

Transcontinental Gas Pipe Line Company, LLC

NORTHEAST SUPPLY ENHANCEMENT PROJECT

REQUIREMENT E – PENNSYLVANIA NATURAL DIVERSITY INVENTORY PADEP CHAPTER 105/USACE SECTION 404 JOINT PERMIT APPLICATION

JUNE 2025 REVISED AUGUST 2025

Pennsylvania Natural Diversity Inventory (PNDI) Consultation Summary

On May 13, 2025, WSP generated a PNDI Receipt for the Transco Northeast Supply Enhancement Expansion Project – Quarryville Loop, Lancaster County (PNDI-840101).

No further coordination is required with the Pennsylvania Game Commission (PGC) or Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (PADCNR). Consultation with the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission (PFBC) and United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) is ongoing.

A summary of the consultation status with PFBC and USFWS is provided below.

PFBC

Chesapeake Logperch

The Project, as proposed, will require approximately 212 acres of earth disturbance in PA with impacts to Wissler Run (HQ-WWF, MF), Fishing Creek (HQ-CWF, MF), an unnamed tributary (UNT) to Fishing Creek (HQ-CWF, MF), an UNT to Conowingo Creek (HQ-CWF, MF), Conowingo Creek (HQ-CWF, MF), an UNT to Stewart Run (HQ-CWF, MF), Bowery Run (HQ-CWF, MF). Approximately 2.5 acres of wetland impacts are anticipated to be required for construction of the Project.

PFBC previously reviewed this project under the PA Department of Environmental Protection (PADEP) Water Quality Certification (WQC) approval, PADEP ID: ESG0100015001. In a letter dated July 6, 2016, PFBC indicated the potential presence of Chesapeake Logperch in the project area but did not require surveys at that time. Following further consultation regarding stream crossing techniques and mitigation measures, PFBC issued a clearance letter on March 7, 2017, stating that with the use of best management practices and the approved erosion and sediment control (E&S) plans, the project would not significantly impact Chesapeake Logperch. When the construction methodology at Conowingo Creek was revised, PFBC was re-consulted on September 22, 2017. In the attached letter dated September 27, 2017, PFBC confirmed that it does not anticipate significant adverse impacts to Chesapeake Logperch as a result of the project.

The scope of the Project remains the same as described in the previously approved PNDI SIR# 46205.

The project design, construction methods, and E&S controls remain unchanged from those previously reviewed and approved by PFBC. All best management practices and mitigation measures described in earlier consultations will continue to be implemented to minimize impacts to waterbodies, wetlands, and aquatic resources. This includes adherence to PADEP-approved E&S plans and the use of established stream crossing techniques that have already received PFBC's concurrence.

In a letter dated June 16, 2025, PFBC requested additional evaluations regarding potential habitat for the Broad-headed Skink (*Plestiodon laticeps*, Candidate). That letter specified that PFBC has approved Mr. Brandon Ruhe of Skelly and Loy, Inc and has "... permit[ted] him (Type 3 Scientific Collectors' Permit) to search for and collect Broadhead Skinks." Transco worked with Mr. Ruhe to complete a habitat assessment between July 28 - 30, 2025 to characterize and determine if potential habitat exists within the vicinity of the proposed project area, limited to areas proposed for impact between the Western Terminus to State Route 272. No potential habitat for the Broad-headed Skink was identified, as described in the habitat assessment report, which was submitted to PFBC on August 12, 2025.

Consultation with PFBC is ongoing, and a copy of the agency approval will be provided upon receipt.

USFWS

A consultation letter was submitted to USFWS on July 11, 2025. USACE provided confirmation via email on August 15, 2025 that the Corps completed Section 7 of ESA consultation with USFWS. The avoidance measures and recommendations described in the August 15, 2025 email will be included as special conditions of the Corps permit.

For **northern long-eared bat**, the project will remove approximately 10 acres of trees. A portion of the project occurs within a known maternity colony for this species. During any emergency situation, our primary objective is to provide recommendations for minimizing adverse effects to listed species without impeding response efforts. Thus, given the proximity of the project to known northern long-eared bat maternity colony habitat, trees in the project area are likely to be used by this species during the summer occupancy period (April 1 -May 14). Accordingly, USFWS recommends that tree removal associated with the project occur outside of this period, or between October 1 and March 31, when bats are traveling back to their fall swarming areas, hibernating or just emerging from hibernation. Transco has agreed to the tree removal recommendations.

For **Indiana bats**, no known hibernacula or maternity colonies occur near the project area, therefore, the not likely to adversely affect determination discussed in the USFWS August 2019 letter remains unchanged.

For **bog turtle**, seventeen wetlands were evaluated between June 4 and June 26, 2025, by a qualified bog turtle surveyor for potential bog turtle habitat using the Service's Phase 1 habitat survey methods. Of these wetlands, three wetlands were found to be potential bog turtle habitat: W-T02-008, W-T03-002, and W-T02-010. In 2016, all of these wetlands were surveyed using Phase 1 survey techniques. Wetlands W-T03-002 and W-T02-010 were also surveyed using Phase 2 presence/absence (P/A) bog turtle survey techniques and no bog turtles were found. In 2022, to facilitate required maintenance, an additional Phase 2 P/A survey was conducted at several wetlands including wetland W-T02-008. No bog turtles were observed during those

surveys. For these reasons, the project proponent does not believe that bog turtles are present along this corridor. Given these survey results, in total, the Service does not have any additional avoidance or minimization measures for the bog turtle currently.

For **tricolored bat**, this species is proposed as endangered. For proposed species, section 7(a)(4) of the ESA puts the responsibility on the federal action agency to determine if their action (authorizing, funding or carrying out an activity) will jeopardize the continued existence of the species proposed to be listed or its critical habitat; and if their action will jeopardize, they are required to conference with the Service.

Project Search ID: PNDI-840101

1. PROJECT INFORMATION

Project Name: Transco Northeast Supply Enhancement Expansion Project Quarryville Loop

Date of Review: 5/13/2025 03:28:49 PM

Project Category: Energy Storage, Production, and Transfer, Energy Transfer, Pipeline (e.g., gas, oil) -- NEW

(construction of new line in a new location)

Project Area: 212.13 acres
County(s): Lancaster

Township/Municipality(s): Drumore Township; East Drumore Township; Eden Township

ZIP Code:

Quadrangle Name(s): HOLTWOOD; QUARRYVILLE; WAKEFIELD

Watersheds HUC 8: Lower Susquehanna

Watersheds HUC 12: Big Beaver Creek; Conowingo Creek; Fishing Creek-Susquehanna River; Muddy Run-

Susquehanna River; West Branch Octoraro Creek

Decimal Degrees: 39.838192, -76.249393

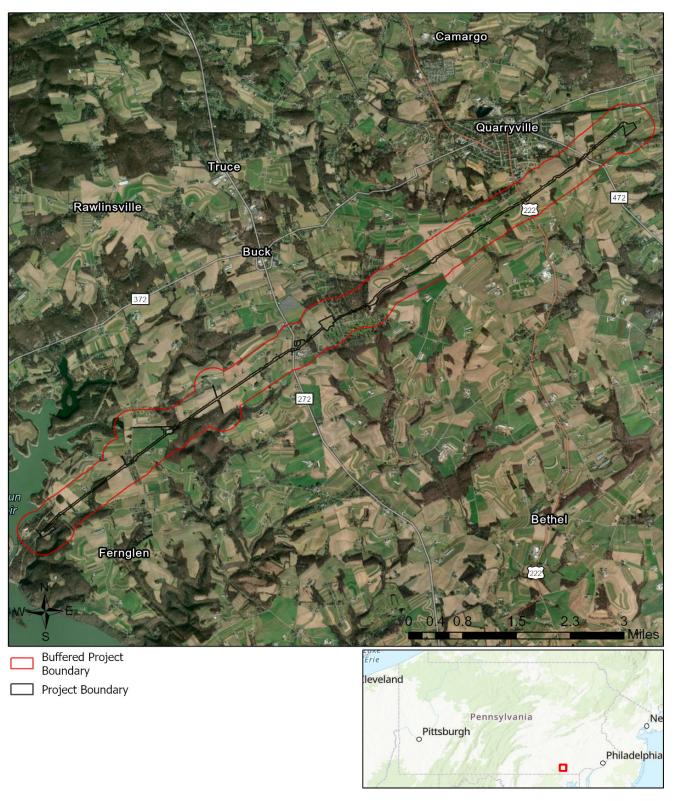
Degrees Minutes Seconds: 39° 50' 17.4917" N, 76° 14' 57.8147" W

2. SEARCH RESULTS

Agency	Results	Response
PA Game Commission	Conservation Measure	No Further Review Required, See Agency Comments
PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources	No Known Impact	No Further Review Required
PA Fish and Boat Commission	Potential Impact	FURTHER REVIEW IS REQUIRED, See Agency Response
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	Potential Impact	MORE INFORMATION REQUIRED, See Agency Response

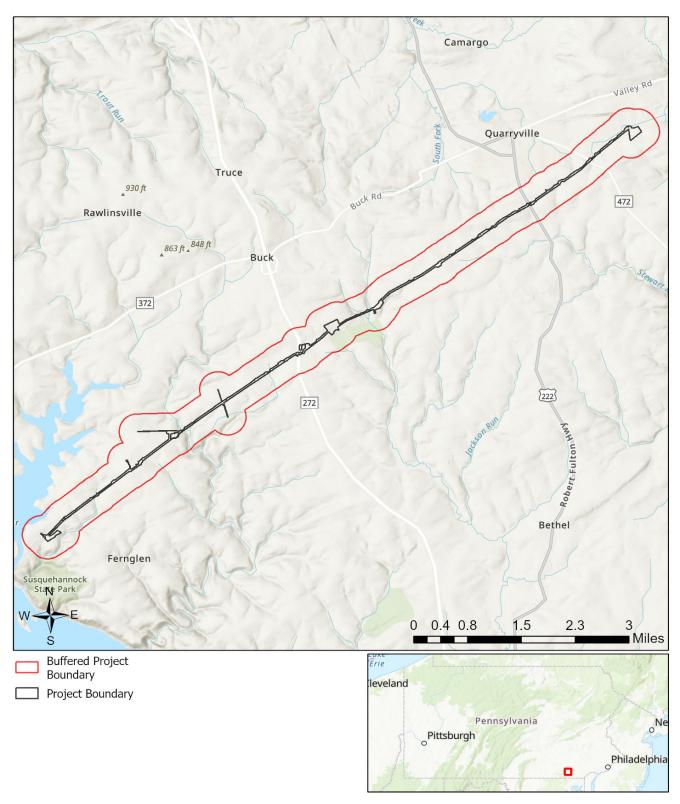
As summarized above, Pennsylvania Natural Diversity Inventory (PNDI) records indicate there may be potential impacts to threatened and endangered and/or special concern species and resources within the project area. If the response above indicates "No Further Review Required" no additional communication with the respective agency is required. If the response is "Further Review Required" or "See Agency Response," refer to the appropriate agency comments below. Please see the DEP Information Section of this receipt if a PA Department of Environmental Protection Permit is required.

Transco Northeast Supply Enhancement Expansion Project Quarryville Loop



Source: Esri, Maxar, Earthstar Geographics, and the GIS User Community Sources: Esri, TomTom, Garmin, FAO, NOAA, USGS, © OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GIS User Community

Transco Northeast Supply Enhancement Expansion Project Quarryville Loop



Sources: Esri, TomTom, Garmin, FAO, NOAA, USGS, © OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GIS User Community Sources: Esri, Maxar, Airbus DS, USGS, NGA, NASA, CGIAR, N Robinson, NCEAS, NLS, OS, NMA, Geodatastyrelsen, Rijkswaterstaat, GSA,

Project Search ID: PNDI-840101

RESPONSE TO QUESTION(S) ASKED

Q1: Accurately describe what is known about wetland presence in the project area or on the land parcel. "Project" includes all features of the project (including buildings, roads, utility lines, outfall and intake structures, wells, stormwater retention/detention basins, parking lots, driveways, lawns, etc.), as well as all associated impacts (e.g., temporary staging areas, work areas, temporary road crossings, areas subject to grading or clearing, etc.). Include all areas that will be permanently or temporarily affected -- either directly or indirectly -- by any type of disturbance (e.g., land clearing, grading, tree removal, flooding, etc.). Land parcel = the lot(s) on which some type of project(s) or activity(s) are proposed to occur.

Your answer is: Someone qualified to identify and delineate wetlands (holding a natural resource degree or equivalent work experience) has investigated the site, and determined that wetlands ARE located in or within 300 feet of the project area. (A written report from the wetland specialist, and detailed project maps should document this.)

Q2: Accurately describe what is known about wetland presence in the project area or on the land parcel by selecting ONE of the following. "Project" includes all features of the project (including buildings, roads, utility lines, outfall and intake structures, wells, stormwater retention/detention basins, parking lots, driveways, lawns, etc.), as well as all associated impacts (e.g., temporary staging areas, work areas, temporary road crossings, areas subject to grading or clearing, etc.). Include all areas that will be permanently or temporarily affected -- either directly or indirectly -- by any type of disturbance (e.g., land clearing, grading, tree removal, flooding, etc.). Land parcel = the lot(s) on which some type of project(s) or activity(s) are proposed to occur.

Your answer is: Someone qualified to identify and delineate wetlands (holding a natural resource degree or equivalent work experience) has investigated the site, and determined that wetlands ARE located in or within 300 feet of the project area. (A written report from the wetland specialist, and detailed project maps should document this.)

Q3: The proposed project is in the range of the Indiana bat. Describe how the project will affect bat habitat (forests, woodlots and trees) and indicate what measures will be taken in consideration of this. Round acreages up to the nearest acre (e.g., 0.2 acres = 1 acre).

Your answer is: The project will affect 1 to 39 acres of forests, woodlots and trees.

Q4: Is tree removal, tree cutting or forest clearing necessary to implement all aspects of this project? **Your answer is:** Yes

Q5: Aquatic habitat (stream, river, lake, pond, etc.) is located on or adjacent to the subject property and project activities (including discharge) may occur within 300 feet of these habitats?

Your answer is: Yes

Q6: Is tree removal, tree cutting or forest clearing of 40 acres or more necessary to implement all aspects of this project?

Your answer is: No

Q7: Will the action include disturbance to trees such as tree cutting (or other means of knocking down, or bringing down trees, tree topping. or tree trimming), pesticide/herbicide application or prescribed fire?

Your answer is: Yes

Q8: Does the action area contain any caves (or associated sinkholes, fissures, or other karst features), mines, rocky outcroppings, culverts, or tunnels that could provide habitat for hibernating bats?

Your answer is: Unknown

Q9: Does the action area contain any caves (or associated sinkholes, fissures, or other karst features), mines, rocky outcroppings, culverts, or tunnels that could provide habitat for hibernating bats?

Your answer is: Unknown

Project Search ID: PNDI-840101

3. AGENCY COMMENTS

Regardless of whether a DEP permit is necessary for this proposed project, any potential impacts to threatened and endangered species and/or special concern species and resources must be resolved with the appropriate jurisdictional agency. In some cases, a permit or authorization from the jurisdictional agency may be needed if adverse impacts to these species and habitats cannot be avoided.

