

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
PENNSYLVANIA GAME COMMISSION



2001 Elmerton Avenue
Harrisburg, PA 17110-9797

Wildlife Habitat Management
717-787-6818

September 19, 2016

PGC ID Number: 201403110501 Revision

Justin Zoladz
Ecology and Environment, Inc.
Buffalo Corporate Center
368 Pleasant View Drive
Lancaster, NY 14086
JZoladz@ene.com

Re: Transcontinental Gas Pipe Line Company, LLC–Atlantic Sunrise Expansion Project-*Revision*
State Game Lands Nos. 84, 132, and 206
Large Project PNDI Review
Clinton, Lycoming, Susquehanna, Wyoming, Luzerne, Columbia, Northumberland, Schuylkill,
Lebanon, and Lancaster Counties, PA

Dear Mr. Zoladz,

Thank you for submitting your revised Pennsylvania Natural Diversity Inventory (PNDI) Large Project Environmental Review request. The Pennsylvania Game Commission (PGC) screened this project for potential impacts to species and resources of concern under PGC responsibility, which includes birds and mammals only. This letter is an update to the letter issued on June 2, 2016 based on additional information provided to the PGC.

Potential Impact Anticipated

PNDI records indicate species or resources of concern are located in the vicinity of the project. The PGC has received and thoroughly reviewed the information that you provided to this office as well as PNDI data, and has determined that potential impacts to threatened, endangered, and species of special concern may be associated with your project. Therefore, additional measures are necessary to avoid potential impacts to the species listed below:

Scientific Name	Common Name	PA Status	Federal Status
<i>Myotis sodalis</i>	Indiana Bat	ENDANGERED	ENDANGERED
<i>Myotis septentrionalis</i>	Northern Long-eared Bat	THREATENED	THREATENED
<i>Neotoma magister</i>	Allegheny Woodrat	THREATENED	NA
<i>Myotis leibii</i>	Eastern Small-footed Bat	THREATENED	NA

Next Steps*Indiana and Northern Long-eared Bats*

Indiana and northern long-eared bats are a federally listed species under the jurisdiction of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. As a result, our agency defers comments on potential impacts to Indiana and northern long-eared bats to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Allegheny Woodrat

Allegheny woodrat habitat surveys were conducted on the project area in 2015 and 2016 to identify and delineate suitable woodrat habitat. Two areas surveyed contained suitable habitat with evidence of previous woodrat occupation with the vicinity of the proposed project area. Mitigation for impacts to these two areas will consist of revegetation plantings and replacement travel corridors following the details described in the mitigation plan approved by the PGC on May 27, 2016.

Eastern Small-footed Bat

Eastern small-footed bat habitat assessments were conducted on the project area in 2015 and 2016 to identify and delineate suitable woodrat habitat. Rocky areas deemed suitable for eastern small-footed bat day roosts were identified within the project area. Mitigation for impacts to these two areas will consist of construction and monitoring of alternate roost structures following the details described in the mitigation plan approved by the PGC on May 27, 2016.

State Game Lands

Portions of the proposed project are located on State Game Lands Nos. 84, 132, and 206. Please contact Mr. Michael Beahm, Northeast Land Management Supervisor, at 570-675-1143 to discuss and coordinate the project on SGL 84 and 206, and Mr. Dave Mitchell, Southeast Region Land Management Supervisor, at 610-926-3136 to discuss and coordinate the project on SGL 132.

Conservation Measures

National Wetland Inventory Mapping (NWI) and/or aerial photos suggest that wetlands are located within the requested review throughout the proposed project. The PGC is requesting that the final project avoid, or at least minimize to the greatest practical extent, any adverse impacts to these resources and their associated wildlife habitat.

In addition, portions of the project are located in areas where the abundance and species richness of various area-sensitive forest bird species are among the highest in the state. Area-sensitive forest bird species are those species that require a large expanse of relatively contiguous (un-fragmented) forest to maintain their populations. The species found in these areas are listed as species of greatest conservation need in Pennsylvania's Wildlife Action Plan (WAP). The WAP was designed to proactively manage and safeguard the state's declining fish and wildlife resources, and sets a framework to conserve Pennsylvania's diverse wildlife, maintain their role in ecological processes, and protect and enhance species of conservation concern (not just imperiled species). Although these area-sensitive forest bird species are not currently listed as threatened or endangered, and do not produce potential conflicts for projects reviewed using the on-line PNDI

Environmental Review Tool, their populations and requisite habitat are either in decline, or are vulnerable to decline in the state.

