RIDOT NRU CE Project Narrative Guidance Document

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| **Project Name:** | | |
| **PTSID**: | | **Project Manager:** |
| **Project Location**: |  | |
| **Scope of Work:** |  | |

*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**

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| Wetlands & Waterways |
| A. Wetlands (EO 11990):  Are freshwater/coastal wetlands present within the project area or will the project potentially impact wetlands?  Yes  No  Describe method for evaluating wetlands along project:  ☐ Wetland delineation  ☐ Other. Describe and indicate date completed:  ☐ Evaluation not necessary or not completed. Explain:  If yes, estimate both the temporary and/or permanent impacts and impact areas:Click here to enter text.  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.  Does the project anticipate a RIDEM Freshwater Wetland Stormwater review ([RIDEM SW Application Form)](http://www.dem.ri.gov/programs/benviron/water/permits/swcoord/stwapp.xlsm) ? ☐ Yes ☐ No  If yes, does the project propose:  ☐ New or increased impervious cover for property other than a single family home; or  ☐ Disturbance of more than 10,000 sq. ft. of existing impervious cover; or  ☐ To fill in any amount of floodplain or alter storm flowage to a river, stream or wetland on any lot.  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](https://msc.fema.gov/portal/home)? 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):](https://www.nae.usace.army.mil/Portals/74/docs/regulatory/StateGeneralPermits/RI/RIGP-w-erratasheet.pdf)  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 c 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  Please see [USACE maps](https://www.nae.usace.army.mil/Missions/Navigation/Rhode-Island-Projects/) and/or coordinate with the USACE to determine applicability.  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](https://www.dco.uscg.mil/Portals/9/DCO%20Documents/5pw/Office%20of%20Bridge%20Programs/BPAG%20COMDTPUB%20P16591%203D_Sequential%20Clearance%20Final(July2016).pdf)):  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):  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 |
| H. Coastal Barrier Resources Act (CBRA):  Is any part of the project/action in the boundary of a coastal barrier resource system (CBRS) unit ([CBRS Maps](https://www.fws.gov/CBRA/Maps/index.html))? ☐Yes ☐ No  If yes, do the project activities qualify for an exception listed in [16 USC 3505](https://www.fws.gov/cbra/Limitations-and-Exceptions.html)(a)? ☐Yes ☐ No  If yes, please complete the USFWS [Inter-agency CBRA Consultation Template](https://www.fws.gov/cbra/Consultations.html) to initiate consultation with the USFWS.  Documentation may include, but is not limited to: Documentation of consultation with USFWS including the request letter and the resulting USFWS opinion, and any substantial correspondence; any other evidence supporting the consultation |
| I. 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 Stormwater Construction Permit ([RIDEM SW Application Form](http://www.dem.ri.gov/programs/benviron/water/permits/swcoord/stwapp.xlsm) )?  Yes  No  Type of permitting anticipated:  Water Quality Certification (WQC)  ☐ Fill in waters of the State (Coverage under the PGP and WQC 17-019)  ☐ USACE Fill in Coastal Waters (Coverage under the PGP and WQC 17-019)  ☐ USACE Individual Permit (New WQC Application Required)  RIPDES Construction General Permit (equal to or greater than one acre of disturbance down to the erodible surface)  Groundwater Discharge (GWD)/ Underground Injection Control (UIC)  RIPDES Remediation General Permit (dewatering of contaminated material)  Is this project in compliance with the RIDOT Consent Decree and in accordance with the RIDOT Linear Manual?  ☐Yes ☐ Exempt  If exempt, please explain.  Have Worksheets A and B been completed to develop a stormwater treatment approach ([RIDOT Stormwater Page](http://www.dot.ri.gov/about/stormwater.php)) ?  ☐Yes ☐ No  Is this project treating 50% of existing and/or 100% of new impervious?  ☐Yes ☐ No  If yes, please attach worksheets A and B and explain briefly how treatment goal will be met.  If no, please explain why the treatment goal cannot be met.  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](https://www.fws.gov/newengland/endangeredspecies/project-review/step-1.html)) 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 stormwater treatment, Stormwater Consideration Report, anticipated permit requirements, avoidance minimization or mitigation/compensation measures agreed upon, commitments, agency correspondence, and RIDOT SW correspondence |

1. **Threatened & Endangered Species**

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| **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](https://www.fws.gov/newengland/endangeredspecies/project-review/step-1.html)) 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. National 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](https://www.fws.gov/newengland/endangeredspecies/project-review/step-1.html)) ?  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  Did coordination with RIDEM Fish & Wildlife occur to discuss potential Best Management Practice’s (BMP’s)?  Yes  No  N/A  Documentation may include, but is not limited to: 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 tree removal/trimming, clearing and/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 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](https://www.rivers.gov/rivers/wood-pawcatuck.php).  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 |

1. **Other Environmental Impacts**

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| 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 if 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](http://www.dot.ri.gov/community/scenicroadways.php))?  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 disturb soil/vegetation that would require compliance with Executive Order 13112 on Invasive Species?  Yes No  If yes, has a survey for invasive species resulted in the presence of invasive species/noxious weeds within the project area/adjacent to the project ([click here for RI invasive species lists](http://rinhs.org/invasive-species-portal/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.