



## Pennsylvania Fish & Boat Commission

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### Division of Environmental Services

Natural Gas Section  
450 Robinson Lane  
Bellefonte, PA 16823

January 26, 2016

**IN REPLY REFER TO**  
SIR# 45443

Tetra Tech, Inc.  
Corey Rich  
66 Andersen Drive  
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15220

**RE: Species Impact Review (SIR) – Rare, Candidate, Threatened and Endangered Species**  
**PNDI Search No. 20151231543779**  
**Letort Spring Run Water Withdrawal**  
**CUMBERLAND County: Middlesex Township**

Dear Corey Rich:

This responds to your inquiry about a Pennsylvania Natural Diversity Inventory (PNDI) Internet Database search “potential conflict” or a threatened and endangered species impact review. These projects are screened for potential conflicts with rare, candidate, threatened or endangered species under Pennsylvania Fish & Boat Commission jurisdiction (fish, reptiles, amphibians, aquatic invertebrates only) using the Pennsylvania Natural Diversity Inventory (PNDI) database and our own files. These species of special concern are listed under the Endangered Species Act of 1973, the Wild Resource Conservation Act, and the Pennsylvania Fish & Boat Code (Chapter 75), or the Wildlife Code.

Rare or protected freshwater mussel species are known from the vicinity of the project site:

**Elktoe (*Alasmidonta marginata*, Rare)**  
**Triangle Floater (*Alasmidonta undulata*, Rare)**

It is PFBC’s objective to minimize impacts on mussel species through methods such as those detailed below. We recommend that you use an intake suspended vertically from a floating platform with a mesh grate size no greater than 0.1 inches placed over the intake pipe with a maximum intake velocity of 0.5 ft/second. This water withdrawal method helps to minimize disturbance to the habitat of rare or protected freshwater mussels. We also recommend that the intake be situated in a pool area greater than 3 feet deep and more than 12 inches from the bottom to prevent any disturbance to the habitat of sensitive or threatened species.

Provided that the above recommendations are used to minimize potential impacts to mussels and mussel host fish species, best management practices are employed and strict erosion and sedimentation controls are used, then I do not foresee the proposed project resulting in adverse impacts to the rare

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*To protect, conserve and enhance the Commonwealth’s aquatic resources and provide fishing and boating opportunities.*

freshwater mussel species or any other rare or protected species under Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission jurisdiction.

PFBC will be advancing these recommendations to DEP and the river basin commissions for implementation on water withdrawals statewide.

Since this project is located in the Susquehanna River Basin, the project applicant must also coordinate with the appropriate Basin Commission (SRBC) regarding the proposed water withdrawal.

This response represents the most up-to-date summary of the PNDI data and our files and is valid for two (2) years from the date of this letter. An absence of recorded species information does not necessarily imply species absence. Our data files and the PNDI system are continuously being updated with species occurrence information. Should project plans change or additional information on listed or proposed species become available, this determination may be reconsidered, and consultation shall be re-initiated.

**If you have any questions regarding this review, please contact Gary Smith at 814-279-3080 and refer to the SIR # 45443.** Thank you for your cooperation and attention to this important matter of species conservation and habitat protection.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "Heather Smiles". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Heather A. Smiles, Chief  
Natural Gas Section

HAS/GAS/dn