

**ENCLOSURE C
DESCRIPTION OF AQUATIC HABITAT**

Transcontinental Gas Pipe Line Company, LLC (Transco) is submitting an application to the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (PA DEP) for a Joint Permit under the Chapter 105 Pennsylvania Water Obstruction and Encroachment guidelines. This permit application only addresses the portions of the Project located in Pennsylvania, subject to PA Code Title 25 Chapter 105 and within the jurisdiction of the Northeast, North Central and South Central Regions of the PA DEP. For Project-related impacts to waters of the United States subject to jurisdiction under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act, Transco has applied for an Individual Permit with the **U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE)** Baltimore District. Transco applied for a 401 Water Quality Certification for the entire Project on April 9, 2015 at the direction of PA DEP. Attachment J of this permit application includes a Project Description that further details the purpose and need and components of the proposed Atlantic Sunrise Project.

The Project is located primarily within the Susquehanna River drainage basin subregion (4-digit HUC) which is within the Lower Susquehanna Major Basin (6-digit HUC) and the Lower Susquehanna-Penns Subbasin (8-digit HUC). The northern portion of the Project from MP 88.5 to 90.3 is located primarily within the Susquehanna River drainage basin subregion (4-digit HUC) which is within the Upper Susquehanna Major Basin (6-digit HUC) and the Upper Susquehanna-Lackawanna Subbasin (8-digit HUC). The Project is located in watersheds with water quality classifications identified as High-Quality Cold Water Fishes (HQ-CWF), **and** Migratory Fishes (MF), Cold Water Fishes (CWF), **MF** and Warm Water Fishes (WWF), **and MF** according to PA Code Title 25 Chapter 93.

The Wetland Delineation and Stream Identification Report in Section L, Enclosure A, provides additional information regarding specific streams and waterbodies in the Project study area. **The total construction workspace associated with the Project located in Northumberland County, Pennsylvania is approximately 188.38176.04 acres. To date, nearly 8199.7% of the The entire workspace (7.138.5 pipeline miles) within Northumberland County has been surveyed for aquatic habitats, including wetlands and waterways. Only those resources that have been**

identified in the field (ground truthed) are included in this Environmental Assessment

Form.—The wetland and waterbody boundaries for ground truthed resources were reviewed in the field and verified by the USACE and PA DEP in June 2015.

Field surveys conducted to date identified ~~one~~ **6** wetlands and ~~six~~ **16** watercourses located within the Project construction workspace in Northumberland County.

A. Aquatic Habitat

A1. Food Chain Production

Intermittent and perennial streams in the Project study area contribute to aquatic and terrestrial food chains by serving as a breeding site for fish, insects, and amphibians. Larger wetlands that are inundated for extended periods of time may also contribute to food chain production. The larval forms of many insects and macroinvertebrates are aquatic, and amphibians spend all or part of their life cycle in aquatic habitats. Insects and amphibians produced in aquatic habitats can be locally important food organisms for a variety of fish, reptiles, birds, and mammals. Moreover, wetlands include plant food sources that may be used by a number of bird, and mammal species. Emergent plant species providing food value to wildlife include bulrush, sedge, and grass species. Shrub and woody vegetation growing within wetlands identified as PFO and PSS contain plants that may be used as a food source by various bird species. PEM wetlands can provide food to various bird species as well.

A2. General Habitat

Transco delineated and classified wetland resources within the Project area through field surveys conducted in 2014 ~~and~~, 2015, ~~and~~ 2016. Wetlands crossed by the Project in Pennsylvania were field delineated in accordance with the United States Army Corps of Engineers USACE Wetlands Delineation Manual (~~Environmental Laboratory~~ USACE 1987), the Regional Supplement to the Corps of Engineers Wetland Delineation Manual: ~~Northcentral and Northeast Region~~ Eastern Mountains and Piedmont Region (Version 2.0) (USACE 2012).

