracted to disturbed ground during nesting season. Turtle nesting season occurs approximately May 15th – June 30th. Nesting areas may include work pads and access roads that are not hard pack gravel and other sandy/gravel work areas. All turtle species nests and Northern black racer nests are protected by NH laws. If a turtle or snake nest is observed or suspected, operators shall contact Melissa Winters (603-479-1129) or Josh Megyesy (978-578-0802) at NHFG immediately for further consultation.
- Prior to daily construction activities, timber matting shall be swept for snakes and turtles.
- Observations of Northern black racers in the months of April-May and September-October may indicate the potential for a den site on or near the project site. Observations of this species during this timeframe shall be reported immediately to the New Hampshire Fish and Game Department Nongame and Endangered

Wildlife Environmental Review Program. Please contact Melissa Winters (603-479-1129) or Brendan Clifford (603-944-0885). Observations of this species outside of this timeframe can follow general reporting guidance. Please include photograph with text if feasible.

- Any rare species that are observed in work areas and are in immediate danger shall be moved away from impact area in the direction the animal was moving. Any handling of rare species shall be reported to NHFG immediately.
- All manufactured erosion and sediment control products, with the exception of turf reinforcement mats, utilized for, but not limited to, slope protection, runoff diversion, slope interruption, perimeter control, inlet protection, check dams, and sediment traps shall not contain plastic, or multifilament or monofilament polypropylene netting or mesh with an opening size of greater than 1/8 inches;
- All observations of threatened or endangered species on the project site shall be reported immediately to the NHFG nongame and endangered wildlife environmental review program by phone at 603-271-2461 and by email at [NHFGreview@wildlife.nh.gov](mailto:NHFGreview@wildlife.nh.gov), with the email subject line containing the NHB DataCheck tool results letter assigned number, the project name, and the term Wildlife Species Observation;
- Photographs of the observed species and nearby elements of habitat or areas of land disturbance shall be provided to NHFG in digital format at the above email address for verification, as feasible;
- In the event a threatened or endangered species is observed on the project site during the term of the permit, the species shall not be disturbed, handled, or harmed in any way prior to consultation with NHFG and implementation of corrective actions recommended by NHFG, if any, to assure the project does not appreciably jeopardize the continued existence of threatened and endangered species as defined in Fis 1002.04; and
- The NHFG, including its employees and authorized agents, shall have access to the property during the term of the permit.

#### Additional Recommendations

- Wood turtles (state species of special concern) and smooth green snake (state species of special concern) occurs within the vicinity of the project site. Site operators should be informed of the potential presences of these species and shall be provided a flyer that helps to identify these species along with NHFG contact information. See Plan Sheet **xxxxxx**. *Include attached flyers to plan sheet set.*

#### NHB22-0743 Hudson

Eastern box turtle is a terrestrial turtle species who spends the majority of its life in upland habitats, including during brumation. Upland habitat types vary and consist of wooded areas, utility corridors (e.g. shrub/brush areas) and grasslands. Like our other turtle and several snake species, they require open, sunny, sandy areas for nesting. They are experts at hiding/blending in due to their unique color patters. This species is highly endangered in our state and given their slow reproductive cycles and susceptibility to negative impacts from humans/human disturbance, it is even a more dire situation, so minimizing the chance for negative impacts is critical. NHFG is actively monitoring NH's population, and there are tracked individuals known in this ROW with a high likelihood of unmarked individuals in the vicinity of this work area. This is an extremely sensitive area. Site operators should be made aware of the sensitive nature and importance of this area. Trucks and other equipment should be driven slowly, and it is critical to remain observant for animals in roadways and work areas.

- Eastern box turtles are known to nest in the vicinity of the project. **No work shall occur in the Hudson project sites until after October 15<sup>th</sup> 2022 except for sections of line north of Kienia Rd (Structures 74-81 on Map Sheets 6, 7, and 8 dated March 2022).** NHFG shall be contacted prior to the start of work in Hudson so that coordination can occur to minimize potential impacts to Eastern box turtles.
- **A biologist with experience with turtles (ID and monitoring) shall be onsite at all times during project activities when activities are occurring within the work areas in Hudson except for sections of line north of Kienia Rd (Structures 74-81 on Map Sheets 6, 7, and 8 dated March 2022).**
- Blanding's turtle (state endangered), spotted turtle (state threatened), and Eastern box turtle (state endangered) occur within the vicinity of the project site. Site operators shall be informed of the potential

presence of these species and shall be provided a flyer that helps to identify these species along with NHFG contact information. See Plan Sheet **xxxxxx**. *Include attached flyers to plan sheet set.*