These agency determinations and responses are **valid for two years** (from the date of the review), and are based on the project information that was provided, including the exact project location; the project type, description, and features; and any responses to questions that were generated during this search. If any of the following change: 1) project location, 2) project size or configuration, 3) project type, or 4) responses to the questions that were asked during the online review, the results of this review are not valid, and the review must be searched again via the PNDI Environmental Review Tool and resubmitted to the jurisdictional agencies. The PNDI tool is a primary screening tool, and a desktop review may reveal more or fewer impacts than what is listed on this PNDI receipt. The jurisdictional agencies **strongly advise against** conducting surveys for the species listed on the receipt prior to consultation with the agencies.

PA Game Commission RESPONSE:

Conservation Measure: Potential impacts to state and federally listed species which are under the jurisdiction of both the Pennsylvania Game Commission (PGC) and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service may occur as a result of this project. As a result, the PGC defers comments on potential impacts to federally listed species to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. No further coordination with the Pennsylvania Game Commission is required at this time.

PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources RESPONSE:

No Impact is anticipated to threatened and endangered species and/or special concern species and resources.

PA Fish and Boat Commission RESPONSE:

Further review of this project is necessary to resolve the potential impact(s). Please send project information to this agency for review (see WHAT TO SEND).

PFBC Species: (Note: The Pennsylvania Conservation Explorer tool is a primary screening tool, and a desktop review may reveal more or fewer species than what is listed below.)

Scientific Name	Common Name	Current Status
Percina bimaculata	Chesapeake Logperch	Threatened
Sensitive Species**		Special Concern Species*
Sensitive Species**		Threatened

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service RESPONSE:

Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources Project Search ID: PNDI-840101 PNDI Receipt: project_receipt_transco_northeast_supply__840101_FINAL_1.pdf Information Request: Conduct a Bog Turtle Habitat (Phase 1) Survey in accordance with USFWS Guidelines for Bog Turtle Surveys (April 2020). Evaluate all wetlands within 300 feet of the project area, which includes all areas that will be impacted by earth disturbance or project features (e.g., roads, structures, utility lines, lawns, detention basins, staging areas, etc.). IF THE PHASE 1 SURVEY IS DONE BY A QUALIFIED BOG TURTLE SURVEYOR (see Pennsylvania Qualified Surveyors | FWS.gov): 1) Send positive results to USFWS for concurrence, along with a project description documenting how impacts will be avoided. OR, conduct a Phase 2 survey and send Phase 1 and 2 results to USFWS for concurrence. 2) Send a courtesy copy of negative results to USFWS (label as "Negative Phase 1 Survey Results by Qualified Bog Turtle Surveyor: USFWS Courtesy Copy"). USFWS approval of negative results is not necessary when a qualified surveyor does the survey in full accordance with USFWS quidelines. IF THE PHASE 1 SURVEY IS NOT DONE BY A QUALIFIED SURVEYOR: Send ALL Phase 1 results to USFWS for concurrence, and if potential habitat is found, also send a project description documenting how impacts will be avoided. As a qualified bog turtle surveyor, I __ _____ (name) certify that I conducted a Phase 1 survey of all wetlands in and within 300 feet of the project area on ___ (date) and determined that bog turtle habitat is absent. (Signature) Information Request: Due to the proximity of this project to a bald eagle nest, it is possible that project activities may disturb bald eagles, which is a form of "take" under the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act and may require a permit. The Service has prepared a project screening form to help you determine which specific measures may be necessary to avoid disturbing bald eagles and their nests, based on the type and scope of your proposed project or activity, and its distance from a bald eagle nest. Complete the "Bald Eagle Project Screening Form" (see https://www.fws.gov/northeast/ecologicalservices/pdf/eagle/NE_Bald-Eagle_Project-Screening-Form_rev20200416.pdf) and implement the measures identified on that form. Submit a copy of the completed Screening Form to the appropriate federal or state permitting agencies (e.g., PA DEP). Information Request: Enter project information into IPaC (https://ecos.fws.gov/ipac/). Follow the step-by-step process to review this projects's potential effect on federally listed species. * Special Concern Species or Resource - Plant or animal species classified as rare, tentatively undetermined or candidate as well as other taxa of conservation concern, significant natural communities, special concern populations (plants or animals) and unique geologic features. ** Sensitive Species - Species identified by the jurisdictional agency as collectible, having economic value, or being susceptible to decline as a result of visitation. WHAT TO SEND TO JURISDICTIONAL AGENCIES If project information was requested by one or more of the agencies above, upload* or email the following information to the agency(s) (see AGENCY CONTACT INFORMATION). Instructions for uploading project materials can be found here. This option provides the applicant with the convenience of sending project materials to a single location accessible to all three state agencies (but not USFWS). *If information was requested by USFWS, applicants must email, or mail, project information to IR1 ESPenn@fws.gov to initiate a review. USFWS will not accept uploaded project materials. **Check-list of Minimum Materials to be submitted:** Project narrative with a description of the overall project, the work to be performed, current physical characteristics of the site and acreage to be impacted. A map with the project boundary and/or a basic site plan(particularly showing the relationship of the project to the physical features such as wetlands, streams, ponds, rock outcrops, etc.) In addition to the materials listed above, USFWS REQUIRES the following SIGNED copy of a Final Project Environmental Review Receipt The inclusion of the following information may expedite the review process. Color photos keyed to the basic site plan (i.e. showing on the site plan where and in what direction each photo

____Information about the presence and location of wetlands in the project area, and how this was determined (e.g., by a qualified wetlands biologist), if wetlands are present in the project area, provide project plans showing the location

was taken and the date of the photos)

of all project features, as well as wetlands and streams.

4. DEP INFORMATION

The Pa Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) requires that a signed copy of this receipt, along with any required documentation from jurisdictional agencies concerning resolution of potential impacts, be submitted with applications for permits requiring PNDI review. Two review options are available to permit applicants for handling PNDI coordination in conjunction with DEP's permit review process involving either T&E Species or species of special concern. Under sequential review, the permit applicant performs a PNDI screening and completes all coordination with the appropriate jurisdictional agencies prior to submitting the permit application. The applicant will include with its application, both a PNDI receipt and/or a clearance letter from the jurisdictional agency if the PNDI Receipt shows a Potential Impact to a species or the applicant chooses to obtain letters directly from the jurisdictional agencies. Under concurrent review, DEP, where feasible, will allow technical review of the permit to occur concurrently with the T&E species consultation with the jurisdictional agency. The applicant must still supply a copy of the PNDI Receipt with its permit application. The PNDI Receipt should also be submitted to the appropriate agency according to directions on the PNDI Receipt. The applicant and the jurisdictional agency will work together to resolve the potential impact(s). See the DEP PNDI policy at https://conservationexplorer.dcnr.pa.gov/content/resources.



Project Search ID: PNDI-840101

5. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

The PNDI environmental review website is a preliminary screening tool. There are often delays in updating species status classifications. Because the proposed status represents the best available information regarding the conservation status of the species, state jurisdictional agency staff give the proposed statuses at least the same consideration as the current legal status. If surveys or further information reveal that a threatened and endangered and/or special concern species and resources exist in your project area, contact the appropriate jurisdictional agency/agencies immediately to identify and resolve any impacts.

For a list of species known to occur in the county where your project is located, please see the species lists by county found on the PA Natural Heritage Program (PNHP) home page (www.naturalheritage.state.pa.us). Also note that the PNDI Environmental Review Tool only contains information about species occurrences that have actually been reported to the PNHP.

6. AGENCY CONTACT INFORMATION

PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources

Bureau of Forestry, Ecological Services Section 400 Market Street, PO Box 8552 Harrisburg, PA 17105-8552

Email: RA-HeritageReview@pa.gov

PA Fish and Boat Commission

Division of Environmental Services 595 E. Rolling Ridge Dr., Bellefonte, PA 16823 Email: RA-FBPACENOTIFY@pa.gov

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Pennsylvania Field Office Endangered Species Section 110 Radnor Rd; Suite 101 State College, PA 16801 Email: IR1 ESPenn@fws.gov

NO Faxes Please

PA Game Commission

Bureau of Wildlife Management Division of Environmental Review 2001 Elmerton Avenue, Harrisburg, PA 17110-9797

Email: RA-PGC PNDI@pa.gov

NO Faxes Please

7. PROJECT CONTACT INFORMATION

Clava Twyshlaed	
Name: Clara Trueblood	THE PERSON NAMED IN
Company/Business Name: WSP	
Address: 4000 Faber Place Drive, Suite 300	
City, State, Zip: North Charleston, SC 29405	25((a, U))) A R())
Phone:(724)759-2750	
Email: clara.trueblood@wsp.com	-2724 1845 55
8. CERTIFICATION I certify that ALL of the project information contained in this receipt (inclusize/configuration, project type, answers to questions) is true, accurate a location, size or configuration changes, or if the answers to any question change, I agree to re-do the online environmental review.	and complete. In addition, if the project type, as that were asked during this online review
	5/22/2025
applicant/project proponent signature	date

RE: Transco NESE Project FWS PAFO Consultation Request

From Lackey, Airi M CIV USARMY CENAB (USA) <Airi.M.Lackey@usace.army.mil>

Date Fri 8/15/2025 5:03 PM

- To Trueblood, Clara <clara.trueblood@wsp.com>; pamela_shellenberger@fws.gov <pamela_shellenberger@fws.gov>
- Cc Dean, Joseph <joseph.dean@williams.com>; Joanne Wachholder <joanne.wachholder@ferc.gov>; Amber Plummer <amber.plummer@ferc.gov>; Powell, Tim <tim.l.powell@williams.com>; Merz, Dan <dan.merz@williams.com>; Kellogg, Stephen <stephen.kellogg@williams.com>; Zoladz, Justin <Justin.Zoladz@wsp.com>; Mochrie, Sara <Sara.Mochrie@wsp.com>; Isoldi, Brian

 Somerville, Tom <Tom.Somerville@wsp.com>; MacLeod, Steven <Steven.MacLeod@wsp.com>

Good afternoon Clara,

The Corps completed the Section 7 of ESA consultation with USFWS, and the following recommendations are listed below.

The northern-long eared bat species received an avoidance measure for minimizing adverse effects.

"For **northern long-eared bat**, the project will remove approximately 10 acres of trees. A portion of the project occurs within a known maternity colony for this species. During any emergency situation, our primary objective is to provide recommendations for minimizing adverse effects to listed species without impeding response efforts. Thus, if possible, given the proximity of the project to known northern long-eared bat maternity colony habitat, trees in the project area are likely to be used by this species during the summer occupancy period (April1 -May 14). Accordingly, we recommend that tree removal associated with the project occur outside of this period, or between October 1 and March 31, when bats are traveling back to their fall swarming areas, hibernating or just emerging from hibernation.

For **Indiana bats**, according to our data, no known hibernacula or maternity colonies occur near the project area, therefore, the not likely to adversely affect determination discussed in our August 2019 letter remains unchanged.

For **bog turtle**, seventeen wetlands were evaluated between June 4 and June 26, 2025, by a qualified bog turtle surveyor for potential bog turtle habitat using the Service's Phase 1 habitat survey methods. Of these wetlands, three wetlands were found to be potential bog turtle habitat: W-T02-008, W-T03-002, and W-T02-010. In 2016, all of these wetlands were surveyed using Phase 1 survey techniques. Wetlands W-T03-002 and W-T02-010 were also surveyed using Phase 2 presence/absence (P/A) bog turtle survey techniques and no bog turtles were found. In 2022, to facilitate required maintenance, an additional Phase 2 P/A survey was conducted at several wetlands including wetland W-T02-008. No bog turtles were observed during those surveys. For these reasons, the project proponent does not believe that bog turtles are present along this corridor. Given these survey results, in total, the Service does not have any additional avoidance or minimization measures for the bog turtle currently.

For **tricolored bat**, this species is proposed as endangered. For proposed species, section 7(a)(4) of the ESA puts the responsibility on the federal action agency to determine if their action (authorizing, funding or carrying out an activity) will jeopardize the continued existence of the species proposed to be listed or its critical habitat; and if their action will jeopardize, they are required to conference with the Service. Please note, during emergency events, protecting human life and property should come first every time. Consequently, no constraints for protection of listed species or their critical habitat will be recommended

if they place human lives or structures (e.g., houses) in danger.

If take may have occurred, as soon as is practicable after the emergency event is under control, we recommend that you initiate formal consultation if it is determined that listed species have been adversely affected. The contact should be at your earliest possible convenience. At this time and throughout the emergency response, the Service will provide recommendations that can be implemented to avoid or minimize impacts to listed species and their habitats."

These conditions will be listed as special conditions of the Corps permit. Are there any issues with these conditions?

Thank you, Airi

Airi Lackey
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Baltimore District
State College Field Office
State College, PA 16801

Office: 814-272-0743

From: Trueblood, Clara <clara.trueblood@wsp.com>

Sent: Friday, August 15, 2025 12:48 PM

To: Lackey, Airi M CIV USARMY CENAB (USA) <Airi.M.Lackey@usace.army.mil>; pamela_shellenberger@fws.gov

Cc: Dean, Joseph <joseph.dean@williams.com>; Joanne Wachholder <joanne.wachholder@ferc.gov>; Amber

Plummer <amber.plummer@ferc.gov>; Powell, Tim <tim.l.powell@williams.com>; Merz, Dan <dan.merz@williams.com>; Kellogg, Stephen <stephen.kellogg@williams.com>; Zoladz, Justin

<Justin.Zoladz@wsp.com>; Mochrie, Sara <Sara.Mochrie@wsp.com>; Isoldi, Brian <bri>brian.isoldi@wsp.com>;

Somerville, Tom <Tom.Somerville@wsp.com>; MacLeod, Steven <Steven.MacLeod@wsp.com>

Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Re: Transco NESE Project FWS PAFO Consultation Request

Airi and Pam.

Thanks for the updates regarding USFWS consultation.

We plan to respond to PADEP Chapter 105 Technical Comments next week.

One of the comments pertains to USFWS clearance for the Quarryville Loop.

Do we have a timeframe for when we could anticipate a response to the July 11 consultation letter?

Thanks, Clara

Clara Trueblood

Assistant Vice President Earth and Environment



From: Lackey, Airi M CIV USARMY CENAB (USA) < <u>Airi.M.Lackey@usace.army.mil</u>>

Sent: Friday, August 8, 2025 4:37 PM

To: MacLeod, Steven < Steven. MacLeod@wsp.com >; pamela_shellenberger@fws.gov

<pamela shellenberger@fws.gov>

Cc: Dean, Joseph <<u>joseph.dean@williams.com</u>>; Joanne Wachholder <<u>joanne.wachholder@ferc.gov</u>>; Amber Plummer <<u>amber.plummer@ferc.gov</u>>; Powell, Tim <<u>tim.l.powell@williams.com</u>>; Merz, Dan

<<u>dan.merz@williams.com</u>>; Kellogg, Stephen <<u>stephen.kellogg@williams.com</u>>; Zoladz, Justin

<<u>Justin.Zoladz@wsp.com</u>>; Trueblood, Clara <<u>clara.trueblood@wsp.com</u>>; Mochrie, Sara

<<u>Sara.Mochrie@wsp.com</u>>; Isoldi, Brian <<u>brian.isoldi@wsp.com</u>>; Somerville, Tom

<<u>Tom.Somerville@wsp.com</u>>

Subject: RE: Transco NESE Project FWS PAFO Consultation Request

Good afternoon Steve,

I have received the consultation request letter and coordinated with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) for their recommendations to the listed species within the project area.

