



**MassWildlife**

Commonwealth of Massachusetts

# Division of **FYI** Fisheries & Wildlife

Wayne F. MacCallum, *Director*

February 9, 2009

Ian Bowles, Secretary  
Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs  
Attention: MEPA Office  
Anne Canaday, EOEEA No. 14364  
100 Cambridge St.  
Boston, Massachusetts 02114

*Project Name:* MA Division of Fisheries & Wildlife Northeast Office Relocation  
*Proponent:* MA Division of Fisheries & Wildlife  
*Location:* 53 Groton-Shirley Road  
*Project Description:* Phased construction of the district office to include the demolition of existing structures and construction of a new facility and associated appurtenances  
*Document Reviewed:* Environmental Notification Form  
*EOEEA #:* 14364  
*NHESP File Number:* 08-26010

Dear Secretary Bowles:

The Natural Heritage & Endangered Species Program (NHESP) of the MA Division of Fisheries & Wildlife has reviewed the Environmental Notification Form (ENF) for the proposed MA Division of Fisheries & Wildlife Northeast Office Relocation project and would like to offer the following comments.

A portion of the project site is located within *Priority* and *Estimated Habitat* as indicated in the 13<sup>th</sup> Edition of the MA Natural Heritage Atlas and therefore requires review through a direct filing with the NHESP for compliance with the Massachusetts Endangered Species Act (MESA 321 CMR 10.00). This area is mapped as habitat for Blanding's Turtle, (*Emydoidea blandingii*). Our database indicates that additional state-listed species have also been found in the vicinity of the site; although the project footprint is not mapped as Priority Habitat for those species. The Blanding's Turtle is listed as "Threatened" pursuant to the provisions of the Massachusetts Endangered Species Act (M.G.L. c. 131A) and its implementing regulations (321 CMR 10.00).

To date, the NHESP has received a MESA Project Review Checklist and other required materials for review pursuant to the Massachusetts Endangered Species Act (MESA) (MGL c.131A) and its implementing regulations (321 CMR 10.00). The NHESP had determined that this project, as currently proposed, would not result in a prohibited "take" of state-listed species. Any changes to the proposed project or any additional work beyond that shown on the site plans may require an additional filing with the NHESP pursuant to the MESA. This project may be subject to further review if no physical work is commenced within three-years from the date of issuance of this determination, or if there is a change to the project.

We appreciate the opportunity to comment on this project. If you have any questions about this letter, please contact Rebecca Skowron, Endangered Species Review Biologist, at (508) 389-6343.

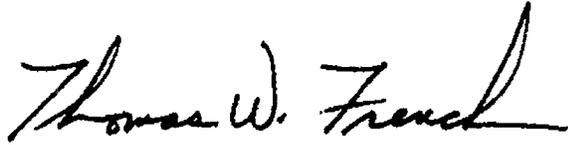
[www.masswildlife.org](http://www.masswildlife.org)

Division of Fisheries and Wildlife

Field Headquarters, One Rabbit Hill Road, Westborough, MA 01581 (508) 389-6300 Fax (508) 389-7891

An Agency of the Department of Fisheries, Wildlife & Environmental Law Enforcement

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Thomas W. French". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping flourish at the end of the name.

Thomas W. French, Ph.D.  
Assistant Director

cc: Patricia Huckery, MA Division of Fisheries and Wildlife  
Acton of Board of Selectmen  
Acton Conservation Commission  
Acton Planning Board  
DEP Northeastern Regional Office, MEPA Coordinator