The USFWS wetland classification system described by Cowardin, et al. (1979) was used to classify wetlands delineated within the Project area. The wetlands within the Project area were

identified as PFO, PSS, and PEM, or a combination of these three Cowardin classes. Palustrine systems include all non-tidal wetlands that are dominated by trees, shrubs, persistent emergents, and emergent mosses or lichens and all wetlands that occur in tidal areas where salinity due to ocean-derived salts is below 0.5 percent. The palustrine system was developed to group vegetated wetlands, commonly referred to as marshes, swamps, bogs, and prairies. This system includes ponds and may be situated shoreward of lakes, river channels, estuaries, and river floodplains or in isolated catchments or on slopes (Cowardin et al. 1979).

To obtain regional relevance, the Cowardin classes can be described according to the *Terrestrial and Palustrine Plant Communities of Pennsylvania* (Fike 1999). Vascular plant species nomenclature presented in this section is from *The Plants of Pennsylvania* (Block and Rhoads 2007). The classification system used by Fike (1999) defines plant communities as “an assemblage of plant populations sharing a common environment and interacting with each other, with animal populations, and with the physical environment.” Though Fike classifications were not specifically conducted for each delineated wetland, those described in this chapter were noted to be present and associated with at least some of the mapped wetlands within the Project area.

Palustrine Emergent Wetlands (PEM)

Cowardin class PEM wetlands are non-tidal wetlands characterized by erect, rooted, herbaceous hydrophytes, excluding mosses and lichens. Hydrophytic vegetation is present for a majority of the growing season in most years. PEM wetlands usually are dominated by perennial herbaceous plants, though some woody plants may be present. Plant communities present in PEM wetlands can be very dynamic due to the variable hydrologic conditions through the growing season and between growing seasons (Cowardin et al. 1979). Fike (1999) herbaceous emergent wetland communities correlating to Project area PEM wetlands include the following:

Emergent Wetland: Mixed Forb – Graminoid Wet Meadow

This is a common, statewide, diverse wetland type characterized by poorly drained clay loam soils, few to scattered trees, and may occur as old fields, grasslands, or alluvial bottoms where trees have been removed. This type of wetland may be subject to seasonal grazing or mowing. Plant species composition is diverse, though some sites may be dominated by one or two

species. Representative species include a combination of grass, grass-like (Graminoid) and forb species. Species include goldenrods (*Solidago* spp.), rice cutgrass (*Leersia oryzoides*), woolgrass (*Scirpus cyperinus*), bugleweed (*Lycopus uniflorus*), smartweeds, sedges (*Carex stipata* var. *stipata*, *C. canescens*, *C. lurida*, *C. cristatella*, *C. tribuloides*, *C. vesicaria*, *C. stricta*), soft rush (*Juncus effusus*), Joe-Pye-weed (*Eutrochium* spp.), boneset (*Eupatorium perfoliatum*), cinnamon ferns, Canadian St. John's-wort (*Hypericum canadense*), bluejoint (*Calamagrostis canadensis* var. *canadensis*), New York ironweed (*Vernonia noveboracensis*), beggar-ticks (*Bidens* spp.), dwarf St. John's-wort (*Hypericum mutilum*), bulrush (*Scirpus* spp.), marsh St. John's-wort (*Triadenum virginicum*), rattlesnake mannagrass (*Glyceria canadensis*), and spike-rushes (*Eleocharis* spp.). Scattered shrubs may be present, including steeplebush (*Spiraea tomentosa*), silky dogwood (*Cornus amomum*), gray dogwood (*Cornus racemosa*), red-osier dogwood (*Cornus sericea*), and arrow-wood (*Viburnum recognitum*). Noxious weed species such as purple loosestrife (*Lythrum salicaria*) and a variety of non-native grasses, such as reed canary-grass (*Phalaris arundinacea*) are frequently found in these meadows (Fike 1999)

Emergent Wetland: Mixed Forb Marsh

This wetland community occurs along lake margins, flooded depressions, and other wetlands that remain inundated throughout the growing season. Soils may contain muck at or near the surface and many of these wetlands are associated with sandy soils. The plant composition is variable and includes aquatic emergent plants as well as submerged aquatic species.