I obtained the recommendations on July 24, 2025, for minimizing the effects to the listed species.

Thank you,

Airi

Airi Lackey

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Baltimore District

State College Field Office

State College, PA 16801

Office: 814-272-0743

From: MacLeod, Steven < Steven.MacLeod@wsp.com>

Sent: Tuesday, August 5, 2025 11:27 AM **To:** pamela shellenberger@fws.gov

Cc: Dean, Joseph < joseph.dean@williams.com >; Joanne Wachholder < joanne.wachholder@ferc.gov >; Amber

Plummer <amber.plummer@ferc.gov>; Lackey, Airi M CIV USARMY CENAB (USA)

<<u>Airi.M.Lackey@usace.army.mil</u>>; Powell, Tim <<u>tim.l.powell@williams.com</u>>; Merz, Dan

<<u>dan.merz@williams.com</u>>; Kellogg, Stephen <<u>stephen.kellogg@williams.com</u>>; Zoladz, Justin

<<u>Justin.Zoladz@wsp.com</u>>; Trueblood, Clara <<u>clara.trueblood@wsp.com</u>>; Mochrie, Sara

<<u>Sara.Mochrie@wsp.com</u>>; Isoldi, Brian <<u>brian.isoldi@wsp.com</u>>; Somerville, Tom <<u>Tom.Somerville@wsp.com</u>>

Subject: [Non-DoD Source] RE: Transco NESE Project FWS PAFO Consultation Request

Hello Pam,

Please confirm that you received the attached consultation request letter, originally sent on July 11th.

Please advise how soon we can expect your reply to the letter, or if you would like to set up a call to discuss the letter.

Note – I will be on PTO until late August, so please be sure to copy Joe Dean (joseph.dean@williams.com) and Clara Trueblood (clara.trueblood@wsp.com) on any response.

Thank you,

Steve

Steven MacLeod

Asst. Vice President / Environmental Scientist

O +1 716-853-1220

D +1 716-395-3240

M +1 716-462-0845

WSP

40 La Riviere Drive, Ste. 320

Buffalo, NY 14202

wsp.com



From: MacLeod, Steven

Sent: Friday, July 11, 2025 2:18 PM **To:** pamela shellenberger@fws.gov

Cc: Dean, Joseph < <u>Joseph.Dean@Williams.com</u>>; Joanne Wachholder < <u>joanne.wachholder@ferc.gov</u>>; Amber Plummer < <u>amber.plummer@ferc.gov</u>>; Lackey, Airi M CIV USARMY CENAB (USA) < <u>airi.m.lackey@usace.army.mil</u>>;

Powell, Tim < tim.l.powell@williams.com; Merz, Dan dan.merz@williams.com; Kellogg, Stephen toladz@wsp.com; Trueblood, Clara

<<u>clara.trueblood@wsp.com</u>>

Subject: Transco NESE Project FWS PAFO Consultation Request

Ms. Schellenberger,

On behalf of Williams/Transco, WSP is submitting the attached consultation letter and supporting enclosures requesting USFWS concurrence that the Williams/Transco Northeast Supply Enhancement Project is not likely to adversely affect federally listed threatened or endangered species in Pennsylvania.

Please let us know if you have any immediate questions or would like to arrange a call to discuss this letter.

Respectfully,

Steven MacLeod

Asst. Vice President / Environmental Scientist

O +1 716-853-1220

D +1 716-395-3240

M +1 716-462-0845

WSP

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United States Department of the Interior



FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

Pennsylvania Field Office 110 Radnor Road, Suite 101 State College, Pennsylvania 16801-4850

July 5, 2017

Stephen Czapka Ecology & Environment, Inc. 348 Southport Circle, Suite 101 Virginia Beach, VA 23452

RE: USFWS Project #2016-1006

Dear Mr. Czapka:

This responds to your email of June 29, 2017, which provided the Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) with additional information regarding the proposed Quarryville Loop of Transco's Northeast Supply Enhancement project located in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania. The proposed project is within the range of the bog turtle (*Clemmys muhlenbergii*) and the northern long-eared bat (*Myotis septentrionalis*), species that are federally listed as threatened. The following comments are provided pursuant to the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (87 Stat. 884, as amended; 16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*).

Bog turtle

You provided a copy of a June 2017, Phase 2/3 survey report, which indicates that six wetlands (W-T02-006A-1, W-T02-006-2, W-T02-008A-1, W-T02-001, W-T02-010, and W-T06-001A-1) within the action area were surveyed for bog turtles. According to this report, Robert Bull conducted surveys from April 26, 2017 through June 1, 2017; no bog turtles were found. We reviewed the survey methodology and agree construction of the proposed Quarryville Loop project will not affect the bog turtle.

Northern long-eared bat

The proposed project is not located within 0.25 mile of a known northern long-eared bat hibernaculum or within 150 feet from a known, occupied maternity roost tree; therefore, any incidental take that may occur is not prohibited in accordance with the conservation rule (i.e., 4(d) rule) specific for this species. The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) is authorizing this project; therefore, consultation under section 7 of the Act is required. The Service completed a nationwide biological opinion that fulfills this requirement, provided the conditions of the 4(d) rule are implemented. More information about the programmatic consultation and the streamlined procedures to meet this requirement are detailed at: http://www.fws.gov/midwest/endangered/mammals/nleb/.

Thank you for allowing the Service to provide technical assistance during the planning phase of this project. We look forward to reviewing FERC's final biological assessment for the Transco's Northeast Supply Enhancement project.

To avoid potential delays in reviewing your project, please use the above-referenced USFWS project tracking number in any future correspondence regarding this project.

If you have any further questions regarding this matter, please contact Brian Scofield of my staff at 814-234-4090.

Sincerely,

Lora Z. Lattanzi

Field Office Supervisor

Jon 3. Lattanzi

cc:

PFBC – Urban (curban@pa.gov)

PFBC – Smiles (hsmiles@pa.gov)



Transcontinental Gas Pipe Line Company, LLC

2800 Post Oak Boulevard (77056) P.O. Box 1396 Houston, Texas 77251-1396 713/215-2000

July 11, 2025

Ms. Pamela Shellenberger U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Pennsylvania Ecological Services Field Office 110 Radnor Road, Suite 101 State College, PA 16801

RE: CONTINUED COORDINATION FOR THE NORTHEAST SUPPLY ENHANCEMENT PROJECT – QUARRYVILLE LOOP, LANCASTER COUNTY, PA (PNDI-840101)

Dear Ms. Shellenberger,

Transcontinental Gas Pipe Line Company, LLC (Transco), as a subsidiary of Williams Partners Operating LLC, is recommencing development of the Northeast Supply Enhancement Project (Project), an incremental expansion of Transco's existing natural gas transmission system. The purpose of the Project remains as before—to provide 400,000 dekatherms per day of incremental firm transportation capacity from Transco's Station 195 in York County, Pennsylvania, to the existing Rockaway Delivery Point (located approximately 3 miles offshore of the Rockaway Peninsula in Queens Borough, New York) to serve The Brooklyn Union Gas Company, d/b/a National Grid NY, and KeySpan Gas East Corporation, d/b/a National Grid (collectively, National Grid).

On May 29, 2025, Transco filed a "Petition for Expedited Reissuance of Certificate Authority" with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC), the lead federal agency for the Project under the National Environmental Policy Act, requesting reissuance of the certificate of public convenience and necessity, authorizing Transco to construct and operate the Project (FERC Docket No. CP17-101-007). As the non-federal Project representative under the FERC process, Transco is submitting this letter to continue consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) Pennsylvania Field Office (PA FO) regarding the Project per Section 7(a)(2) of the federal

Endangered Species Act (ESA)—specifically, the Quarryville Loop in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania (PNDI-840101).

This letter provides an update on Project activities and coordination status based on the May 2025 Pennsylvania Natural Diversity Inventory (PNDI) receipt for the Quarryville Loop (**Enclosure 1**).

As background, the Quarryville Loop was the subject of coordination with USFWS beginning in 2016. In 2017, Transco completed Phase I habitat assessments, Phase II presence/absence surveys, and Phase III trapping surveys for bog turtles (*Glyptemys muhlenbergii*) within the Project area along the Quarryville Loop. Seven wetlands were identified as potentially suitable habitat. No bog turtles were observed during any survey phase, and the USFWS issued a concurrence letter in 2017, confirming that the Project was not likely to adversely affect (NLAA) the bog turtle based on the methods and results submitted at that time (**Enclosure 2**).

In a subsequent letter dated August 14, 2019, the USFWS reaffirmed the NLAA determination for the bog turtle, noting that no wetlands were present within the additional 2 acres added to the Project's limits of disturbance (LOD) and that no new information had emerged to alter the original conclusion. This letter also addressed federally listed bat species. The USFWS confirmed that the Project is not located within 0.25 mile of a known northern long-eared bat (*Myotis septentrionalis*) hibernaculum or within 150 feet of a known occupied maternity roost tree; therefore, any incidental take would be consistent with the Final 4(d) Rule under Section 7 of the ESA. Additionally, the USFWS determined that the Project is not likely to affect the Indiana bat (*Myotis sodalist*), as it is located outside the known habitat and involves less than 40 acres of tree clearing (**Enclosure 3**).

Transco completed a new PNDI review on May 13, 2025 (PNDI-840101), which indicated that coordination with USFWS and the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission is required.

Based on the USFWS Information for Planning and Consultation (IPaC) system, the 2025 USFWS Species List for the Quarryville Loop includes the Indiana bat, northern long-eared bat (*Myotis septentrionalis*), tricolored bat (*Perimyotis subflavus*), bog turtle, green floater (*Lasmigona subviridis*), and monarch butterfly (*Danaus plexippus*) (**Enclosure 4**).

Transco completed the USFWS Determination Key (D-Key) for the northern long-eared bat and tricolored bat, which indicated a "May Affect" determination (**Enclosure 5**). As with previous coordination, no hibernacula or roost trees are known in the Project vicinity, and construction of the Project requires limited tree clearing (approximately 10 acres). During a May 23, 2025, conversation with Justin Zoladz of WSP, it was determined that the likely cause of the "May Affect" determination was the fact that the Project intersected a 5- by 5-kilometer (km) grid cell with 10.0 to 19.9 percent forest cover (D-Key answer 34, Enclosure 5). According to the 2024 USFWS "Northern Long-eared Bat and Tricolored Bat Voluntary Environmental Review Process for Development Projects Version 1.0," the threshold for an NLAA determination for the specified forest cover grid cell is forest clearing of less than or equal to 5 acres. Transco is proposing to clear

approximately 10 acres, which exceeds that threshold for the NLAA determination in the D-Key, resulting in a "May Affect" determination. However, because the Project is a 10-mile (16.1 km) linear configuration, several 5- by 5-km grid cells are intersected. The D-Key also indicates that the Project intersects the 20.0–29.9% and 30.0–100.0% forest density grid cells (D-Key answer 35 and 36, Enclosure 5), which have NLAA clearing thresholds of less than or equal to 40 acres and less than or equal to 100 acres, respectively.

Because of the Project's linear nature, tree clearing would only be performed in small areas along the existing right-of-way, well below the 40- to 100-acre clearing thresholds within the identified grid cells. Therefore, Transco concludes that the Project is not likely to adversely affect the listed bat species. Transco requests USFWS PA FO concurrence that the proposed Project activities associated with the Quarryville Loop in Pennsylvania are not likely to adversely affect these bat species.

Transco conducted additional bog turtle habitat assessments and field surveys during the 2025 bog turtle window in accordance with USFWS protocols. These surveys were performed by a qualified bog turtle surveyor, Robert Bull. The survey area encompassed the previous study area and LOD, as well as certain wetlands up to 300 feet from the LOD. The 2025 Phase 1 survey identified three wetland areas with potential bog turtle habitat characteristics. No bog turtles, or signs of bog turtles, were observed during the 2025 Phase 1 surveys. The three wetlands identified in 2025 decreased from the seven wetland systems previously determined to have suitable habitat from 2016 Phase 1 surveys conducted in the project area. This was observed to be a result of altered hydrology from extensive agricultural and residential activities occurring in these areas. Considering that no bog turtles or their signs were observed during the previous Phase 1, 2, and 3 surveys completed for the project area in 2016 and 2022, as well as the decline of suitable habitat observed in 2025, it is unlikely that any bog turtle populations currently exist in the project area wetlands. **Transco requests USFWS PA FO concurrence that the proposed Project activities associated with the Quarryville Loop in Pennsylvania are not likely to adversely affect the bog turtle.**

The 2025 bog turtle survey report is attached (**Enclosure 6**).

The Project would address the need for reliability, flexibility, and efficiency on a critical part of Transco's system and provide access to crucial supplies of natural gas, but time is of the essence, as outlined in Executive Order 14156 regarding the current energy emergency. Therefore, *Transco asks that the USFWS conduct an expedited review in order to support the other federal agencies' abilities to issue their permits and approvals by August 29*, 2025.

If you require any additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me at 281-433-8046 or via email at <u>joseph.dean@williams.com</u>. Alternatively, you can contact Steven MacLeod, Project Manager at WSP at 716-462-0845 or via email at Steven.MacLeod@wsp.com.

Pamela Shellenberger July 11, 2025

Sincerely,

Joseph Dean

Manager, Permitting

Enclosures: 1. 2025 PNDI Receipt

2. 2017 USFWS PA FO Approval3. 2019 USFWS PA FO Approval

4. 2025 USFWS PA IPaC Species List5. 2025 USFWS PA Determination Key

6. 2025 Bog Turtle Survey Report

CC (via email): Joanne Wachholder, FERC

Amber Plummer, FERC
Airi Lackey, USACE
Tim Powell, Transco
Dan Merz, Esq., Transco
Stephen Kellogg, Transco
Steven MacLeod, WSP
Justin Zoladz, WSP
Clara Trueblood, WSP

NORTHEAST BALD EAGLE PROJECT SCREENING FORM





Welcome!

What is the purpose of this form? The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) designed this form as a voluntary tool to help people comply with the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act (BGEPA) by planning activities in a manner that avoids disturbing nesting bald eagles. To disturb a bald eagle nest means to agitate or bother a bald eagle to a degree that causes, or is likely to cause, that eagle to abandon its nest, suffer injury, or be unable to perform activities necessary to its survival. While all guidance included in this form is voluntary, individuals and organizations that disturb eagles may be subject to fine and prosecution under BGEPA.

How is this form different from the National Bald Eagle Management Guidelines? The National Bald Eagle Management Guidelines (Guidelines) is a document published by the Service in 2007 that provides background information on the biology of bald eagles, explains the Federal laws and regulations protecting them, and lays out guidance for several categories of human activities that can affect their nesting. This form takes the Guideline's recommendations, fits them to the regional conditions of the Northeast, and offers them to you in an interactive and intuitive format. Because the form fits its assessments and recommendations to the needs and behaviors of nesting bald eagles in the Northeast, you may find that it differs from the Guidelines on certain details. Nonetheless, the ultimate goal remains the same: to keep project proponents in compliance with BGEPA, while also protecting nesting bald eagles from disturbance.

How this form works. To complete this form, first, find the category of activities that includes your proposed activity. Then, go to the page listed for that category to assess whether your project may risk disturbing nesting bald eagles. If the form identifies that your activities may disturb nesting bald eagles, follow the recommended avoidance measures. These measures will identify factors that could influence nesting eagles' sensitivity to your activities: distance, visibility, timing, and exposure to other human activities. Sign the self-certification that you have committed to implementing the appropriate measures. If your proposed activities fall into multiple categories, repeat this process for each category. Additionally, if your project has the potential to affect multiple nests, complete a separate form for each nest site.

