

March 18, 2015

Government Administration and Elections Committee
Attention: Chairmen Cassano and Jutila

RE: HB 6998; Section 14

Gentlemen:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony at the public hearing that was held on March 16, 2015. As testimony submitted for raised House Bill 6998 by Robert J. Klee, Commissioner of the Department of Energy & Environmental Protection, was not made available at the time of the public hearing, the following response is offered by Strategic Commercial Realty, Inc. d/b/a Rawson Materials thereto:

- DEEP claims to have denied Rawson Materials' application in 2015, yet the applicant is not in receipt of any such denial. Specifically, Rawson testified that during a February 4, 2015 meeting between the parties, Rawson Materials was told by DEEP staff that it could take up to 9 months for a decision.
- DEEP references that the site is listed as habitat for endangered species. Upon a review of the natural diversity database mapping published by DEEP, Messier & Associates, Inc., surveyors and engineers, have determined that the proposed gravel road over property owned by DEEP is located outside of the area identified as potential habitat for endangered species. A map has been attached hereto demonstrating the same.
- DEEP asserts that approval would be in conflict with Connecticut General Statutes 26-310 and 26-311; however, since the proposed road has been shown to be outside of the DEEP area identified in the natural diversity database as potential habitat for endangered species, these statutes would not be applicable.
- DEEP cites that the parcels are currently open for hunting and DEEP wildlife management activities and that the proposed haul road would limit those activities. While this may be technically accurate, hunters, and specifically handicapped hunters, testified that the land is currently virtually inaccessible for hunting and that the proposed haul road, easement in

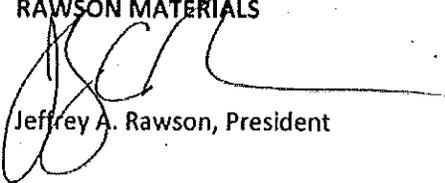
perpetuity, and parking lot offered by Rawson would significantly increase access to the DEEP property. Additionally, DEEP is currently allowed access to their own property through property controlled by Rawson Materials at no cost to DEEP as that access is preferable to their own.

- DEEP claims that the offered parcels do not provide for significant enhancements to public recreation, water protection, or wildlife conservation. I remain unsure how this conclusion can be drawn as the three (3) properties to be donated by Rawson, totaling 42 acres, are currently wooded and will continue to support wildlife habitats in perpetuity if owned by DEEP. Further, the offered land abuts the Quinebaug and Moosup rivers and provides obvious canopy and protection for the water (rivers) and a valuable linkage between two large DEEP parcels, specifically the Quinebaug Trout Hatchery and the Wildlife Management Area located at the end of Sugar Brook Road, both in the town of Plainfield, CT.

Rawson Materials would like to thank you for your time and consideration with respect to the aforementioned responses.

Respectfully Submitted,

RAWSON MATERIALS



Jeffrey A. Rawson, President

Natural Diversity Data Base Areas

CANTERBURY, CT

December 2014

-  State and Federal Listed Species & Significant Natural Communities
-  Town Boundary

NOTE: This map shows general locations of State and Federal Listed Species and Significant Natural Communities. Information on listed species is collected and compiled by the Natural Diversity Data Base (NDDDB) from a number of data sources. Exact locations of species have been buffered to produce the general locations. Exact locations of species and communities occur somewhere in the shaded areas, not necessarily in the center. A new mapping format is being employed that more accurately models important riparian and aquatic areas and eliminates the need for the upstream/downstream searches required in previous versions.

This map is intended for use as a preliminary screening tool for conducting a Natural Diversity Data Base Review Request. To use the map, locate the project boundaries and any additional affected areas. If the project is within a shaded area there may be a potential conflict with a listed species. For more information, complete a Request for Natural Diversity Data Base State Listed Species Review form (DEP-APP-007), and submit it to the NDDDB along with the required maps and information. More detailed instructions are provided with the request form on our website.