Characteristic species include three-way sedge (*Dulichium arundinaceum* var. *arundinaceum*), halberd-leaf tearthumb (*Persicaria arifolia*), tearthumb (*Persicaria sagittata*), dock (*Rumex* spp.), sharp-fruited rush (*Juncus acuminatus*), beggar-ticks (*Bidens* spp.), jewelweed, sensitive fern, wapato, sedges (*Carex stricta*, *C. lacustris*, *C. lurida*, *C. crinita*, *C. stipata*, *C. tribuloides*, *C. scoparia*, *C. projecta*, *C. comosa*, *C. hystericina*, *C. baileyi*), sweet-flag (*Acorus calamus*), and rice cutgrass (Fike 1999).

Emergent Wetland: Skunk Cabbage – Golden Saxifrage Seep

Emergent wetlands are associated with seeps that occur where groundwater flow is expressed at the surface and saturates a broad area without forming a channel, which would otherwise promote drainage. These wetland types often form underneath a forest canopy. Species composition is highly variable, but can include turtlehead (*Chelone glabra*), red maple, Jack-in-

the-pulpit (*Arisaema triphyllum*) Pennsylvania bittercress (*Cardamine pensylvanica*), sedge (*Carex prasina*), winterberry, spicebush, hornbeam (*Carpinus caroliniana*), skunk-cabbage, golden saxifrage (*Chrysosplenium americanum*), cinnamon fern, sedge (*Carex scabrata*), jewelweed, spinulose wood fern (*Dryopteris carthusiana*), Pennsylvania bittercress (*Cardamine pensylvanica*), clearweed (*Pilea pumila*), slender mannagrass (*Glyceria melicaria*), swamp saxifrage (*Saxifraga pensylvanica*), and sensitive fern. Bryophytes include *Brachythecium rivulare*, *Bryhnia novae-angliae*, *Rhynchostegium serrulatum*, *Rhizomnium punctatum*, *Sphagnum* spp., and *Thuidium delicatulum*. Shrubs may be present, common representatives include alders (*Alnus* spp.), spicebush, viburnums (*Viburnum* spp.), and dogwoods (*Cornus* spp.) (Fike 1999).

Information on aquatic habitats was derived from three principal sources: Project-specific communication with federal and state agencies; published and unpublished natural resources data pertaining to the regional Project area; and biological field surveys. The field surveys included wetland delineations and rare species habitat evaluations. One Six wetlands within Northumberland County wereas identified during field delineation. The primary ecological functions of the Palustrine Emergent wetlands, which was classified as Palustrine Emergent, wereas for groundwater recharge/discharge, floodflow alteration, fish and shellfish habitat, sediment/toxicant retention, wildlife habitat, and recreation. The primary ecological functions of the Palustrine Forested wetland were for groundwater recharge/discharge, floodflow alteration, sediment/toxicant retention, and wildlife habitat.

Riverine

Riverine systems are defined as wetland and deepwater habitats contained within a channel with periodic or continuously moving water. Although a multitude of intermittent and perennial stream systems are crossed by the Project route, the Susquehanna River is the most prominent Riverine feature represented within the Project area. According to Fike (1999) sparsely vegetated wetland communities, two communities have the potential to be present along the Susquehanna River: Floodplain Scour Community and Periodically Exposed Shoreline Community. Review of the crossing locations along the Project route did not identify the presence of either of these communities.

Sparsely Vegetated Wetland Communities - Periodically Exposed Shoreline Community

This community is found on all orders of streams, and in a wide variety of riverine settings including island heads, bars, spits, low terraces, and river banks. The underlying substrate also varies greatly, though it is often cobbles and sand with thin deposits of silt, muck, or organic matter.

According to Fike (1999), this community type is a component of ponds, lakes, and river floodplains, and occurs along nearly every creek and river. This community type, while common, provides important habitat for a number of rare insect species, namely tiger beetles (genus *Cicindela*), and ground beetles (order *Carabidae*) and others.