What to do with your completed form. Once you have signed your self-certification, keep the form for your personal records. You do not need to submit your completed form to the Service. Keep the form and additional pages that may be helpful to your future planning and compliance. If a local, state, or federal authority asks for documentation that you are complying with the Service's regional guidance, you can present them with your completed and signed form.

INTRODUCTION

What to know before you start. You will need a few pieces of information to help you complete this form.

Breeding Season

For temporary activities that might be loud or very visible, one of the simplest and most effective ways to avoid disturbing a bald eagle nest is to time the activity when eagles are not nesting, that is, outside the bald eagle breeding season. Wildlife agencies often refer to this type of measure as a time-of-year restriction. The bald eagle breeding season lasts approximately seven to eight months and has many stages. Start and end dates to this season can vary by location, year, and breeding pair. For simplicity, general dates are often set at a statewide level. Consult Appendix A to find the breeding season in your area.

Visibility

For some categories of activities, this form will ask whether your project activities will be visible to the nest. There are two general approaches to answering this question, a desktop assessment and a site visit. A desktop assessment involves consulting online mapping resources, such as Google Maps or state nest maps (see Appendix B), which can display your project location and the nest location on satellite or aerial imagery. When viewing this imagery, look to see whether there are landscape features or structures that might screen the nest's view of your activities. Your assessment is only as good as your imagery. Make sure the imagery is current and accurately reflects visibility conditions on the ground.

The second option is to visit your project location. Assess from various points in your project footprint whether you can see the nest. Use binoculars (4X power or greater) or spotting scope to assist your viewing. If you plan to visit the project site during the breeding season, be aware that your presence could also disturb the nest. Maintain 330' feet between you and the nest, or at least as much distance as the nearest ongoing foot traffic at the nest site. You should only perform your site visit from property legally accessible to you.

Using both the field and desktop approach will give you your best answer. If there is need to select between the two options, a site visit will generally provide a better sense of visibility. In either approach, consider that your activities may become more visible during portions of the year when leaves are off trees and other vegetation.

Nest Location

To figure out how close or how visible your activities will be, you will need precise knowledge of the nest's location. If you do not already have this information, check Appendix B to see if any online or state resources are available. If you are unable to get this information from any of these sources, survey the site. As when assessing visibility, you should only perform your visit on property legally accessible to you. You should also avoid coming within 330 feet of a nest during the breeding season, unless you know that the eagles have previously tolerated people at whatever shorter distance you are planning to use. For descriptions and examples of bald eagle nests, and explanation of how they differ from other large bird nests, see "Appendix C – Guide to Nest Identification."

INTRODUCTION

If you feel unable to perform this search, consider employing the services of a wildlife biologist experienced in this type of surveying. Alternatively, consider contacting your state or local wildlife agency to see if they would be able to perform a site visit (please be aware that many state and local wildlife agencies are constrained in their resources and time and may not be able to offer this service). Be sensitive to sharing information about nest locations. Attracting public interest to a nest site can threaten the safety of that nest. Some states also continue to prohibit the release of nest locations.

It is possible that you will be unable to find a reported nest. While bald eagles commonly use nests across breeding seasons, nests do not always survive from one season to the next. Nests may fall apart of their own accord or be blown down by high winds. Bald eagles may also stop using a nest for one season or more, even if the nest as a structure still exists. In these scenarios, bald eagles may still reuse a former nest site in the following breeding seasons. The temporary absence of a nest or nesting eagles does not absolve you of your responsibilities to avoid disturbing future nesting at that site. The Service recommends implementing the measures included in this form for five years after the last breeding season eagles used a nest or, where the nest no longer exists, three years after the last breeding season in which the nest existed.

Similar Activities

One of the best indicators of what a nesting bald eagle pair will tolerate is what they have already tolerated. In certain places, this form will ask whether the nesting pair has experienced and tolerated similar activities at the nest location. To answer this question, you will need to know about previous human activity at that location. Was that activity similar in nature to what you propose? As close as or closer than what you propose to do? Did it occur at the same time of day? Time of year? Did it last as long? Was it as frequent? Was it as loud? Was it as visible? You will also need to know basic history about the nest. Did the nest exist before that previous activity? Was it ever used after that activity? If your answer to any of these questions is 'no,' you cannot answer 'yes' to the broader question of whether there is similar activity at that site. See "Appendix D – Similar Activity Example Exercise" for a demonstration of how to apply this principle.

Limitations

Know when and how you should be using this form. See "Appendix E – Limitations of this form."

Where to go for help. The Service understands that project proponents may occasionally need clarification on which assessments are relevant to them and how to implement certain avoidance and minimization measures. If you find you are unable to complete this form, you can contact your regional eagle coordinator (Shaughn Galloway) for assistance at

shaughn_galloway@fws.gov - or - 413-253-8577

When emailing, please include in your subject line "BALD EAGLE SCREENING FORM QUESTION." If you are unable to connect with your regional eagle coordinator when calling, please leave a voice message that you are calling about this form and how best to reach you.

For explanation of technical terms used in this form, see "Appendix F – Glossary of Terms."

PROJECT INFORMATION

Project Name:		
City:	County:	State:
Lat/Long (decimal degr	ees; ex. 38.418310, -76.001096):	
Find Lat/Long via map		
Size: acres\mi	les	
PROJECT CONTACT INF	ORMATION	
Name:	Phone:	
Address:		
Email:		
	deral (ex. U.S. Army Corps), state (ex. P	•
PROJECT ACTIVITY CAT	EGORY(S)	
Place a check next to a	ll activities you plan to perform.	
Construction and Devel	opment Activities → go to pages 5 -7	
Maintenance and Resto	oration Activities → go to pages 8 - 9	
Timber Operation and I	Forestry Practices → go to page 10	
Use of Helicopters and	Fixed-wing Aircraft → go to page 11	
Blasting and Other Loud	d, Intermittent Noises (including Firewor	rks) \rightarrow go to page 12
Recreational Activities	→ go to pages 13 – 14	

Feedback? The Service is continuously looking to improve this form. If you have suggested changes, please feel free to email them to us at shaughn_galloway@fws.gov. Include "Bald Eagle Project Screening Form – Feedback" in your subject line.

Construction and Development Activities

	Which specific construction activities do you plan to perform? (check all that apply)			
	Building construction			Water impoundment or withdrawal
	Tree and land clearing			Mining
	Construction of roads, trails, canals, powe	er		Oil and natural gas drilling and refining
	lines, pipelines and other linear utilities			Wind farm construction
Ш	Agriculture or aquaculture – newor expanded operations			Installation or expansion of marinas with a capacity of 6 or more boats
	Alteration of shorelines or wetlands			Communications tower construction
	Installation of docks, piers, or moorings (p driving may qualify as loud noise, page 12			(excluding maintenance and repairs)
		both co	nstr	rity that coincided with the breeding season uction and use/operation of your project. ering:
	and that bald eagles tolerated? Consider Consider all of the following elements/fact -duration -time	both conctors in are of seaso	nstri nswe	ering: -area/footprint
	and that bald eagles tolerated? Consider Consider all of the following elements/fac	tors in are of seaso	nstri nswe	uction and use/operation of your project. ering:
	and that bald eagles tolerated? Consider Consider all of the following elements/fact -duration -time -frequency -visib	tors in are of seaso wility	nstro nswe	ering: -area/footprint -magnitude -nature
	and that bald eagles tolerated? Consider Consider all of the following elements/fact -duration -time -frequency -visib -time of day -dista	tors in are of seaso wility	nstro nswe	ering: -area/footprint -magnitude -nature
	and that bald eagles tolerated? Consider Consider all of the following elements/fact -duration -time -frequency -visib -time of day -dista Yes → No avoidance measures recomment	tors in are of seaso wility ance	nstri nswe on to s	ering: -area/footprint -magnitude -nature elf-certification (page 7).
	and that bald eagles tolerated? Consider Consider all of the following elements/fact -duration -time -frequency -visib -time of day -dista Yes → No avoidance measures recomment No → Go to next question.	etors in are of seaso	nswe nswe on to s	ering: -area/footprint -magnitude -nature elf-certification (page 7).

Which of these categories most closely matches your proposed project or activity? (check all that apply) ☐ Building construction, 1 or 2 story, with ☐ Building construction or expansion, 3 or a project footprint of ½ acre or less more stories ☐ Building construction or expansion, 1 or ☐ Construction of roads, trails, canals, power lines, or other linear utilities 2 story, with project footprint more than ½ acre ☐ Agriculture or aquaculture – new or ☐ Mining expanded operations ☐ Oil and natural gas drilling and refining ☐ Alteration of shorelines or wetlands ☐ Installation of docks or moorings ☐ Installation or expansion of marinas with a capacity of 6 or more boats ☐ Water impoundment or withdrawal Construction of communication towers → Go to the next question → Implement AM 3, 4 and 5 (page 7) Is there a similar activity within 1 mile of the nest? Yes \rightarrow Implement AM 3, 4 and 5 (see page 7) \square No \rightarrow Implement AM 1 and 5 (see page 7)

AVOIDANCE MEASURES - Place a check mark next to each avoidance measure (AM) that this form instructed you to implement and that you can commit to following. The Service recommends you follow the applicable AMs to prevent your activities from disturbing nesting bald eagles.		
AM 1 – Maintain a distance buffer of at least 660 feet (200 meters) between all project activities and the nest.		
AM 2 – Maintain a distance buffer of at least 660 feet (200 meters) between all project activities and the nest. If there is an existing human-made feature (e.g., house, road, dock) similar to your project that is closer than 660 feet and tolerated by the nesting eagles, maintain a distance buffer equal to or greater than the distance separating that tolerated feature and the nest.		
AM 3 – Maintain a distance buffer of at least 330 feet (100 meters) year-round between all project activities and the nest. If a similar activity (i.e., similar in kind and size) is closer than 330 feet and has been tolerated by eagles, the distance buffer will be the same or greater than that of the existing tolerated activity.		
AM 4 – Do not perform disruptive project activities within 660 feet (200 meters) of the nest during he breeding season. This time-of-year restriction is in addition to your recommended distance buffer. Disruptive activities include, but are not limited to, external construction, excavation, use of neavy equipment, use of loud equipment or machinery, vegetation clearing, earth disturbance, planting, and landscaping.		
AM 5 – Maintain existing landscape buffers that visually screen the activity from the nest.		
Oo you commit to following all recommended avoidance measures? YES — I certify that I have completed this form to the best of my ability, answered all questions completely and accurately, and committed to implementing all applicable avoidance measures.		
(signature) (date)		
<u>U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Determination</u> : Based on your responses and commitment to implementing all applicable avoidance measures, the Service has determined that your proposed activities are unlikely to disturb nesting bald eagles.		
NO – I am unable to follow one or more of the avoidance measures recommended by this form.		

Maintenance and Restoration Activities

This category includes outdoor maintenance of existing structures or infrastructure, where the maintenance activity is temporary and obtrusive (e.g., requires use of heavy equipment or loud machinery), and within the previously disturbed footprint of the structure or infrastructure. If maintenance is proposed outside the previously disturbed footprint, see **Construction and Development Activities** (pages 5-7). This category also applies to the maintenance and restoration of natural habitats (e.g., wetlands, streams, rivers, non-forested uplands). This category does not include routine, ongoing activities to which bald eagles have already exhibited a tolerance (e.g., lawn mowing; plowing, planting or harvesting of agricultural fields; etc.).

Which maintenance or restoration activities do you plan to perform? (check all that apply)		
Maintenance of linear utilities (e.g., power lines, pipelines, water and sewer lines)		
Road, bridge, or culvert maintenance		
Trail, campground, or recreational a	area maintenance	
Maintenance of oil and gas wells, w	ell pads, and storage tanks	
Maintenance of dams, levees, berm	ns, canals and other water-control st	tructures
Pond, lake, or reservoir maintenance	ce (draw downs, dredging)	
Stream or stream bank maintenance /restoration (e.g., stream bank fencing, stream bank stabilization, livestock crossings, in-stream habitat improvements, channel maintenance, dredging)		
Wetland maintenance / restoration (e.g., invasive plant control, restoration of hydrology)		
Prescribed burning for invasive control		
Upland habitat maintenance / restoration (e.g., planting or cutting of vegetation, invasive plant		
control, trash cleanup, abandoned mine lands restoration). This does not include activities in		
forests/woodlands (see Timber Operation and Forestry Practices) or in agricultural fields.		
Is your activity similar to an ongoing or previous activity that coincided with the breeding season		
and that bald eagles tolerated? Consider both construction and use/operation of your project.		
Consider all of the following elemen	nts/factors in answering:	
-duration -frequency -time of day	-time of season -visibility -distance	-area/footprint -magnitude -nature
Yes → No avoidance measures reco	mmended. Go to self-certification.	
No \rightarrow Go to Avoidance Measures.		

AVOIDANCE MEASURES - Place a check mark next to The Service recommends you follow these AMs to place bald eagles.		
AM 6 - Within 660 feet (200 meters) of the nest, perference restoration work outside the breeding season. These following: construction, excavation, use of heavy equivegetation clearing, earth disturbance, planting, land	activities include, but are not limited to, the ipment, use of loud equipment or machinery,	
AM 7 - Maintain existing landscape buffers that visua	lly screen the activity from the nest.	
AM 8 - Do not perform prescribed burning within 660 breeding season. If there is no practicable alternative breeding season, only conduct burns when adult eagl (i.e., at the beginning of, or end of, the breeding season after the young have fledged from that nest).	to scheduling prescribed burning during the es and young are absent from the nest tree	
AM 9 - When performing prescribed burning within the and woody debris from around the base of the tree to burning within a patch of forest containing the nest tr	p prevent fire from climbing the tree. When	
Do you commit to following all recommended avoid YES – I certify that I have completed this form to the completely and accurately, and committed to implement	best of my ability, answered all questions	
(signature)	(date)	
<u>U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Determination</u> : Based of implementing all applicable avoidance measures, the activities are unlikely to disturb nesting bald eagles.		
NO – I am unable to follow one or more of the avoida	nce measures recommended by this form.	
Go to page 15 for further instruction.		

Timber Operation and Forestry Practices

AVOIDANCE MEASURES - Place a check mark next to each AM that you can commit to following. The Service recommends you follow these AMs to prevent your activities from disturbing nesting bald eagles. AM 10 – Do not perform clear-cutting or overstory tree removal within 330 feet (100 meters) of the nest at any time of the year. AM 11 - During the breeding season, do not perform timber harvesting, road construction, chain saw use, or yarding operations within 660 feet (200 meters) of the nest. Around alternate nests (including nests that were attended during the current breeding season but not used to raise young), you may reduce this distance to 330 feet (100 meters), provided the eggs laid in another nest within the nesting territory have hatched. AM 12 – Do not construct or operate log transfer facilities and in-water log storage areas within 330 feet (100 meters) of nests at any time of the year. AM 13 – Do not perform selective thinning, prescribed burning, or other similar silviculture practices for the enhancement or conservation of habitat within 660 feet (200 meters) of the nest during the breeding season. If there is no practicable alternative to scheduling prescribed burning during the breeding season, only conduct burns when adult eagles and young are absent from the nest tree (i.e., at the beginning of, or end of, the breeding season, either before the particular nest is active or after the young have fledged from that nest). AM 14 – When performing prescribed burning within the drip line of the nest tree, rake leaves, vines, and woody debris from around the base of the tree to prevent fire from climbing the tree. When burning within a patch of forest containing the nest tree, take precautions to prevent crown fire. Do you commit to following all recommended avoidance measures? YES – I certify that I have completed this form to the best of my ability, answered all questions completely and accurately, and committed to implementing all applicable avoidance measures. (signature) (date) U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Determination: Based on your responses and commitment to implementing all applicable avoidance measures, the Service has determined that your proposed activities are unlikely to disturb nesting bald eagles. NO − I am unable to follow one or more of the avoidance measures recommended by this form. Go to page 15 for further instruction.

