

Pennsylvania Natural Diversity Inventory (PNDI) Consultation Summary

On May 13, 2025, WSP generated a PNDI Receipt for the Transco Northeast Supply Enhancement Expansion Project – Quarryville Loop, Lancaster County (PNDI-840101).

No further coordination is required with the Pennsylvania Game Commission (PGC) or Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (PADCNR). Consultation with the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission (PFBC) and United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) is ongoing.

A summary of the consultation status with PFBC and USFWS is provided below.

PFBC

Chesapeake Logperch

The Project, as proposed, will require approximately 212 acres of earth disturbance in PA with impacts to Wissler Run (HQ-WWF, MF), Fishing Creek (HQ-CWF, MF), an unnamed tributary (UNT) to Fishing Creek (HQ-CWF, MF), an UNT to Conowingo Creek (HQ-CWF, MF), Conowingo Creek (HQ-CWF, MF), an UNT to Stewart Run (HQ-CWF, MF), Bowery Run (HQ-CWF, MF). Approximately 2.5 acres of wetland impacts are anticipated to be required for construction of the Project.

PFBC previously reviewed this project under the PA Department of Environmental Protection (PADEP) Water Quality Certification (WQC) approval, PADEP ID: ESG0100015001. In a letter dated July 6, 2016, PFBC indicated the potential presence of Chesapeake Logperch in the project area but did not require surveys at that time. Following further consultation regarding stream crossing techniques and mitigation measures, PFBC issued a clearance letter on March 7, 2017, stating that with the use of best management practices and the approved erosion and sediment control (E&S) plans, the project would not significantly impact Chesapeake Logperch. When the construction methodology at Conowingo Creek was revised, PFBC was re-consulted on September 22, 2017. In the attached letter dated September 27, 2017, PFBC confirmed that it does not anticipate significant adverse impacts to Chesapeake Logperch as a result of the project.

The scope of the Project remains the same as described in the previously approved PNDI SIR# 46205.

The project design, construction methods, and E&S controls remain unchanged from those previously reviewed and approved by PFBC. All best management practices and mitigation measures described in earlier consultations will continue to be implemented to minimize impacts to waterbodies, wetlands, and aquatic resources. This includes adherence to PADEP-approved E&S plans and the use of established stream crossing techniques that have already received PFBC's concurrence.

Consultation with PFBC is ongoing, and a copy of the agency approval will be provided upon receipt.

USFWS

Bog Turtle

WSP previously completed Bog Turtle surveys within the Project area in 2017. Phase I bog turtle habitat surveys revealed seven suitable wetlands within the Quarryville Loop survey area; five of the seven wetlands are within the Quarryville Loop workspace. Phase II Presence/Absence surveys and Phase III Trapping Surveys were completed in the spring of 2017, with no bog turtles found. A letter from the USFWS on July 5, 2017 concurred with the results of the bog turtle surveys, indicating the Project will not affect the bog turtle.

On May 5, 2025, USFWS provided a list of threatened and endangered species that may occur within the Project area. WSP completed additional Bog Turtle surveys within the Project area in 2025. Results will be presented to the USFWS, and agency concurrence will be provided to PADEP upon receipt.

Indiana Bat, Tricolored Bat, and Northern Long-eared Bat

In 2016, USFWS indicated that the Project area is within the known range of the Indiana bat and the northern long-eared bat. The USFWS indicated that no surveys would be required for the Project because the tree clearing proposed is less than 40 acres (Shellenberger 2016). No known hibernacula, roosts, or swarming areas for these species occur near the Project area (Shellenberger 2016). The FWS did not recommend timing restrictions on forest clearing for the Quarryville Loop (Shellenberger 2016). The lack of known roosts and hibernacula, the limited amount of forested lands to be cleared, and the implementation of Transco's avoidance and minimization measures suggest that the Project's impacts on Indiana bats and northern long-eared bats would not be adverse or result in take.

On May 5, 2025, USFWS provided a list of threatened and endangered species that may occur within the Project area. On May 13, 2025, WSP completed the Determination Key for the Northern Long-eared Bat and Tricolored Bat. Based on the IPaC submission, the Project has May Affect determinations for the Northern Long-eared Bat and Tricolored Bat. Consultation with USFWS is ongoing, and agency approval will be provided to PADEP upon receipt.

Bald Eagle

The Bald Eagle Project Screening Form is attached.

1. PROJECT INFORMATION

Project Name: **Transco Northeast Supply Enhancement Expansion Project Quarryville Loop**

Date of Review: **5/13/2025 03:28:49 PM**

Project Category: **Energy Storage, Production, and Transfer, Energy Transfer, Pipeline (e.g., gas, oil) -- NEW (construction of new line in a new location)**

Project Area: **212.13 acres**

County(s): **Lancaster**

Township/Municipality(s): **Drumore Township; East Drumore Township; Eden Township**

ZIP Code:

Quadrangle Name(s): **HOLTWOOD; QUARRYVILLE; WAKEFIELD**

Watersheds HUC 8: **Lower Susquehanna**

Watersheds HUC 12: **Big Beaver Creek; Conowingo Creek; Fishing Creek-Susquehanna River; Muddy Run-Susquehanna River; West Branch Octoraro Creek**

Decimal Degrees: **39.838192, -76.249393**

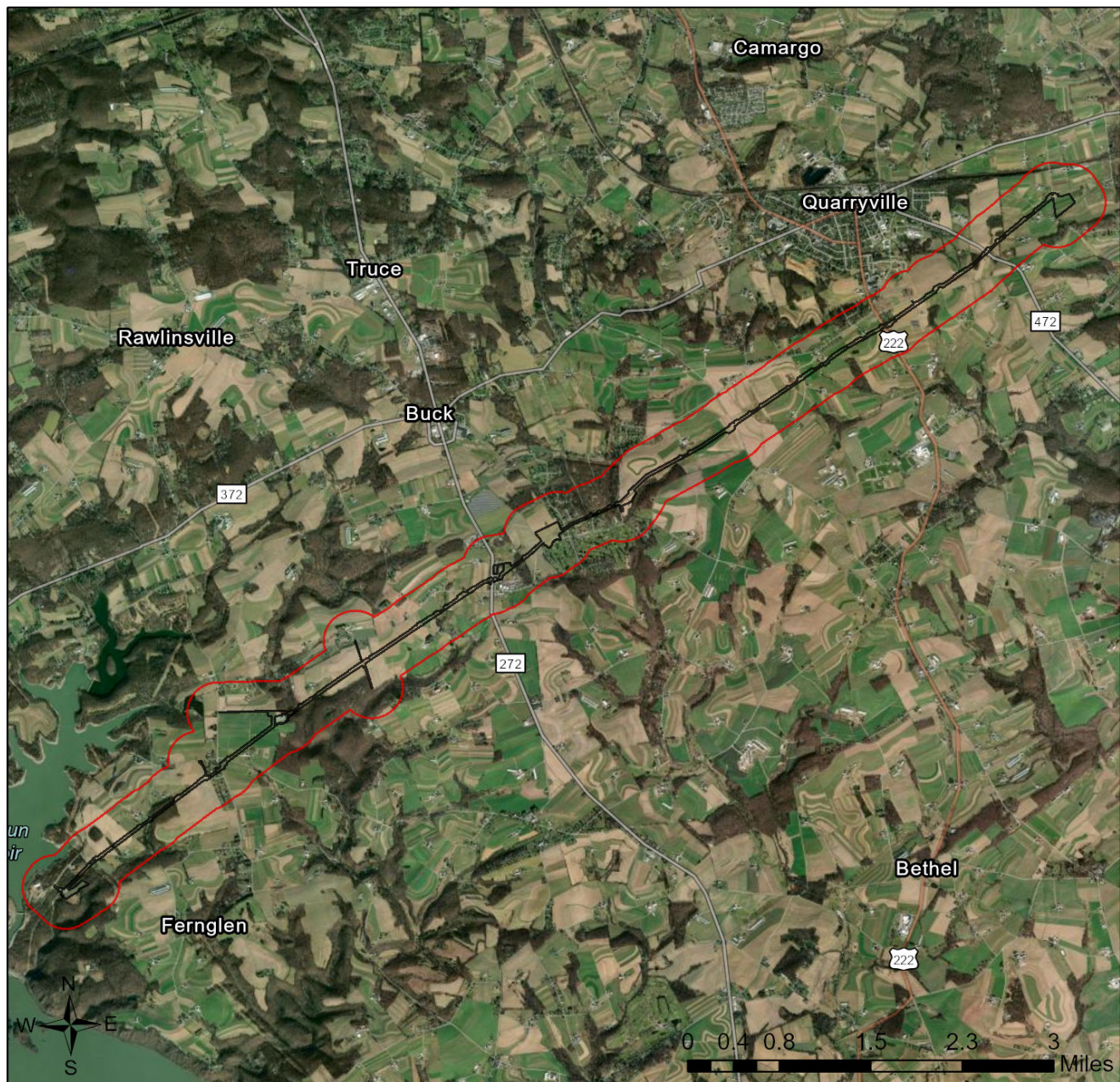
Degrees Minutes Seconds: **39° 50' 17.4917" N, 76° 14' 57.8147" W**



2. SEARCH RESULTS

Agency	Results	Response
PA Game Commission	Conservation Measure	No Further Review Required, See Agency Comments
PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources	No Known Impact	No Further Review Required
PA Fish and Boat Commission	Potential Impact	FURTHER REVIEW IS REQUIRED, See Agency Response
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	Potential Impact	MORE INFORMATION REQUIRED, See Agency Response

As summarized above, Pennsylvania Natural Diversity Inventory (PNDI) records indicate there may be potential impacts to threatened and endangered and/or special concern species and resources within the project area. If the response above indicates "No Further Review Required" no additional communication with the respective agency is required. If the response is "Further Review Required" or "See Agency Response," refer to the appropriate agency comments below. Please see the DEP Information Section of this receipt if a PA Department of Environmental Protection Permit is required.