Aside from the Fike community described above, rivers/streams within the Project route have many values assigned to them by the state of Pennsylvania, ~~as summarized in Table 4~~ **below**. Based on Pennsylvania Code (Title 25, Chapter 93), streams designated as Trout Stocking Fisheries have conditions suitable for supporting stocked trout between February 15 and July 31, and maintaining other flora and fauna indigenous to a warm water habitat. High Quality Waters support a high quality benthic macroinvertebrate and fish community, potentially including trout. Exceptional Value Waters are similar to High Quality Waters, but may maintain a healthier macroinvertebrate community and/or be located in a designated area that supports natural communities such as a state park.

Under Pennsylvania Code Title 58, Chapter 57, the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission (PFBC) classifies waterbodies that support trout populations (either stocked or native) or provide trout habitat as follows: Wild Trout Waters (also identified by PFBC as “Wild Trout Streams”, “Stream Sections that Support Natural Reproduction of Trout” and “Trout Natural Reproduction Waters”), including upstream tributaries; Class A Wild Trout Streams; and Wilderness Trout Streams. In general, Wilderness Trout Streams provide the most suitable conditions for trout as reflected by natural abundance levels, followed by Class A Wild Trout Waters and then Approved Trout Waters. PFBC-designated Trout Stocked Streams and Warmwater/Coolwater fisheries are generally not cold enough to maintain trout populations, but provide suitable habitat for seasonal stocking of trout and other sport fish.

A2a through A2g. Nesting, Spawning, Rearing, Resting, Migration, Feeding, and Escape Cover

Within the Project route, these forested wetland communities provide habitat for a variety of avian, mammal and amphibian species. For avian species, vegetation structure provides nesting, rearing, resting, escape cover, feeding, and migratory habitat. The intermittent water table, which excludes the presence of fish populations within these wetlands, provides diverse habitat for amphibians, including spawning and feeding habitats. Amphibian habitat is often provided by a “hummock and hollow” microtopography within this palustrine forest community (Fike 1999). Field delineated wetlands within this forest type for the Project noted that “hummock and hollow” micro-topography was often present where Eastern hemlocks (*Tsuga canadensis*) occupy hummocks, and hollows occur between trees.

South Branch of Roaring Creek is classified by PFBC under PA Code Title 58, Chapter 57.11 as an Approved Trout Stream. However, no stocked trout streams are crossed by the Project in Northumberland County as confirmed with PFBC. The perennial waterbodies in the Project study area may provide spawning habitat for trout and/or small fish species and contribute to the water quality of downstream waters for the spawning of larger fish. The substrate within each of the waterbodies crossed by the Project is variable and includes, but is not limited to: boulder, cobble, gravel, sand, silt, clay, and vegetation. All waterbodies in the Project area are considered MF for the passage, maintenance, and propagation of anadromous and catadromous fishes and other fishes which move to, or from, flowing waters to complete their life cycle in other waters, according to PA Code Title 25 Chapter 93. It has been confirmed with PFBC that there are currently no stocked anadromous fishes within the Project area. Adequate fish cover is available under cobble, undercut banks, and woody debris.

A variety of open water and vernal pool aquatic habitats were delineated within the Project route. Some of these may be classified as vernal pools, but wetland survey methods did not specifically target the identification of vernal pools. Due to long duration ponded water, these aquatic resources are typically sparsely vegetated, and in the case of vernal pools, susceptible to seasonal drying.

Waterbodies within the Project area contain cobble and woody debris that may provide a resting habitat for aquatic organisms. Vegetation within wetlands provides shade and limited resting opportunities for wildlife species such as small mammals, amphibians, and insects. Larger PEM, PSS, and PFO wetlands with a greater degree of vegetation profile heterogeneity may provide additional resting habitat and escape cover for wildlife species.

Riffle-pool complexes in the streams provide minimal escape cover for aquatic species. Woody debris and undercut banks may also serve as cover for escape. Some wetlands in the Project area have sufficient vegetation to provide escape cover for small vertebrates and white-tailed deer.

