

FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20426

OFFICE OF ENERGY PROJECTS

In Reply Refer To:
OEP/DG2E/Gas Branch 2
Transcontinental Gas Pipe Line Company, LLC
Docket No. CP15-138-000

FERC/EIS-0269D

July 19, 2016
Ms. Lora Zimmerman
Field Supervisor
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Pennsylvania Field Office
110 Radnor Road, Suite 101
State College, PA 16801

Re: Atlantic Sunrise Project – Section 7 Consultation

Dear Ms. Zimmerman:

The purpose of this letter is to follow up on our May 11, 2016 letter requesting that you consider the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Atlantic Sunrise Project (Project) our Biological Assessment (BA) for the Project in accordance with section 7 of the Endangered Species Act, as amended. As stated in the letter and detailed in section 4.7.2 of the draft EIS, we determined that the Project would have *no effect* on four federally listed species (gray bat, dwarf wedgemussel, dwarf-flowered heartleaf, and harperella), *may affect, but is not likely to adversely affect* two federally listed species (Indiana bat and bog turtle), and *may affect, and is likely to adversely affect* two federally listed species (northern long-eared bat and northeastern bulrush). These determinations were based on the information available at the time the draft EIS was issued, including Transco's informal consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, our own analyses, and our recommendations contained in the draft EIS.

On May 18, 2016 (subsequent to the issuance of the draft EIS), Transcontinental Gas Pipe Line Company, LLC (Transco) filed supplemental information with the FERC that requires reconsideration of our effect determinations for the northern long-eared bat and northeastern bulrush. Enclosed is a copy of Transco's applicant-prepared BA. We have reviewed this information and have determined that the Project *may affect, but is not likely to adversely affect* the northern long-eared bat and northeastern bulrush. We request your concurrence with our revised determinations of effect. Please also consider the correspondence and other supplemental material sent directly to your office by

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Transco. With this change in effects determination for the Project, no formal consultation would be required under section 7 of the Endangered Species Act.

If you have any questions regarding this information, please call Christine Allen, project biologist, at (202) 502-6847.

Sincerely,

Alisa M. Lykens, Chief
Gas Branch 2
Division of Gas – Environment
and Engineering

Enclosure

cc: Public File, Docket No. CP15-138-000 (w/o enclosure)

All Parties (w/o enclosure)

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