

## **SECTION 1.10 - ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE**

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

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

14. The Contractor is hereby notified that the following State listed species of Special Concern are present within the Project limits:
  - a. **Wood turtle (*Glyptemys insculpta*):** Wood turtles require riparian habitats bordered by floodplain, woodland, or meadows. Their summer habitat includes pastures, old fields, woodlands, power line cuts, and railroad beds bordering or adjacent to streams and rivers. Wood turtles spend most of their summer on land and can use areas up to 1500 feet from the streams/rivers where they overwinter. They hibernate submerged in tangled tree roots along river banks or in deep pools.
  - b. **Eastern box turtle (*Terrapene carolina*):** In Connecticut, this terrestrial turtle lives in a variety of habitats, including woodlands, field edges, thickets, marshes, bogs, and stream banks. Typically, however, Eastern box turtles are found in well-drained forest bottomlands and open deciduous forests. They will use wetland areas at various times during the season. During the hottest part of a summer day, they will wander to find springs and seepages where they can burrow into the moist soil. Eastern box turtles overwinter in upland forest, a few inches under the soil surface, typically covered by leaf litter or woody debris. As soil temperatures drop, the turtles burrow into soft ground.

Work which will disturb wetlands or watercourses may not be conducted from April 1 to November 1. If any work must be done during the wood turtle's and Eastern box turtle's active period (April 1 to November 1) the Department will require precautionary measures to protect the wood turtle and Eastern box turtle and their habitats. All construction activities taking place within the turtle's active period will need to be coordinated with the Department.

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 Office of Environmental Planning (OEP) or their authorized delegate to be available to meet and discuss proper protocol for maintaining environmental commitments made to the protection of this species and habitat. OEP will provide oversight through the District to ensure that the following protocols are followed and maintained during the course of the Project:

- a. Exclusionary practices will be required in order to prevent any wood turtle or Eastern box turtle access to construction areas. These measures will need to

tightly enclose the entire work area and be installed at the limits of disturbance as shown on the plans.

- b. All staging and storage areas, 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 District.
- c. All construction personnel working within wood turtle or Eastern box turtle habitat must be apprised of the species description and the possible presence of a listed species.
- d. In areas where silt fence is used for exclusion, it shall be removed as soon as the area is stable to allow for reptile and amphibian passage to resume.
- e. Any wood turtles and Eastern box turtles encountered within the immediate work area shall be carefully moved to an adjacent area outside of the excluded area and the field inspector must immediately contact OEP with the location.
- f. No heavy machinery or vehicles may be parked in any wood turtle or Eastern box turtle habitat.
- g. Special precautions must be taken to avoid degradation of wetland habitats including any wet meadows and seasonal pools.
- h. The Contractor must search the work area each morning for the presence of the listed species prior to any work being done.

This species is protected by state laws which prohibit killing, harming, taking, or keeping them in your possession. Workers shall be notified of the existence of wood turtles and Eastern box turtles in this area and be apprised of the laws protecting them. Photographs and the laws protecting wood turtles and Eastern box turtles (species ID sheets will be provided by OEP) shall be posted in the Contractor's and DOT field office. Any observations of this species are to be immediately reported to OEP at (860) 594-2937 or (860) 594-2938.