Transco Northeast Supply Enhancement Expansion Project Quarryville Loop

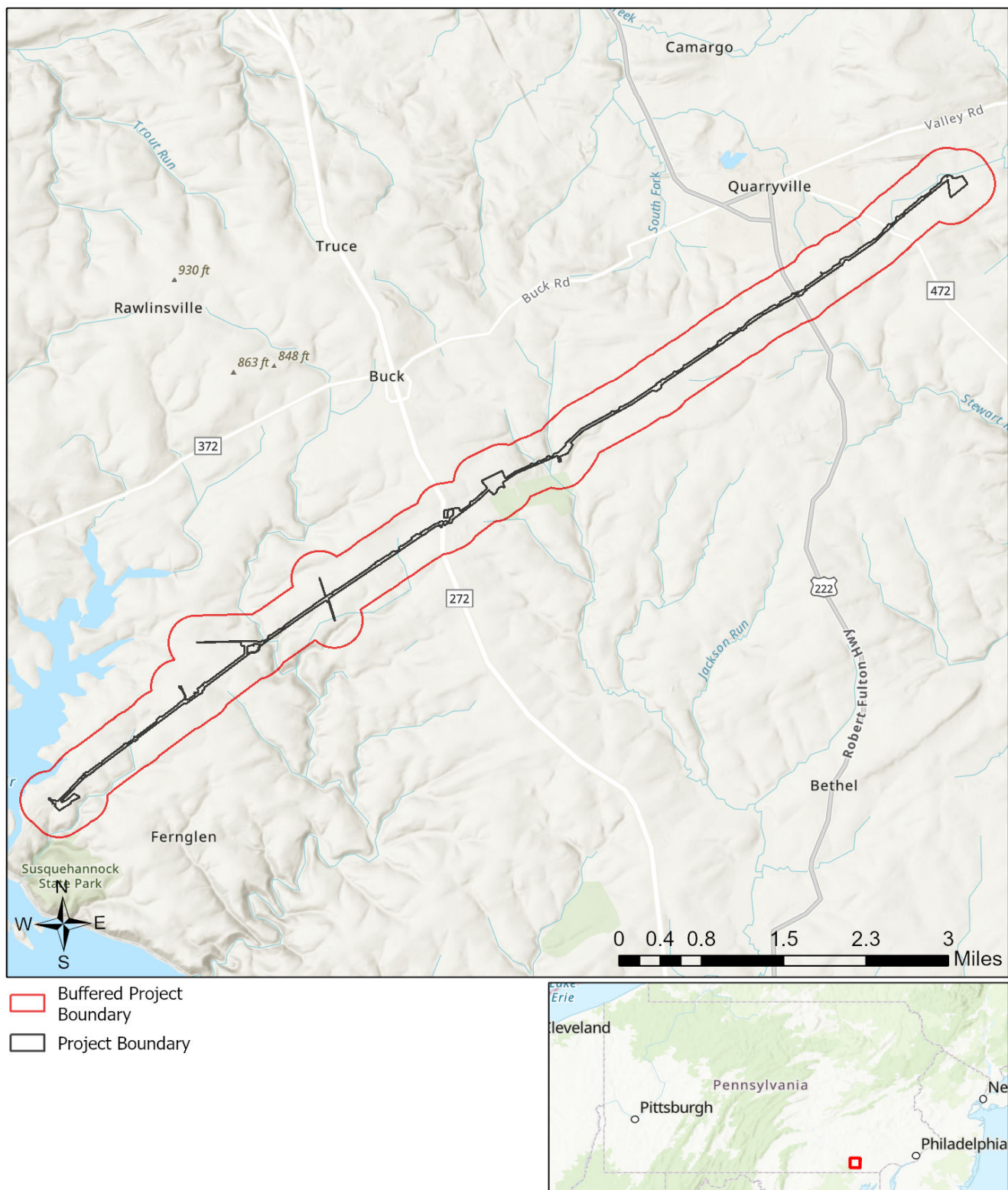


-  Buffered Project Boundary
-  Project Boundary



Source: Esri, Maxar, Earthstar Geographics, and the GIS User Community
Sources: Esri, TomTom, Garmin, FAO, NOAA, USGS, © OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GIS User Community

Transco Northeast Supply Enhancement Expansion Project Quarryville Loop



Sources: Esri, TomTom, Garmin, FAO, NOAA, USGS, © OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GIS User Community
Sources: Esri, Maxar, Airbus DS, USGS, NGA, NASA, CGIAR, N Robinson, NCEAS, NLS, OS, NMA, Geodatastyrelsen, Rijkswaterstaat, GSA,

RESPONSE TO QUESTION(S) ASKED

Q1: Accurately describe what is known about wetland presence in the project area or on the land parcel. "Project" includes all features of the project (including buildings, roads, utility lines, outfall and intake structures, wells, stormwater retention/detention basins, parking lots, driveways, lawns, etc.), as well as all associated impacts (e.g., temporary staging areas, work areas, temporary road crossings, areas subject to grading or clearing, etc.). Include all areas that will be permanently or temporarily affected -- either directly or indirectly -- by any type of disturbance (e.g., land clearing, grading, tree removal, flooding, etc.). Land parcel = the lot(s) on which some type of project(s) or activity(s) are proposed to occur.

Your answer is: Someone qualified to identify and delineate wetlands (holding a natural resource degree or equivalent work experience) has investigated the site, and determined that wetlands ARE located in or within 300 feet of the project area. (A written report from the wetland specialist, and detailed project maps should document this.)

Q2: Accurately describe what is known about wetland presence in the project area or on the land parcel by selecting ONE of the following. "Project" includes all features of the project (including buildings, roads, utility lines, outfall and intake structures, wells, stormwater retention/detention basins, parking lots, driveways, lawns, etc.), as well as all associated impacts (e.g., temporary staging areas, work areas, temporary road crossings, areas subject to grading or clearing, etc.). Include all areas that will be permanently or temporarily affected -- either directly or indirectly -- by any type of disturbance (e.g., land clearing, grading, tree removal, flooding, etc.). Land parcel = the lot(s) on which some type of project(s) or activity(s) are proposed to occur.

Your answer is: Someone qualified to identify and delineate wetlands (holding a natural resource degree or equivalent work experience) has investigated the site, and determined that wetlands ARE located in or within 300 feet of the project area. (A written report from the wetland specialist, and detailed project maps should document this.)

Q3: The proposed project is in the range of the Indiana bat. Describe how the project will affect bat habitat (forests, woodlots and trees) and indicate what measures will be taken in consideration of this. Round acreages up to the nearest acre (e.g., 0.2 acres = 1 acre).

Your answer is: The project will affect 1 to 39 acres of forests, woodlots and trees.

Q4: Is tree removal, tree cutting or forest clearing necessary to implement all aspects of this project?

Your answer is: Yes

Q5: Aquatic habitat (stream, river, lake, pond, etc.) is located on or adjacent to the subject property and project activities (including discharge) may occur within 300 feet of these habitats?

Your answer is: Yes

Q6: Is tree removal, tree cutting or forest clearing of 40 acres or more necessary to implement all aspects of this project?

Your answer is: No

Q7: Will the action include disturbance to trees such as tree cutting (or other means of knocking down, or bringing down trees, tree topping, or tree trimming), pesticide/herbicide application or prescribed fire?

Your answer is: Yes

Q8: Does the action area contain any caves (or associated sinkholes, fissures, or other karst features), mines, rocky outcroppings, culverts, or tunnels that could provide habitat for hibernating bats?

Your answer is: Unknown

Q9: Does the action area contain any caves (or associated sinkholes, fissures, or other karst features), mines, rocky outcroppings, culverts, or tunnels that could provide habitat for hibernating bats?

Your answer is: Unknown

3. AGENCY COMMENTS

Regardless of whether a DEP permit is necessary for this proposed project, any potential impacts to threatened and endangered species and/or special concern species and resources must be resolved with the appropriate jurisdictional agency. In some cases, a permit or authorization from the jurisdictional agency may be needed if adverse impacts to these species and habitats cannot be avoided.

These agency determinations and responses are **valid for two years** (from the date of the review), and are based on the project information that was provided, including the exact project location; the project type, description, and features; and any responses to questions that were generated during this search. If any of the following change: 1) project location, 2) project size or configuration, 3) project type, or 4) responses to the questions that were asked during the online review, the results of this review are not valid, and the review must be searched again via the PNDI Environmental Review Tool and resubmitted to the jurisdictional agencies. The PNDI tool is a primary screening tool, and a desktop review may reveal more or fewer impacts than what is listed on this PNDI receipt. The jurisdictional agencies **strongly advise against** conducting surveys for the species listed on the receipt prior to consultation with the agencies.

PA Game Commission

RESPONSE:

Conservation Measure: Potential impacts to state and federally listed species which are under the jurisdiction of both the Pennsylvania Game Commission (PGC) and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service may occur as a result of this project. As a result, the PGC defers comments on potential impacts to federally listed species to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. No further coordination with the Pennsylvania Game Commission is required at this time.

PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources

RESPONSE:

No Impact is anticipated to threatened and endangered species and/or special concern species and resources.

PA Fish and Boat Commission

RESPONSE:

Further review of this project is necessary to resolve the potential impact(s). Please send project information to this agency for review (see WHAT TO SEND).

PFBC Species: (Note: The Pennsylvania Conservation Explorer tool is a primary screening tool, and a desktop review may reveal more or fewer species than what is listed below.)

Scientific Name	Common Name	Current Status
Percina bimaculata	Chesapeake Logperch	Threatened
Sensitive Species**		Special Concern Species*
Sensitive Species**		Threatened

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

RESPONSE:

Information Request: Conduct a Bog Turtle Habitat (Phase 1) Survey in accordance with USFWS Guidelines for Bog Turtle Surveys (April 2020). Evaluate all wetlands within 300 feet of the project area, which includes all areas that will be impacted by earth disturbance or project features (e.g., roads, structures, utility lines, lawns, detention basins, staging areas, etc.). IF THE PHASE 1 SURVEY IS DONE BY A QUALIFIED BOG TURTLE SURVEYOR (see [Pennsylvania Qualified Surveyors | FWS.gov](#)): 1) Send positive results to USFWS for concurrence, along with a project description documenting how impacts will be avoided. OR, conduct a Phase 2 survey and send Phase 1 and 2 results to USFWS for concurrence. 2) Send a courtesy copy of negative results to USFWS (label as "Negative Phase 1 Survey Results by Qualified Bog Turtle Surveyor: USFWS Courtesy Copy"). USFWS approval of negative results is not necessary when a qualified surveyor does the survey in full accordance with USFWS guidelines. IF THE PHASE 1 SURVEY IS NOT DONE BY A QUALIFIED SURVEYOR: Send ALL Phase 1 results to USFWS for concurrence, and if potential habitat is found, also send a project description documenting how impacts will be avoided.

As a qualified bog turtle surveyor, I _____ (name) certify that I conducted a Phase 1 survey of all wetlands in and within 300 feet of the project area on _____ (date) and determined that bog turtle habitat is absent.

_____ (Signature)

Information Request: Due to the proximity of this project to a bald eagle nest, it is possible that project activities may disturb bald eagles, which is a form of "take" under the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act and may require a permit. The Service has prepared a project screening form to help you determine which specific measures may be necessary to avoid disturbing bald eagles and their nests, based on the type and scope of your proposed project or activity, and its distance from a bald eagle nest. Complete the "Bald Eagle Project Screening Form" (see https://www.fws.gov/northeast/ecologicalservices/pdf/eagle/NE_Bald-Eagle_Project-Screening-Form_rev20200416.pdf) and implement the measures identified on that form. Submit a copy of the completed Screening Form to the appropriate federal or state permitting agencies (e.g., PA DEP).

