

2010-1050

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April 10, 2019

Ms. Sonja Jahrsdoerfer
Project Leader
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Pennsylvania Field Office
110 Radnor Road, Suite 101
State College, Pennsylvania 16801



U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
Pennsylvania Field Office
110 Radnor Road, Suite 101
State College, Pennsylvania 16801-4850



NA

It appears there have been no changes in the project or on-site biological information; therefore, the agency's comments, as detailed in our letter of April 2, 2019 & remain unchanged. Jan 19, 2018

[Signature], Supervisor 5/31/2019

Re: Threatened and Endangered Species Coordination Letter; Specialty Granules LLC, Charmian Quarry Northern Tract Development Project, Hamiltonban Township, Adams County, Pennsylvania PNDI Renewal #635546 (Previously Reviewed Under PNDI #20151208541654) **USFWS Project #2010-1050**

Dear Ms. Jahrsdoerfer:

On behalf of Specialty Granules LLC (SGI), Skelly and Loy, Inc. has been requested to coordinate with your agency in updating and confirming the results of our previous communications regarding potential effects on federal listed species resulting from the proposed development of a non-coal mining operation on an approximately 112-acre area within SGI property located in Hamiltonban Township, Adams County, Pennsylvania, known as the "Northern Tract."

SGI currently extracts non-coal natural materials at the Charmian Site located northeast of the Town of Blue Ridge Summit pursuant to existing Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (PA DEP) Surface Mine Permits and related NPDES Permits. The Charmian Site currently consists of an active quarry (Pitts Quarry - Noncoal Surface Mining Permit No. 01930302), an inactive quarry (West Ridge Quarry PA DEP Permit No. 6477SM5, which is in the reclamation phase), stockpile storage areas, a crushing plant, and a granule plant. SGI extracts a metabasalt rock at the Pitts Quarry Site for the purpose of manufacturing roofing granules that are used to coat the wearing surface of asphalt roofing shingles. The proposed Northern Tract project area is adjacent to the existing non-coal mining operations currently operated by SGI.

Planning for the Northern Tract project has extended over a substantial period of time. The previous Pennsylvania Natural Diversity Inventory (PNDI) screening for the project was completed on July 26, 2017. The Non-Coal Mining Permit Application for the Northern Tract is currently under review by the PA DEP. PA DEP has requested that SGI update its PNDI and resource agency coordination efforts for several reasons, including for the reason that the previous PNDI clearance will expire potentially before completion of the review of the permit application.

December 16, 2015, Phase I survey report conducted by Skelly and Loy. Therefore, the Service's conclusion in the January 8, 2018, correspondence regarding bog turtles may not be accurate. In order to determine if your project may affect bog turtles, more information regarding the project and the hydrological connection to the wetland is necessary. Therefore, in light of the new information (i.e., the 2016 bog turtle occurrence record), the Service would like to request a field visit of the site in order to better understand possible impacts to the wetland's hydrology. Please contact this office at the phone number listed below in order to schedule a site visit with a Fish and Wildlife Service biologist.

To avoid potential delays in reviewing your project, please use the above-referenced USFWS project tracking number in any future correspondence regarding this project.

If you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact Nicole Ranalli of my staff at 814-234-4090, x7455.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sonja Jahrsdoerfer".

Sonja Jahrsdoerfer
Project Leader

cc:

PFBC – C. Urban, K. Gipe
DEP – Paronish, Chadwick
DCNR – Stauffer, Aura



United States Department of the Interior



FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
Pennsylvania Field Office
110 Radnor Road, Suite 101
State College, Pennsylvania 16801-4850

April 2, 2019

Kevin Moore
Specialty Granules, LLC
13424 Pennsylvania Ave., Suite 303
Hagerstown, MD 21742

RE: USFWS Project #2010-1050
PNDI Receipt #635546-FINAL

Dear Mr. Moore:

This summarizes information gathered at a March 18, 2019, site visit. Previous correspondence regarding this project includes January 8, 2018, letter responding to your December 21, 2017, request of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) for information regarding Specialty Granules' proposed Charmian Facility Pitts Quarry Expansion project located in Hamilton Township, Adams County, Pennsylvania. The Service sent a letter dated February 21, 2019, in response to new information regarding bog turtles in proximity to the proposed project. The following comments are provided pursuant to the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (87 Stat. 884, as amended; 16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.) to ensure the protection of endangered and threatened species.

The proposed project is located within the range of the federally listed as threatened bog turtle (*Clemmys muhlenbergii*), endangered Indiana bat (*Myotis sodalis*) and threatened northern long-eared bat (*Myotis septentrionalis*). This correspondence is due to new information regarding bog turtles.

