

April 1, 2019

PNDI Number: 635546
Version: Final_2; 3/29/19

Andy Brookens

Skelly and Loy, Inc.

449 Eisenhower Boulevard, Suite 300

Harrisburg, PA 17111

Email: abrookens@skellyloy.com (hard copy will not follow)

**Re: UPDATE - Specialty Granules, LLC – Proposed Northern Tract Quarry
Hamiltonban Township, Adams County, PA**

Dear Mr. Brookens,

Thank you for the submission of your field survey for Pennsylvania Natural Diversity Inventory (PNDI) Environmental Review Receipt Number 635546 (Final_2) for review (formerly PNDI Number 20151208541654). PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources screened this project for potential impacts to species and resources under DCNR's responsibility, which includes plants, terrestrial invertebrates, natural communities, and geologic features only.

No Impact Anticipated per Survey (with Avoidance/Monitoring)

PNDI records indicate species or resources under DCNR's jurisdiction are located in the vicinity of the project. A botanical survey was conducted on this property by URS Corporation on April 12, 2012. An extensive population of nodding trillium (*Trillium cernuum*; proposed PA Threatened) was identified on site. Skelly and Loy re-delineated the boundaries of the existing population on April 20 and 21, 2016.

Nodding trillium was not documented within the proposed Quarry Extraction Limit. A few individuals (18 out of a total of 1,522 individuals surveyed) were found within the 150-foot-wide Operational Buffer, allocated for non-extractive mining support activities. These individuals cannot be avoided. The remaining population occurs within the Maintained Buffer, where no activities other than tree replacement are allowed.

Impacts to the 18 individuals within the Operational Buffer will not significantly compromise the long-term success of the overall population. However, given that this nodding trillium population is the largest known in the state, and that the proposed mining and support activities are in very close proximity to the population boundaries, long-term monitoring of the remaining individuals is requested.

DCNR requests a 10-year monitoring program immediately following initiation of mining activities, with monitoring events at Years 1, 2, 3, 5, 7, and 10. A report should be issued to our office following each monitoring event. Invasive species management may be requested in the future based on the monitoring results. DCNR may also shorten or lengthen the monitoring period depending on the rate of mine expansion and monitoring results.

In addition, protective fencing is requested along the outer edge of the Operational Buffer to act as both a physical barrier and visual reminder to construction crews in an effort to safeguard adjacent individuals of nodding trillium. Appropriate Erosion and Sediment Controls should be implemented on the steep terrain.

With the avoidance of nodding trillium within the Maintained Buffer and the completion of a monitoring program, DCNR has determined that no impact is likely. DCNR looks forward to receiving monitoring reports in the future.

DCNR recommends the following steps to help prevent the spread of invasive species:

- The area of disturbance should be minimized to the fullest extent that would allow for construction. This will help to lessen the area of soil and vegetation disturbance associated with this project.
- If possible, please clean boot treads, construction equipment, and vehicles thoroughly (especially the undercarriage and wheels) before they are brought on site. This will remove invasive plant seeds and invasive earthworms/cocoons that may have been picked up at other sites.
- Do not transport unsterilized leaves, mulch, compost, or soil to the site from another location. Avoid using seed mixes that include invasive plant species (e.g. crown vetch) to re-vegetate the area. Please also use weed-free straw or hay mixes when possible. More information about invasive species in Pennsylvania can be found at the following link: <http://www.dcnr.state.pa.us/conservationscience/invasivespecies/index.htm>

This response represents the most up-to-date review of the PNDI data files and is valid for two (2) years only. If project plans change or more information on listed or proposed species becomes available, our determination may be reconsidered. Should the proposed work continue beyond the period covered by this letter, please resubmit the project to this agency as an "Update" (including an updated PNDI receipt, project narrative and accurate map). As a reminder, this finding applies to potential impacts under DCNR's jurisdiction only. Visit the PNHP website for directions on contacting the Commonwealth's other resource agencies for environmental review.

Should you have any questions or concerns, please contact Jason Ryndock, Ecological Information Specialist, by phone (717-705-2822) or via email (c-jryndock@pa.gov).

Sincerely



Greg Podnieszinski, Section Chief
Natural Heritage Section