



Transcontinental Gas Pipe Line Company, LLC

Requirement G-5 – Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission

Regional Energy Access Expansion Project – Effort Loop

**April 2021
(Revised March 2022)**



Transcontinental Gas Pipe Line Company, LLC

Requirement G-5.1 – Correspondences

Regional Energy Access Expansion Project – Effort Loop

April 2021



Pennsylvania Fish & Boat Commission

Division of Environmental Services

Natural Gas Section
595 E Rolling Ridge Dr.
Bellefonte, PA 16823

February 6, 2020

IN REPLY REFER TO
SIR# 52530

WHM Consulting, Inc.
Ryan Nelson
2525 Green Tech Drive
State College, Pennsylvania 16803

**RE: Species Impact Review (SIR) – Rare, Candidate, Threatened and Endangered Species
PNDI Search No. 702499_1
Regional Energy Access Project
DELAWARE County: - LUZERNE County: - MONROE County: - NORTHAMPTON
County: - WYOMING County: - YORK County:**

Dear Ryan Nelson:

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

The project was detailed to contain multiple components and you presented multiple alternatives. Based on your submission the project is comprised of (**Response in bold**):

- Regional Energy Lateral - Approximately 22 miles of 30-inch-diameter pipeline, both collocated pipeline along the existing Transco Leidy pipeline system and greenfield pipeline, in Luzerne County, PA;
- o Ten Alternative Route options (Alt_REL_A-J); are included with this submission, as the route is still being designed;

Elktoe (*Alasmidonta marginata*, Rare)
Green Floater (*Lasmigona subviridis*, Rare)
Triangle Floater (*Alasmidonta undulata*, Rare)

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

Our Mission:

www.fish.state.pa.us

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

Susquehanna River. These mussels and other mussel species are likely to occur within the proposed project area. To avoid potential impacts to these mussel species, it is recommended that you complete a mussel survey in the areas proposed to be directly and indirectly affected by the proposed instream work that will take place within the Susquehanna River. A mussel survey is recommended in order to determine the species present and their abundances.

A list of qualified malacologists and a Pennsylvania Fish & Boat Commission (PFBC) approved mussel survey protocol is enclosed for your convenience when arranging for a mussel survey. Prior to conducting a survey, qualified malacologist should submit a proposed work plan to this office. Upon completion of the mussel survey, please send a copy of the final report to this office for further evaluation. We look forward to receiving this information. The mussel survey season begins May 15 and concludes October 1.

A freshwater mussel survey is not recommended if the pipeline is installed via horizontal directional drill.


-
- Effort Loop - Approximately 14 miles of 42-inch-diameter pipeline looping the existing Transco Leidy pipeline system in Monroe County, PA;
 - New Compressor Station 510 - New gas turbine-driven Compressor Station in Northampton County, PA, located adjacent to the existing Leidy pipeline system. The options currently requested for review are:
 - o CS 510 – Option MP 30.6
 - o CS 510 – Option MP 31.4
 - o CS 510 – Option MP 32.6
 - o CS 510 – Option MP 33.1
 - Existing Compressor Station 515 – Additional horsepower at an existing Compressor Station in Luzerne County, PA located adjacent to the existing Leidy pipeline system;
 - Existing Compressor Station 195 – Modifications will include additional horsepower at an existing Compressor Station in York County. No earth disturbance is being proposed for the modification, and;
 - Aboveground Ancillary Facilities – Modifications or additions of receipt and delivery meter stations, valve sites, and regulator stations along the proposed pipeline routes and along Transco's existing pipeline system.

Except for occasional transient species, rare, candidate, threatened or endangered species under our jurisdiction are not known to exist in the vicinity of the project area. Therefore, no biological assessment or further consultation regarding rare species is needed with the Commission. Should project plans change, or if additional information on listed or proposed species becomes available, this determination may be reconsidered.

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 610-847-8772 and refer to the SIR # 52530. Thank you for your cooperation and attention to this important matter of species conservation and habitat protection.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Greg Lech". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "G" and "L".

