

ATTACHMENT 6

NORTHEAST LAND & WATER, LLC

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November 12, 2014

Dan Stasz, RPLS
Northeast Survey Consultants, PC
P.O. Box 109
Easthampton, MA 01027

RE: *Site Investigation for Wetlands: 45 Rose Hill Road, Branford, CT
Tower Co. Project Number CT0016*

Dear Mr. Stasz:

On September 16, 2014, I visited an industrial site located at 45 Rose Hill Road in Branford, CT to determine whether areas subject to protection under Chapter 440, Sections 22a-28 through 22a-45d of Connecticut's General Statutes, the Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Regulations of the Town of Branford and other relevant environmental laws are present within and around the parcel. I have also reviewed additional sources of information to support and enhance my findings regarding the regulatory context within which projects might be pursued on this land.

I reviewed the site shown on the schematic plan provided to me and found a headwater wetland area at the base of a steep and heavily vegetated slope to the west of the potential project area. The wetland boundary was flagged in the field using consecutively numbered blue flagging. The potential project area itself is located within an active industrial site apparently engaged in recycling of various waste materials.

In Connecticut, wetland boundaries are delineated according to soil drainage classes, including floodplain soils, which are always considered to be wetland though they may be well-drained. This is based upon the assumption that hydric soils will either support a prevalence of hydrophytic vegetation, or can be restored to a prevalence of hydrophytic vegetation.

According to the online Soil Survey of New Haven County, CT (included), the soil beneath the potential project area is identified as Wethersfield loam, 3 – 8% slopes and 8 – 15% slopes (Units 87B and 87C). The Wethersfield series is described as “very deep, well drained loamy soils formed in dense glacial till on uplands, and as such is not a hydric soil. The adjacent soils are mapped as Ludlow silt loam, 3 – 8% slopes (Unit 40B). The Ludlow series is described as “moderately well drained soils formed in loamy lodgment till.” This is also not a hydric soil, though it clearly contains hydric inclusions and wetland area.

The Flood Insurance Rate Map (included) shows that the potential project site is not within the 100-year floodplain.

Review of the Connecticut Natural Heritage maps (Figure 3) shows that the site **IS SHOWN** within mapped habitat of listed species. This means that the project would undergo review by the Connecticut Natural Heritage program. However, as the lease area is to be located within the

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active industrial portion of the parcel, it is unlikely that this review will pose a barrier to project implementation.

It appears that implementation of this project as shown on the preliminary site plan provided, and in the context of the wetland area as it was found at the time of delineation, will likely have minimal to no impact on the nearby wetlands. I hope this information is useful to you. Please call if you have any further questions.