Information Request: Enter project information into IPaC (<https://ecos.fws.gov/ipac/>). Follow the step-by-step process to review this project's potential effect on federally listed species.

* Special Concern Species or Resource - Plant or animal species classified as rare, tentatively undetermined or candidate as well as other taxa of conservation concern, significant natural communities, special concern populations (plants or animals) and unique geologic features.

** Sensitive Species - Species identified by the jurisdictional agency as collectible, having economic value, or being susceptible to decline as a result of visitation.

WHAT TO SEND TO JURISDICTIONAL AGENCIES

If project information was requested by one or more of the agencies above, upload* or email the following information to the agency(s) (see AGENCY CONTACT INFORMATION). Instructions for uploading project materials can be found [here](#). This option provides the applicant with the convenience of sending project materials to a single location accessible to all three state agencies (but not USFWS).

*If information was requested by USFWS, applicants must email, or mail, project information to IR1_ESPenn@fws.gov to initiate a review. USFWS will not accept uploaded project materials.

Check-list of Minimum Materials to be submitted:

____ Project narrative with a description of the overall project, the work to be performed, current physical characteristics of the site and acreage to be impacted.

____ A map with the project boundary and/or a basic site plan (particularly showing the relationship of the project to the physical features such as wetlands, streams, ponds, rock outcrops, etc.)

In addition to the materials listed above, USFWS REQUIRES the following

____ **SIGNED** copy of a Final Project Environmental Review Receipt

The inclusion of the following information may expedite the review process.

____ Color photos keyed to the basic site plan (i.e. showing on the site plan where and in what direction each photo was taken and the date of the photos)

____ Information about the presence and location of wetlands in the project area, and how this was determined (e.g., by a qualified wetlands biologist), if wetlands are present in the project area, provide project plans showing the location of all project features, as well as wetlands and streams.

4. DEP INFORMATION

The Pa Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) requires that a signed copy of this receipt, along with any required documentation from jurisdictional agencies concerning resolution of potential impacts, be submitted with applications for permits requiring PNDI review. Two review options are available to permit applicants for handling PNDI coordination in conjunction with DEP's permit review process involving either T&E Species or species of special concern. Under sequential review, the permit applicant performs a PNDI screening and completes all coordination with the appropriate jurisdictional agencies prior to submitting the permit application. The applicant will include with its application, both a PNDI receipt and/or a clearance letter from the jurisdictional agency if the PNDI Receipt shows a Potential Impact to a species or the applicant chooses to obtain letters directly from the jurisdictional agencies. Under concurrent review, DEP, where feasible, will allow technical review of the permit to occur concurrently with the T&E species consultation with the jurisdictional agency. The applicant must still supply a copy of the PNDI Receipt with its permit application. The PNDI Receipt should also be submitted to the appropriate agency according to directions on the PNDI Receipt. The applicant and the jurisdictional agency will work together to resolve the potential impact(s). See the DEP PNDI policy at <https://conservationexplorer.dcnr.pa.gov/content/resources>.



5. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

The PNDI environmental review website is a preliminary screening tool. There are often delays in updating species status classifications. Because the proposed status represents the best available information regarding the conservation status of the species, state jurisdictional agency staff give the proposed statuses at least the same consideration as the current legal status. If surveys or further information reveal that a threatened and endangered and/or special concern species and resources exist in your project area, contact the appropriate jurisdictional agency/agencies immediately to identify and resolve any impacts.

For a list of species known to occur in the county where your project is located, please see the species lists by county found on the PA Natural Heritage Program (PNHP) home page (www.naturalheritage.state.pa.us). Also note that the PNDI Environmental Review Tool only contains information about species occurrences that have actually been reported to the PNHP.

6. AGENCY CONTACT INFORMATION

PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources

Bureau of Forestry, Ecological Services Section
400 Market Street, PO Box 8552
Harrisburg, PA 17105-8552
Email: RA-HeritageReview@pa.gov

PA Fish and Boat Commission

Division of Environmental Services
595 E. Rolling Ridge Dr., Bellefonte, PA 16823
Email: RA-FBPACENOTIFY@pa.gov

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Pennsylvania Field Office
Endangered Species Section
110 Radnor Rd; Suite 101
State College, PA 16801
Email: IR1_ESPenn@fws.gov
NO Faxes Please

PA Game Commission

Bureau of Wildlife Management
Division of Environmental Review
2001 Elmerton Avenue, Harrisburg, PA 17110-9797
Email: RA-PGC_PNDI@pa.gov
NO Faxes Please

7. PROJECT CONTACT INFORMATION

Name: Clara Trueblood
Company/Business Name: WSP
Address: 4000 Faber Place Drive, Suite 300
City, State, Zip: North Charleston, SC 29405
Phone: (724) 759-2750 Fax: ()
Email: clara.trueblood@wsp.com

8. CERTIFICATION

I certify that ALL of the project information contained in this receipt (including project location, project size/configuration, project type, answers to questions) is true, accurate and complete. In addition, if the project type, location, size or configuration changes, or if the answers to any questions that were asked during this online review change, I agree to re-do the online environmental review.

5/22/2025

applicant/project proponent signature

date



United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
Pennsylvania Ecological Services Field Office
110 Radnor Road Suite 101
State College, PA 16801-7987
Phone: (814) 234-4090 Fax: (814) 234-0748



In Reply Refer To:

05/05/2025 17:19:49 UTC

Project Code: 2025-0092275

Project Name: Transco Northeast Supply Enhancement Expansion Project Quarryville Loop

Subject: List of threatened and endangered species that may occur in your proposed project location or may be affected by your proposed project

To Whom It May Concern:

The enclosed species list identifies threatened, endangered, proposed and candidate species, as well as proposed and final designated critical habitat, that may occur within the boundary of your proposed project and/or may be affected by your proposed project. The species list fulfills the requirements of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) under section 7(c) of the Endangered Species Act (Act) of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*).

New information based on updated surveys, changes in the abundance and distribution of species, changed habitat conditions, or other factors could change this list. Please feel free to contact us if you need more current information or assistance regarding the potential impacts to federally proposed, listed, and candidate species and federally designated and proposed critical habitat. Please note that under 50 CFR 402.12(e) of the regulations implementing section 7 of the Act, the accuracy of this species list should be verified after 90 days. This verification can be completed formally or informally as desired. The Service recommends that verification be completed by visiting the IPaC website at regular intervals during project planning and implementation for updates to species lists and information. An updated list may be requested through the IPaC system by completing the same process used to receive the enclosed list.

The purpose of the Act is to provide a means whereby threatened and endangered species and the ecosystems upon which they depend may be conserved. Under sections 7(a)(1) and 7(a)(2) of the Act and its implementing regulations (50 CFR 402 *et seq.*), Federal agencies are required to utilize their authorities to carry out programs for the conservation of threatened and endangered species and to determine whether projects may affect threatened and endangered species and/or designated critical habitat.

A Biological Assessment is required for construction projects (or other undertakings having similar physical impacts) that are major Federal actions significantly affecting the quality of the human environment as defined in the National Environmental Policy Act (42 U.S.C. 4332(2) (c)). For projects other than major construction activities, the Service suggests that a biological

evaluation similar to a Biological Assessment be prepared to determine whether the project may affect listed or proposed species and/or designated or proposed critical habitat. Recommended contents of a Biological Assessment are described at 50 CFR 402.12.

If a Federal agency determines, based on the Biological Assessment or biological evaluation, that listed species and/or designated critical habitat may be affected by the proposed project, the agency is required to consult with the Service pursuant to 50 CFR 402. In addition, the Service recommends that candidate species, proposed species and proposed critical habitat be addressed within the consultation. More information on the regulations and procedures for section 7 consultation, including the role of permit or license applicants, can be found in the "Endangered Species Consultation Handbook" at:

<https://www.fws.gov/sites/default/files/documents/endangered-species-consultation-handbook.pdf>

Migratory Birds: In addition to responsibilities to protect threatened and endangered species under the Endangered Species Act (ESA), there are additional responsibilities under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) and the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act (BGEPA) to protect native birds from project-related impacts. Any activity, intentional or unintentional, resulting in take of migratory birds, including eagles, is prohibited unless otherwise permitted by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (50 C.F.R. Sec. 10.12 and 16 U.S.C. Sec. 668(a)). For more information regarding these Acts see <https://www.fws.gov/program/migratory-bird-permit/what-we-do>.

The MBTA has no provision for allowing take of migratory birds that may be unintentionally killed or injured by otherwise lawful activities. It is the responsibility of the project proponent to comply with these Acts by identifying potential impacts to migratory birds and eagles within applicable NEPA documents (when there is a federal nexus) or a Bird/Eagle Conservation Plan (when there is no federal nexus). Proponents should implement conservation measures to avoid or minimize the production of project-related stressors or minimize the exposure of birds and their resources to the project-related stressors. For more information on avian stressors and recommended conservation measures see <https://www.fws.gov/library/collections/threats-birds>.

In addition to MBTA and BGEPA, Executive Order 13186: *Responsibilities of Federal Agencies to Protect Migratory Birds*, obligates all Federal agencies that engage in or authorize activities that might affect migratory birds, to minimize those effects and encourage conservation measures that will improve bird populations. Executive Order 13186 provides for the protection of both migratory birds and migratory bird habitat. For information regarding the implementation of Executive Order 13186, please visit <https://www.fws.gov/partner/council-conservation-migratory-birds>.

We appreciate your concern for threatened and endangered species. The Service encourages Federal agencies to include conservation of threatened and endangered species into their project planning to further the purposes of the Act. Please include the Consultation Code in the header of this letter with any request for consultation or correspondence about your project that you submit to our office.

Attachment(s):

- Official Species List
- USFWS National Wildlife Refuges and Fish Hatcheries
- Bald & Golden Eagles
- Migratory Birds
- Wetlands

OFFICIAL SPECIES LIST

This list is provided pursuant to Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act, and fulfills the requirement for Federal agencies to "request of the Secretary of the Interior information whether any species which is listed or proposed to be listed may be present in the area of a proposed action".

