ATTACHMENT 5

STANDARD PROTECTION MEASURES FOR THE EASTERN INDIGO SNAKE

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1. An eastern indigo snake protection/education plan shall be developed by the applicant or requestor for all construction personnel to follow. The plan shall be provided to the Service for review and approval at least 30 days prior to any clearing activities. The educational materials for the plan may consist of a combination of posters, videos, pamphlets, and lectures (*e.g.*, an observer trained to identify eastern indigo snakes could use the protection/education plan to instruct construction personnel before any clearing activities occur). Informational signs should be posted throughout the construction site and along any proposed access road to contain the following information:

    a. a description of the eastern indigo snake, its habits, and protection under Federal Law;
    b. instructions not to injure, harm, harass or kill this species;
    c. directions to cease clearing activities and allow the eastern indigo snake sufficient time to move away from the site on its own before resuming clearing; and,
    d. telephone numbers of pertinent agencies to be contacted if a dead eastern indigo snake is encountered. The dead specimen should be thoroughly soaked in water and then frozen.

2. If not currently authorized through an Incidental Take Statement in association with a Biological Opinion, only individuals who have been either authorized by a section 10(a)(1)(A) permit issued by the Service, or by the State of Florida through the Florida Fish Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) for such activities, are permitted to come in contact with an eastern indigo snake.

3. An eastern indigo snake monitoring report must be submitted to the appropriate Florida Field Office within 60 days of the conclusion of clearing phases. The report should be submitted whether or not eastern indigo snakes are observed. The report should contain the following information:

    a. any sightings of eastern indigo snakes and
    b. other obligations required by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, as stipulated in the permit.

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