

## **ESCGP SECTION 1-8**

### **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 (*Myotis leibii*, state threatened), timber rattlesnake (*Crotalus horridus*, delisted), and sundial lupine (*Lupinus perennis*, 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), Pennsylvania Game Commission (PGC), and Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission (PFBC) have provided clearance letters for the Project dated August 24, 2018, January 9, 2019, and October 11, 2018, respectively. These letters are provided in the agency correspondence in ESCGP Section 1-8-1. On November 28, 2017, the United States 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 (*Alasmidonta heterodon*, federal endangered), Indiana bat (*Myotis sodalis*, federal endangered), or the northeastern bulrush (*Scirpus ancistrochaetus*, federal endangered). FERC has since re-initiated consultation with the USFWS to modify the 2017 BO, and the USFWS issued an amended BO on July 29, 2019. In the revised BO, the USFWS determined that the modifications will not result in affects above what was analyzed in the original BO. The amended BO concludes formal consultation regarding the Project between the USFWS and FERC.

Since the original submission of this permit application, the PADCNR Right-of-Way Administration Office requested that PennEast consider a minor workspace adjustment in Pinchot State Forest. The purpose of this adjustment is to avoid a geological formation that the PADCNR has identified as being of particular interest and value to the property. PennEast has completed initial environmental surveys and desktop review of the workspace adjustment, and has not identified any new resources or rare species conflicts. Letters were sent to the PADCNR, PGC, PFBC, and USFWS on October 11, 2019 which described the workspace change, provided maps, and requested that each agency review whether additional surveys were required. The PADCNR and PFBC both confirmed that no additional surveys were needed on October 17, 2019.

PennEast 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 ESCGP Section 1-8-1 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 ESCGP Section 1-8-2. Information in the Privileged Volume should not be released.