This species list is provided by:

Pennsylvania Ecological Services Field Office

110 Radnor Road Suite 101
State College, PA 16801-7987
(814) 234-4090

PROJECT SUMMARY

Project Code: 2025-0092275

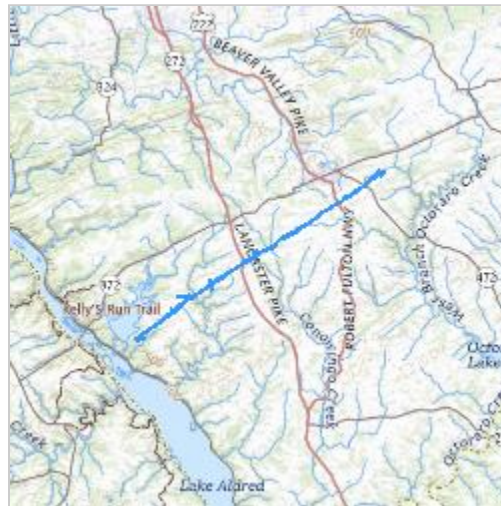
Project Name: Transco Northeast Supply Enhancement Expansion Project Quarryville Loop

Project Type: Pipeline - Onshore - New Constr - Below Ground

Project Description: Transco is proposing to construct, install, and operate the Quarryville Loop (Loop), a 42- inch, 10.17 miles long, natural gas pipeline loop, located in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania. The Loop will be constructed as part of the overall Northeast Supply Enhancement Project (NESE), an interstate natural gas pipeline system. The Project supports National Grids long-term growth, reliability and flexibility. Transco is proposing to expand its existing interstate natural gas pipeline system in PA and NJ and its existing offshore pipeline system in NJ and NY. The Project will provide 4000,000 dekatherms/day of capacity.

Project Location:

The approximate location of the project can be viewed in Google Maps: <https://www.google.com/maps/@39.85648225,-76.21183421555142,14z>



Counties: Lancaster County, Pennsylvania

ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT SPECIES

There is a total of 6 threatened, endangered, or candidate species on this species list.

Species on this list should be considered in an effects analysis for your project and could include species that exist in another geographic area. For example, certain fish may appear on the species list because a project could affect downstream species.

IPaC does not display listed species or critical habitats under the sole jurisdiction of NOAA Fisheries¹, as USFWS does not have the authority to speak on behalf of NOAA and the Department of Commerce.

See the "Critical habitats" section below for those critical habitats that lie wholly or partially within your project area under this office's jurisdiction. Please contact the designated FWS office if you have questions.

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1. [NOAA Fisheries](#), also known as the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), is an office of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration within the Department of Commerce.

MAMMALS

NAME	STATUS
Indiana Bat <i>Myotis sodalis</i> There is final critical habitat for this species. Your location does not overlap the critical habitat. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/5949	Endangered
Northern Long-eared Bat <i>Myotis septentrionalis</i> No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9045	Endangered
Tricolored Bat <i>Perimyotis subflavus</i> No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/10515	Proposed Endangered

REPTILES

NAME	STATUS
Bog Turtle <i>Glyptemys muhlenbergii</i> Population: Wherever found, except GA, NC, SC, TN, VA No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/6962	Threatened

CLAMS

NAME	STATUS
Green Floater <i>Lasmigona subviridis</i> There is proposed critical habitat for this species. Your location does not overlap the critical habitat. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/7541	Proposed Threatened

INSECTS

NAME	STATUS
Monarch Butterfly <i>Danaus plexippus</i> There is proposed critical habitat for this species. Your location does not overlap the critical habitat. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9743	Proposed Threatened

CRITICAL HABITATS

THERE ARE NO CRITICAL HABITATS WITHIN YOUR PROJECT AREA UNDER THIS OFFICE'S JURISDICTION.

YOU ARE STILL REQUIRED TO DETERMINE IF YOUR PROJECT(S) MAY HAVE EFFECTS ON ALL ABOVE LISTED SPECIES.

USFWS NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE LANDS AND FISH HATCHERIES

Any activity proposed on lands managed by the [National Wildlife Refuge](#) system must undergo a 'Compatibility Determination' conducted by the Refuge. Please contact the individual Refuges to discuss any questions or concerns.

THERE ARE NO REFUGE LANDS OR FISH HATCHERIES WITHIN YOUR PROJECT AREA.

BALD & GOLDEN EAGLES

Bald and Golden Eagles are protected under the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act ² and the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) ¹. Any person or organization who plans or conducts activities that may result in impacts to Bald or Golden Eagles, or their habitats, should follow appropriate regulations and consider implementing appropriate avoidance and minimization measures, as described in the various links on this page.

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1. The [Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act](#) of 1940.
 2. The [Migratory Birds Treaty Act](#) of 1918.
 3. 50 C.F.R. Sec. 10.12 and 16 U.S.C. Sec. 668(a)

BALD & GOLDEN EAGLES INFORMATION WAS NOT AVAILABLE WHEN THIS SPECIES LIST WAS GENERATED. PLEASE CONTACT THE FIELD OFFICE FOR FURTHER INFORMATION.

MIGRATORY BIRDS

The Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) ¹ prohibits the take (including killing, capturing, selling, trading, and transport) of protected migratory bird species without prior authorization by the Department of Interior U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service). The incidental take of migratory birds is the injury or death of birds that results from, but is not the purpose, of an activity. The Service interprets the MBTA to prohibit incidental take.

-
1. The [Migratory Birds Treaty Act](#) of 1918.
 2. The [Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act](#) of 1940.
 3. 50 C.F.R. Sec. 10.12 and 16 U.S.C. Sec. 668(a)

MIGRATORY BIRD INFORMATION WAS NOT AVAILABLE WHEN THIS SPECIES LIST WAS GENERATED. PLEASE CONTACT THE FIELD OFFICE FOR FURTHER INFORMATION.

WETLANDS

Impacts to [NWI wetlands](#) and other aquatic habitats may be subject to regulation under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act, or other State/Federal statutes.

For more information please contact the Regulatory Program of the local [U.S. Army Corps of Engineers District](#).

Please note that the NWI data being shown may be out of date. We are currently working to update our NWI data set. We recommend you verify these results with a site visit to determine the actual extent of wetlands on site.

FRESHWATER FORESTED/SHRUB WETLAND

- PFO1A

FRESHWATER EMERGENT WETLAND

- PEM5A

RIVERINE

- R3UBH

IPAC USER CONTACT INFORMATION

Agency: Private Entity
Name: Clara Trueblod
Address: WSP USA
Address Line 2: 11 Stanwix Street, Suite 950
City: Pittsburgh
State: PA
Zip: 15222
Email: clara.trueblood@wsp.com
Phone: 7247592750



United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
Pennsylvania Ecological Services Field Office
110 Radnor Road Suite 101
State College, PA 16801-7987
Phone: (814) 234-4090 Fax: (814) 234-0748



In Reply Refer To:

05/13/2025 19:22:41 UTC

Project code: 2025-0092275

Project Name: Transco Northeast Supply Enhancement Expansion Project Quarryville Loop

Federal Nexus: yes

Federal Action Agency (if applicable): Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

Subject: Technical assistance for 'Transco Northeast Supply Enhancement Expansion Project Quarryville Loop'

Dear Clara Trueblod:

This letter records your determination using the Information for Planning and Consultation (IPaC) system provided to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) on May 13, 2025, for 'Transco Northeast Supply Enhancement Expansion Project Quarryville Loop' (here forward, Project). This project has been assigned Project Code 2025-0092275 and all future correspondence should clearly reference this number. **Please carefully review this letter. Your Endangered Species Act (Act) requirements are not complete.**

Ensuring Accurate Determinations When Using IPaC

The Service developed the IPaC system and associated species' determination keys in accordance with the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (ESA; 87 Stat. 884, as amended; 16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.) and based on a standing analysis. All information submitted by the Project proponent into IPaC must accurately represent the full scope and details of the Project. **Failure to accurately represent or implement the Project as detailed in IPaC or the Northern Long-eared Bat and Tricolored Bat Range-wide Determination Key (Dkey), invalidates this letter.**

Determination for the Northern Long-Eared Bat and Tricolored Bat

Based on your IPaC submission and a standing analysis completed by the Service, you determined the proposed Project will have the following effect determinations:

Species	Listing Status	Determination
Northern Long-eared Bat (<i>Myotis septentrionalis</i>)	Endangered	May affect
Tricolored Bat (<i>Perimyotis subflavus</i>)	Proposed	May affect
	Endangered	

Other Species and Critical Habitat that May be Present in the Action Area

The IPaC-assisted determination key for the northern long-eared bat and tricolored bat does not apply to the following ESA-protected species and/or critical habitat that also may occur in your Action area:

- Bog Turtle *Glyptemys muhlenbergii* Threatened
- Green Floater *Lasmigona subviridis* Proposed Threatened
- Indiana Bat *Myotis sodalis* Endangered
- Monarch Butterfly *Danaus plexippus* Proposed Threatened

You may coordinate with our Office to determine whether the Action may cause prohibited take of the species listed above.

Conclusion

Consultation with the Service is not complete. Further consultation or coordination with the Service is necessary for those species or designated critical habitats with a determination of “May Affect.” A “May Affect” determination in this key indicates that the project, as entered, is not consistent with the questions in the key. Not all projects that reach a “May Affect” determination are anticipated to result in adverse impacts to listed species. These projects may result in a “No Effect”, “May Affect, Not Likely to Adversely Affect”, or “May Affect, Likely to Adversely Affect” determination depending on the details of the project. Please contact our Pennsylvania Ecological Services Field Office to discuss methods to avoid or minimize potential adverse effects to those species or designated critical habitats.

Federal agencies must consult with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service under section 7(a)(2) of the Endangered Species Act (ESA) when an action *may affect* a listed species. Tricolored bat is proposed for listing as endangered under the ESA, but not yet listed. For actions that may affect a proposed species, agencies cannot consult, but they can *confer* under the authority of section 7(a)(4) of the ESA. Such conferences can follow the procedures for a consultation and be adopted as such if and when the proposed species is listed. Should the tricolored bat be listed, agencies must review projects that are not yet complete, or projects with ongoing effects within the tricolored bat range that previously received a NE or NLAA determination from the key to confirm that the determination is still accurate. Projects that receive a may affect determination for tricolored bat through the key, should contact the appropriate Ecological Services Field Office if they want to conference on this species.

Action Description

You provided to IPaC the following name and description for the subject Action.

1. Name

Transco Northeast Supply Enhancement Expansion Project Quarryville Loop

2. Description

The following description was provided for the project 'Transco Northeast Supply Enhancement Expansion Project Quarryville Loop':

Transco is proposing to construct, install, and operate the Quarryville Loop (Loop), a 42- inch, 10.17 miles long, natural gas pipeline loop, located in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania. The Loop will be constructed as part of the overall Northeast Supply Enhancement Project (NESE), an interstate natural gas pipeline system. The Project supports National Grids long-term growth, reliability and flexibility. Transco is proposing to expand its existing interstate natural gas pipeline system in PA and NJ and its existing offshore pipeline system in NJ and NY. The Project will provide 4000,000 dekatherms/day of capacity.

The approximate location of the project can be viewed in Google Maps: <https://www.google.com/maps/@39.85648225,-76.21183421555142,14z>



DETERMINATION KEY RESULT

Based on the answers provided, the proposed Action is consistent with a determination of “may affect” for a least one species covered by this determination key.

QUALIFICATION INTERVIEW

1. Does the proposed project include, or is it reasonably certain to cause, intentional take of listed bats or any other listed species?

