

*Atlantic Sunrise Project – PA DEP Chapter 105 Joint Permit Application
Transcontinental Gas Pipe Line Company, LLC
Columbia County*

ATTACHMENT G-1
THREATENED AND ENDANGERED SPECIES COORDINATION
SUMMARY

Revised April 2017

Note: This Attachment has been replaced in its entirety

OVERVIEW OF THREATENED AND ENDANGERED SPECIES: COLUMBIA COUNTY

Transco has consulted with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), Pennsylvania Fish & Boat Commission (PFBC), Pennsylvania Game Commission (PGC), and Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) regarding federal and state-listed threatened and endangered species in the Project area. A summary of the correspondence/clearance status with each agency is provided in **Table 1** and summarized below. Copies of the agency correspondence related to threatened and endangered species are provided in **Attachments G-2 through G-5**.

**Table 1
 Summary of Clearance Status**

Agency	Project Review Letter Dates	Clearance Letter Dates
USFWS	April 28, 2014	December 21, 2016
PFBC	April 17, 2014	January 28, 2016; May 31, 2016; September 2, 2016
PGC	April 13, 2014; December 19, 2014	June 2, 2016; September 19, 2016
DCNR	May 28, 2014; July 14, 2014	April 2, 2015; May 28, 2015; August 5, 2015; February 23, 2016; May 24, 2016; August 31, 2016

USFWS

Transco prepared a biological assessment (BA) addressing the following federally listed threatened and endangered species identified by the USFWS as potentially occurring in the Project area: Indiana bat (IBAT), northern long-eared bat (NLEB), bog turtle, and northeastern bulrush. Surveys for the IBAT, NLEB and northeastern bulrush were requested and completed in Columbia County. The BA was developed in close coordination with the USFWS Pennsylvania Field Office. The BA concluded that the Project may affect, but is not likely to adversely affect each of these species. Based on these effects determinations, formal Section 7 consultation will not be necessary for the Project. FERC concurred with Transco’s effects determinations and submitted their consultation request to USFWS on July 19, 2016. The USFWS issued their Project review letter to FERC on December 21, 2016. As stated in the letter, the USFWS concurred with FERC’s and Transco’s determination that the Project is not likely to adversely affect the Indiana bat, bog turtle, and northeastern bulrush. The USFWS did not concur with FERC’s and Transco’s determination that the Project is not likely to adversely affect the northern long-eared bat. However, with Transco’s proposed avoidance and minimization measures, any incidental take that may occur to the species is not prohibited under the 4(d) rule issued by the USFWS for NLEB on January 14, 2016. Consequently, no further consultation is required with USFWS for NLEB or any other federal-listed species.

PFBC

PFBC requested, and Transco completed, surveys for timber rattlesnake in Clinton, Northumberland, Schuylkill, and Lebanon Counties. No surveys for threatened or endangered species under the jurisdiction of PFBC were requested for Columbia County. PFBC issued Project clearance letters on January 28, 2016, May 31, 2016, and September 2, 2016. The most recent clearance letter issued on September 2, 2016 covers two reroutes that were not included in PFBC’s original review of the Project.

PGC

PGC requested, and Transco completed, surveys for Allegheny woodrat and eastern small-footed bat in Schuylkill, Northumberland, Columbia, and Wyoming Counties. PGC issued Project clearance letters on

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June 2, 2016 and September 19, 2016. The most recent clearance letter issued on September 19, 2016 covers two reroutes that were not included in PGC's original review of the Project. No Allegheny woodrat or eastern small-footed bat habitat was found in Columbia County; therefore, Transco is not required to implement any mitigation or time of year restrictions for any PGC-managed species in Columbia County.

DCNR

Transco completed surveys for state-listed plant species in Columbia County. No state-listed plants are present within the Project LOD in Columbia County. DCNR has issued several clearance letters for the Project following submittal of survey reports by Transco. Project clearance letters were issued by DCNR on April 02, 2015, May 28, 2015, August 05, 2015, February 23, 2016, May 24, 2016, and August 31, 2016. The most recent clearance letter issued on August 31, 2016 covers two reroutes that were not included in DCNR's previous review of the Project. Based on the survey results and complete survey coverage, no mitigation or further consultation with the DCNR is needed for CPLN or CPLS in Columbia County.