Greg Lech
Natural Gas Section

GPL/dn



Pennsylvania Fish & Boat Commission

Division of Environmental Services
Resource Extraction Section
595 E Rolling Ridge Dr.
Bellefonte, PA 16823

October 6, 2020

IN REPLY REFER TO
SIR# 52530

WHM Consulting, Inc.
Ryan Nelson
2525 Green Tech Drive
State College, Pennsylvania 16803

**RE: Species Impact Review (SIR) – Rare, Candidate, Threatened and Endangered Species
PNDI Search No. 702499_4
Regional Energy Access Expansion Project
DELAWARE County: - LUZERNE County: - MONROE County: - NORTHAMPTON
County: - WYOMING County: - YORK County:**

Dear Ryan Nelson:

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

Correspondence from this office was originally delivered on February 6, 2020 listing freshwater mussels as a potential concern. On September 8, 2020 we received additional information regarding the proposed project, including adjustments to components and routes. **After a review of the new information, only the Regional Energy Lateral contains species of concern and further investigations are recommended.**

Our Mission:

www.fish.state.pa.us

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

Regional Energy Lateral - Approximately 22 miles of 30-inch-diameter pipeline, both colocated pipeline along the existing Transco Leidy pipeline system and greenfield pipeline, in Luzerne County, PA

Elktoe (*Alasmidonta marginata*, Rare)

Green Floater (*Lasmigona subviridis*, Rare)

Triangle Floater (*Alasmidonta undulata*, Rare)

Rare or protected mussel species are known from the vicinity of the project site at the Susquehanna River. These mussels and other mussel species are likely to occur within the proposed project area. To avoid potential impacts to these mussel species, it is recommended that you complete a mussel survey in the areas proposed to be directly and indirectly affected by the proposed instream work that will take place within the Susquehanna River. A mussel survey is recommended in order to determine the species present and their abundances.

A list of qualified malacologists and a Pennsylvania Fish & Boat Commission (PFBC) approved mussel survey protocol is enclosed for your convenience when arranging for a mussel survey. Prior to conducting a survey, qualified malacologist should submit a proposed work plan to this office. Upon completion of the mussel survey, please send a copy of the final report to this office for further evaluation. We look forward to receiving this information. The mussel survey season begins May 15 and concludes October 1.

A freshwater mussel survey is not recommended if the pipeline is installed via horizontal directional drill.

Timber Rattlesnake (*Crotalus horridus*, Species of Special Concern)

Timber Rattlesnakes occur in the forested, mountainous regions of the Commonwealth. They prefer forested areas to forage for small mammals (e.g., mice and chipmunks) and southerly-facing slopes for hibernating and other thermoregulatory activities. The Timber Rattlesnake is threatened by habitat loss/alteration, wanton killing, and poaching.

Given the proximity of the project to known critical Timber Rattlesnake habitat, we recommend that a Timber Rattlesnake habitat assessment be conducted in the project area (**East of I-476**) and by a qualified Timber Rattlesnake surveyor. We have included a list of qualified surveyors and habitat assessment protocol for your convenience. This list is not an exhaustive list of qualified rattlesnake surveyors in Pennsylvania as there may be qualified surveyors who have not asked to be placed on this list. It is not mandatory that you use someone on this list. Upon completion of the habitat survey, the qualified rattlesnake biologist is to submit a report to this office for review and comment. The habitat survey report should include color photographs of the project area (keyed to a site map or diagram) and a description of habitats occurring within the immediate area to be developed (including access roads), as well as the surrounding area. Potential Timber Rattlesnake critical habitat (denning/gestating areas) should be photographed and mapped accordingly. In addition, the report should also include detailed project plans and maps with a description of the proposed work (including access roads), project impacts and alternatives. Pending the review of this information, a survey targeting the presence of the Timber Rattlesnake in the project area and/or other project modifications may be requested.

Effort Loop - Approximately 14 miles of 42-inch-diameter pipeline looping the existing Transco Leidy pipeline system in Monroe County, PA;

Existing Compressor Station 195 – Modifications will include additional horsepower at an existing Compressor Station in York County;

Existing Compressor Station 200 – Modifications will connect existing Transco Mainline A into suction to support south flow;

Existing Compressor Station 515 – Additional horsepower and facility modifications at an existing Compressor Station in Luzerne County, PA located adjacent to the existing Leidy pipeline system;

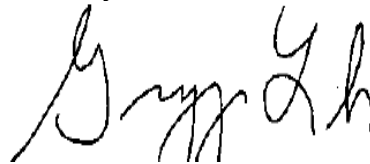
Aboveground Ancillary Facilities – Modifications or additions of receipt and delivery meter stations, valve sites, and regulator stations along the proposed pipeline routes and along Transco's existing pipeline system.

Except for occasional transient species, rare, candidate, threatened or endangered species under our jurisdiction are not known to exist in the vicinity of the project area. Should project plans change, or if additional information on listed or proposed species becomes available, this determination may be reconsidered.

