



## RIDOT NRU CE Project Narrative Guidance Document

<b>Project Name:</b>	
<b>PTSID:</b>	<b>Project Manager:</b>
<b>Project Location:</b>	
<b>Scope of Work:</b>	

*This document is to serve as a guide to assist with completing and tracking environmental considerations that must be investigated to fulfill the requirements of a Categorical Exclusion under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). When resources are not present or analyzed in the project area, briefly list those resources under the appropriate section in the CE narrative, along with reasons for their not being considered further.*

*Coordinate with RIDOT Natural Resources Unit for additional guidance on the required documentation and any additional requirements. Resource considerations and documentation may vary.*

### 1. Wetlands and Waterways

<b>Wetlands &amp; Waterways</b>
<b>A. Wetlands (EO 11990):</b> Are freshwater/coastal wetlands present within the project area or will the project potentially impact wetlands? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No  Describe method for evaluating wetlands along project: <input type="checkbox"/> Wetland delineation <input type="checkbox"/> Other. Describe and indicate date completed: <input type="checkbox"/> Evaluation not necessary or not completed. Explain:  If yes, estimate both the temporary and/or permanent impacts and impact areas: <a href="#">Click here to enter text.</a>



Agency jurisdiction and permit type anticipated:

RI Department of Environmental Management (RIDEM) Freshwater Wetlands

Type: [Click here to enter text.](#)

Coastal Resources Management Council (CRMC) Freshwater Wetlands in the Vicinity of the Coast

Type: [Click here to enter text.](#)

Documentation may include, but is not limited to: Wetland maps and delineations, description of wetland types and function, description of temporary and/or permanent impacts, description of indirect and/or direct impacts, avoidance minimization or mitigation/compensation measures agreed upon, alternative analysis, anticipated permit requirements, commitments, and agency correspondence

B. Floodplains (EO 11988):

Will the proposed project be located within a floodplain?  Yes  No

If yes, what are the anticipated impacts?

No Significant Encroachment

Significant Encroachment

Documentation may include, but is not limited to: FEMA Floodplains maps, hydraulic analysis, avoidance minimization or mitigation/compensation measures agreed upon, commitments, and agency correspondence

C. Section 404 Clean Water Act (CWA):

Will there be fill into wetlands or waterways and/or will there be any dredging associated with this project?

Yes  No

What type of U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) permitting is anticipated ([click here for Programmatic Permit](#)):

USACE SV (page 3)

USACE PCN (page 4)

USACE IP (individual – not programmatic)

Documentation may include, but is not limited to: Wetland maps and delineations, description of wetland types and function, description of temporary and/or permanent impacts, description of indirect and/or direct impacts, avoidance minimization or mitigation/compensation measures agreed upon, alternative analysis, anticipated permit requirements, commitments, and agency correspondence

D. Rivers and Harbors Act (RHA) Section 10 Permit:

Will the project involve excavation or fill within any navigable waters of the US?

Yes  No

Documentation may include, but is not limited to: Wetland delineations, anticipated permit requirements, avoidance minimization or mitigation/compensation measures agreed upon, commitments, and agency correspondence

E. Rivers and Harbors Act (RHA) Section 408 Permit:

Will the project involve the alteration, occupation, or use of a USACE civil works project?

Yes  No

Documentation may include, but is not limited to: Anticipated permit requirements, avoidance minimization or mitigation/compensation measures agreed upon, commitments, and agency correspondence



**F. Rivers and Harbors Act (RHA) Section 9 Bridges:**

Will the project involve the construction or reconstruction or modification of a bridge or causeway in or over navigable waters of the US?

Yes  No

Type of U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) permitting anticipated:

- USCG Bridge Permit ([click here](#)):
- USCG Bridge Permit Exception
- USCG Navigational Lighting Authorization
- Other coordination

Documentation may include, but is not limited to: Anticipated permit requirements, avoidance minimization or mitigation/compensation measures agreed upon, commitments, and agency correspondence

**G. CRMC - Coastal Zone Management Act (CZMA) /Coastal Barrier Resources Act (CBRA):**

Will the proposed project be located within an area that is regulated under the RI Coastal Resources Management Program?

