

## **SECTION 1.10 ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE**

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

*Add the following after Required Best Management Practice Number 13:*

14. The Contractor is hereby notified that the State listed species of Special Concern smooth green snake (*Opheodrys vernalis*), is present within the Project limits. In Connecticut, the smooth green snake uses a variety of habitats including moist, open habitats, such as old fields, meadows, pastures, fens, coastal grasslands, and edges of wetlands as well as sparsely forested areas with scattered shrubs and trees, such as mountaintop balds. They can often be seen basking on rocks and logs and other such basking sites. Snakes cannot regulate their body temperature internally and must warm themselves in the sun. Smooth green snakes are docile and want to avoid humans and their first line of defense is to flee. If handled they rarely bite. If they do bite they almost never break the skin. They are **NOT venomous**. They are harmless snakes. Shortly after death, smooth green snakes lose their green coloration and turn bright indigo blue. Smooth green snakes hibernate in the winter from about October to May. They will use rodent burrows for dens.

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 a CT DOT Environmental Inspector from the OEP or their authorized delegate 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 smooth green snake's active period (May 1 to September 30), the Department will require the following precautionary measures to protect the smooth green snake and smooth green snake habitat:

- a. All construction personnel working within smooth green snake habitat must be apprised of the species description and the possible presence of this listed species.
- b. Exclusionary practices will be required in order to prevent any smooth green snake 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 and 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 smooth green snakes encountered within the immediate work area shall be carefully moved to an adjacent area outside of the excluded area and the Engineer shall be immediately informed in order to contact OEP with the location.
- f. All staging and storage areas in the vicinity of smooth green 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 smooth green snake 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 smooth green snake's inactive (hibernation) period (October 1 to April 30) 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 smooth green snakes shall be posted in the Contractor's and DOT field offices (species ID sheets will be provided by OEP).