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 and refer to the SIR # 52530. Thank you for your cooperation and attention to this important matter of species conservation and habitat protection.

Sincerely,



Gregory Lech
Resource Extraction Section

GPL/dn



Pennsylvania Fish & Boat Commission

Division of Environmental Services
Resource Extraction Section
595 E Rolling Ridge Dr.
Bellefonte, PA 16823

September 7, 2021

IN REPLY REFER TO
SIR# 52530

WHM Consulting, Inc.
Ryan Nelson
2525 Green Tech Drive
State College, Pennsylvania 16803

**RE: Species Impact Review (SIR) – Rare, Candidate, Threatened and Endangered Species
PNDI Search No. 702499_4
Regional Energy Access Expansion Project
DELAWARE County: - LUZERNE County: - MONROE County: - NORTHAMPTON
County: - WYOMING County: - YORK County:**

Dear Ryan Nelson:

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 related to the Regional Energy Access Expansion Project (Project).

Timber Rattlesnake (*Crotalus horridus*, Species of Special Concern)

On August 5, 2021, you provided a report, “**Timber Rattlesnake (*Crotalus horridus*) Phase II Presence/Absence Report.**” August 2021. This report followed the results of a habitat assessment and visual encounters with the species in vicinity of the Project.

Since a confirmed den (Habitat Area 4) was identified, we are concerned about direct and indirect effects that the proposed Project could have on the local population of the Timber Rattlesnake. We concur with Section 4. Conclusions and Mitigation Measures. **Additionally, if work is to be conducted from April 15-October 15, then we recommend that you take the following precautions to safeguard workers and rattlesnakes:**

1. A PFBC approved Timber Rattlesnake biologist who has the proper permits (Scientific Collector’s Permit), and the proper skills to handle this venomous species will be on-site prior to and during construction.

2. The PFBC approved Timber Rattlesnake biologist will be on-site prior to and during construction activities, during the above time frame, to inspect and clear the area (including staging areas

Our Mission:

www.fish.state.pa.us

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

and access roads) of Timber Rattlesnakes and to capture and remove any rattlesnakes that may interfere with work activities.

3. Timber Rattlesnakes observed on-site are to be measured, sexed, and the habitat characterized where the snake was found. All captured snakes should be released within proximity (under 100 meters) of the capture site if possible. Rattlesnake captures and relocations are to be documented by photographs, habitat descriptions, in addition to being mapped and labeled accordingly. The biologist is to submit a report to this office (Natural Diversity Section) following the completion of the project documenting all of the activity and herpetofauna encountered.

4. If erosion control fabric is to be used at this site, materials that are known to reduce the risk of snake entrapment should be selected, such as loosely woven natural fiber ECM. **Use of monofilament/plastic netting should be avoided.**

5. Workers responsible for implementing this project should be advised that Timber Rattlesnakes may be encountered, and that avoidance is the best means of minimizing risks to personal safety. It is suggested a procedure be implemented for Timber Rattlesnake encounters and workers are to be advised that the Timber Rattlesnake is a state protected species and is not to be harmed. Killing of Timber Rattlesnakes is prohibited by the Commission pursuant to 58 Pa. Code Section 79.6.

6. During the construction period, PFBC personnel may communicate with the on-site biologist and may visit the site area periodically to view the progression of the project and answer any questions or concerns that may arise. For safety purposes, PFBC personnel will register with the on-site manager upon entering the construction area.

7. Install orange fencing in vicinity of the confirmed den to ensure the area is avoided by workers.

8. Reconstruct any identified gestation habitat that is disturbed based on the PFBC Guidelines (Enclosed).

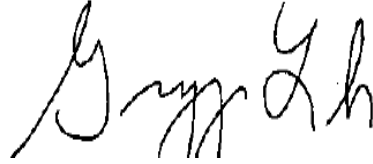
Enclosed is the list of PFBC approved rattlesnake biologists for your convenience. It is not an exhaustive list of qualified rattlesnake biologists in Pennsylvania as there may be qualified surveyors who have not asked to be placed on this list. It is not mandatory that you use someone on this list.

This review is limited to the referenced species report. For additional Project information, please consult our letter dated October 6, 2020.

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 Gregory Lech at 814-470-6776 and refer to the SIR # 52530. Thank you for your cooperation and attention to this important matter of species conservation and habitat protection.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gregory Lech". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Gregory" written in a larger, more prominent script than the last name "Lech".

Gregory Lech
Resource Extraction Section

GPL/dn