Yes  No

Will the proposed project be located within an area covered by a Special Area Management Plan?  Yes  No

Type of assent anticipated:

- Category A
- Category B
- Maintenance Application

Documentation may include, but is not limited to: Anticipated permit requirements, avoidance minimization or mitigation/compensation measures agreed upon, commitments, and agency correspondence

**Water Quality/Stormwater**

**H. Section 401/402 Clean Water Act:**

Will the project be in compliance with Section 401/402 of the Clean Water Act?

Yes  No

Does the project trigger a RIDEM water quality certification, stormwater permit, or RIPDES RGP?

Yes  No

Type of permitting anticipated:

- Water Quality Certification (WQC)
- RIPDES Construction General Permit (dewatering of uncontaminated material)
- Groundwater Discharge (GWD)/ Underground Injection Control (UIC)
- RIPDES Remediation General Permit (dewatering of contaminated material)

Documentation may include, but is not limited to: Anticipated permit requirements, avoidance minimization or mitigation/compensation measures agreed upon, commitments, and agency correspondence



**I. Soil Erosion and Sediment Control:**

Soil Erosion and Sediment Control Plan:

- RIDOT Small-Site SWPPP (<1 acre)
- Large- Site SESC (≥ 1 acre)

Indicate all sensitive resources within the project action area ([click here](#)) that are sensitive to erosion, sedimentation, or waters of the state quality degradation and provide specific recommendations on the level of protection needed.

- No – There are no sensitive resources affected by the project
- Yes – Sensitive resources exist in or adjacent to the area affected by the project:

- River/stream
- Lake
- Wetland
- Endangered species habitat
- Other – Describe: [Click here to enter text.](#)

Describe overall erosion control strategy to minimize adverse effects and/or enhance beneficial effects. Describe how the project’s proposed erosion and sediment controls will be consistent with the RI Erosion and Sediment Control Handbook.

Documentation may include, but is not limited to: Anticipated permit requirements, avoidance minimization or mitigation/compensation measures agreed upon, commitments, and agency correspondence

**J. RIDOT Consent Decree:**

Is this project in accordance with the RIDOT Linear Manual?

- Yes  Exempt

Is this project treating 50% of existing and/or 100% of new impervious?

- Yes  No

If no, please explain.

Documentation may include, but is not limited to: Anticipated stormwater treatment, anticipated permit requirements, avoidance minimization or mitigation/compensation measures agreed upon, commitments, and RIDOT SW correspondence

## 2. Threatened & Endangered Species

### Threatened & Endangered Species

**A. U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS) Section 7 Endangered Species Act (ESA):**

Are there any listed T&E species, **other than the Northern Long Eared Bat (NLEB)**, that potentially occur in the project’s action area ([click here](#)) and/or is any designated critical habitat present within the project’s action area?

- Yes  No

Is there suitable habitat for the species within the project action area?

- Yes  No

If yes, were species found during a presence/absence survey?

- Yes  No



Effect Determination:

- No Effect (no consultation)
- Not Likely to Adversely Affect (NLAA)
- Likely to Adversely Affect (LAA)

Date of USFWS Concurrence: [Click here to enter a date.](#)

If LAA, Date BO Issued: [Click here to enter a date.](#)

Documentation may include, but is not limited to: IPaC Species List, Field Investigations, Analysis for No Effect Determination, USFWS Concurrence, LAA USFWS BO, avoidance minimization or mitigation/compensation measures agreed upon, commitments, and agency correspondence

B. USFWS Northern Long-Eared Bat Section 7 ESA:

Will the proposed project potentially impact the threatened NLEB?