Sincerely,

Alec MacLeod, Principal
Northeast Land & Water, LLC

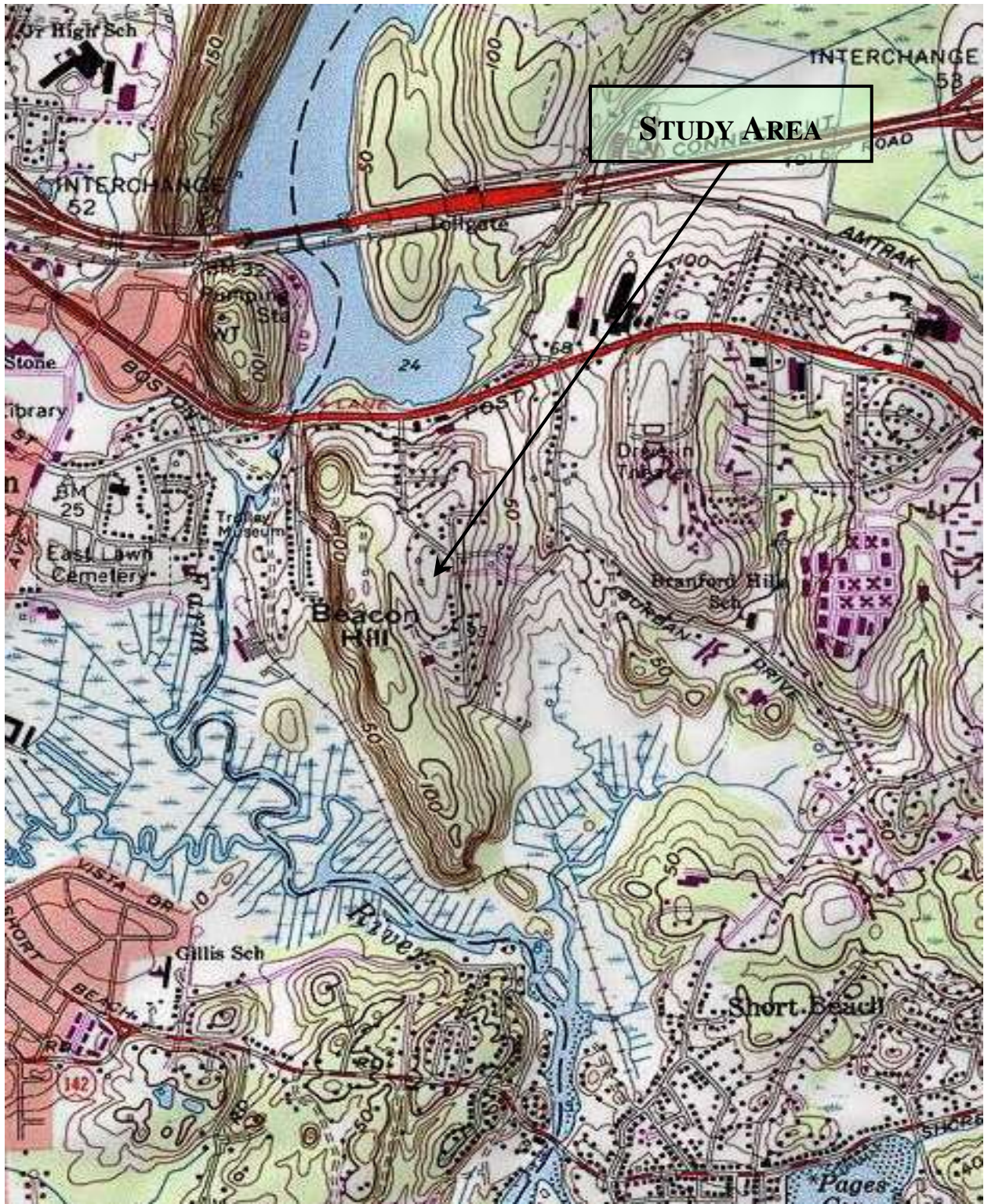


Figure 1. Locus. USGS Topographic Map

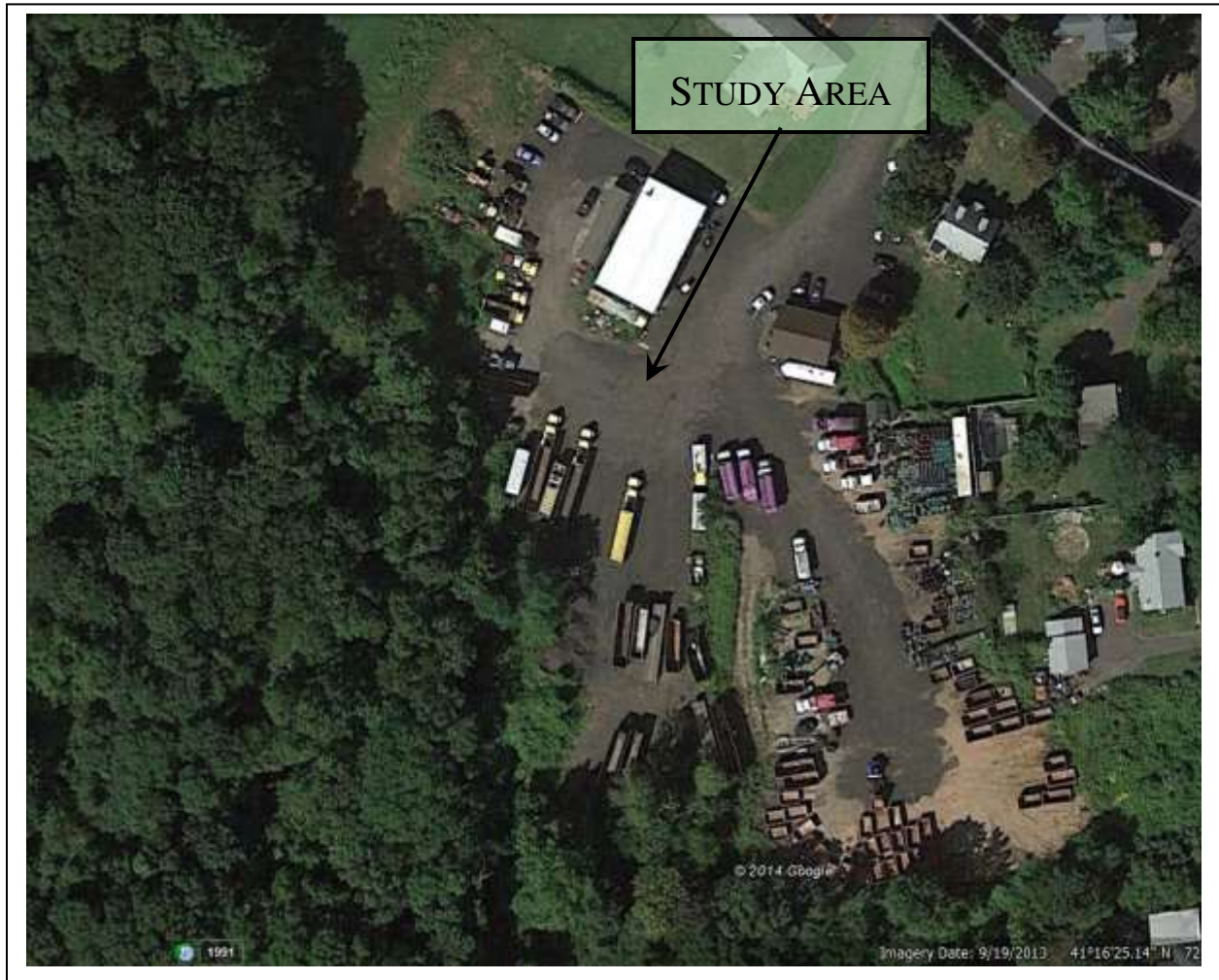