Since PA falls within both the Atlantic and Appalachian Flyways for migratory birds, many bird groups utilize PA's natural habitats for resting, breeding, and nesting. Breeding populations of interior forest bird species depend upon unfragmented forests. **No Important Bird Areas (IBAs) are crossed by the Project within Northumberland County.** Transco developed a Migratory Bird Plan in coordination with the USFWS Pennsylvania Field Office. The plan outlines conservation measures proposed to minimize potential impacts on migratory birds. Transco is also developing a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with the USFWS that includes mitigation to offset the removal of upland forest and forest fragmentation. Transco is engaged in on-going discussions with the USFWS Pennsylvania Field Office and PGC to address potential Project-related impacts on migratory birds, including impacts on interior forests. Transco is developing a Migratory Bird Plan in coordination with the USFWS Pennsylvania Field Office. The plan outlines conservation measures proposed to minimize potential impacts on migratory birds. A Draft Migratory Bird Plan was submitted to the USFWS Pennsylvania Field Office and FERC for review and has been updated per agency comments and refiled with the FERC July 2015 supplemental. Transco will implement the measures outlined in the final, approved plan during construction and operation of the Project.

A2h. Other

No other special aquatic habitats are crossed by the Project.

A3. Habitat for Threatened and Endangered Plant and Animal Species

Coordination has been initiated with the PA DCNR, PFBC, PGC and USFWS, and field surveys have been completed to determine the presence of sensitive plant and wildlife species within the Project area. A summary of this correspondence and field survey results is included in Attachment G of this permit application package. ~~Coordination has been initiated with the PA DCNR, PFBC, PGC and USFWS to determine the presence of sensitive plant and wildlife species within the Project area. A summary of this correspondence is included in Attachment G of this permit application package. Resource agency coordination resulted in the identification of several species as potentially occurring in Northumberland County. There are no sanctuaries or refuges in the vicinity of the Project area in Northumberland County. Table L(c)-2 summarizes species identified by each agency as potentially occurring within Northumberland County and the current status of consultation.~~

A4. Environmental Study Areas

The Project is not located near any known Environmental Study Areas.

A4a. Sanctuaries

The Project will not affect areas dedicated for use as sanctuaries by state or federal agencies or non-profit organizations.

A4b. Refuges

The Project will not affect areas dedicated for use as refuges.

A5. Description of Instream Macroinvertebrate Communities

The Project does not involve stream relocation, placement of fill, placement of a water obstruction or dredging. cursory visual inspections were recorded for streams in the Project area, which will be temporarily impacted by construction. Macroinvertebrates and amphibians observed were recorded in Section L, Enclosure A on each waterbody's corresponding data sheet.

B. Water Quantity and Streamflow

B1. Natural Drainage Patterns

The Lower Susquehanna River Basin drains 5,529 square miles in Pennsylvania.

Post-construction contours will be returned to approximately the same as pre-construction contours, leaving existing drainage patterns intact. Trench plugs will be installed at all resource crossings to maintain existing hydrology within wetlands and waterbodies. Crossing methods for waterbodies have been designed to accommodate the drainage area and flow characteristics of each particular crossing.

B2. Flushing Characteristics

Large storm events and spring snow melt likely flush the streams and wetlands in the area. Some wetlands drain to unnamed secondary channels and may contribute flushing flows to streams within the watershed.

B3. Current Patterns

Streams in the Project area do not affect current patterns in other surface waters downstream of the Project area. Wildlife activity (i.e., beaver dams) may alter water flow out of wetland areas into waterbodies.

B4 and B5. Groundwater Discharge for Baseflow Natural Recharge Area for Ground and Surface Waters

The Valley and Ridge aquifer is located underneath the Project for its entirety. The aquifer is 0 to 584 feet below ground surface and has an average well yield of 0 to 1,300 gallons per minute. Most recharge of the aquifer is discharged to the Susquehanna River or withdrawn throughout the watershed via potable or non-potable water supplies. Wetlands in the Project area may provide groundwater or surface water recharge, depending on soil permeability. Surficial aquifers are the uppermost aquifers that connect with the surface. Surficial aquifers in Pennsylvania typically consist of two main aquifer systems: sand and gravel aquifer systems and glacial deposits. Many of the sand and gravel surficial aquifers are thin and at or near the land surface, resulting in short groundwater residence times. There is a till and glacial aquifer located along the Project for its entirety within Northumberland County.

