



Pennsylvania Fish & Boat Commission

Division of Environmental Services

Natural Gas Section
450 Robinson Lane
Bellefonte, PA 16823

September 22, 2015

IN REPLY REFER TO
SIR# 41856

TETRA TECH
Preston Smith
661 Andersen Drive
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15220

**RE: Species Impact Review (SIR) – Rare, Candidate, Threatened and Endangered Species
PNDI Search No.
Sunoco Mariner East 2 Pipeline
ALLEGHENY County: - BERKS County: - BLAIR County: - CAMBRIA County: -
CHESTER County: - CUMBERLAND County: - DAUPHIN County: - DELAWARE
County: - HUNTINGDON County: - INDIANA County: - JUNIATA County: -
LANCASTER County: - LEBANON County: - PERRY County: - WASHINGTON
County: - WESTMORELAND County: - YORK County:**

Dear Preston Smith:

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

Timber Rattlesnake (*Crotalus horridus*) presence/absence surveys (Phase 2) were conducted at 19 surveys areas from May 2014 to July 2015. According to the resulting report, Timber Rattlesnake observations were made in 16 of 19 survey areas. Of the 8 confirmed denning habitats, 5 were within the LOD and resulted in reroutes of the project. Of the 15 confirmed gestation habitats, 6 were within the LOD and will be rebuilt according to PFBC guidelines following construction. As indicated in your Timber Rattlesnake Conservation Plan for the project, construction monitoring by a PFBC approved Timber Rattlesnake biologist will only be conducted during the Timber Rattlesnake active season (April 15 - October 15) in 11 monitoring areas determined based on habitat, the results of the 2014-2015 surveys, and in consultation with Stan Boder. Pre-construction surveys will occur within 48 hours of construction activities. If erosion control fabric is used, materials known to reduce the risk of snake

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

entrapment will be used. All project personnel will be required to attend training. I concur with the results of this evaluation and the recommendations in the Timber Rattlesnake Conservation Plan; therefore, I do not foresee the proposed project resulting in adverse impacts to the Timber Rattlesnake.

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

If you have any questions regarding this review, please contact Gary Smith at 814-279-3080 and refer to the SIR # 41856. Thank you for your cooperation and attention to this important matter of species conservation and habitat protection.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Heather Smiles".

Heather A. Smiles, Chief
Natural Gas Section

HAS/GAS/dn