Figure 2. Aerial view of the study area (GoogleEarth)

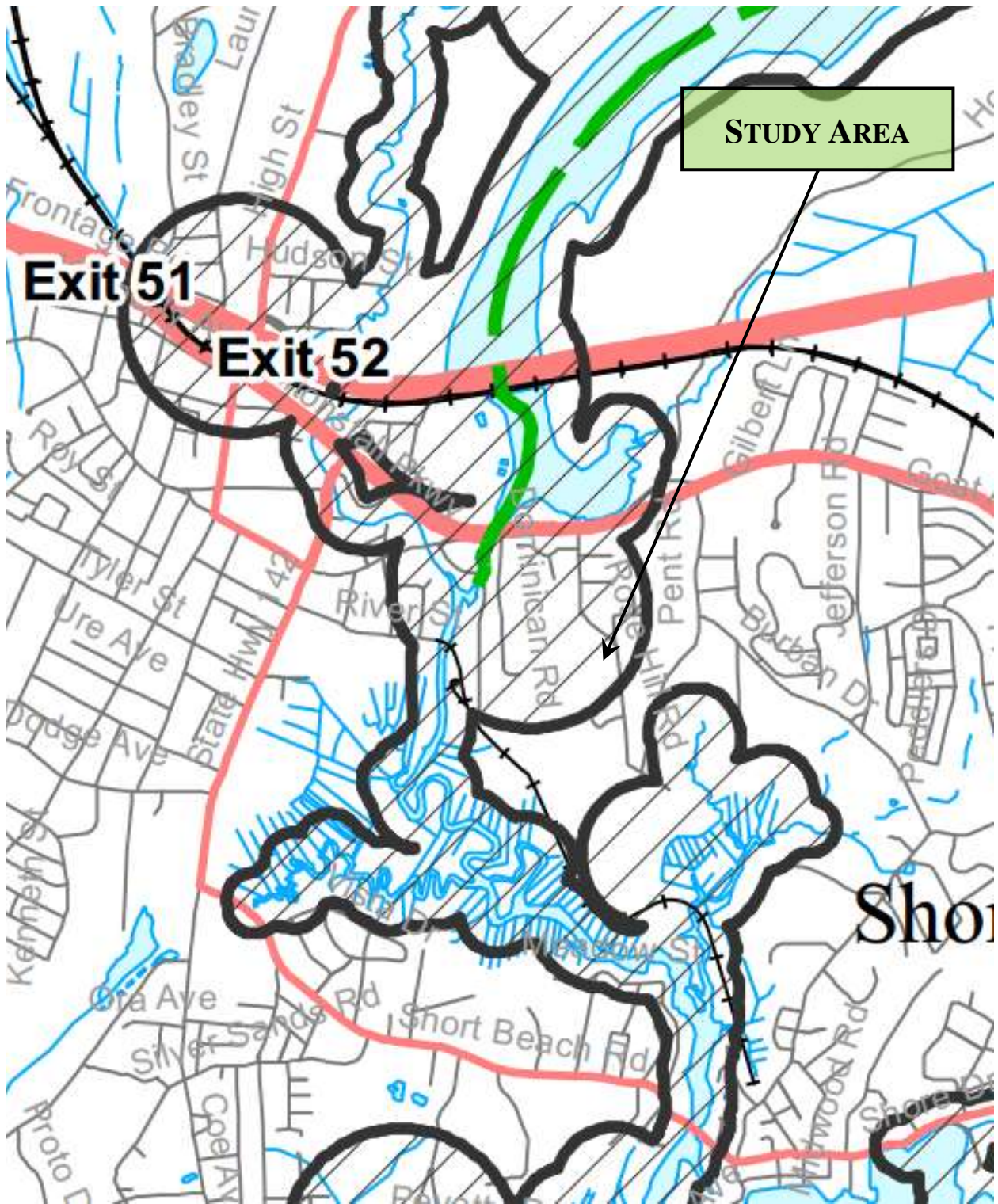


Figure 3. Connecticut Natural Heritage Map – online edition.