In 2017, when you submitted your project for review we were unaware of a 2016 bog turtle record that was not yet included in the state's Pennsylvania Natural Diversity Inventory (PNDI) online project screening tool. In addition, the area of wetland habitat supporting bog turtles was not included in the December 16, 2015, Phase 1 survey report conducted by Skelly and Loy. Therefore, in order to better understand your project in relation to this new occurrence record, Nicole Ranalli, of my staff, participated in a site visit of March 18, 2019. Also among those in attendance were Kathy Gipe and Dan Ryan, Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission, Aura Stauffer, Pennsylvania Department of Conservation & Natural Resources, Chadwick Paronish, Licensed Professional Geologist for Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), and yourself. During the site visit the attendees discussed the quarry operations, including project

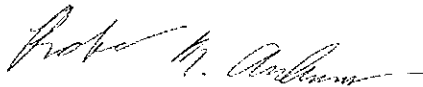
buffers, ground water and surface water monitoring, and data from current and past mining operations south of the proposed project. As described in an e-mail of March 19, 2019, perimeter groundwater monitoring wells and surface monitoring points within 1,000 feet of the permit area have been monitored, and baseline data collected.

Mr. Paronish concludes that based on the location of the wetland in relation to the project, no direct or indirect adverse effects to the hydrology of the offsite wetland is anticipated from the project. Monitoring well sites will be maintained by Specialty Granules during the project and monitored on a quarterly basis to confirm the assumption that no alteration to ground and surface water is occurring. Based on the aforementioned information, and DEP's expert opinion, and ongoing groundwater monitoring, the Service concurs with DEP's conclusion and we conclude that the effect of the proposed project on bog turtles will be insignificant or discountable.

To avoid potential delays in reviewing your project, please use the above-referenced USFWS project tracking number in any future correspondence regarding this project.

If you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact Nicole Ranalli of my staff at 814-234-4090.

Sincerely,



For Sonja Jahrsdoerfer
Project Leader

cc:
PFBC – C. Urban, K. Gipe
DEP – Paronish, Chadwick
DCNR – Stauffer, Aura

Paronish, Chadwick

From: Paronish, Chadwick
Sent: Tuesday, March 19, 2019 9:31 AM
To: 'nicole_ranalli@fws.gov'
Cc: Martin, Rock; Aaron, Gregory; Nalisnick, Thomas
Subject: SGI -Northern Tract Quarry- Bog Turtle Hydrologic Review (USFWS Project #2010-1050)

Tracking:	Recipient	Delivery
	'nicole_ranalli@fws.gov'	
	Martin, Rock	Delivered: 3/19/2019 9:31 AM
	Aaron, Gregory	Delivered: 3/19/2019 9:31 AM
	Nalisnick, Thomas	Delivered: 3/19/2019 9:31 AM

Nicole,

As a follow up to yesterday's Bog Turtle field meeting, below is a summary of my hydrologic review of the proposed Northern Tract Quarry in regards to the known bog turtle wetland location.

The location of the bog turtle wetland was described by representatives from the DCNR and PFBC to be on opposite side of Toms Creek with respect to the proposed Northern Tract Quarry.

Based on the location of the bog turtle wetland, indirect or direct hydrologic impacts to the recharge area of the bog turtle wetland are not anticipated.

As a measure to monitor local groundwater and surface water features, Specialty Granules, LLC (permittee) has developed perimeter groundwater monitoring wells and surface monitoring points within a 1,000 feet of the permit area. A minimum of six monthly background samples have been collected from each monitoring point and are included in the permit application. The monitoring points will be monitored on a quarterly basis throughout the duration of the proposed mining activities.

If you need any additional information let me know.

Thanks,

Chad Paronish, PG | Licensed Professional Geologist
Department of Environmental Protection | Cambria District Mining Office
286 Industrial Park Rd | Ebensburg, PA 15931
Phone: 814.472.1922 | Fax: 814.472.1898
chaparonis@pa.gov
www.dep.pa.gov

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United States Department of the Interior



FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
Pennsylvania Field Office
110 Radnor Road, Suite 101
State College, Pennsylvania 16801-4850

February 21, 2019

Kevin Moore
Specialty Granules, LLC
13424 Pennsylvania Ave., Suite 303
Hagerstown, MD 21742

RE: USFWS Project #2010-1050
PNDI Receipt #635546-FINAL

Dear Mr. Moore:

This letter supersedes the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service correspondence of January 8, 2018. The January 8, 2018, letter was in reply to your letter received on December 21, 2017, that provided the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) information regarding Specialty Granules' proposed Charmian Facility Pitts Quarry expansion project located in Hamilton Township, Adams County, Pennsylvania. The following comments are provided pursuant to the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (87 Stat. 884, as amended; 16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.) to ensure the protection of endangered and threatened species.

