

## **SECTION G -**

### **PENNSYLVANIA NATURAL DIVERSITY INVENTORY (PNDI)**

PennEast has completed surveys for threatened and endangered species in Luzerne County. The species that may be impacted by the Project in Luzerne County include northern long-eared bat (*Myotis septentrionalis*, federal threatened), eastern small-footed bat (*M. leibii*, state threatened), timber rattlesnake (*Crotalus horridus*, delisted), and sundial lupine (*Lupinus pernnis*, state rare). A summary of the surveys conducted and PNDI resolutions for these species is included below.

The Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (PADCNR) and Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission (PFBC) have provided clearance letters for the Project dated August 24, 2018 and October 11, 2018, respectively. These letters are provided in JPA Section G-1. On November 28, 2017, the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) issued a Biological Opinion (BO) for impacts that the Project may have on the northern long-eared bat and bog turtle. In its cover letter to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC), the USFWS stated that the Project is not likely to adversely affect the dwarf wedgemussel, Indiana bat, or the northeastern bulrush. USFWS has since recommended that FERC re-initiate consultation to modify the 2017 BO under the minor change process. Re-initiation will result in a consultation update letter which addresses route amendments and updated survey results. The recommendation of re-initiation was made due to the changed action area resulting from proposed route modifications.

PennEast continues to coordinate with the Pennsylvania Game Commission (PGC) and USFWS to resolve PNDI potential conflicts. PennEast anticipates that coordination will be complete within a couple of months; PennEast therefore requests that the PADEP utilize a sequential review of the PNDI coordination in accordance with the PADEP's *Policy for PNDI Coordination during Permit Review and Evaluation* (Document Number 021-0200-001), which allows for a concurrent review of the permit application while the permit applicant completes PNDI coordination.

A summary of agency consultations to date is provided in JPA Section G-1 along with copies of the relevant correspondence. Communications that contain information that may reveal the location of protected species are provided in a separate, Privileged Volume as JPA Section G-2. Information in the Privileged Volume should not be released.