



Connecticut Department of
**ENERGY &
ENVIRONMENTAL
PROTECTION**

October 15, 2020

Ms. Michelle Handfield
GM2 Associates, Inc.
Glastonbury, CT 06033-4403
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Project: Preservation of Bridge No. 04549, Firetown Road over Unnamed Tributary of Bissell Brook in Simsbury
NDDDB Final Determination No.: 202009103

Dear Michelle Handfield,

I have reviewed Natural Diversity Data Base maps and files regarding the area delineated on the map you provided for the proposed preservation of Bridge No. 04549, which is Firetown Road over an unnamed tributary of Bissell Brook in Simsbury, Connecticut. According to our information we have known extant populations of State Threatened northern spring salamander (*Gyrinophilus porphyriticus*) and State Special Concern eastern box turtle (*Terrapene c. carolina*) in the project area.

Thank you for providing the report and assessment developed by Michael W. Klemens, LLC of Ecological Land Use Planning and dated October 7th, 2020. I concur with the herpetologist's conclusion and recommendations in the report. They concluded that this bridge preservation project would not adversely impact State Threatened spring salamander. Thus, no protective measures are required for the State Threatened spring salamander. They also concluded that habitat is very limited for eastern box turtle in the vicinity of this bridge. Thus, if work is conducted during the late summer and early fall months into winter, no box turtle protection strategies or monitoring is required. If work must be conducted during late spring and summer, however, please implement the protection strategies outlined in my preliminary assessment letter dated August 6, 2020.

This determination is good for two years. Please re-submit an NDDDB Request for Review if the scope of work changes or if work has not begun on this project by October 15, 2022.

Natural Diversity Data Base information includes all information regarding critical biological resources available to us at the time of the request. This information is a compilation of data collected over the years by the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection's Natural History Survey and cooperating units of DEEP, private conservation groups and the scientific community. This information is not necessarily the result of comprehensive or site-specific field investigations. Consultations with the Data Base should not be substitutes for on-site surveys required for environmental assessments. Current research projects and new contributors continue to identify additional populations of species and locations of habitats of concern, as well as, enhance existing data. Such new information is incorporated into the Data Base as it becomes available.

Please contact me if you have further questions at (860) 424-3592, or dawn.mckay@ct.gov. Thank you for consulting the Natural Diversity Data Base.

Sincerely,

Dawn M. McKay
Environmental Analyst 3