

SECTION 1.10 ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE

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 bald eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*) may be located within the vicinity of this Project. The bald eagle is a State threatened species and is also protected under both the Federal Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act, and the Federal Migratory Bird Treaty Act. The bald eagle has adapted to life in urban settings and is becoming a common visitor in winter, particularly at favored locations along the Connecticut River, Housatonic River, and large lakes/reservoirs. In the winter, bald eagles may congregate into groups called communal winter roosts in order to conserve energy, take advantage of protective habitat, and be closer to food sources. The bald eagle is typically associated with large diameter trees (30 inch DBH or greater) for nest building and roosting purposes. Though somewhat tolerant of human activity, bald eagles can be negatively affected if work is too close to an active nest or winter roost. For this reason, special conditions regarding the location and timing of work around eagle usage areas must be adhered to.

In order to protect this species, construction activities will not be allowed to take place within 600 feet of a confirmed nest or winter roost as follows:

- Bald eagle nesting areas: Construction activities will not be allowed to take place within 600 feet of a confirmed nest between February 1st and August 1st.
- Winter roost areas: Construction activities will not be allowed to take place within 600 feet of a confirmed winter roost area between December 1st and March 31st.

Construction activities will be allowed within project areas that are outside the 600 foot buffer.

Additionally, the cutting of large trees (30 inch DBH or greater) shall be reviewed and approved by the Engineer in coordination with the Department's Office of Environmental Planning (OEP) staff. Any change in construction sequencing or timing of proposed work in the Project area, which might disturb bald eagles must be coordinated through the Engineer.

The time period and approximate areas of the Project expected to be subject to these restrictions based on the best available eagle activity information are attached. Prior to the start of work and during the Project, areas subject to these restrictions may be updated based on confirmed nest/winter roost information and shall be provided by the OEP. Exact locations of nests/winter roosts will not be provided in order to further protect the species.

The Contractor shall, through the Engineer, at least 10 days prior to the commencement of any construction activities, arrange for a CT DOT Environmental Inspector from the OEP or their authorized delegate to be available to meet and identify the approximate roost and/or nest location as well as discuss proper protocol for maintaining environmental commitments made to the protection of this species and habitat.

This species is protected by State and Federal law which prohibit killing, harming, taking, harassing, or keeping them in your possession. Workers shall be notified of the existence of bald eagles in the area and be apprised of the laws protecting them. Photographs of, and the laws protecting, bald eagles shall be posted in the Contractor's and DOT field offices (species ID sheets will be provided by OEP). Any observations of this species are to be immediately reported to the Engineer.