- Yes     No

An effect determination was made using the following:

- FHWA Programmatic BO

- AMMs: Tree Removal     Yes     N/A
- Lighting             Yes     N/A
- Bridges              Yes     N/A
- Structures          Yes     N/A

- NLEB 4(d) Rule

Date of Expiration: [Click here to enter a date.](#)

Was a P/A Summer Survey Conducted?     Yes     No

Date of Survey: [Click here to enter a date.](#)

Was a bridge assessment conducted?     Yes     N/A

Date of Assessment: [Click here to enter a date.](#)

Effect Determination:

- No Effect
- May Affect under 4(d) Rule
- NLAA
- LAA

Date of USFWS Concurrence Verification Letter: [Click here to enter a date.](#)

If LAA, Date BO Issued: [Click here to enter a date.](#)

Documentation may include, but is not limited to: IPaC Species List, NLEB Bridge Assessment, FHWA Programmatic BO No Effect Concurrence Letter, FHWA Programmatic BO NLAA Verification Letter, NLEB 4(d) Concurrence Letter, LAA USFWS BO, avoidance minimization or mitigation/compensation measures agreed upon, commitments, and agency correspondence

C. Nation Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) Greater Atlantic Regional Fisheries Office (GARFO) Section 7 ESA:

Will the proposed project potentially impact any NMFS ESA listed species?

- Yes     No

An effect determination was made using the following:

- FHWA NLAA Programmatic
- Individual Consultation



Effect Determination:

- No Effect
- NLAA
- LAA

Date Consultation Initiated: [Click here to enter a date.](#)

Date of NMFS Concurrence: [Click here to enter a date.](#)

If LAA, Date BO Issued: [Click here to enter a date.](#)

Documentation may include, but is not limited to: ESA Mapper Results, ESA FHWA NLAA Programmatic Verification Form, LAA NMFS BO, avoidance minimization or mitigation/compensation measures agreed upon, commitments, and agency correspondence

D. RIDEM RI State-listed Species:

Are there any **state listed** T&E species that potentially occur in the project's action area ([click here](#)) ?

- Yes     No

Natural Heritage Area (NHA) #: [Click here to enter text.](#)

Is there suitable habitat for the species within the project action area?

- Yes     No

If yes, were species found during a presence/absence survey?

- Yes     No

Effect Determination:

- No Effect (no coordination)
- NLAA
- LAA

Documentation may include, but is not limited to: Analysis for No Effect Determination, field investigations, avoidance minimization or mitigation/compensation measures agreed upon, commitments, and agency correspondence

## Special Resources

E. NMFS GARFO Essential Fish Habitat (EFH):

Will the proposed project potentially impact essential fish habitat?

- Yes     No

Effect Determination:

- No Adverse Effect (no consultation)
- Adverse Effect (programmatic or individual)

An effect determination was made using the following:

- FHWA EFH Programmatic
- Individual Consultation – Abbreviated
- Individual Consultation - Expanded

Date Consultation Initiated: [Click here to enter a date.](#)

Date of NMFS Concurrence: [Click here to enter a date.](#)



Documentation may include, but is not limited to: EFH Mapper Results, EFH FHWA Programmatic Verification Form, Individual Consultation Documentation, avoidance minimization or mitigation/compensation measures agreed upon, commitments, and agency correspondence

**F. Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA):**

Is there suitable habitat for migratory birds and/or are migratory birds known to likely to occur in the project area?

Yes     No

Will there be clearing or grubbing of vegetation during the breeding season (March 1-August 31)?

Yes     No

Will the project include construction activities on bridges or culverts during the breeding season (March 1-August 31)?

Yes     No

Based on presence of suitable habitat, were cursory surveys conducted for evidence of migratory birds within the project area?

Yes     No

Documentation may include, but is not limited to: Field investigations, avoidance minimization or mitigation/compensation measures agreed upon, commitments, and agency correspondence

**G. Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA):**

Will the proposed project potentially result in incidental harassment or take of marine mammals in U.S. waters?

Yes     No

If yes, type of coordination:

USFWS

NMFS

Documentation may include, but is not limited to: Field investigations, avoidance minimization or mitigation/compensation measures agreed upon, commitments, and agency correspondence

**H. Wild and Scenic Rivers Act:**

Much of the Wood-Pawcatuck Watershed is designated as wild and scenic under the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act.