Note: Intentional take is defined as take that is the intended result of a project. Intentional take could refer to research, direct species management, surveys, and/or studies that include intentional handling/encountering, harassment, collection, or capturing of any individual of a federally listed threatened, endangered or proposed species?

No

2. Is the action area wholly within Zone 2 of the year-round active area for northern long-eared bat and/or tricolored bat?

Automatically answered

No

3. Does the action area intersect Zone 1 of the year-round active area for northern long-eared bat and/or tricolored bat?

Automatically answered

No

4. Does any component of the action involve leasing, construction or operation of wind turbines? Answer 'yes' if the activities considered are conducted with the intention of gathering survey information to inform the leasing, construction, or operation of wind turbines.

Note: For federal actions, answer ‘yes’ if the construction or operation of wind power facilities is either (1) part of the federal action or (2) would not occur but for a federal agency action (federal permit, funding, etc.).

No

5. Is the proposed action authorized, permitted, licensed, funded, or being carried out by a Federal agency in whole or in part?

Yes

6. Is the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), Federal Railroad Administration (FRA), or Federal Transit Administration (FTA) funding or authorizing the proposed action, in whole or in part?

No

7. Are you an employee of the federal action agency or have you been officially designated in writing by the agency as its designated non-federal representative for the purposes of Endangered Species Act Section 7 informal consultation per 50 CFR § 402.08?

Note: This key may be used for federal actions and for non-federal actions to facilitate section 7 consultation and to help determine whether an incidental take permit may be needed, respectively. This question is for information purposes only.

No

8. Is the lead federal action agency the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) or Federal Communications Commission (FCC)? Is the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) or Federal Communications Commission (FCC) funding or authorizing the proposed action, in whole or in part?

No

9. Is the lead federal action agency the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC)?

Yes

10. Is FERC reviewing the proposed action under the Natural Gas Act, in whole or in part?

Yes

11. [Semantic] Is the action area located within 0.5 miles of a known bat hibernaculum? Note: The map queried for this question contains proprietary information and cannot be displayed. If you need additional information, please contact your State wildlife agency.

Automatically answered

No

12. Does the action area contain any winter roosts or caves (or associated sinkholes, fissures, or other karst features), mines, rocky outcroppings, or tunnels that could provide habitat for hibernating bats?

No

13. Does the action area contain (1) talus or (2) anthropogenic or naturally formed rock shelters or crevices in rocky outcrops, rock faces or cliffs?

No

14. Will the action cause effects to a bridge?

Note: Covered bridges should be considered as bridges in this question.

No

15. Will the action result in effects to a culvert or tunnel at any time of year?

No

16. Are trees present within 1000 feet of the action area?

Note: If there are trees within the action area that are of a sufficient size to be potential roosts for bats answer "Yes". If unsure, additional information defining suitable summer habitat for the northern long-eared bat and tricolored bat can be found in Appendix A of the USFWS' Range-wide Indiana Bat and Northern long-eared bat Survey Guidelines at: <https://www.fws.gov/media/range-wide-indiana-bat-and-northern-long-eared-bat-survey-guidelines>.

Yes

17. Does the action include the intentional exclusion of bats from a building or structure?

Note: Exclusion is conducted to deny bats' entry or reentry into a building. To be effective and to avoid harming bats, it should be done according to established standards. If your action includes bat exclusion and you are unsure whether northern long-eared bats or tricolored bats are present, answer "Yes." Answer "No" if there are no signs of bat use in the building/structure. If unsure, contact your local Ecological Services Field Office to help assess whether northern long-eared bats or tricolored bats may be present. Contact a Nuisance Wildlife Control Operator (NWCO) for help in how to exclude bats from a structure safely without causing harm to the bats (to find a NWCO certified in bat standards, search the Internet using the search term "National Wildlife Control Operators Association bats"). Also see the White-Nose Syndrome Response Team's guide for bat control in structures.

No

18. Does the action involve removal, modification, or maintenance of a human-made structure (barn, house, or other building) **known or suspected to contain roosting bats**?

No

19. Will the action cause construction of one or more new roads open to the public?

For federal actions, answer 'yes' when the construction or operation of these facilities is either (1) part of the federal action or (2) would not occur but for an action taken by a federal agency (federal permit, funding, etc.).

No

20. Will the action include or cause any construction or other activity that is reasonably certain to increase average night-time traffic permanently or temporarily on one or more existing roads? **Note:** For federal actions, answer 'yes' when the construction or operation of these facilities is either (1) part of the federal action or (2) would not occur but for an action taken by a federal agency (federal permit, funding, etc.). .

No

21. Will the action include or cause any construction or other activity that is reasonably certain to increase the number of travel lanes on an existing thoroughfare?

For federal actions, answer 'yes' when the construction or operation of these facilities is either (1) part of the federal action or (2) would not occur but for an action taken by a federal agency (federal permit, funding, etc.).

No

22. Will the proposed Action involve the creation of a new water-borne contaminant source (e.g., leachate pond, pits containing chemicals that are not NSF/ANSI 60 compliant)?

Note: For information regarding NSF/ANSI 60 please visit <https://www.nsf.org/knowledge-library/nsf-ansi-standard-60-drinking-water-treatment-chemicals-health-effects>

No

23. Will the proposed action involve the creation of a new point source discharge from a facility other than a water treatment plant or storm water system?

No

24. Will the action include drilling or blasting?

No

25. Will the action involve military training (e.g., smoke operations, obscurant operations, exploding munitions, artillery fire, range use, helicopter or fixed wing aircraft use)?

No

26. Will the proposed action involve the use of herbicides or other pesticides other than herbicides (e.g., fungicides, insecticides, or rodenticides)?

No

27. Will the action include or cause activities that are reasonably certain to cause chronic or intense nighttime noise (above current levels of ambient noise in the area) in suitable summer habitat for the northern long-eared bat or tricolored bat during the active season?

Chronic noise is noise that is continuous or occurs repeatedly again and again for a long time. Sources of chronic or intense noise that could cause adverse effects to bats may include, but are not limited to: road traffic; trains; aircraft; industrial activities; gas compressor stations; loud music; crowds; oil and gas extraction; construction; and mining.

Note: Additional information defining suitable summer habitat for the northern long-eared bat and tricolored bat can be found in Appendix A of the USFWS' Range-wide Indiana Bat and Northern long-eared bat Survey Guidelines at: <https://www.fws.gov/media/range-wide-indiana-bat-and-northern-long-eared-bat-survey-guidelines>.

No

28. Does the action include, or is it reasonably certain to cause, the use of permanent or temporary artificial lighting within 1000 feet of suitable northern long-eared bat or tricolored bat roosting habitat?

Note: Additional information defining suitable summer habitat for the northern long-eared bat and tricolored bat can be found in Appendix A of the USFWS' Range-wide Indiana Bat and Northern long-eared bat Survey Guidelines at: <https://www.fws.gov/media/range-wide-indiana-bat-and-northern-long-eared-bat-survey-guidelines>.

No

29. Will the action include tree cutting or other means of knocking down or bringing down trees, tree topping, or tree trimming?

Yes

30. Will the proposed action occur exclusively in an already established and currently maintained utility right-of-way?

Yes

31. Will the proposed action result in the cutting of entire trees outside of the currently maintained utility right-of-way?

Yes

32. Does the action include emergency cutting or trimming of hazard trees in order to remove an imminent threat to human safety or property? See hazard tree note at the bottom of the key for text that will be added to response letters

Note: A "hazard tree" is a tree that is an immediate threat to lives, public health and safety, or improved property.

No

33. Does the project intersect with the 0- 9.9% forest density category?

Automatically answered

No

34. Does the project intersect with the 10.0- 19.9% forest density category map?

Automatically answered

Yes

35. Does the project intersect with the 20.0- 29.9% forest density category map?

Automatically answered

Yes

36. Does the project intersect with the 30.0- 100% forest density category map?

Automatically answered

Yes

37. Will the action cause trees to be cut, knocked down, or otherwise brought down across an area greater than 5 acres in total extent?

Yes

38. Does the action area intersect the northern long-eared bat species list area?

Automatically answered

Yes

39. [Semantic] Is the action area located within 0.5 miles of radius of an entrance/opening to any known NLEB hibernacula? Note: The map queried for this question contains proprietary information and cannot be displayed. If you need additional information, please contact your State wildlife agency.

Automatically answered

No

40. [Semantic] Is the action area located within 0.25 miles of a culvert that is known to be occupied by northern long-eared or tricolored bats? **Note:** The map queried for this question contains proprietary information and cannot be displayed. If you need additional information, please contact your State wildlife agency.

Automatically answered

No

41. [Semantic] Is the action area located within 0.25 miles of a culvert that is known to be occupied by northern long-eared or tricolored bats?

Automatically answered

No

42. [Semantic] Is the action area located within 150 feet of a documented northern long-eared bat roost site?

Note: The map queried for this question contains proprietary information and cannot be displayed. If you need additional information, please contact your State wildlife agency. Have you contacted the appropriate agency to determine if your action is within 150 feet of any documented northern long-eared bat roosts?

Note: A document with links to Natural Heritage Inventory databases and other state-specific sources of information on the locations of northern long-eared bat roosts is available here. Location information for northern long-eared bat roosts is generally kept in state natural heritage inventory databases – the availability of this data varies by state. Many states provide online access to their data, either directly by providing maps or by providing the opportunity to make a data request. In some cases, to protect those resources, access to the information may be limited.

Automatically answered

No

43. Is suitable summer habitat for the northern long-eared bat present within 1000 feet of project activities?

If unsure, answer "Yes."

Note: Additional information defining suitable summer habitat for the northern long-eared bat and tricolored bat can be found in Appendix A of the USFWS' Range-wide Indiana Bat and Northern long-eared bat Survey Guidelines at: <https://www.fws.gov/media/range-wide-indiana-bat-and-northern-long-eared-bat-survey-guidelines>.

Yes

44. Does the action area intersect the tricolored bat species list area?

Automatically answered

Yes

45. [Semantic] Is the action area located within 0.5 miles of radius of an entrance/opening to any known tricolored bat hibernacula? Note: The map queried for this question contains proprietary information and cannot be displayed. If you need additional information, please contact your State wildlife agency.

Automatically answered

No

46. [Semantic] Is the action area located within 0.25 miles of a culvert that is known to be occupied by northern long-eared or tricolored bats? **Note:** The map queried for this question contains proprietary information and cannot be displayed. If you need additional information, please contact your State wildlife agency.

Automatically answered

No

47. Has a presence/probable absence bat survey targeting the [tricolored bat and following the Service's Range-wide Indiana Bat and Northern Long-Eared Bat Survey Guidelines](#) been conducted within the project area?

No

48. Is suitable summer habitat for the tricolored bat present within 1000 feet of project activities?
(If unsure, answer ""Yes."")