Use of a Helicopter and Fixed-wing Aircraft

Is your activity similar to an ongoing or previous activity that coincided with the breeding season and that bald eagles tolerated?

	Consider all of the following elements/factors in answering:			
	-duration -frequency -time of day	-time of season -visibility -distance	-area/footprint -magnitude -nature	
	Yes → No avoidance measures reco	mmended. Go to self-certification.		
	No \rightarrow Go to Avoidance Measures.			
		neck mark next to each AM that yow this AM to prevent your activities	_	
	AM 15 - During the breeding seasor	n, do not fly within 1000 feet (305 m	eters) of bald eagle nests.	
_	Do you commit to following all rec			
Ш	YES — I certify that I have completed completely and accurately, and completely and accurately.	t this form to the best of my ability, nmitted to implementing all applicat	·	
	(signature)	(c	late)	
		nination: Based on your responses ance measures, the Service has deternating bald eagles.		
	NO – I am unable to follow one or m	nore of the avoidance measures reco	ommended by this form.	
	Go to page 15 for further instruction	on.		

Blasting and Other Loud, Intermittent Noises (including Fireworks)

Is your activity similar to an ongoing or previous activity that coincided with the breeding season and that bald eagles tolerated?

Consider all of the following elements/factors in answering:			
-duration -frequency	-time of day -time of season	-distance -volume	
Yes → No avoidance measures reco No → Go to Avoidance Measures.	mmended. Go to self-certification.		
The Service recommends you follow bald eagles. AM 16 - During the breeding season extremely loud noises within 1/2 m	heck mark next to each AM that you we this AM to prevent your activities on, do not perform blasting and other ile (800 meters) of in-use nests. This deral Department of Transportation ed for licensed public display.	activities that produce measure also applies to the	
•	ommended avoidance measures? If this form to the best of my ability, Inmitted to implementing all applicab	·	
(signature)	(d	ate)	
	mination: Based on your responses ance measures, the Service has deternating bald eagles.		
NO – I am unable to follow one or m	nore of the avoidance measures reco	mmended by this form.	
Go to page 15 for further instruction.			

Recreational Activities

Is your activity similar to an ongoing or previous activity that coincided with the breeding season and that bald eagles tolerated?

Consider all of the following elements/factors in answering:				
-duration -frequency -time of day	-time of season -visibility -distance	-area/footprint -magnitude -nature		
Yes \rightarrow No avoidance measures reconnocidate No \rightarrow Go to next question	ommended. Go to self-certification.			
Will your recreation occur during the breeding season? Yes → Go to Avoidance Measures.				
No → No avoidance measures recommended. Go to self-certification. AVOIDANCE MEASURES – For each applicable recreational subcategory, place a check mark next to the AMs you can commit to following. The Service recommends you follow the applicable AMs to prevent your activities from disturbing nesting bald eagles.				
AM 17 - Stay at least 330 feet (100	nan entry (including hiking, campin meters) from the nest if you walk, b breeding season and your activity w	ike, canoe, camp, fish, or		
Off-road vehicle use (including sno AM 18 - Stay at least 330 feet (100 visibility and exposure to noise, sta	•	•		

RECREATION

	Motorized watercraft use (including jet skis/personal watercraft)			
	AM 19 - Do not operate jet skis (personal watercraft) or airboats within 330 feet (100 meters) of the nest.			
	AM 20 - Avoid concentrations of noisy vessels (e.g. commercial fishing boats and tour boats) within 330 feet (100 meters) of the nest, except where eagles have demonstrated tolerance for such activity.			
	AM 21 - For all motorized boat traffic within 330 feet (100 meters) of the nest, minimize trips and avoid stopping in the area, particularly where eagles are unaccustomed to boat traffic.			
_	Do you commit to following all recommended avoidance measures?			
Ц	YES — I certify that I have completed this form to the best of my ability, answered all questions completely and accurately, and committed to implementing all applicable avoidance measures.			
	(signature) (date)			
	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Determination: Based on your responses and commitment to implementing all applicable avoidance measures, the Service has determined that your proposed activities are unlikely to disturb nesting bald eagles.			
	NO – I am unable to follow one or more of the avoidance measures recommended by this form.			
	Go to page 15 for further instruction.			

-- SEEK FURTHER GUIDANCE --

You have indicated that you are unable to implement all the recommended avoidance measures. Without all avoidance measures, your activities may risk disturbing nesting bald eagles.

Consult with your regional eagle coordinator to determine the appropriate next steps. The Service will work with you to help develop alternate measures to avoid disturbance of nesting bald eagles. If there are no feasible alternate measures, the Service may advise that you obtain an eagle incidental take permit to relieve you of legal liability in the event that your activities unintentionally disturb nesting bald eagles.

Contact regional eagle coordinator (Shaughn Galloway) for help at shaughn_galloway@fws.gov

When emailing, please include in your subject line "[Your project name] – SCREENING FORM FURTHER GUIDANCE." In the body of your message, include

- -a brief description of your project, including its location and when you plan to start;
- -the activity category(s);
- -the ID number(s) (e.g., AM 5) of the Avoidance Measure(s) you are unable to implement; and
- -the nest location(s), if available.

To see the Service's eagle incidental take permit application form, go to

https://www.fws.gov/forms/3-200-71.pdf

For answers to Frequently Asked Questions on this form, go to

https://www.fws.gov/migratorybirds/pdf/policies-and-regulations/3-200-71FAQ.pdf

The Service advises you talk with your regional eagle coordinator before deciding to apply.

APPENDIX A

Bald Eagle Breeding Season by State

State	Breeding Season	
VA	December 15 – July 15	
DC	December 15 – July 15	
WV	January 1 – June 30	
MD	December 15 – June 30	
DE	December 15 – June 30	
PA	January 1 – July 31	
NY	January 1 – September 30	
NJ	January 1 – July 31	
RI	January 1 – July 31	
СТ	January 1 – July 31	
MA	January 1 – August 15	
VT	February 1 – August 15	
NH	February 1 – August 15	
ME (coastal)	February 1 – August 15	
ME (northern)	March 1 – August 30	

APPENDIX B

State Mapping Resources

Connecticut

Contact state Brian Hess, CT DEEP Brian.Hess@ct.gov

Delaware

Contact state
Katie Kadlubar, Delaware Division of
Fish & Wildlife
Kathryn.Kadlubar@delaware.gov

DC

Contact National Park Service Mikaila Milton, NPS mikaila milton@nps.gov

Maine

https://www.arcgis.com/apps/webap pviewer/index.html?id=796b7baa18d e43b49f911fe82dc4a0f1

Maryland

https://marylandbirds.org/report-bald-eagle-nest/

Massachusetts

Contact state
Andrew Vitz, MassWildlife
Andrew.vitz@state.ma.us

New Hampshire

Contact state https://www2.des.state.nh.us/nhb d atacheck/signin.aspx

New Jersey

Contact state https://www.nj.gov/dep/parksandfor ests/natural/heritage/datareq.html

New York

Contact state https://www.dec.ny.gov/animals/311 81.html

Pennsylvania

https://fws.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=87ac96536654495b9f4041d81f75d7a0

Rhode Island

Contact state DEM.DFW@dem.ri.gov

Vermont

Contact state
https://vtfishandwildlife.com/conserve/
e/development-review

Virginia

https://www.ccbbirds.org/maps/#eag les

West Virginia

Contact state
Rich Bailey, WVDNR
Richard.S.Bailey@wv.gov

Please note that maps are not exhaustive records of all nests within that state.

APPENDIX C

Guide to Nest Identification

Is it a bald eagle nest? Because bald eagle populations have grown so rapidly in recent years, not every bald eagle nest is registered to an online map or known to wildlife management agencies. As a result, project screening form users may occasionally have to make their own assessment of whether the nest near their project or activity is a bald eagle nest. Users should be cautious in making these determinations. Bald eagle nests can easily be confused with nests of other large birds such as osprey.

This guide will help landowners and project proponents assess whether a nest belongs to bald eagles or another species. It describes for readers the most commonly encountered large nests in the Northeast, with several reference figures for bald eagle nests, and provides tips for telling nest types apart. Any user who reads this guide and still feels uncertain about what type of nest they have encountered should contact their regional eagle coordinator for further guidance.

Common types of large nests.

Bald Eagle

The most notable aspect to a bald eagle nest is generally its size. Bald eagles build some of the largest nests in the world, with most nests around 5 feet in diameter and 3 feet in height (Fig. 1). Nests can grow well beyond these dimensions (Fig. 2), as bald eagles tend to repair and expand their nests each year and can use individual nests for decades. Bald eagle nests are mainly composed of large interwoven sticks. Nests will also have a soft interior bowl made up of materials such as hay, cornhusks, and grass clippings. However, this portion of the nest is rarely visible to human observers. The shape of bald eagle nests varies; they can take the general form of flat discs, inverted cones, cylinders (Fig. 2), or spheres (Fig. 3).

Bald eagles typically place their nests in prominent trees that sit above the surrounding forest canopy. These nest trees will often be on hillsides, lake and ocean shorelines, riverbanks, and forest edges. Nests are generally in the top third of a tree, below the crown, secured in a prominent fork off the main trunk (Fig 4.). Bald eagle nests can be in living deciduous (Fig. 3-4) and coniferous trees (Fig. 1), or dead trees (snags; Fig. 5). Within the Northeastern U.S., bald eagles use a wide range of tree types, including white pines, loblolly pines, tulip poplars, sycamores, oaks, and cottonwoods. Despite their common perception as an emblem of wilderness, bald eagles are also increasingly nesting on human-made structures such as electric transmission towers (Fig. 6) and communication towers.

Osprey

Osprey build large stick nests that can look quite similar to bald eagle nests. In general, osprey nests are smaller, flatter, more disorganized, and more often composed of unnatural materials, such as bailing twine and plastic bags. Osprey also show a stronger preference than bald eagles for human made structures, regularly nesting on light polls, channel markers, and cell towers. When osprey do select a natural support for their nest, it tends to be the topmost part of dead trees, in contrast to bald eagles, which seek out slightly lower portions of trees.

The best clue to which species occupies a nest, osprey or bald eagles, is who shows up. Bald eagles arrive back at their nests earlier in the year than osprey, but by late spring, both species are usually attending their nests. At this time of year, watching a nest over a period of hours will generally reveal which species is using it. However, through fall and early winter, both species are usually away from their nests. During these seasons, the only immediate sources of information on nest will be the physical details described above and online mapping resources.

In addition to the state maps for bald eagles listed in Appendix C, Osprey Watch (http://www.osprey-watch.org/) provides a mapping database of osprey nest locations. As with the bald eagle mapping resources, this map is thorough, but does not represent all existing nests.

Red-Tailed Hawk/Red-Shouldered Hawk

Generally around 1.5 feet wide and 2 feet tall, nests of red-tailed hawks and red-shouldered hawks are less than one-half the size of bald eagle nests. The individual sticks in these hawk nests also tend to be smaller, with diameters of about 1-2 inches. Overall appearance of these nests can be slightly more frayed and chaotic than that of bald eagle nests. Like bald eagles, both hawk species show a tendency towards nesting in upper portions of prominent trees. Red-tailed hawks also share bald eagle's occasional preference for human made structures such as cell towers and transmission towers.

Common Raven

Common ravens construct stick nests that vary substantially in size, from 1.5 to 5 feet across and from little over 0.5 to 2 feet high. The sticks making up the main structure of these nests can be around 3 feet in length and 1 inch in diameter. Ravens place their nests in a variety of natural and developed settings. Raven nests are easily confused with bald eagle nests when located on cell towers, transmission towers, or in trees. When situated in trees, these nests are usually in the upper portion of the tree in a crotch of the main tree stem. The best means of telling raven and bald eagle nests apart are likely size and shape; raven nests are noted for occasionally being asymmetric, and even at their larger sizes, they still tend to be smaller than bald eagle nests.

Great Horned Owl

In addition to nesting in tree cavities, great horned owls also frequently use the former nests of other animals, including squirrels, ravens, crows, and herons. The size and nature of a great horned owl nest therefore depends on the nest's original creator. Red-tailed hawk may be the most common source of nests for great horned owls in the Northeast. However, great horned owls will also occasionally take over bald eagle nests.

Heron

Herons nest in colonies known as "rookeries" where many nests are present; individual heron nests are rare. Multiple nests can be present in one tree and some nests may be located relatively high up or far out on branches. Nest sites are usually near water. Heron nests are mainly composed of sticks, and are flat and broad, often resembling a thin platform. Nests used for several years may grow taller and wider. Heron nests can give off a general impression of messiness or flimsiness.

Squirrel

Squirrel nests can reach basketball size or larger. They are distinguished from bird nests mainly by their materials, which include leaves and other soft vegetation material (e.g., grasses), and very few sticks. They are usually round shaped, and often look messy.

Legal definitions and protections for eagle and migratory bird nests.

Eagle Nests

BGEPA protects eagle nests in same manner it protects eagles; they cannot be destroyed, possessed, or relocated without a permit from the Service, which the Service only provides under a limited set of circumstances. Regulation defines an eagle nest as "any assemblage of materials built, maintained, or used by bald eagles or golden eagles for the purpose of reproduction" (50 CFR 22.3). A nest is an eagle nest if it was built by or ever used by eagles, even if other species of birds played a role in the nest's history. For example, if osprey build a nest and eagles take that nest over, legally, the nest is an eagle nest. Alternatively, if great horned owls begin to use a nest originally built by eagles, that nest remains an eagle nest for as long as it exists. An eagle nest also retains protection regardless of where it was built, whether it was ever finished or successful, or when it was last used. Additionally, BGEPA's protections apply regardless of the nest's size and condition.

Migratory Bird Nests

The Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) protects migratory bird nests in the many of the same ways that BGEPA protects eagle nests. Unless a permit is in place, migratory bird nests cannot be possessed or relocated at any time or intentionally destroyed while active. One notable difference between MBTA and BGEPA is MBTA's standard on inactive nests. If a migratory bird nest is inactive, meaning it does not contain viable eggs or chicks, it can be destroyed without a permit. (Note: the

APPENDIX C

terms 'active' and 'inactive' here are different from the 'in-use' and 'alternate' standards used for eagle nests [see Appendix E for definitions].) For more information, please read the Service's 2018 Nest Destruction Memo. Bird species protected under MBTA are listed under regulation at 50 CFR 10.13. Additional protections not described here apply to any migratory bird species listed under the Endangered Species Act. Tribal, state, and local laws may also place greater restrictions on the destruction of migratory bird nests.



Figure 1.



Figure 2.



Figure 3.



Figure 4.



Figure 5.