- Vernal pools and potential vernal pools shall be flagged prior to work and all impacts to vernal pools and potential vernal pools shall be avoided.
- Sightings of Eastern box shall be reported immediately to NHFG wildlife biologists Melissa Winters (all hours, 603-479-1129). Immediate reporting of observations is critical as NHFG biologists will need to collect data on the individual.
- Turtles may be attracted to disturbed ground during nesting season (May 15<sup>th</sup> – June 30<sup>th</sup>). All turtle species nests are protected by NH laws. If a nest is observed or suspected, contact Melissa Winters (603-479-1129) or Josh Megyesy (978-578-0802) at NHFG immediately for further consultation.
- Prior to daily construction activities, timber matting shall be swept for snakes and turtles.
- Sweeps of laydown areas/fencing and work equipment shall be conducted in the morning prior to work and during the day when/if equipment is left sitting in an area.
- Areas of disturbance shall be minimized to the extent possible. Equipment parking areas, laydown areas and access shall be clearly defined and equipment/trucks shall be restricted to these areas.
- If turtle tracks are observed, a potential nest located, predated nest or a turtle is found to be or suspected of nesting within the project area, contact NHFG immediately.
- Any rare species that are observed in work areas and are in immediate danger shall be moved away from impact area in the direction the animal was moving. Any handling of rare species shall be reported to NHFG immediately.
- All manufactured erosion and sediment control products, with the exception of turf reinforcement mats, utilized for, but not limited to, slope protection, runoff diversion, slope interruption, perimeter control, inlet protection, check dams, and sediment traps shall not contain plastic, or multifilament or monofilament polypropylene netting or mesh with an opening size of greater than 1/8 inches;
- All observations of threatened or endangered species on the project site shall be reported immediately to the NHFG nongame and endangered wildlife environmental review program by phone at 603-271-2461 and by email at [NHFGreview@wildlife.nh.gov](mailto:NHFGreview@wildlife.nh.gov), with the email subject line containing the NHB DataCheck tool results letter assigned number, the project name, and the term Wildlife Species Observation;
- Photographs of the observed species and nearby elements of habitat or areas of land disturbance shall be provided to NHFG in digital format at the above email address for verification, as feasible;
- In the event a threatened or endangered species is observed on the project site during the term of the permit, the species shall not be disturbed, handled, or harmed in any way prior to consultation with NHFG and implementation of corrective actions recommended by NHFG, if any, to assure the project does not appreciably jeopardize the continued existence of threatened and endangered species as defined in Fis 1002.04; and
- The NHFG, including its employees and authorized agents, shall have access to the property during the term of the permit.

NHFG has completed our review of materials submitted for consultation under FIS 1004. No further coordination with NHFG is requested, and the final recommendations have been transmitted to the applicable permitting agency. Questions or concerns on NHFG recommendations must follow FIS 1004.12. Note that NHFG recommendations may be withdrawn pursuant to FIS 1004.13.

Let me know if you have any questions.

Thank you,  
Kat

Kat Wadiak  
Wildlife Biologist  
Nongame & Endangered Wildlife Program  
NH Fish and Game  
11 Hazen Drive

Concord, NH 03301  
603-271-3017

As of February 3, 2022, New Hampshire Fish and Game requirements for environmental review consultation have changed. To review the new rules, please go to <https://www.wildlife.state.nh.us/wildlife/environmental-review.html>. All requests for consultation and submittals should be sent via email to [NHFGreview@wildlife.nh.gov](mailto:NHFGreview@wildlife.nh.gov) or can be sent by mail. **The NHB datacheck results letter number needs to be included in the email subject line.**

*The requirements for consultation (Fis 1004) shall not apply to the following: statutory permit by notification, permit by rule, permit by notification, routine roadway registration, docking structure registration, or conditional authorization by rule. Review requests for these projects can be sent directly to [kim.tuttle@wildlife.nh.gov](mailto:kim.tuttle@wildlife.nh.gov).*