

GFI Proposal Omissions & Misconceptions

Traffic on Rte 12

Rte 12 is a 2 lane highway from Norwich to Crystal Ave. in Groton. Sub Base, Electric Boat, & Pfizer work shifts are staggered to try to minimize congestion; they still have to contend with school bus schedules and stops. 100 passages of heavy diesel trucks of 10 yards or more will make things much worse.

Quarry Dust Management

Dust containing silica and arsenic are to be “mitigated” by misting spray. When this dust falls to the ground, how does it get to the shallow holding pond and containment swales? Is GFI going to vacuum it? NO, it will become runoff to the river Thames.

The proposed holding pond will not withstand rainfall like we experienced in 2010, 9+ inches in less than 12 hours (sans a hurricane). Houses on Christy Hill had water in lower levels from a rising water table, and surface runoff entering basement casement windows. Rte 12 & Christy Hill road intersection was closed for a couple of days. Swollen streams on old Mystic washed out bridges and portions of road pavement. More runoff to the river. *Runoff of quarry dust will be addressed when the Natural Diversity Data Base is described below.*

Noise

Noise travels up and around structures like the proposed walls. I live $\frac{2}{3}$ up the side of Christy Hill. I clearly hear reveille and taps from the sub base, actually enjoyable, despite the existence of a hill between me and

the music loudspeakers. I also heard pile driving when sub base piers were being modified, but that did not go on for 8+ years.

Blasting noise will be addressed when the Natural Diversity Data Base is described below.

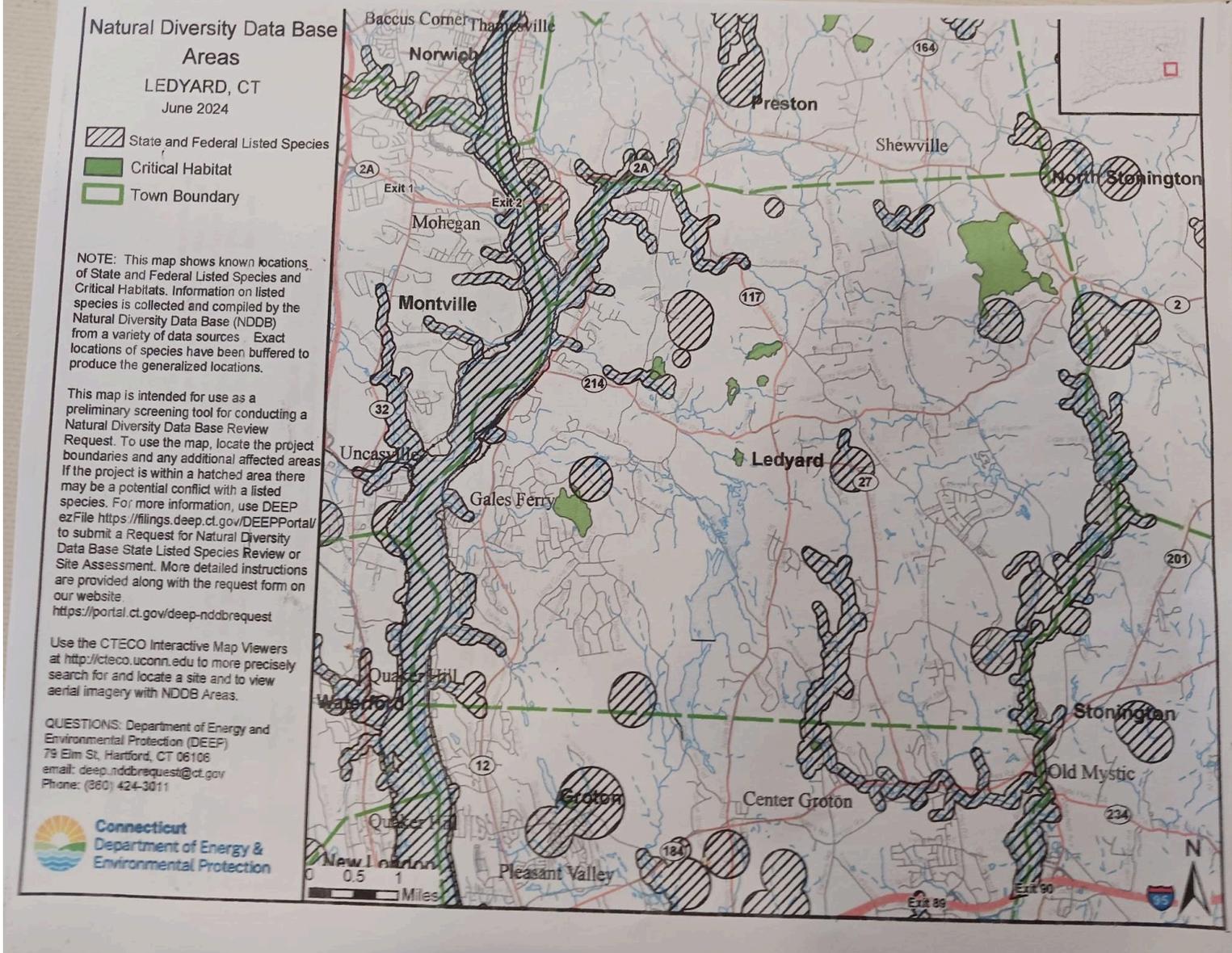
Barge and Rail Transit

The Eastern Connecticut Corridor Rail and Transit FEasibility Study performed in March 2023, reported that the old P&W rail line on the east side of the river (now owned by G&W) although steel rail conditions appeared in good shape, most ties are wooden and showed signs of longitudinal cracking and rotting. *It concluded that the rail line was unsuitable/unsafe for passenger service.* The subject rail line is presently used daily, but I assume that is for light loads to transport styrofoam or the materials used in the manufacture of that styrofoam. *Transporting gravel would produce loaded cars much heavier than passenger cars or the current usage.*

Barge transport of rip rap and some gravel has been proposed by GFI. The channel in the Thames is much narrower than the river itself all the way to the Gold Star Bridge. It has a meandering path which must be carefully navigated, and is just deep enough to allow submarines to pass. *Swamping, tipping, or sinking of a barge at or south of the Sub Base could adversely impact national defense readiness. This is something that the Army Corps of Engineers must evaluate. GFI has not mentioned consulting with them.*

Natural Diversity Data Base

Attached is a map for the Ledyard, CT area, dated June 2024, produced by CT DEEP. Crossed hatch areas include state & federal species, some endangered, some protected.. Green shaded areas are critical habitat, and include all of the Thames river and its coves.



I note that striped bass winter over in the Norwich harbor, a commercial seed oystering operation is in Gales Ferry waters, and there is a fish lift on the Shetucket river in Greenville. SWIFT, the Sustainable Watershed Initiative for the Thames river, lists salmon, alewife, blueback herring, eels, shad, and American and shortnose sturgeon as species present.

Tidal action could spread quarry dust runoff north and south, and could kill all this for decades.

Blasting noise will drive off Osprey and Bald Eagle nesting, and I don't know what other birds.

GFI has not yet applied to DEEP for an impact evaluation on this proposal.

Legal Implications

Any dust on my windows or car, or in evidence at Juliet Long and Ledyard Middle Schools will result in a lawsuit against the Cashman Company, albeit too late to prevent harm. That action will also be initiated if life in the Thames river system is compromised.

Question: If Ledyard Zoning and Land use Commission approve this proposal which does not conform to town regulations, will the town also be liable with the Cashman Co.?