B6. Storm and Flood Water Storage and Control

Streams and wetlands in the Project area may function to attenuate flood waters and provide flood storage or control. During storm events, the Project area wetlands store stormwater that may drain to large perennial waterbodies. Wetlands within the Project area would provide some capacity to store flood waters and may serve to reduce the severity of flood peaks emanating from their upstream watersheds.

C. Water Quality

C1. Preventing Pollution

Pollution prevention is an aquatic function that includes a variety of specific pollutant removal mechanisms such as trapping sediments, removal and burial of metals and other toxic compounds, and biological transformation and degradation of nutrients and organic pollutants. Some of these pollutants may become trapped in the substrate and deposit within streams and wetlands in the Project area. A wetland's ability to improve water quality depends on the type and density of aquatic vegetation, reduction and oxidation (redox) conditions and organic content of the sediments, available water storage volume, and detention time within the wetland. Most of the wetlands also have a depositional environment, which aids in trapping and retaining pollutants.

Transco obtained federal and state search reports from Environmental Data Resources, Inc. (EDR) to determine the presence and location of potential groundwater contamination in the vicinity of all proposed pipeline facilities and new aboveground facilities. The search area was based on a 2-mile radius extending from the centerline of the pipeline loop to account for any subsequent route modifications. **No sites with potential groundwater contamination were identified within the search areas for the Project in Northumberland County.**

For proposed modifications to existing aboveground facilities that are not within the search radius for the pipeline EDR reports, Transco completed a search for potential sources of contaminated groundwater using the USEPA's multisystem database. The search of the USEPA's multisystem database for records of potential groundwater contamination within 0.25 mile of all existing compressor stations, meter/regulator stations, contractor/pipe yards, and

MLVs did not identify any potential groundwater contamination in the vicinity of the aboveground facilities associated with the Project in **Northumberland County**.

C2. Sedimentation Control and Patterns

Sediment stabilization includes stream bank anchoring, dissipation of erosion forces and trapping of sediments. Siltation observed within some of the Project area streams demonstrated in-stream sedimentation. In general, any vegetated cover (e.g., herbaceous and scrub/shrub vegetation) within wetlands can stabilize soils and trap sediments. Some portions of the wetlands in the Project area contain dense vegetation that aids in retaining sediments and filtering water.

C3. Salinity Distribution

The Project is not located in a coastal or estuarine environment, therefore, this section is not applicable.

C4. Natural Water Filtration

Streams in the Project area may perform some functions in water filtration; there is moderate variation in the stream substrate and/or gradient. Streambed substrate observed in streams most commonly included silt, sand, gravel, and cobble, but also included vegetation, boulder, and bedrock. Wetlands, especially those with dense vegetation, can effectively detain and naturally filter water laden with nutrients and/or toxicants. In the Project area, the wetlands and riparian vegetation abutting or adjacent to streams serve to some extent to maintain natural water filtration. Most emergent portions of wetlands within the Project area contain areas of dense vegetation that could aid in the natural water filtration process.

D. Recreation

D1 and D2. Game and Non-Game Species

The Atlantic Sunrise Project area traverses habitats that support a variety of wildlife species. Vegetative cover type and density are important environmental factors influencing wildlife habitat and species distribution. Variations in vegetative community types (e.g., deciduous hardwood and conifer are community types within the forested upland vegetation cover type) and other conditions, such as topography and existing land use, influence the quality and

availability of wildlife habitat within the Project area. Areas of greatest wildlife diversity and density are expected in natural habitats such as extensive, contiguous forest tracts, successional habitats (scrub-shrub), and grasslands. Habitats in agricultural land such as pastures, croplands, and hayfields harbor generalist wildlife species, consisting primarily of small mammals and white-tailed deer.