Note: If there are trees within the action area that may provide potential roosts for tricolored bats (e.g., clusters of leaves in live and dead deciduous trees, Spanish moss (*Tillandsia usneoides*), clusters of dead pine needles of large live pines) answer ""Yes."" For a complete definition of suitable summer habitat for the tricolored bat, please see Appendix A in the [Service's Range-wide Indiana Bat and Northern long-eared Bat Survey Guidelines](#).

Yes

49. Do you have any documents that you want to include with this submission?

No

PROJECT QUESTIONNAIRE

Enter the extent of the action area (in acres) from which trees will be removed - round up to the nearest tenth of an acre. For this question, include the entire area where tree removal will take place, even if some live or dead trees will be left standing.

10

IPAC USER CONTACT INFORMATION

Agency: Private Entity
Name: Clara Trueblod
Address: WSP USA
Address Line 2: 11 Stanwix Street, Suite 950
City: Pittsburgh
State: PA
Zip: 15222
Email: clara.trueblood@wsp.com
Phone: 7247592750

LEAD AGENCY CONTACT INFORMATION

Lead Agency: Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

NORTHEAST BALD EAGLE PROJECT SCREENING FORM



Welcome!

What is the purpose of this form? The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) designed this form as a voluntary tool to help people comply with the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act (BGEPA) by planning activities in a manner that avoids disturbing nesting bald eagles. To disturb a bald eagle nest means to agitate or bother a bald eagle to a degree that causes, or is likely to cause, that eagle to abandon its nest, suffer injury, or be unable to perform activities necessary to its survival. While all guidance included in this form is voluntary, individuals and organizations that disturb eagles may be subject to fine and prosecution under BGEPA.

How is this form different from the National Bald Eagle Management Guidelines? The National Bald Eagle Management Guidelines ([Guidelines](#)) is a document published by the Service in 2007 that provides background information on the biology of bald eagles, explains the Federal laws and regulations protecting them, and lays out guidance for several categories of human activities that can affect their nesting. This form takes the Guideline's recommendations, fits them to the regional conditions of the Northeast, and offers them to you in an interactive and intuitive format. Because the form fits its assessments and recommendations to the needs and behaviors of nesting bald eagles in the Northeast, you may find that it differs from the Guidelines on certain details. Nonetheless, the ultimate goal remains the same: to keep project proponents in compliance with BGEPA, while also protecting nesting bald eagles from disturbance.

How this form works. To complete this form, first, find the category of activities that includes your proposed activity. Then, go to the page listed for that category to assess whether your project may risk disturbing nesting bald eagles. If the form identifies that your activities may disturb nesting bald eagles, follow the recommended avoidance measures. These measures will identify factors that could influence nesting eagles' sensitivity to your activities: distance, visibility, timing, and exposure to other human activities. Sign the self-certification that you have committed to implementing the appropriate measures. If your proposed activities fall into multiple categories, repeat this process for each category. Additionally, if your project has the potential to affect multiple nests, complete a separate form for each nest site.

What to do with your completed form. Once you have signed your self-certification, keep the form for your personal records. You do not need to submit your completed form to the Service. Keep the form and additional pages that may be helpful to your future planning and compliance. If a local, state, or federal authority asks for documentation that you are complying with the Service's regional guidance, you can present them with your completed and signed form.

INTRODUCTION

What to know before you start. You will need a few pieces of information to help you complete this form.

Breeding Season

For temporary activities that might be loud or very visible, one of the simplest and most effective ways to avoid disturbing a bald eagle nest is to time the activity when eagles are not nesting, that is, outside the bald eagle breeding season. Wildlife agencies often refer to this type of measure as a time-of-year restriction. The bald eagle breeding season lasts approximately seven to eight months and has many stages. Start and end dates to this season can vary by location, year, and breeding pair. For simplicity, general dates are often set at a statewide level. Consult Appendix A to find the breeding season in your area.

Visibility

For some categories of activities, this form will ask whether your project activities will be visible to the nest. There are two general approaches to answering this question, a desktop assessment and a site visit. A desktop assessment involves consulting online mapping resources, such as Google Maps or state nest maps (see Appendix B), which can display your project location and the nest location on satellite or aerial imagery. When viewing this imagery, look to see whether there are landscape features or structures that might screen the nest's view of your activities. Your assessment is only as good as your imagery. Make sure the imagery is current and accurately reflects visibility conditions on the ground.

The second option is to visit your project location. Assess from various points in your project footprint whether you can see the nest. Use binoculars (4X power or greater) or spotting scope to assist your viewing. If you plan to visit the project site during the breeding season, be aware that your presence could also disturb the nest. Maintain 330' feet between you and the nest, or at least as much distance as the nearest ongoing foot traffic at the nest site. You should only perform your site visit from property legally accessible to you.

Using both the field and desktop approach will give you your best answer. If there is need to select between the two options, a site visit will generally provide a better sense of visibility. In either approach, consider that your activities may become more visible during portions of the year when leaves are off trees and other vegetation.

Nest Location

To figure out how close or how visible your activities will be, you will need precise knowledge of the nest's location. If you do not already have this information, check Appendix B to see if any online or state resources are available. If you are unable to get this information from any of these sources, survey the site. As when assessing visibility, you should only perform your visit on property legally accessible to you. You should also avoid coming within 330 feet of a nest during the breeding season, unless you know that the eagles have previously tolerated people at whatever shorter distance you are planning to use. For descriptions and examples of bald eagle nests, and explanation of how they differ from other large bird nests, see "Appendix C – Guide to Nest Identification."

INTRODUCTION

If you feel unable to perform this search, consider employing the services of a wildlife biologist experienced in this type of surveying. Alternatively, consider contacting your state or local wildlife agency to see if they would be able to perform a site visit (please be aware that many state and local wildlife agencies are constrained in their resources and time and may not be able to offer this service). Be sensitive to sharing information about nest locations. Attracting public interest to a nest site can threaten the safety of that nest. Some states also continue to prohibit the release of nest locations.

It is possible that you will be unable to find a reported nest. While bald eagles commonly use nests across breeding seasons, nests do not always survive from one season to the next. Nests may fall apart of their own accord or be blown down by high winds. Bald eagles may also stop using a nest for one season or more, even if the nest as a structure still exists. In these scenarios, bald eagles may still reuse a former nest site in the following breeding seasons. The temporary absence of a nest or nesting eagles does not absolve you of your responsibilities to avoid disturbing future nesting at that site. The Service recommends implementing the measures included in this form for five years after the last breeding season eagles used a nest or, where the nest no longer exists, three years after the last breeding season in which the nest existed.

Similar Activities

One of the best indicators of what a nesting bald eagle pair will tolerate is what they have already tolerated. In certain places, this form will ask whether the nesting pair has experienced and tolerated similar activities at the nest location. To answer this question, you will need to know about previous human activity at that location. Was that activity similar in nature to what you propose? As close as or closer than what you propose to do? Did it occur at the same time of day? Time of year? Did it last as long? Was it as frequent? Was it as loud? Was it as visible? You will also need to know basic history about the nest. Did the nest exist before that previous activity? Was it ever used after that activity? If your answer to any of these questions is 'no,' you cannot answer 'yes' to the broader question of whether there is similar activity at that site. See "Appendix D – Similar Activity Example Exercise" for a demonstration of how to apply this principle.

Limitations

Know when and how you should be using this form. See "Appendix E – Limitations of this form."

Where to go for help. The Service understands that project proponents may occasionally need clarification on which assessments are relevant to them and how to implement certain avoidance and minimization measures. If you find you are unable to complete this form, you can contact your regional eagle coordinator (Shaughn Galloway) for assistance at

shaughn_galloway@fws.gov - or - 413-253-8577

When emailing, please include in your subject line "BALD EAGLE SCREENING FORM QUESTION." If you are unable to connect with your regional eagle coordinator when calling, please leave a voice message that you are calling about this form and how best to reach you.

For explanation of technical terms used in this form, see "Appendix F – Glossary of Terms."

PROJECT INFORMATION

PROJECT INFORMATION

Project Name: _____

City: _____ County: _____ State: _____

Lat/Long (decimal degrees; ex. 38.418310, -76.001096): _____

[Find Lat/Long via map](#)

Size: _____ acres\miles

PROJECT CONTACT INFORMATION

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____

If your project has a Federal (ex. U.S. Army Corps), state (ex. PNDI), or other ID number, please list here: _____

PROJECT ACTIVITY CATEGORY(S)

Place a check next to all activities you plan to perform.

- ☐ Construction and Development Activities → go to pages 5 - 7
- ☐ Maintenance and Restoration Activities → go to pages 8 - 9
- ☐ Timber Operation and Forestry Practices → go to page 10
- ☐ Use of Helicopters and Fixed-wing Aircraft → go to page 11
- ☐ Blasting and Other Loud, Intermittent Noises (including Fireworks) → go to page 12
- ☐ Recreational Activities → go to pages 13 – 14

Feedback? The Service is continuously looking to improve this form. If you have suggested changes, please feel free to email them to us at shaughn_galloway@fws.gov. Include “Bald Eagle Project Screening Form – Feedback” in your subject line.

Construction and Development Activities

Which specific construction activities do you plan to perform? (check all that apply)

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Building construction | <input type="checkbox"/> Water impoundment or withdrawal |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Tree and land clearing | <input type="checkbox"/> Mining |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Construction of roads, trails, canals, power lines, pipelines and other linear utilities | <input type="checkbox"/> Oil and natural gas drilling and refining |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture or aquaculture – new or expanded operations | <input type="checkbox"/> Wind farm construction |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Alteration of shorelines or wetlands | <input type="checkbox"/> Installation or expansion of marinas with a capacity of 6 or more boats |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Installation of docks, piers, or moorings (pile driving may qualify as loud noise, page 12) | <input type="checkbox"/> Communications tower construction (excluding maintenance and repairs) |

Is your activity similar to an ongoing or previous activity that coincided with the breeding season and that bald eagles tolerated? Consider both construction and use/operation of your project.

Consider all of the following elements/factors in answering:

-duration	-time of season	-area/footprint
-frequency	-visibility	-magnitude
-time of day	-distance	-nature

- ☐ Yes → No avoidance measures recommended. Go to self-certification (page 7).
- ☐ No → Go to next question.

Will your activities be visible to the bald eagle nest(s)?

- ☐ Yes → Stop. Implement Avoidance Measures (AM) 2, 4, and 5 (see page 7)
- ☐ No → Go to the next question

CONSTRUCTION & DEVELOPMENT

Which of these categories most closely matches your proposed project or activity?