[Click here for designated waterbodies within the watershed.](#)

Will the proposed project occur on a designated wild and scenic river, a congressionally authorized study river, or upstream, downstream or on a tributary of such river?

Yes     No

Effect Determination:

No Adverse Effect

Adverse Effect

Date Consultation Initiated: [Click here to enter a date.](#)

Date of National Park Service (NPS) Effect Determination/Approval: [Click here to enter a date.](#)

Documentation may include, but is not limited to: Alternative analysis, hydraulic analysis, field visits, avoidance minimization or mitigation/compensation measures agreed upon, commitments, and agency correspondence



## 7. Other Environmental Impacts

### A. Hazardous Waste and other Contaminate Materials:

Does the project require excavation below the existing ground surface? Yes No

Will groundwater be encountered? Yes No

Will any properties be acquired as part of this project? Yes No

Is this site located in an undeveloped area? (i.e. no buildings, parking, storage areas or agriculture?) Yes No

Is the project located within a one-mile radius of a known Superfund Site? Yes No

Is this project location within a ½ mile radius of a site or sites listed on regulatory agency databases? Yes No

If Yes, check the appropriate boxes below:

Underground Storage Tank (UST)

Leaking Underground Storage Tank (LUST)

Other: [Click here to enter text.](#)

Is the nature and extent of the hazardous materials or contamination fully known? Yes No

If yes, briefly discuss the assessments completed (CLUE, Phase I, Phase II, etc.).

If no, briefly discuss the plan for securing information.

Documentation may include, but is not limited to: CLUE, Environmental assessments and documents, commitments, and agency correspondence.

### B. Sole Source Aquifer (SSA):

Is this project located within a sole source aquifer?

Yes No

If located in a Sole Source Aquifer, does the project need EPA approval?

Yes No

If yes, date of EPA approval: [Click here to enter a date.](#)

Documentation may include, but is not limited to: Avoidance, minimization or mitigation/compensation measures agreed upon, commitments, and agency correspondence

### C. Farmland Protection Policy Act

Will the proposed project impact farmland listed as prime or of statewide importance?

Yes No

Does the project convert prime or unique agricultural land to nonagricultural uses?

Yes No

If yes, date of Natural Resource Conservation Service approval: [Click here to enter a date.](#)

Documentation may include, but is not limited to: Soil maps, avoidance minimization or mitigation/compensation measures agreed upon, commitments, and agency correspondence

### D. Vegetation and Roadside Management

Will the project result in impacts to natural/native plant communities, landscape and ornamental plantings, vegetation providing an engineering function, or vegetation of exceptional visual quality?

Yes No





If yes, please describe the impacts and how impacts will be minimized or mitigated (BMP's, RIDOT Standard Specs, etc.)

Will the proposed project occur on a designated Rhode Island Scenic Roadway ([click here](#))?

Yes     No

RI Scenic Roadways Board (SRB) Effect Determination:

No Adverse Effect

Adverse Effect

Date SRB Coordination Initiated: [Click here to enter a date.](#)

Date of Approval: [Click here to enter a date.](#)

Does the project result in ground disturbance that would require compliance with Executive Order 13112 on Invasive Species?

Yes     No

Are invasive species likely to occur within the project area ([click here for RI invasive species lists](#))?

Yes     No

If yes, please describe how the introduction of invasive species will be prevented and/or minimized (BMP's, National Invasive Species Council Management Plan (2016-2018), RIDOT Standard Specs, etc.).

Documentation may include, but is not limited to: Field investigations, avoidance minimization or mitigation/compensation measures agreed upon, commitments, and agency correspondence.

## Permitting and Regulatory Review

Please list all regulatory state and federal permits anticipated. Please list any other agency concurrences and approvals.

Documentation may include, but is not limited to: Anticipated permit requirements, commitments, and agency correspondence.