The proposed project is located within the range of the federally threatened bog turtle (*Clemmys muhlenbergii*), endangered Indiana bat (*Myotis sodalis*) and threatened northern long-eared bat (*Myotis septentrionalis*). The Service's comments concerning Indiana and northern long-eared bats, as detailed in our letter of January 19, 2018, remain unchanged. This correspondence is the result of new information regarding bog turtles.

Bog turtles inhabit shallow, spring-fed fens, sphagnum bogs, swamps, marshy meadows, and pastures characterized by soft, muddy bottoms; clear, cool, slow-flowing water, often forming a network of rivulets; high humidity; and an open canopy. Bog turtles usually occur in small, discrete populations occupying suitable wetland habitat dispersed along a watershed. The occupied intermediate successional stage wetland habitat is usually a mosaic of micro-habitats ranging from dry pockets, to areas that are saturated with water, to areas that are periodically flooded. Some wetlands occupied by bog turtles are located in agricultural areas and are subject to grazing by livestock.

In 2017, when you submitted your project review request, a 2016 bog turtle record was not yet included in the State's PNDI system. In addition, the wetland in question was not included in the

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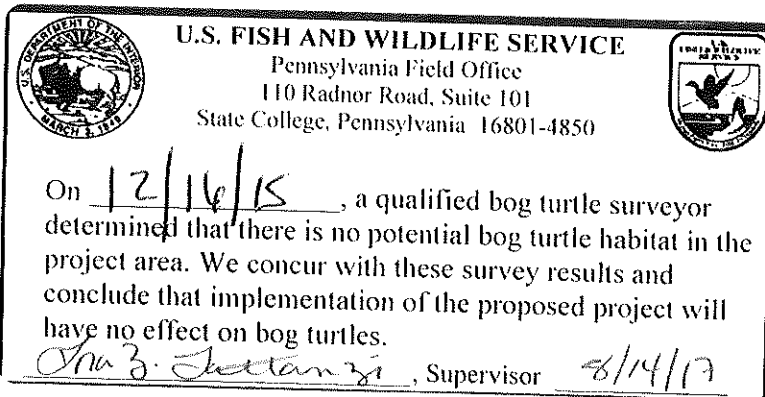
E-mail: skellyloy@skellyloy.com
Internet: www.skellyloy.com



Fax: 717-232-1799

July 31, 2017

Ms. Lora Z. Lattanzi
Field Office Supervisor
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Pennsylvania Field Office
110 Radnor Road, Suite 101
State College, Pennsylvania 16801



Re: Threatened and Endangered Species Coordination Letter; Specialty Granules LLC, Charmian Quarry Northern Tract Development Project, Hamiltonban Township, Adams County, Pennsylvania; PNDI Renewal #635546 (Previously Reviewed Under PNDI #20151208541654; USFWS Project #2010-1050)

Dear Ms. Lattanzi:

Skelly and Loy, Inc. has been retained by Specialty Granules LLC ("SGI") to coordinate with your agency regarding potential effects on federal listed species resulting from the proposed development of a non-coal mining operation on an approximately 112-acre area within SGI property located in Hamiltonban Township, Adams County, Pennsylvania, known as the "Northern Tract." The proposed Northern Tract project area is adjacent to existing non-coal mining operations currently operated by SGI.

This proposed project was previously reviewed by your agency in early 2016 under PNDI #20151208541654. **Attachment 1** is a copy of Skelly and Loy's original coordination letter dated January 29, 2016; and **Attachment 2** provides a copy of the USFWS's letter dated February 18, 2016, which requested a bog turtle study. A Jurisdictional Wetland-Watercourse Identification/Delineation and Phase I Bog Turtle Habitat Assessment Report dated April 8, 2016, prepared by Andrew M. Brookens, a Pennsylvania recognized-qualified bog turtle surveyor, was provided to your office. The USFWS responded via stamped letter on May 11, 2016, concurring on habitat survey results and concluding that implementation of the proposed project will have no effect on bog turtles. **Attachment 3** provides a copy of the USFWS's stamped letter dated May 11, 2016.

Planning for the Project has extended over a substantial period, and at this point it is anticipated that SGI will submit a Non-Coal Mining Permit Application to the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection ("PADEP") in the first quarter of 2018. PADEP has requested that SGI update its PNDI and coordination efforts for several reasons, including for

DEP CAMBRIA OFFICE

JAN 05 2018