(check all that apply)

- ☐ Building construction, 1 or 2 story, with a project footprint of ½ acre or less
- ☐ Construction of roads, trails, canals, power lines, or other linear utilities
- ☐ Agriculture or aquaculture – new or expanded operations
- ☐ Alteration of shorelines or wetlands
- ☐ Installation of docks or moorings
- ☐ Water impoundment or withdrawal
- ☐ Construction of communication towers

→ Implement AM 3, 4 and 5 (page 7)

- ☐ Building construction or expansion, 3 or more stories
- ☐ Building construction or expansion, 1 or 2 story, with project footprint more than ½ acre
- ☐ Mining
- ☐ Oil and natural gas drilling and refining
- ☐ Installation or expansion of marinas with a capacity of 6 or more boats

→ Go to the next question

Is there a similar activity within 1 mile of the nest?

- ☐ Yes → Implement AM 3, 4 and 5 (see page 7)
- ☐ No → Implement AM 1 and 5 (see page 7)

AVOIDANCE MEASURES - Place a check mark next to each avoidance measure (AM) that this form instructed you to implement and that you can commit to following. The Service recommends you follow the applicable AMs to prevent your activities from disturbing nesting bald eagles.

- ☐ AM 1 – Maintain a distance buffer of at least 660 feet (200 meters) between all project activities and the nest.
- ☐ AM 2 – Maintain a distance buffer of at least 660 feet (200 meters) between all project activities and the nest. If there is an existing human-made feature (e.g., house, road, dock) similar to your project that is closer than 660 feet and tolerated by the nesting eagles, maintain a distance buffer equal to or greater than the distance separating that tolerated feature and the nest.
- ☐ AM 3 – Maintain a distance buffer of at least 330 feet (100 meters) year-round between all project activities and the nest. If a similar activity (i.e., similar in kind and size) is closer than 330 feet and has been tolerated by eagles, the distance buffer will be the same or greater than that of the existing tolerated activity.
- ☐ AM 4 – Do not perform disruptive project activities within 660 feet (200 meters) of the nest during the breeding season. This time-of-year restriction is in addition to your recommended distance buffer. Disruptive activities include, but are not limited to, external construction, excavation, use of heavy equipment, use of loud equipment or machinery, vegetation clearing, earth disturbance, planting, and landscaping.
- ☐ AM 5 – Maintain existing landscape buffers that visually screen the activity from the nest.

Do you commit to following all recommended avoidance measures?

- ☐ YES – I certify that I have completed this form to the best of my ability, answered all questions completely and accurately, and committed to implementing all applicable avoidance measures.

(signature)

(date)

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Determination: Based on your responses and commitment to implementing all applicable avoidance measures, the Service has determined that your proposed activities are unlikely to disturb nesting bald eagles.

- ☐ NO – I am unable to follow one or more of the avoidance measures recommended by this form.

Go to page 15 for further instruction.

Maintenance and Restoration Activities

This category includes outdoor maintenance of existing structures or infrastructure, where the maintenance activity is temporary and obtrusive (e.g., requires use of heavy equipment or loud machinery), and within the previously disturbed footprint of the structure or infrastructure. If maintenance is proposed outside the previously disturbed footprint, see **Construction and Development Activities** (pages 5-7). This category also applies to the maintenance and restoration of natural habitats (e.g., wetlands, streams, rivers, non-forested uplands). This category does not include routine, ongoing activities to which bald eagles have already exhibited a tolerance (e.g., lawn mowing; plowing, planting or harvesting of agricultural fields; etc.).

Which maintenance or restoration activities do you plan to perform? (check all that apply)

- ☐ Maintenance of linear utilities (e.g., power lines, pipelines, water and sewer lines)
- ☐ Road, bridge, or culvert maintenance
- ☐ Trail, campground, or recreational area maintenance
- ☐ Maintenance of oil and gas wells, well pads, and storage tanks
- ☐ Maintenance of dams, levees, berms, canals and other water-control structures
- ☐ Pond, lake, or reservoir maintenance (draw downs, dredging)
- ☐ Stream or stream bank maintenance /restoration (e.g., stream bank fencing, stream bank stabilization, livestock crossings, in-stream habitat improvements, channel maintenance, dredging)
- ☐ Wetland maintenance / restoration (e.g., invasive plant control, restoration of hydrology)
- ☐ Prescribed burning for invasive control
- ☐ Upland habitat maintenance / restoration (e.g., planting or cutting of vegetation, invasive plant control, trash cleanup, abandoned mine lands restoration). This does not include activities in forests/woodlands (see **Timber Operation and Forestry Practices**) or in agricultural fields.

Is your activity similar to an ongoing or previous activity that coincided with the breeding season and that bald eagles tolerated? Consider both construction and use/operation of your project.

Consider all of the following elements/factors in answering:

-duration	-time of season	-area/footprint
-frequency	-visibility	-magnitude
-time of day	-distance	-nature

- ☐ Yes → No avoidance measures recommended. Go to self-certification.
- ☐ No → Go to Avoidance Measures.

AVOIDANCE MEASURES - Place a check mark next to each AM that you can commit to following. The Service recommends you follow these AMs to prevent your activities from disturbing nesting bald eagles.

- ☐ AM 6 - Within 660 feet (200 meters) of the nest, perform all loud and intrusive maintenance and restoration work outside the breeding season. These activities include, but are not limited to, the following: construction, excavation, use of heavy equipment, use of loud equipment or machinery, vegetation clearing, earth disturbance, planting, landscaping, and habitat restoration activities.
- ☐ AM 7 - Maintain existing landscape buffers that visually screen the activity from the nest.
- ☐ AM 8 - Do not perform prescribed burning within 660 feet (200 meters) of the nest during the breeding season. If there is no practicable alternative to scheduling prescribed burning during the breeding season, only conduct burns when adult eagles and young are absent from the nest tree (i.e., at the beginning of, or end of, the breeding season, either before the particular nest is in use or after the young have fledged from that nest).
- ☐ AM 9 - When performing prescribed burning within the drip line of the nest tree, rake leaves, vines, and woody debris from around the base of the tree to prevent fire from climbing the tree. When burning within a patch of forest containing the nest tree, take precautions to prevent crown fire.

Do you commit to following all recommended avoidance measures?

- ☐ YES – I certify that I have completed this form to the best of my ability, answered all questions completely and accurately, and committed to implementing all applicable avoidance measures.

(signature)

(date)

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Determination: Based on your responses and commitment to implementing all applicable avoidance measures, the Service has determined that your proposed activities are unlikely to disturb nesting bald eagles.

- ☐ NO – I am unable to follow one or more of the avoidance measures recommended by this form.

Go to page 15 for further instruction.

Timber Operation and Forestry Practices

AVOIDANCE MEASURES - Place a check mark next to each AM that you can commit to following. The Service recommends you follow these AMs to prevent your activities from disturbing nesting bald eagles.

- ☐ AM 10 – Do not perform clear-cutting or overstory tree removal within 330 feet (100 meters) of the nest at any time of the year.
- ☐ AM 11 - During the breeding season, do not perform timber harvesting, road construction, chain saw use, or yarding operations within 660 feet (200 meters) of the nest. Around alternate nests (including nests that were attended during the current breeding season but not used to raise young), you may reduce this distance to 330 feet (100 meters), provided the eggs laid in another nest within the nesting territory have hatched.
- ☐ AM 12 – Do not construct or operate log transfer facilities and in-water log storage areas within 330 feet (100 meters) of nests at any time of the year.
- ☐ AM 13 – Do not perform selective thinning, prescribed burning, or other similar silviculture practices for the enhancement or conservation of habitat within 660 feet (200 meters) of the nest during the breeding season. If there is no practicable alternative to scheduling prescribed burning during the breeding season, only conduct burns when adult eagles and young are absent from the nest tree (i.e., at the beginning of, or end of, the breeding season, either before the particular nest is active or after the young have fledged from that nest).
- ☐ AM 14 – When performing prescribed burning within the drip line of the nest tree, rake leaves, vines, and woody debris from around the base of the tree to prevent fire from climbing the tree. When burning within a patch of forest containing the nest tree, take precautions to prevent crown fire.

Do you commit to following all recommended avoidance measures?

- ☐ YES – I certify that I have completed this form to the best of my ability, answered all questions completely and accurately, and committed to implementing all applicable avoidance measures.

(signature)

(date)

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Determination: Based on your responses and commitment to implementing all applicable avoidance measures, the Service has determined that your proposed activities are unlikely to disturb nesting bald eagles.

- ☐ NO – I am unable to follow one or more of the avoidance measures recommended by this form.

Go to page 15 for further instruction.

Use of a Helicopter and Fixed-wing Aircraft

Is your activity similar to an ongoing or previous activity that coincided with the breeding season and that bald eagles tolerated?

Consider all of the following elements/factors in answering:

-duration	-time of season	-area/footprint
-frequency	-visibility	-magnitude
-time of day	-distance	-nature

- ☐ Yes → No avoidance measures recommended. Go to self-certification.
- ☐ No → Go to Avoidance Measures.

AVOIDANCE MEASURES - Place a check mark next to each AM that you can commit to following. The Service recommends you follow this AM to prevent your activities from disturbing nesting bald eagles.

- ☐ AM 15 - During the breeding season, do not fly within 1000 feet (305 meters) of bald eagle nests.

Do you commit to following all recommended avoidance measures?

- ☐ YES – I certify that I have completed this form to the best of my ability, answered all questions completely and accurately, and committed to implementing all applicable avoidance measures.

(signature)

(date)

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Determination: Based on your responses and commitment to implementing all applicable avoidance measures, the Service has determined that your proposed activities are unlikely to disturb nesting bald eagles.

- ☐ NO – I am unable to follow one or more of the avoidance measures recommended by this form.
Go to page 15 for further instruction.

Blasting and Other Loud, Intermittent Noises (including Fireworks)

Is your activity similar to an ongoing or previous activity that coincided with the breeding season and that bald eagles tolerated?

Consider all of the following elements/factors in answering:

-duration	-time of day	-distance
-frequency	-time of season	-volume

- ☐ Yes → No avoidance measures recommended. Go to self-certification.
- ☐ No → Go to Avoidance Measures.

AVOIDANCE MEASURES - Place a check mark next to each AM that you can commit to following. The Service recommends you follow this AM to prevent your activities from disturbing nesting bald eagles.

- ☐ AM 16 - During the breeding season, do not perform blasting and other activities that produce extremely loud noises within 1/2 mile (800 meters) of in-use nests. This measure also applies to the use of fireworks classified by the Federal Department of Transportation as Class B explosives, which includes the larger fireworks intended for licensed public display.

Do you commit to following all recommended avoidance measures?

- ☐ YES – I certify that I have completed this form to the best of my ability, answered all questions completely and accurately, and committed to implementing all applicable avoidance measures.

_____	_____
(signature)	(date)

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Determination: Based on your responses and commitment to implementing all applicable avoidance measures, the Service has determined that your proposed activities are unlikely to disturb nesting bald eagles.