Figure 6.

APPENDIX D

Similar Activity Example Exercise

What is the purpose of this appendix? This appendix provides project screening form users with an example of how to assess the similarity between two activities. By reading through this example, landowners and project proponents can develop a better sense of what factors they should consider when answering the question of whether their activity is similar to an ongoing or previous activity tolerated by eagles.

In the example scenario, a proposed residential construction project is compared to previous farming activity. The example starts with an overview of the historic farming activity, nest, and proposed project; then goes through a full assessment, set up in table format; and finally closes with a summary of the determination and explanation of how that determination would influence completion of the form.

What is the scenario?

Previous/Existing Activities

The project site is a large agricultural field that was farmed nearly every year for the past two decades. Human activity at the site was limited to occasional operation of heavy farm equipment. The broader area out to one mile includes other agricultural fields and medium density residential and commercial development.

Nest Location & History

Five years ago, a pair of bald eagles constructed a nest in a cottonwood located in the hedgerow bordering the agricultural field. The pair were unsuccessful in their first year, but fledged young from the nest each of the following four years up to present. Workers observed that the pair did not respond to operation of farming equipment, but became vigilant whenever an equipment operator stepped outside their vehicle.

Project Narrative

The proposed project will convert portions of the existing agricultural field to a residential development with 30 single-family homes, which places it under the screening form's Construction and Development category. Construction will require extending water, sewage, and electrical utilities and adding a small network of residential streets. Preparing each lot will involve grading, home and driveway construction, and landscaping. Ten acres of property near the nest will be signed over as a conservation easement.

Factor	Previous/Existing Activity: Farming	Proposed Activity: Construction	Similar?
NATURE	Heavy equipment preparing field, planting, and harvesting crop. Two-three workers, generally confined to closed cab tractors. Twenty workers either in heavy equipment or on foot. Ground disturbance. Placement/extension of utilities. Landscaping. Construction of 20 homes.		No
HISTORY	Farming activity predated nesting and continued while eagles successfully fledged young from the nest. This success demonstrates the eagles tolerated the farming.	N/A	Yes
DISTANCE	Distance between farming activity and the nest tree was essentially 0 feet; the hedgerow in which the nest is located bounds the agricultural field. Nearest lot boundary will be 400 feet from nest. Area between home and nest will be converted conservation easement and left in passive, natural state.		Yes
TIMING	Farming activity began in March and continued through October each year.	Proposed schedule is April through October.	Yes
DURATION	The field was generally worked for one to two days at time, from sunrise to sundown.	On days of construction activity, work will occur during standard business hours.	Yes
FREQUENCY	Intermittent. Farming occurred in stages (e.g., fertilizing, plowing, harvesting) and events were often separated by weeks or months.	ing, plowing, weekdays and occasionally on weekends.	
NOISE	Farming equipment (e.g., tractor) generated loud noises within the range of 80 – 100 decibels.	Construction will not require blasting or pile driving. Construction equipment (e.g., backhoes) will generate loud noise within the range of 80 – 95 decibels.	Yes
VISBILITY	High. Because the field was flat and there was no vegetation other than the hedgerow, practically all farming activity was visible to the nest.	High. There will be no topography or vegetation screening view of construction. Visibility will only begin to lower once exterior walls are put up.	Yes

Final Assessment & Conclusion

The proposed construction activity is different from the historic farming activity in general nature and frequency. Construction will require more workers and more equipment, operating at greater intensity and higher frequency. Because of these differences, the construction cannot be considered similar to the historic farming activity, and it cannot be assumed that the breeding pair will tolerate the activity. Avoidance measures will be necessary to reduce the likelihood of disturbing the nest.

Having made these conclusions, the form user would mark 'No' to the question on page 5 of whether the activity was similar to an ongoing or previous activity. Then, at the next question the user would mark 'Yes' because the project would be visible to nest over the open intervening space. At that point, the form would direct them to implement AMs 2, 4, and 5. The project design, as proposed, would not meet AM 2, the 660-foot buffer. The user's options then would be to revise the project to eliminate the portions within 660 feet of the nest and sign the self-certification, or check no on the commitment to follow all recommended AMs and seek further guidance.

APPENDIX E

Limitations of This Form

This project screening form is not a permit or authorization to disturb bald eagles. It does not free you from legal liability under BGEPA. Rather, this form provides instruction on how to minimize the legal risk of disturbing nesting bald eagles.

The effectiveness of this form depends on the accuracy and completeness of your answers and your compliance with the avoidance measures. Using this form inappropriately may put you at risk of disturbing nesting bald eagles and violating BGEPA.

This form's recommendations are specific to the Northeast and may not be effective outside this region. If your project is in another area of the U.S., do not use this form. Instead, consult with your regional eagle biologist or migratory bird permit office for guidance matched to your locality.

This form only relates to managing activities near bald eagle nests. It does not provide direction on how to avoid disturbing bald eagle communal roosts and concentration areas, which, compared to nest sites, have different biological significance to eagles and present different sets of concerns. If you believe your activities have any potential to affect a communal roost or concentration area, consult the Guidelines document for guidance.

Conditions such as the location and existence of nests and surrounding habitat are subject to change between years. For this reason, the Service recommends revisiting your determinations every breeding season after completing this form until your project is complete. The more time that passes between when you complete this form and when you end your activities, the more likely it is that conditions will change enough that your original determinations no longer apply.

This form only addresses nesting bald eagles. To identify other USFWS-managed resources and suggested conservation measures for your project, go to https://ecos.fws.gov/ipac/.

Wind energy developers seeking to address potential take of eagles should use this form in conjunction with the Service's <u>Eagle Conservation Plan Guidance</u>. Use of this form alone will not assure wind projects' compliance with BGEPA's protections on disturbance or other take.

Certain states and localities have their own laws, regulations, and guidelines for protecting bald eagles and their nests. Completing this form does not guarantee that you are also in compliance with these other standards and/or regulations. If you are unfamiliar with your state and local standards, consult with the appropriate agencies and authorities.

You are responsible for ensuring that your activities comply with all applicable Federal, tribal, State, and local laws and regulations. This form will only help you in your compliance with BGEPA and its protections on the nesting activity of bald eagles.

APPENDIX F

Glossary of Terms

Alternate nest – one of potentially several nests within a nesting territory that is not an in-use nest at the current time. When there is no in-use nest, all nests in the territory are alternate nests. Also sometimes referred to as an inactive nest (e.g., in the Service's 2009 Eagle Rule).

Communal roost – an area where eagles gather repeatedly in the course of a season and shelter overnight and sometimes during the day in the event of inclement weather.

Disturb – to agitate or bother a bald or golden eagle to a degree that causes, or is likely to cause, based on the best scientific information available, 1) injury to an eagle, 2) a decrease in its productivity, by substantially interfering with normal breeding, feeding, or sheltering behavior, or 3) nest abandonment, by substantially interfering with normal breeding, feeding, or sheltering behavior.

In addition to immediate impacts, this definition also covers impacts that result from human-caused alterations initiated around a previously used nest site during a time when eagles are not present, if, upon the eagle's return, such alterations agitate or bother an eagle to a degree that injures an eagle or substantially interferes with normal breeding, feeding, or sheltering habits and causes, or is likely to cause, a loss of productivity or nest abandonment.

Eagle nest – any assemblage of materials built, maintained, or used by bald eagles or golden eagles for the purpose of reproduction.

Fledge – to leave the nest and begin flying. For bald eagles, this normally occurs at 10-12 weeks of age.

In-use nest – a bald or golden eagle nest characterized by the presence of one or more eggs, dependent young, or adult eagles on the nest in the past 10 days during the breeding season. Also sometimes referred to as an active nest.

Landscape buffer – a natural or human-made landscape feature that screens eagles from human activity (e.g., strip of trees, hill, cliff, berm, sound wall).

Nest abandonment – nest abandonment occurs when adult eagles desert or stop attending a nest and do not subsequently return and successfully raise young in that nest for the duration of a breeding season. Nest abandonment can be caused by altering habitat near a nest, even if the

APPENDIX F

alteration occurs prior to the breeding season. Whether the eagles migrate during the non-breeding season, or remain in the area throughout the non-breeding season, nest abandonment can occur at any point between the time the eagles return to the nesting site for the breeding season and the time when all progeny from the breeding season have dispersed.

Nesting territory – the area that contains one or more eagle nests within the home range of a mated pair of eagles, regardless of whether such nests were built by the current resident pair.

Northeast – Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Maryland, Delaware, Virginia, West Virginia, and the District of Columbia.

Project footprint – the area of land (and water) temporarily or permanently altered by a project.

Tolerate – the acceptance of specific human activities by eagles at the nest site. Demonstrated in the eagles' continued ability to successfully feed, breed, and shelter, and the general absence of stress or agitation in their behavior.



Transcontinental Gas Pipe Line Company, LLC

2800 Post Oak Boulevard Suite 600, Office 1135 Houston, Texas 77056

August 12, 2025

Mr. Greg Lech Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission Division of Environmental Services 595 East Rolling Ridge Drive Bellefonte, PA 16823

RE: Species Impact Review (SIR) 61581

Rare, Candidate, Threatened and Endangered Species

PNDI Search No. 840101

Transco Northeast Supply Enhancement Expansion Project Quarryville Loop

Drumore Township, East Drumore Township, Eden Township: LANCASTER County

Dear Mr. Lech:

Transcontinental Gas Pipe Line Company, LLC (Transco), as a subsidiary of Williams Partners Operating LLC, is recommencing development of the Northeast Supply Enhancement Project (Project), an incremental expansion of Transco's existing natural gas transmission system. The purpose of the Project remains as before—to provide 400,000 dekatherms per day of incremental firm transportation capacity from Transco's Station 195 in York County, Pennsylvania, to the existing Rockaway Delivery Point (located approximately 3 miles offshore of the Rockaway Peninsula in Queens Borough, New York) to serve The Brooklyn Union Gas Company, d/b/a National Grid NY, and KeySpan Gas East Corporation, d/b/a National Grid (collectively, National Grid).

On May 29, 2025, Transco filed a "Petition for Expedited Reissuance of Certificate Authority" with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC), the lead federal agency for the Project under the National Environmental Policy Act, requesting reissuance of the certificate of public convenience and necessity, authorizing Transco to construct and operate the Project (FERC Docket No. CP17-101-007).

On June 13, 2025, Transco submitted a Chapter 105/Section 404 Joint Permit Application for Water Obstruction and Encroachment to the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (PADEP) (DEP Application No. E3683225-006) for the Transco

Northeast Supply Enhancement Expansion Project Quarryville Loop (Project). Transco also submitted a Chapter 102 Erosion and Sediment Control Permit Application (DEP Application No. ESP830025001-00) for the Project to PADEP on June 13, 2025. As the non-federal Project representative under the FERC process, Transco is submitting this letter to continue consultation with the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission (PFBC) regarding the Project as part of the Chapter 105 and Chapter 102 process (PNDI-840101).

This letter provides an update on Project activities and coordination status as requested in the June 16, 2025 letter from PFBC requesting additional evaluations regarding potential habitat for the **Broad-headed Skink** (*Plestiodon laticeps*, Candidate) (Enclosure 1).

Transco worked with Mr. Brandon Ruhe of Skelly and Loy, Inc to complete a habitat assessment between July 28 - 30, 2025 to characterize and determine if potential habitat exists within the vicinity of the proposed project area, limited to areas proposed for impact between the Western Terminus to State Route 272.

No potential habitat for the Broad-headed Skink was identified, as described in the habitat assessment report (Enclosure 2).

Based on the results of the habitat assessment, Transco concludes that the Project is not likely to adversely affect the Candidate species. Transco requests PFBC concurrence that the proposed Project activities associated with the Quarryville Loop in Pennsylvania are not likely to adversely affect the Broad-headed Skink (*Plestiodon laticeps*).

The Project would address the need for reliability, flexibility, and efficiency on a critical part of Transco's system and provide access to crucial supplies of natural gas, but time is of the essence, as outlined in Executive Order 14156 regarding the current energy emergency. Therefore, *Transco asks that the PFBC conduct an expedited review in order to support the other federal and state agencies' abilities to issue their permits and approvals by August 29, 2025.*

If you require any additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me at 281-433-8046 or via email at <u>joseph.dean@williams.com</u>. Alternatively, you can contact Steven MacLeod, Project Manager at WSP at 716-462-0845 or via email at <u>Steven.MacLeod@wsp.com</u>.

Sincerely,

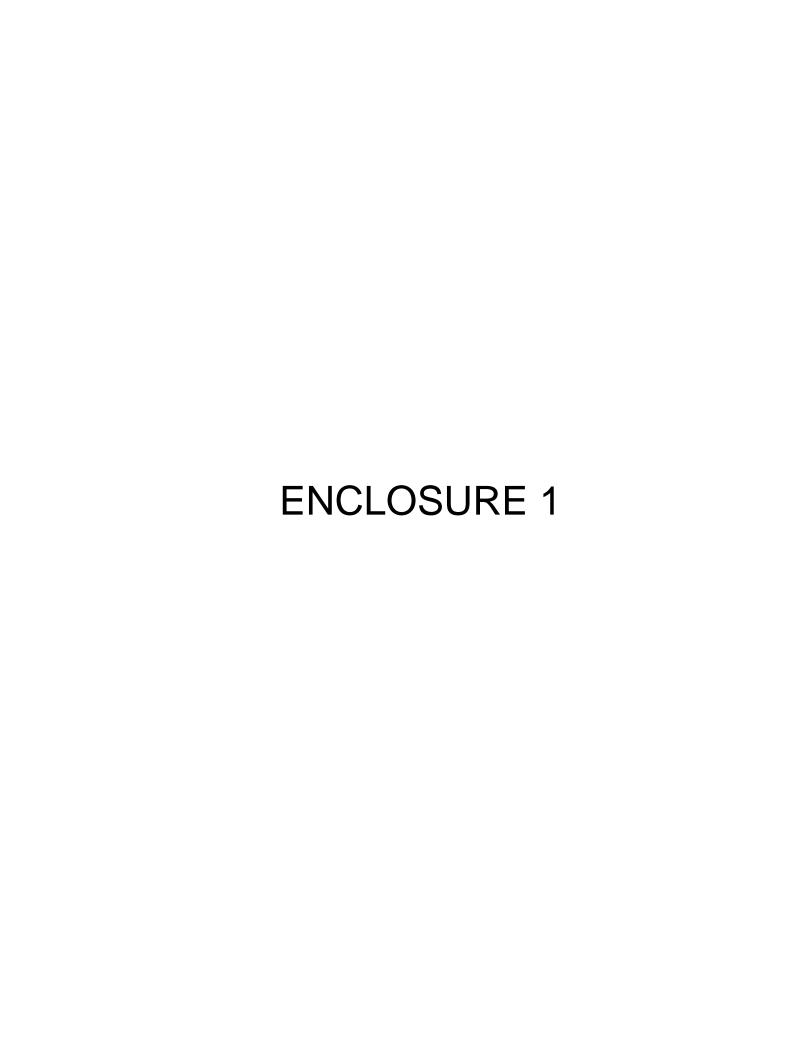
Joseph Dean Manager, Permitting

Enclosures: 1. June 16, 2025 SIR #61581 Letter

2. 2025 Broad-headed Skink Habitat Assessment Survey Report

CC (via email):

Joanne Wachholder, FERC Amber Plummer, FERC Airi Lackey, USACE Tim Powell, Transco Dan Merz, Esq., Transco Stephen Kellogg, Transco Steven MacLeod, WSP Justin Zoladz, WSP Clara Trueblood, WSP





June 16, 2025

IN REPLY REFER TO

SIR# 61581

WSP Clara Trueblood 11 Stanwix Street Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15220

RE: Species Impact Review (SIR) – Rare, Candidate, Threatened and Endangered Species

PNDI Search No. 840101_1

Transco Northeast Supply Enhancement Expansion Project Quarryville Loop
Drumore Township, East Drumore Township, Eden Township: LANCASTER County

Dear Clara Trueblood:

This responds to your updated 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 and Boat Commission jurisdiction (fish, reptiles, amphibians, aquatic invertebrates only) using the 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 and Boat Code (Chapter 75), or the Wildlife Code.