As a result, the PGC is recommending the following conservation measures be implemented, to the greatest extent practicable, to minimize impacts to these area-sensitive forest bird species and minimize additional fragmentation of forested tracts throughout the project area:

- co-locate the pipeline and associated facilities with existing roads and other disturbed areas
- minimize the width of the temporary construction right-of-way (ROW), and avoid grubbing where possible to encourage the re-establishment of woody vegetation
- minimize the width of the permanent, maintained ROW to only that which is absolutely necessary to maintain the integrity of the pipeline
- maximize the rotation of mowing and/or clearing along that maintained ROW to allow for the establishment of more beneficial wildlife habitat
- perform initial tree clearing for the project between August 15th and April 15th
- use the following seed mixes, or similar herbaceous seed mixes that will minimize competition with volunteer woody plant species, while offering additional wildlife habitat and food sources along the reclaimed ROW:

Steep Slopes	Other Areas
<i>1 bushel/acre Annual Cereal Grain (oats in spring, grain rye or wheat in fall)</i>	<i>1 bushel/acre Annual Cereal Grain (oats in spring, grain rye or wheat in fall)</i>
<i>10 lbs/acre Timothy</i>	<i>5 lbs/acre Timothy</i>
<i>3 lbs/acre Birdsfoot Trefoil</i>	<i>5 lbs/acre Birdsfoot Trefoil</i>
<i>4 lbs/acre Little Bluestem</i>	<i>4 lbs/acre Little Bluestem</i>
<i>3 lbs/acre Alsike Clover</i>	<i>2 lbs/acre Indiangrass</i>
<i>3 lbs/acre Ladino Clover</i>	<i>1 lb/acre Side-oats Grama</i>
<i>Straw Mulch, NO HAY</i>	<i>1 lb/acre Switchgrass</i>
	<i>¼ lb/acre Black-eyed Susan</i>
	<i>¼ lb/acre Lance-leaved Coreopsis</i>
	<i>Straw Mulch, NO HAY</i>

- perform any future mowing and/or clearing along the maintained ROW between August 15th and April 15th

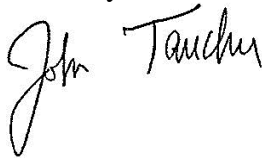
This response represents the most up-to-date summary of the PNFI data files and is valid for two (2) years from the date of this letter. An absence of recorded information does not necessarily

imply actual conditions on site. Should project plans change or additional information on listed or proposed species become available, this determination may be reconsidered.

Should the proposed work continue beyond the period covered by this letter, please resubmit the project to this agency as an "Update" (including an updated PNDI receipt, project narrative and accurate map). If the proposed work has not changed and no additional information concerning listed species is found, the project will be cleared for PNDI requirements under this agency for two additional years.

This finding applies to impacts to birds and mammals only. To complete your review of state and federally-listed threatened and endangered species and species of special concern, please be sure that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, and/or the PA Fish and Boat Commission have been contacted regarding this project as directed by the online PNDI ER Tool found at www.naturalheritage.state.pa.us.

Sincerely,



John Taucher
Division of Environmental Planning & Habitat Protection
Bureau of Wildlife Habitat Management
Phone: 717-787-4250, Extension 3632
Fax: 717-787-6957
E-mail: jotaucher@pa.gov

A PNHP Partner



JWT/jwt

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Ms. Pamela Shellenberger, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
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Division of Environmental
Planning and Habitat
Protection
717-783-5957

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
Pennsylvania Game Commission

2001 ELMERTON AVENUE
HARRISBURG, PA 17110-9797

*"To manage all wild birds, mammals and their habitats
for current and future generations."*

ADMINISTRATIVE BUREAUS:

ADMINISTRATION.....717-787-5670
HUMAN RESOURCES.....717-787-7836
FISCAL MANAGEMENT.....717-787-7314
CONTRACTS AND
PROCUREMENT.....717-787-6594
LICENSING.....717-787-2084
OFFICE SERVICES.....717-787-2116
WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT.....717-787-5529
INFORMATION & EDUCATION.....717-787-6286
WILDLIFE PROTECTION.....717-783-6526
WILDLIFE HABITAT
MANAGEMENT.....717-787-6818
REAL ESTATE DIVISION.....717-787-6568
AUTOMATED TECHNOLOGY
SERVICES.....717-787-4076

www.pgc.state.pa.us

June 2, 2016

PGC ID Number: 201403110501 Update

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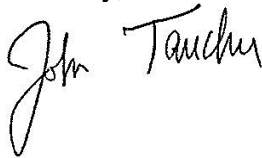
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Please be sure to include the above-referenced PGC ID Number on any future correspondence with the PGC regarding this project.

Sincerely,



John Taucher
Division of Environmental Planning & Habitat Protection
Bureau of Wildlife Habitat Management
Phone: 717-787-4250, Extension 3632
Fax: 717-787-6957
E-Mail: jotaucher@pa.gov

A PNHP Partner



JWT/jwt

Enclosures:

Atlantic Sunrise Survey Maps
PGC Allegheny Woodrat guidance document
PGC Protocol for Assessing Bat Use of Potential Hibernacula

cc: B. Zaffuto

Figured

Metz

Ross

Wenner

Morgan

Guindon

Beahm

Mitchell

Brauning

Turner

Havens

Librandi Mumma

Ms. Pamela Shellenberger, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

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