Upland Forest

Upland forests provide food resources, cover, and nesting habitat for a variety of fauna in the vicinity of the Project. The tree canopy and shrub understory provide food and cover for larger mammals such as white-tailed deer (*Odocoileus virginianus*) and black bear (*Ursus americanus*). Leaf litter on the forest floor provides food and cover for amphibians and reptiles, such as northern ringneck snake (*Diadophis punctatus edwardsii*) and American toad (*Anaxyrus americanus*). The eastern newt (*Notophthalmus viridescens*) spends the majority of its life as a juvenile roaming forested areas. Smaller mammals such as the gray squirrel (*Sciurus carolinensis*), eastern chipmunk (*Tamias striatus*), and raccoon (*Procyon lotor*) utilize fallen logs for cover and nest cavities. Pennsylvania's official state bird, the ruffed grouse (*Bonasa umbellus*), is an example of a non-migratory bird that prefers young, thick hardwood forest stands. Thus, they can benefit from timbering or clearing activities in the long-term when the forest regenerates back to a thick young forest stand. Upland forest is also one of several cover types inhabited by wild turkey (*Meleagris gallopavo*).

Open Land

Several mammal species use shrublands and grasslands in the Project area as foraging and nesting habitat. These species include the eastern cottontail (*Sylvilagus floridanus*), gray squirrel, red fox (*Vulpes vulpes*), several small mammal species (e.g., mice and voles), and raccoon (NatureServe 2014). Previously cleared areas that are infrequently maintained or abandoned create successional growth habitats that are used by a distinct group of wildlife. These open lands include old agricultural fields and existing utility ROWs. ROWs in particular provide corridors that are used by several species to move between habitats. Within the Project area, these species may include white-tailed deer, coyote (*Canis latrans*), and eastern cottontail.

Other animal species such as the Virginia opossum (*Didelphis virginiana*), eastern garter snake (*Thamnophis sirtalis*), and turkey likewise rely on open land habitat for food, nesting, and protection from predators (e.g., in areas where vegetation is taller or denser than understory of adjacent habitat).

Emergent Wetlands

PEM wetlands provide habitat for a variety of reptile and amphibian species, such as green frog (*Rana clamitans*), bullfrog (*Rana catesbeiana*), northern dusky salamander (*Desmognathus fuscus fuscus*), red-backed salamander, leopard frog (*Rana pipiens*), spring peeper (*Pseudacris crucifer*), northern water snake (*Nerodia sipedon*), painted turtle (*Chrysemys picta*), and snapping turtle (*Chelydra serpentina*).

Agricultural Areas

Although crop fields and livestock pastures do not generally provide the highest quality habitat, they often provide forage and nesting for several small mammal species such as the meadow vole (*Microtus pennsylvanicus*) that also utilize adjacent forest, open land, and even developed habitats. Additionally, pastures provide grazing habitat for species such as the whitetailed deer.

D3. Fishing

South Branch Roaring Creek and its tributaries within the Project area have a State Water Quality Designated Use Classification of High-Quality Cold Water Fisheries. Quaker Run, Coal Run and its their tributaries within the Project area have a State Water Quality Designated Use Classification of Cold Water Fisheries. Mahoney Creek, Shamokin Creek, and Mahanoy Creek and their tributaries within the Project area have a State Water Quality Designated Use Classification of Warm Water Fisheries. There are no South Branch Roaring Creek and its tributaries within the Project area are also classified as Class A Wild Trout Streams or Stream Sections that Support Naturally Reproducing Wild Trout crossed by the Project in Northumberland County. There are no stocked trout streams crossed by the Project in Northumberland County. Portions of South Branch Roaring Creek are stocked; however the PFBC has indicated that the location at which the Project crosses an Unnamed Tributary (UNT) to South Branch Roaring Creek is not within 0.5 miles of a stocked section. Coldwater stream sections in the Project area support trout populations. Within the workspace of the Project in

Northumberland County, ninefour streams have been identified as having perennial flow and could, therefore, sustain populations of fish.