As you mentioned this project was previously reviewed under SIR 46205 with potential impacts to multiple species. While your submittal references our September 27, 2017 letter, our most recent correspondence was sent on July 31, 2019. No impacts are anticipated to Chesapeake Logperch and Northern Red-bellied Cooter.

Broad-headed Skink (Plestiodon laticeps, Candidate)

Based on the review of this information and the proximity of the project to known element occurrences of the species of concern listed above, potential habitat could be present within the proposed disturbance area. Therefore, additional evaluations are necessary to confirm whether or not the project site contains habitat and to determine the potential for adverse impacts to this species. We request completion of a **habitat assessment** to characterize and determine if potential habitat exists within the vicinity of the proposed project area, **limited to areas proposed for impact between the Western Terminus to State Route 272**. Currently, we do not have a list of qualified surveyors for the Broadhead Skink. However, Mr. Brandon Ruhe of Skelly and Loy, Inc has demonstrated his proficiency in finding Broadhead Skinks in Pennsylvania and in other nearby states, as well as identifying their critical habitats. We have reviewed his credentials, approved him, as well as permit him (Type 3 Scientific Collectors' Permit) to search for and collect Broadhead Skinks. His contact information is:

Brandon Ruhe Skelly and Loy, Inc 449 Eisenhower Boulevard Suite 300 Harrisburg, PA 17111 (717) 232-0593 (610) 844-5440 (Cell) bruhe@skellyloy.com

If other potential qualified surveyors are known for this species (they must have documented experience with locating Broadhead Skink as well as demonstrate their expertise with identifying critical habitat for the species), please submit their credentials to for us to review and approval.

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 Greg Lech at 814-470-6776 or glech@pa.gov and refer to the SIR # 61581. Thank you for your cooperation and attention to this important matter of species conservation and habitat protection.

Sincerely,

Greg Lech

Resource Extraction Section

/GPL/dn





449 Eisenhower Boulevard, Suite 300 Harrisburg, PA 17111-2302 P (717) 232-0593 | F (717) 232-1799 Terracon.com

August 8, 2025

Clara Trueblood clara.trueblood@wsp.com

WSP 11 Stanwix Street Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15220

Re: Transco Northeast Supply Enhancement Expansion Project Quarryville Loop Qualified Broad-headed Skink (QBHSS) Services Habitat Assessment Drumore Township, Lancaster, County, Pennsylvania

Dear Ms. Trueblood,

Pursuant to our recent coordination related to the above-referenced project, Skelly and Loy, Inc., *A Terracon Company* (Skelly and Loy), completed a negative Broad-headed Skink (*Plestiodon laticeps*) Habitat Assessment for the Transco Northeast Supply Enhancement Expansion Project Quarryville Loop project, on behalf of WSP and their client.

Project Background

The Broad-headed Skink investigation was conducted as part of permit planning for the construction of a natural gas pipeline in Drumore Township, Lancaster County, Pennsylvania. The 90-acre (approximate) project area is an existing pipeline right-of-way that extends southwest from PA-272 (approximately 1.4 miles south of Buck, PA) for 4.5 miles to River Road (approximately 0.8 miles northeast of the Susquehanna River in Drumore, PA) along the Muddy Run Pumped Storage Reservoir. Refer to Appendix A for a project location map and Appendix B for an aerial photograph depicting the proposed project area.

The Broad-headed Skink is a large, elusive lizard known to inhabit woodlands, field edges, rock outcrops, and rocky slopes. The Broad-headed Skink is listed as a candidate species under the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Code. The Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission (PFBC) is the state regulatory agency with jurisdiction over the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Code. Lancaster County is located within the known range of the species. To address any potential impacts to the Broad-headed Skink, the PFBC requested in their June 16, 2025, Species Impact Review (SIR# 61581) letter, that a Broad-headed Skink Habitat Assessment be conducted.

Methodology

The Broad-headed Skink Habitat Assessment, as requested by the PFBC, included all portions of the proposed project area (as provided by WSP). Aerial photographs and topographic maps were reviewed prior to the field assessments. Aerial photographs (from 1993 to 2024) were closely reviewed for wooded habitats and potential rock features or rock outcrops to direct in-field investigations. Seven (7) potential habitat areas were noted during this review (Table 1). The entire right-of-way was walked by field investigators, including a PFBC Qualified Broad-headed Skink Surveyor. Features characteristic of

Transco NESEE Project QBHSS Services JN257218



August 8, 2025

occupied Broad-headed Skink habitats were sought within and immediately adjacent to the project right-of-way. These features include rock outcrops, patches of dead-standing trees, rocky slopes, and sandy meadows. Habitat assessments do not determine Broad-headed Skink presence or probable absence, only the absence or presence of potentially suitable habitat.

TABLE 1
SUMMARY OF POTENTIAL HABITAT FEATURES FOUND VIA DESKTOP REVIEW
JULY 28 – JULY 30, 2025

Feature	Latitude	Longitude	Description	Photo Point (Appendix C)
А	39.849087°	-76.227916°	Woodlot and hedgerow	3
В	39.842403°	-76.240902°	Wooded roadside	5
С	39.839602°	-76.239665°	Wooded field edge and woodlot	6
D	39.836608°	-76.252067°	Woodland and open sloped ROW	7-11
E	39.825002°	-76.272511°	Woodland and open sloped ROW	14-15
F	39.820749°	-76.279897°	Woodlot and hedgerow	16
G	39.817072°	-76.285628°	Woodland and open sloped ROW	17-18

Results

The habitat assessment was conducted by Skelly and Loy's Brandon Ruhe (PFBC Qualified Broad-headed Skink Surveyor) and Ben Hepler from July 28 to July 30, 2025. No Broad-headed Skink habitat was encountered within or immediately adjacent to the proposed project area. The project area largely consisted of open right-of-way through agricultural fields (predominantly corn) and several livestock pastures. The right-of-way passed under various local roads and a small residential development on the west side of Susquehannock Drive (Liberty Court). Agricultural fields within the investigation area were not suitable as Broad-headed Skink habitat due to the absence of large rocks, presence of dense cornfield, and absence of other notable habitat features used by the species. In-field assessments confirmed the presence of slopes and woodlands within the seven (7) features identified via desktop review. The right-of-way was well-maintained through wooded/sloped habitat areas. Woodlands along the right-of-way generally consisted of mature deciduous stands dominated by various oaks (*Quercus* spp.) with understories of common pawpaw (*Asimina triloba*), northern spicebush (*Lindera benzoin*), and multiflora rose (*Rosa multiflora*). No significant dead-stands of mature trees were noted along any portion of the right-of-way. No rock outcrops or significant rocky features (slopes, piles, etc.) were noted in any part of the proposed project area. Refer to Appendix D for photographs of the project area.

Recommendations and Opinions

Skelly and Loy conducted a Broad-headed Skink Habitat Assessment for the proposed Transco Northeast Supply Enhancement Expansion Project Quarryville Loop from July 28 to July 30, 2025. Based upon the results of this habitat assessment, Skelly and Loy related the following recommendations and opinions:

- No Broad-headed Skink habitat was found within or immediately adjacent to the proposed project area.
- No additional Broad-headed Skink surveys are recommended for the proposed project.

Explore with us 2

Transco NESEE Project QBHSS Services JN257218



August 8, 2025

• The results of this habitat assessment should be provided to the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission for concurrence and issuance of a Species Impact Review clearance letter.

Skelly and Loy appreciated the opportunity to provide these services for your project. If you have any questions, please contact Brandon Ruhe or Ben Berra at your convenience.

Sincerely,

Skelly and Loy, Inc., A Terracon Company

Brandon M. Rule

Brandon Ruhe

Senior Scientist

Qualified Broad-headed Skink Surveyor

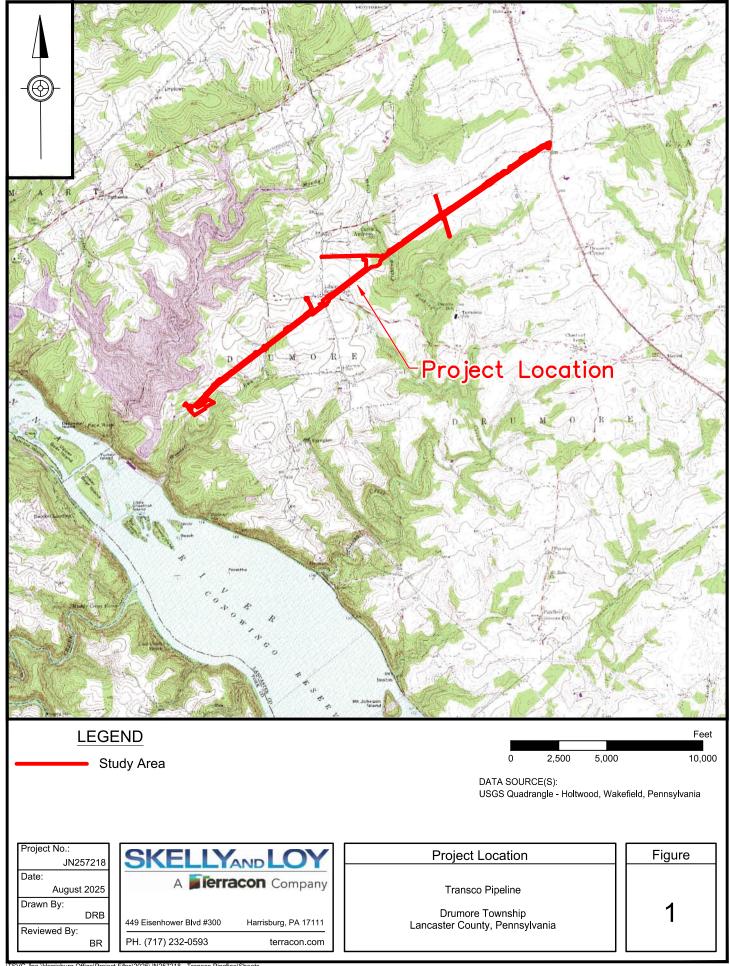
Ben Berra Principal

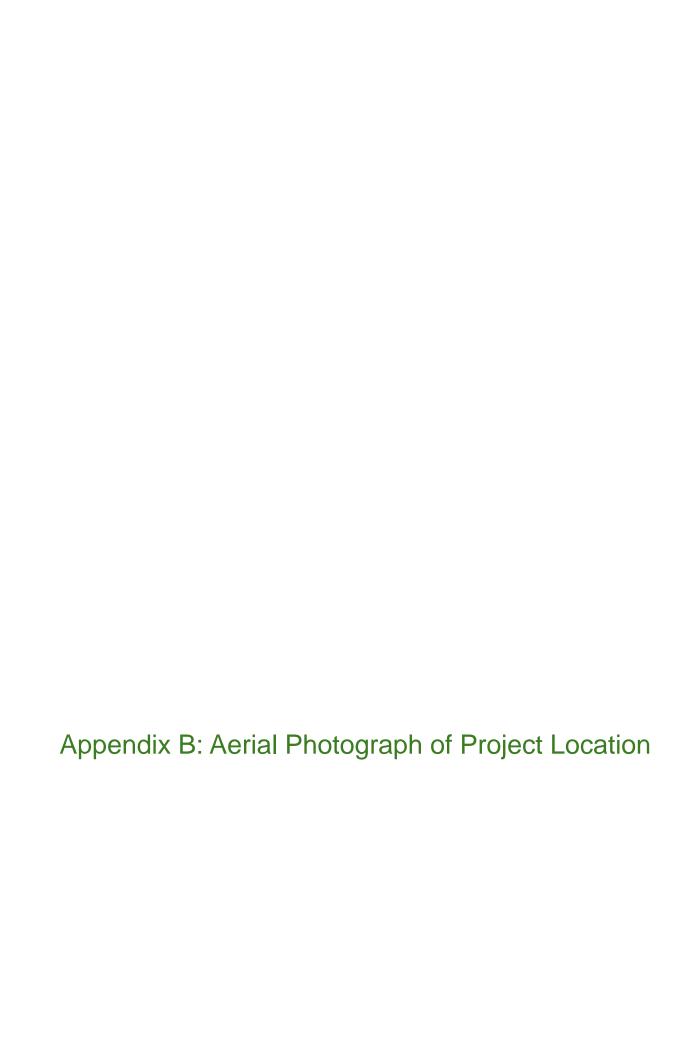
Department Manager, Natural Resources

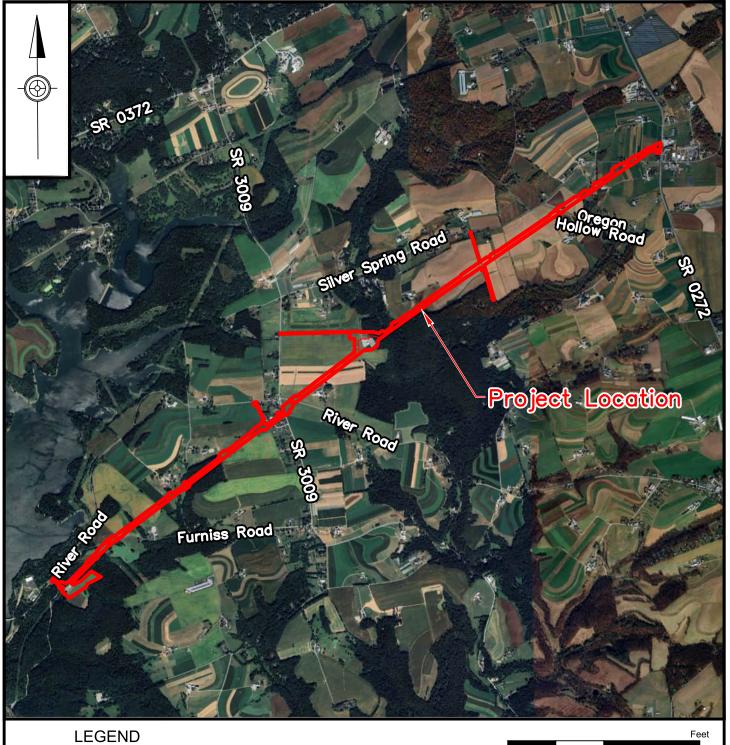
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Explore with us 3

Appendix A: Project Location Map







Study Area

1,500 3,000

DATA SOURCE(S): Google Earth Image

Project No.:

JN257218

Date:

August 2025

Drawn By:

DRB

Reviewed By:

BR

A Fierracon Company

449 Eisenhower Blvd #300 Harrisburg, PA 17111

PH. (717) 232-0593 terracon.com

Site Map

Transco Pipeline

Drumore Township

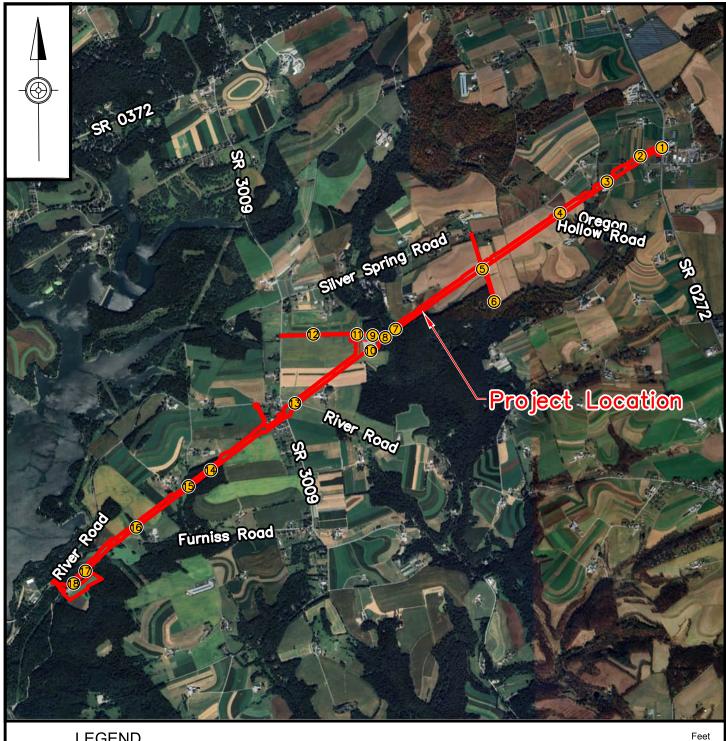
Lancaster County, Pennsylvania

2

Figure

6,000

Appendix C: Photo Location Map



LEGEND

Study Area

Photo Location

1,500 3,000

6,000

DATA SOURCE(S): Google Earth Image

Project No.: JN257218 Date: August 2025 Drawn By: DRB Reviewed By:

SKELLY AND LO A **Fierracon** Company 449 Eisenhower Blvd #300 Harrisburg, PA 17111 PH. (717) 232-0593 terracon.com

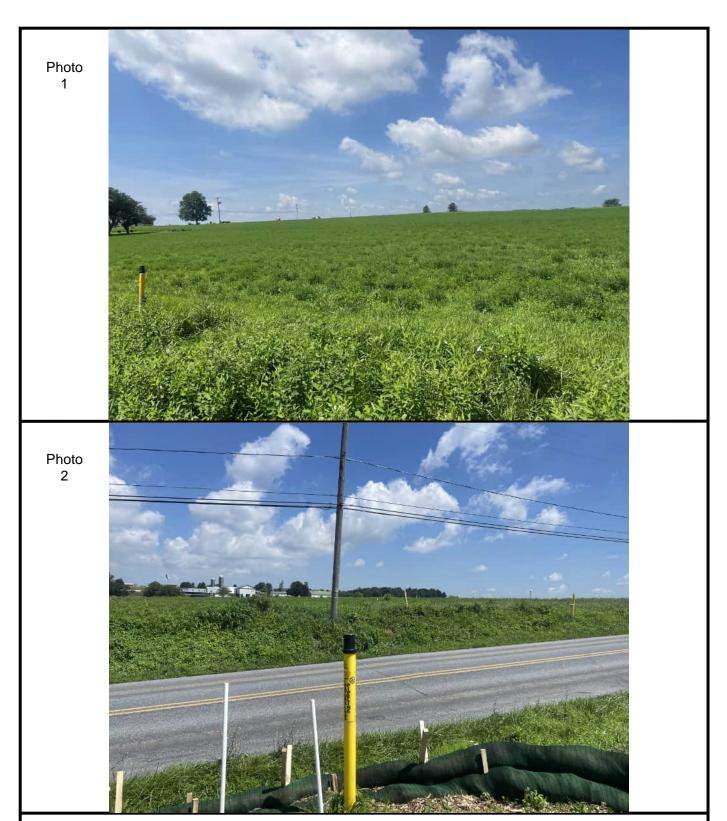
Photo Location Map Transco Pipeline Drumore Township

Lancaster County, Pennsylvania

3

Figure

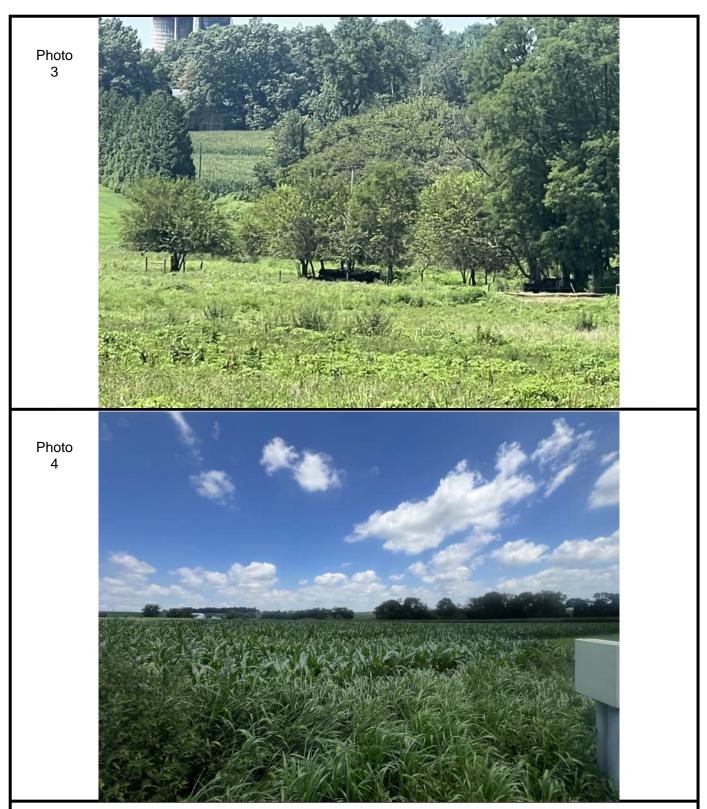
Appendix D: Photo Log



Photograph 1: View west from the eastern limits of the study area.

Photograph 2: View northeast at project area from Silver Spring Road.

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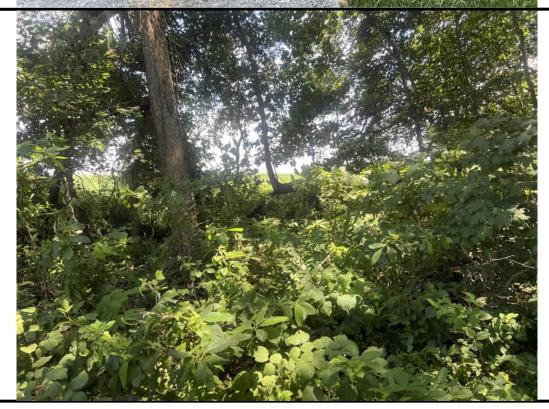


Photograph 3: View southwest at Feature A.

Photograph 4: View northeast at agricultural field typical of the investigation area along Oregon Hollow Road.

 ${\bf Transco\ Northeast\ Supply\ Enhancement\ Expansion\ Project\ Quarryville\ Loop\ /\ JN257218\ Skelly\ and\ Loy,\ Inc.}$

Photo 6



Photograph 5: View north at Feature B.

Photograph 6: View west at Feature C.

 $\begin{tabular}{ll} \textbf{Transco Northeast Supply Enhancement Expansion Project Quarryville Loop / JN257218 } \\ \textbf{Skelly and Loy, Inc.} \end{tabular}$



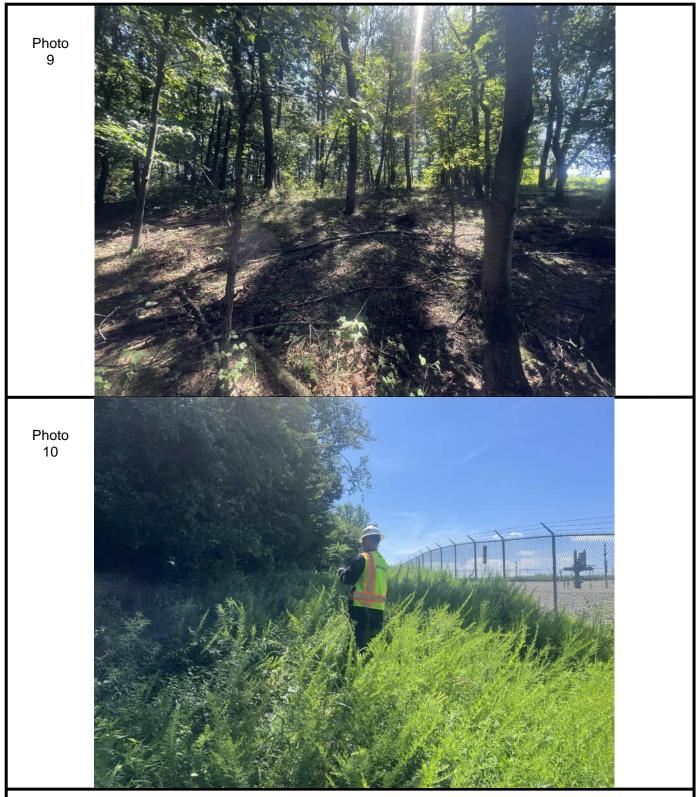
Photo 8



Photograph 7: View northeast at Feature D along Fishing Creek.

Photograph 8: View northeast at Feature D right-of-way slope.

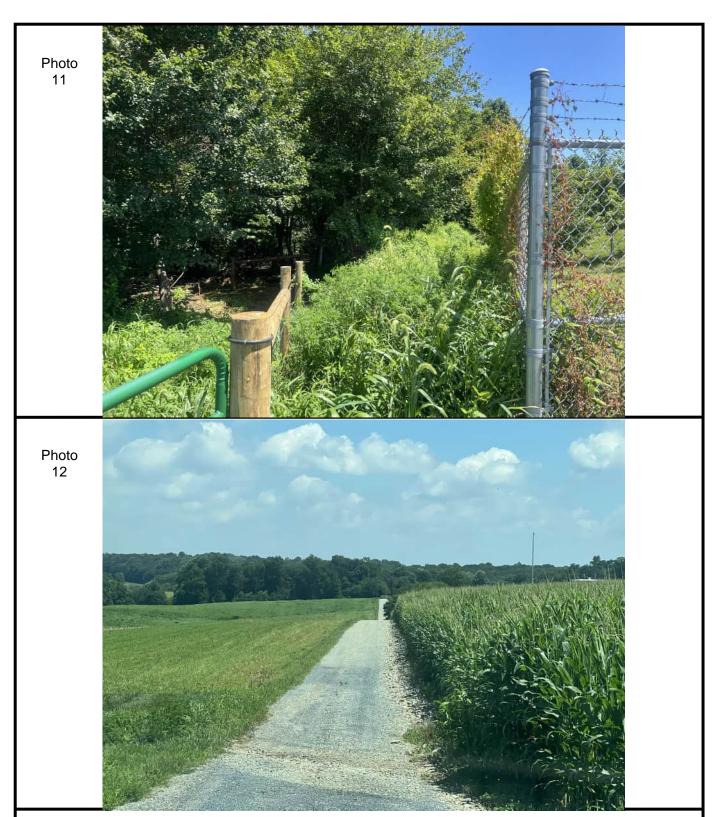
 ${\bf Transco~Northeast~Supply~Enhancement~Expansion~Project~Quarryville~Loop~/~JN257218~Skelly~and~Loy,~Inc.}$



Photograph 9: View south at wooded portion of Feature D.

Photograph 10: View southwest at southern portion of Feature D.

 ${\bf Transco\ Northeast\ Supply\ Enhancement\ Expansion\ Project\ Quarryville\ Loop\ /\ JN257218}$ Skelly and Loy, Inc.



Photograph 11: View east at northern portion of Feature D.

Photograph 12: View east at access drive to station yard east of Susquehannock Drive.

 ${\bf Transco~Northeast~Supply~Enhancement~Expansion~Project~Quarryville~Loop~/~JN257218~Skelly~and~Loy,~Inc.}$

Photo 14



Photograph 13: View northeast at agricultural field found along River Road.

Photograph 14: View northeast at Feature E.

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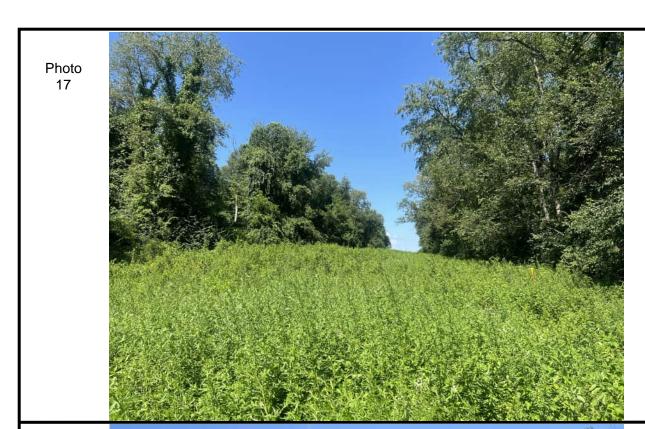
Photo 16



Photograph 15: View southwest at western portion of Feature E.

Photograph 16: View northeast at Feature F.

Transco Northeast Supply Enhancement Expansion Project Quarryville Loop / JN257218 Skelly and Loy, Inc.





Photograph 17: View northeast at Feature G.

Photograph 18: View southwest at western project area terminus.

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Pennsylvania Fish & Boat Commission

Division of Environmental Services
Natural Gas Section
595 E Rolling Ridge Dr.
Bellefonte, PA 16823

September 27, 2017

IN REPLY REFER TO

SIR# 46205

Williams Transcontinental Pipe Line Company Karen Olson 2800 Post Oak Blvd Houston, Texas 77251

RE: Species Impact Review (SIR) – Rare, Candidate, Threatened and Endangered Species PNDI Search No. LARGE PROJECT REVIEW

Northeast Supply Enhancement Project

LANCASTER County: Drumore Township, East Drumore Township, Eden Township -

CHESTER County: East Whiteland Township

Dear Karen Olson:

This responds to your most recent inquiry regarding a Pennsylvania Natural Diversity Inventory (PNDI) Internet Database search "potential conflict" or a threatened and endangered species impact review related to the Northeast Supply Enhancement Project (Project) which has been reviewed for potential conflicts to sensitive species under the jurisdiction of the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission (PFBC).

Additional information was provided by representatives of the Project, by e-mail, on September 22, 2017. The update included: a change to the Project limits-of-disturbance (LOD); and milepost (MP) 1685.79 to MP1686.89, which was previously proposed as horizontal directional drill, will now be installed via open-cut.

Based on the updated LOD and construction methodology, the PFBC does not anticipate significant adverse impacts to the Chesapeake logperch as a result of the Project.

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 reinitiated.

Our Mission: www.fish.state.pa.us

If you have any questions regarding this review, please contact Gregory Lech at 610-847-8772 and refer to the SIR # 46205. Thank you for your cooperation and attention to this important matter of species conservation and habitat protection.

Sincerely,

Heather A. Smiles, Chief Natural Gas Section

HAS/GPL/dn

Cc: Stephen Czapka (Ecology and Environment, Inc.)