

SECTION 1.10 ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE

In Article 1.10.03--Water Pollution Control: REQUIRED BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

Add the following after Required Best Management Practices Number 13:

14. The Contractor is hereby notified that the State listed endangered species timber rattlesnake (*Crotalus horridus*), is present within the Project limits. In Connecticut, timber rattlesnakes are active between April 1 and October 31. Timber rattlesnakes are one of Connecticut's **venomous** snakes. These rattlesnakes are more likely to be out basking during the day in spring and fall. Snakes cannot regulate their body temperature internally and must warm themselves in the sun. Over the warmer months they are more nocturnal. This Project Site is located within their summer foraging range. Timber rattlesnake encounters are possible and the Contractor shall take all precautions to avoid harming the snakes and their habitat and also in protecting workers.

All construction activities taking place within the Project will need to be coordinated with the Office of Environmental Planning (OEP) through the Engineer. At least 10 days prior to the commencement of any construction activities, the Contractor shall, through the Engineer, arrange for an CT DOT Environmental Scientist from the OEP or their authorized representative to meet and discuss proper protocol for maintaining environmental commitments made for the protection of this species and habitat. OEP will provide oversight through the Engineer to ensure that the following protocols are followed and maintained during the course of the Project.

For any work done during the timber rattlesnake's active period (April 1 to October 31) the Department will require the following precautionary measures to protect the timber rattlesnake and timber rattlesnake habitat:

- a. All construction personnel working within the timber rattlesnake habitat must be apprised of the species description and the possible presence of a listed species.
- b. Exclusionary practices will be required in order to prevent any timber rattlesnakes access to construction areas. These measures will need to be installed at the limits of disturbance as shown on the plans.
- c. Exclusionary fencing shall be at least 20" tall and must be secured to and remain in contact with the ground. It shall be regularly inspected / maintained to prevent any gaps or openings at ground level. Standard silt fence is adequate; fencing with netting shall not be used.
- d. The Contractor must search the work area each morning for the presence of this listed species prior to any work being done.

- e. Any timber rattlesnakes encountered within the work area shall be left alone and immediately reported to the Engineer. These snakes are venomous and will strike if agitated. Construction workers shall not attempt to handle, guide or relocate them. Prior to any ground activities, an on-Site meeting with construction staff will be conducted by an Environmental Scientist from the OEP to discuss this species biology, life cycle, and proper protocol as well as the proper procedures when encountering a snake and where to seek medical help if bitten. **This meeting is required for all personnel working in the Project area.**
- f. All staging and storage areas in the vicinity of snake habitat, outside of previously paved locations, regardless of the duration of time they will be utilized, must be reviewed by and receive written approval from OEP through the Engineer.
- g. No heavy machinery or vehicles may be parked in any timber rattlesnake habitat.
- h. Exclusionary fencing shall be removed when it is no longer needed, and silt fence shall be removed as soon as the area is stable to allow for reptile and amphibian passage to resume.

Work may take place during the timber rattlesnakes inactive (hibernation) period (November 1 to March 31) with the following additional precautionary measure:

- a. Exclusionary fencing must be installed and the area inspected for snakes by the Engineer or Engineer's approved representative prior to October 1.

These practices will be applied to the entire Project unless a sketch is attached, which identifies specific areas of concern.

This species is protected by State laws, which prohibit killing, harming, taking, or keeping them in your possession. Photographs and the laws protecting timber rattlesnakes shall be posted in the Contractor's and DOT field offices (species ID sheets will be provided by OEP).