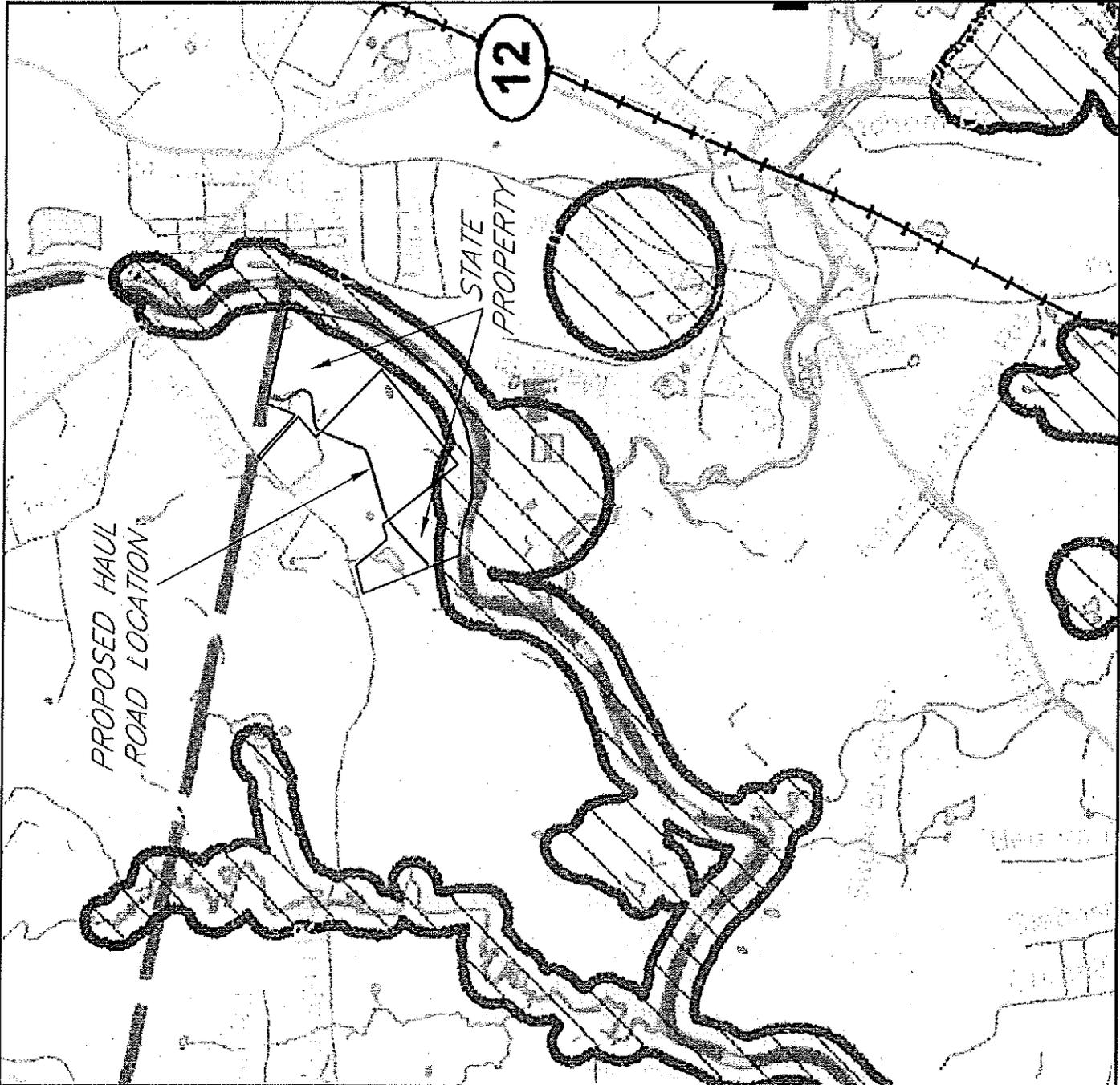
www.ct.gov/deep/nddbrequest

Use the CTECO Interactive Map Viewers at www.cteco.uconn.edu to more precisely search for and locate a site and to view aerial imagery with NDDDB Areas.

QUESTIONS: Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP)
79 Elm St., Hartford CT 06106
Phone (860) 424-3011



SCALE: 1" = 2000'



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Connecticut Department of
Energy & Environmental Protection
Bureau of Natural Resources
Wildlife Division

