

*Atlantic Sunrise Project – PA DEP Chapter 105 Joint Permit Application
Transcontinental Gas Pipe Line Company, LLC
Schuylkill County*

ATTACHMENT G-1
THREATENED AND ENDANGERED SPECIES COORDINATION
SUMMARY

Revised April 2017

Note: This Attachment has been replaced in its entirety

OVERVIEW OF THREATENED AND ENDANGERED SPECIES

Transco has consulted with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), Pennsylvania Fish & Boat Commission (PFBC), Pennsylvania Game Commission (PGC), and Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) regarding federal and state-listed threatened and endangered species in the area. A summary of the correspondence/clearance status with each agency is provided in **Table 1** and summarized below. Copies of the agency correspondence related to threatened and endangered species are provided in **Attachments G-2 through G-5**.

**Table 1
 Summary of Clearance Status**

Agency	Project Review Letter Dates	Clearance Letter Dates
USFWS	April 28, 2014	December 21, 2016
PFBC	April 17, 2014	January 28, 2016; May 31, 2016; September 2, 2016
PGC	April 13, 2014; December 19, 2014	June 2, 2016; September 19, 2016
DCNR	May 28, 2014; July 14, 2014	April 2, 2015; May 28, 2015; August 5, 2015; February 23, 2016; May 24, 2016; August 31, 2016

USFWS

Transco prepared a biological assessment (BA) addressing the following federally listed threatened and endangered species identified by the USFWS as potentially occurring in the Project area: Indiana bat (IBAT), northern long-eared bat (NLEB), bog turtle, and northeastern bulrush. Surveys for the IBAT and NLEB were requested and completed in Schuylkill County. The BA was developed in close coordination with the USFWS Pennsylvania Field Office. The BA concluded that the Project may affect, but is not likely to adversely affect each of these species. Based on these effects determinations, formal Section 7 consultation will not be necessary for the Project. FERC concurred with Transco’s effects determinations and submitted their consultation request to FERC on July 19, 2016. The USFWS issued their Project review letter to FERC on December 21, 2016. As stated in the letter, the USFWS concurred with FERC’s and Transco’s determination that the Project is not likely to adversely affect the Indiana bat, bog turtle, and northeastern bulrush. The USFWS did not concur with FERC’s and Transco’s determination that the Project is not likely to adversely affect the northern long-eared bat. However, with Transco’s proposed avoidance and minimization measures, any incidental take that may occur to the species is not prohibited under the 4(d) rule issued by the USFWS for NLEB on January 14, 2016. Consequently, no further consultation is required with USFWS for NLEB or any other federal-listed species.

PFBC

PFBC requested, and Transco completed, surveys for timber rattlesnake in Clinton, Northumberland, Schuylkill, and Lebanon Counties. PFBC issued Project clearance letters on January 28, 2016, May 31, 2016, and September 2, 2016. The most recent clearance letter issued on September 2, 2016 covers two reroutes that were not included in PFBC’s original review of the Project.

A timber rattlesnake den was found in Schuylkill County near Milepost M-0213-0.2, approximately 40 feet from the Project LOD, in the area between Access Road SC-072 and SR 4020 (Deep Creek Road). If construction takes place between April 15 and October 15, PFBC has recommended several mitigation measures to protect workers and rattlesnakes, including presence of an approved timber rattlesnake biologist during construction. All of the mitigation measures recommended by PFBC are listed in the

January 28, 2016 letter. Transco will adopt each of the mitigation measures should construction take place near the documented timber rattlesnake den between April 15 and October 15.

PGC

PGC requested, and Transco completed, surveys for Allegheny woodrat and eastern small-footed bat in Schuylkill, Northumberland, Columbia, and Wyoming Counties. PGC issued Project clearance letters on June 2, 2016 and September 19, 2016. The most recent clearance letter issued on September 19, 2016 covers two reroutes that were not included in PGC’s original review of the Project.

A combined mitigation plan for Allegheny woodrat and eastern small-footed bat (ESFB) was submitted to and approved by the PGC, as documented in the above-referenced Project clearance letters.

Table 2 below outlines the habitat disturbance locations for the ESFB in Schuylkill County.

**Table 2
 Eastern Small-Footed Bat Habitat Impact and Mitigation Summary**

Impact Location (Approximate)	Time of Year Restriction	Habitat Reconstruction Required? (Y/N)
Schuylkill County		
MP [REDACTED]	April 1 – November 15	Y
MOC# [REDACTED] MP [REDACTED]	April 1 – November 15	N
MOC# [REDACTED] MP [REDACTED]	April 1 – November 15	N

For ESFB habitat located within the Project’s LOD, Transco will complete construction outside of the indicated time of year (TOY) restriction, or exclusion matting will be installed outside of the TOY. If exclusion matting is installed, the habitat can be impacted during the TOY restriction as outlined in the mitigation plan. If exclusion matting is not installed and impacts are proposed within the TOY restriction, emergence count surveys will be completed the day prior to habitat disturbance or exclusion matting installation.

Transco will provide mitigation for impacts to ESFB day roost habitat in the form of habitat construction. One structure will be built at MP [REDACTED], and the structure will be placed along the pipeline right-of-way.

No Allegheny woodrat were observed and no impacts to their habitat are proposed in Schuylkill County; therefore, Transco is not required to implement any mitigation or time of year restrictions for Allegheny woodrat in Schuylkill County.

DCNR

Transco completed surveys for state-listed plant species in Schuylkill County. No state-listed plants are present within the Project LOD in Schuylkill County. DCNR has issued several clearance letters for the Project following submittal of survey reports by Transco. Project clearance letters were issued by DCNR on April 02, 2015, May 28, 2015, August 05, 2015, February 23, 2016, May 24, 2016, and August 31, 2016. The most recent clearance letter issued on August 31, 2016 covers two reroutes that were not included in DCNR’s previous review of the Project. Based on the survey results and complete survey coverage, no mitigation or further consultation with the DCNR is needed for CPLS in Schuylkill County.