Table L(c)-14
Representative Fish Species in Waterbodies Crossed by the
Atlantic Sunrise Project in Pennsylvania

Common Name	Scientific Name
Warmwater Fish	
Largemouth bass	<i>Micropterus salmoides</i>
Smallmouth bass	<i>Micropterus dolomieu</i>
Rock bass	<i>Ambloplites rupestris</i>
Channel catfish	<i>Ictalurus punctatus</i>
Muskellunge	<i>Esox masquinongy</i>
Chain pickerel	<i>Esox niger</i>
Black crappie	<i>Pomoxis nigromaculatus</i>
Bluegill	<i>Lepomis macrochirus</i>
Pumpkinseed	<i>Lepomis gibbosus</i>
White perch	<i>Morone americana</i>
Yellow perch	<i>Perca flavescens</i>
Walleye	<i>Sander vitreus</i>
Coldwater Fish	
Brown trout	<i>Salmo trutta</i>
Rainbow trout	<i>Oncorhynchus mykiss</i>
Brook trout	<i>Salvelinus fontinalis</i>
Longnose dace	<i>Rhinichthys cataractae</i>
Eastern blacknose dace	<i>Rhinichthys atratulus</i>
Mottled sculpin	<i>Cottus bairdi</i>
Slimy sculpin	<i>Cottus cognatus</i>
Migratory Fish	
Striped bass	<i>Morone saxatilis</i>
Blueback herring	<i>Alosa aestivalis</i>
Alewife	<i>Alosa pseudoharengus</i>
American shad	<i>Alosa sapidissima</i>
American eel	<i>Anguilla rostrata</i>
Sources: PFBC	

D4 and D5. Hiking and Observation (plant/wildlife)

Anthracite Outdoor Adventure Area

The proposed route for the Project crosses the eastern portion of the Anthracite Outdoor Adventure Area (AOAA) between MP 83.8 and MP 84.4. The AOAA is a 6,500-acre recreation facility located in Northumberland County, Pennsylvania. The facility, which opened for use in 2013, is located on county-owned property reclaimed from land strip-mined for coal and is managed by the AOAA Authority. The AOAA will eventually offer motorized and non-motorized trails for a wide variety of outdoor recreation, including off-highway vehicle trails, walking trails, hiking trails, primitive and full-service camping areas, horse trails, biking areas, side-by-side trails, and hunting access. The AOAA intends to convert trails for snowmobiles, cross-country skiing, and other uses, for winter recreational activities, as weather and snowfall levels permit. CPL South crosses the area of the AOAA known as the eastern reserve. The eastern reserve contains ATV trails that will be crossed by the Project. The eastern reserve opened in the spring of 2014 and is open year-round.

Transco is requesting temporary and permanent ROW where the Project crosses the AOAA. Transco met with representatives from the AOAA on December 10, 2014 to discuss the crossing and suitable measures to minimize disturbance to the recreation area. Transco is developing a site-specific crossing plan for the AOAA including impact minimization measures such as flagging or fencing of work zones, signage, and temporary trail closures. Transco is coordinating with the AOAA Authority to finalize the site-specific crossing plan.

Pennsylvania State Game Land 084

The proposed route for the Project crosses Pennsylvania SGL 084 from MP M-0194 0.98 to MP M-0194-1.10 in Schuylkill and Northumberland counties, Pennsylvania. There are hiking trails located on SGL 084; however, these trails are not crossed by the Project. The portion of the Project that crosses SGL 084 follows an existing electric transmission corridor.

D6. Other

Mahanoy Creek and Shamokin Creek have been identified as PFBC recreationally navigable waters within Northumberland County. No other functions, values, and uses have been identified for the streams and wetlands affected by this Project.

E. Upstream and Downstream Property

Adjoining property owners are provided in Section A, Attachment A-2.

F. Other Environmental Factors Determined by Site Investigation

The Project traverses multiple land use types but primarily includes open agricultural land and forested areas. During the Project siting process, Transco located all proposed facilities in such a manner as to minimize impacts to streams, wetlands, forested areas, public, and private lands. Where possible, Transco placed the proposed pipeline ROW within open areas, limiting stream and wetland crossings. More details related to the routing process for the Project is included in Attachment P.

G. References

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Attachment L – Environmental Assessment
Enclosure C – Description of Aquatic Habitats

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