- ☐ NO – I am unable to follow one or more of the avoidance measures recommended by this form.
Go to page 15 for further instruction.

Recreational Activities

Is your activity similar to an ongoing or previous activity that coincided with the breeding season and that bald eagles tolerated?

Consider all of the following elements/factors in answering:

-duration	-time of season	-area/footprint
-frequency	-visibility	-magnitude
-time of day	-distance	-nature

- ☐ Yes → No avoidance measures recommended. Go to self-certification.
- ☐ No → Go to next question

Will your recreation occur during the breeding season?

- ☐ Yes → Go to Avoidance Measures.
- ☐ No → No avoidance measures recommended. Go to self-certification.

AVOIDANCE MEASURES – For each applicable recreational subcategory, place a check mark next to the AMs you can commit to following. The Service recommends you follow the applicable AMs to prevent your activities from disturbing nesting bald eagles.

Non-motorized recreation and human entry (including hiking, camping, fishing, hunting, canoeing)

- ☐ AM 17 - Stay at least 330 feet (100 meters) from the nest if you walk, bike, canoe, camp, fish, or hunt near an eagle nest during the breeding season and your activity will be visible or can be heard from the nest.

Off-road vehicle use (including snowmobiles)

- ☐ AM 18 - Stay at least 330 feet (100 meters) from the nest. In open areas, where there is increased visibility and exposure to noise, stay at least 660 feet (200 meters) from the nest.

RECREATION

Motorized watercraft use (including jet skis/personal watercraft)

- ☐ AM 19 - Do not operate jet skis (personal watercraft) or airboats within 330 feet (100 meters) of the nest.
- ☐ AM 20 - Avoid concentrations of noisy vessels (e.g. commercial fishing boats and tour boats) within 330 feet (100 meters) of the nest, except where eagles have demonstrated tolerance for such activity.
- ☐ AM 21 - For all motorized boat traffic within 330 feet (100 meters) of the nest, minimize trips and avoid stopping in the area, particularly where eagles are unaccustomed to boat traffic.

Do you commit to following all recommended avoidance measures?

- ☐ YES – I certify that I have completed this form to the best of my ability, answered all questions completely and accurately, and committed to implementing all applicable avoidance measures.

(signature)

(date)

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Determination: Based on your responses and commitment to implementing all applicable avoidance measures, the Service has determined that your proposed activities are unlikely to disturb nesting bald eagles.

- ☐ NO – I am unable to follow one or more of the avoidance measures recommended by this form.

Go to page 15 for further instruction.

FURTHER GUIDANCE

-- SEEK FURTHER GUIDANCE --

You have indicated that you are unable to implement all the recommended avoidance measures. Without all avoidance measures, your activities may risk disturbing nesting bald eagles.

Consult with your regional eagle coordinator to determine the appropriate next steps. The Service will work with you to help develop alternate measures to avoid disturbance of nesting bald eagles. If there are no feasible alternate measures, the Service may advise that you obtain an eagle incidental take permit to relieve you of legal liability in the event that your activities unintentionally disturb nesting bald eagles.

Contact regional eagle coordinator (Shaughn Galloway) for help at shaughn_galloway@fws.gov

When emailing, please include in your subject line “[Your project name] – SCREENING FORM FURTHER GUIDANCE.” In the body of your message, include

- a brief description of your project, including its location and when you plan to start;
- the activity category(s);
- the ID number(s) (e.g., AM 5) of the Avoidance Measure(s) you are unable to implement; and
- the nest location(s), if available.

To see the Service’s eagle incidental take permit application form, go to

<https://www.fws.gov/forms/3-200-71.pdf>

For answers to Frequently Asked Questions on this form, go to

<https://www.fws.gov/migratorybirds/pdf/policies-and-regulations/3-200-71FAQ.pdf>

The Service advises you talk with your regional eagle coordinator before deciding to apply.

APPENDIX A

Bald Eagle Breeding Season by State

State	Breeding Season
VA	December 15 – July 15
DC	December 15 – July 15
WV	January 1 – June 30
MD	December 15 – June 30
DE	December 15 – June 30
PA	January 1 – July 31
NY	January 1 – September 30
NJ	January 1 – July 31
RI	January 1 – July 31
CT	January 1 – July 31
MA	January 1 – August 15
VT	February 1 – August 15
NH	February 1 – August 15
ME (coastal)	February 1 – August 15
ME (northern)	March 1 – August 30

APPENDIX B

State Mapping Resources

Connecticut

Contact state
Brian Hess, CT DEEP
Brian.Hess@ct.gov

New Jersey

Contact state
<https://www.nj.gov/dep/parksandforests/natural/heritage/datareq.html>

Delaware

Contact state
Katie Kadlubar, Delaware Division of
Fish & Wildlife
Kathryn.Kadlubar@delaware.gov

New York

Contact state
<https://www.dec.ny.gov/animals/31181.html>

DC

Contact National Park Service
Mikaila Milton, NPS
mikaila_milton@nps.gov

Pennsylvania

<https://fws.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=87ac96536654495b9f4041d81f75d7a0>

Maine

<https://www.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=796b7baa18de43b49f911fe82dc4a0f1>

Rhode Island

Contact state
DEM.DFW@dem.ri.gov

Maryland

<https://marylandbirds.org/report-bald-eagle-nest/>

Vermont

Contact state
<https://vtfishandwildlife.com/conservation/development-review>

Massachusetts

Contact state
Andrew Vitz, MassWildlife
Andrew.vitz@state.ma.us

Virginia

<https://www.ccbbirds.org/maps/#eagles>

New Hampshire

Contact state
https://www2.des.state.nh.us/nhb_datcheck/signin.aspx

West Virginia

Contact state
Rich Bailey, WVDNR
Richard.S.Bailey@wv.gov

Please note that maps are not exhaustive records of all nests within that state.

APPENDIX C

Guide to Nest Identification

Is it a bald eagle nest? Because bald eagle populations have grown so rapidly in recent years, not every bald eagle nest is registered to an online map or known to wildlife management agencies. As a result, project screening form users may occasionally have to make their own assessment of whether the nest near their project or activity is a bald eagle nest. Users should be cautious in making these determinations. Bald eagle nests can easily be confused with nests of other large birds such as osprey.

This guide will help landowners and project proponents assess whether a nest belongs to bald eagles or another species. It describes for readers the most commonly encountered large nests in the Northeast, with several reference figures for bald eagle nests, and provides tips for telling nest types apart. Any user who reads this guide and still feels uncertain about what type of nest they have encountered should contact their regional eagle coordinator for further guidance.

Common types of large nests.Bald Eagle

The most notable aspect to a bald eagle nest is generally its size. Bald eagles build some of the largest nests in the world, with most nests around 5 feet in diameter and 3 feet in height (Fig. 1). Nests can grow well beyond these dimensions (Fig. 2), as bald eagles tend to repair and expand their nests each year and can use individual nests for decades. Bald eagle nests are mainly composed of large interwoven sticks. Nests will also have a soft interior bowl made up of materials such as hay, cornhusks, and grass clippings. However, this portion of the nest is rarely visible to human observers. The shape of bald eagle nests varies; they can take the general form of flat discs, inverted cones, cylinders (Fig. 2), or spheres (Fig. 3).

Bald eagles typically place their nests in prominent trees that sit above the surrounding forest canopy. These nest trees will often be on hillsides, lake and ocean shorelines, riverbanks, and forest edges. Nests are generally in the top third of a tree, below the crown, secured in a prominent fork off the main trunk (Fig. 4.). Bald eagle nests can be in living deciduous (Fig. 3-4) and coniferous trees (Fig. 1), or dead trees (snags; Fig. 5). Within the Northeastern U.S., bald eagles use a wide range of tree types, including white pines, loblolly pines, tulip poplars, sycamores, oaks, and cottonwoods. Despite their common perception as an emblem of wilderness, bald eagles are also increasingly nesting on human-made structures such as electric transmission towers (Fig. 6) and communication towers.

Osprey

Osprey build large stick nests that can look quite similar to bald eagle nests. In general, osprey nests are smaller, flatter, more disorganized, and more often composed of unnatural materials, such as bailing twine and plastic bags. Osprey also show a stronger preference than bald eagles for human made structures, regularly nesting on light polls, channel markers, and cell towers. When osprey do select a natural support for their nest, it tends to be the topmost part of dead trees, in contrast to bald eagles, which seek out slightly lower portions of trees.

The best clue to which species occupies a nest, osprey or bald eagles, is who shows up. Bald eagles arrive back at their nests earlier in the year than osprey, but by late spring, both species are usually attending their nests. At this time of year, watching a nest over a period of hours will generally reveal which species is using it. However, through fall and early winter, both species are usually away from their nests. During these seasons, the only immediate sources of information on nest will be the physical details described above and online mapping resources.

In addition to the state maps for bald eagles listed in Appendix C, Osprey Watch (<http://www.osprey-watch.org/>) provides a mapping database of osprey nest locations. As with the bald eagle mapping resources, this map is thorough, but does not represent all existing nests.

Red-Tailed Hawk/Red-Shouldered Hawk

Generally around 1.5 feet wide and 2 feet tall, nests of red-tailed hawks and red-shouldered hawks are less than one-half the size of bald eagle nests. The individual sticks in these hawk nests also tend to be smaller, with diameters of about 1-2 inches. Overall appearance of these nests can be slightly more frayed and chaotic than that of bald eagle nests. Like bald eagles, both hawk species show a tendency towards nesting in upper portions of prominent trees. Red-tailed hawks also share bald eagle's occasional preference for human made structures such as cell towers and transmission towers.

Common Raven

Common ravens construct stick nests that vary substantially in size, from 1.5 to 5 feet across and from little over 0.5 to 2 feet high. The sticks making up the main structure of these nests can be around 3 feet in length and 1 inch in diameter. Ravens place their nests in a variety of natural and developed settings. Raven nests are easily confused with bald eagle nests when located on cell towers, transmission towers, or in trees. When situated in trees, these nests are usually in the upper portion of the tree in a crotch of the main tree stem. The best means of telling raven and bald eagle nests apart are likely size and shape; raven nests are noted for occasionally being asymmetric, and even at their larger sizes, they still tend to be smaller than bald eagle nests.

Great Horned Owl

In addition to nesting in tree cavities, great horned owls also frequently use the former nests of other animals, including squirrels, ravens, crows, and herons. The size and nature of a great horned owl nest therefore depends on the nest's original creator. Red-tailed hawk may be the most common source of nests for great horned owls in the Northeast. However, great horned owls will also occasionally take over bald eagle nests.

Heron

Hérons nest in colonies known as "rookeries" where many nests are present; individual heron nests are rare. Multiple nests can be present in one tree and some nests may be located relatively high up or far out on branches. Nest sites are usually near water. Heron nests are mainly composed of sticks, and are flat and broad, often resembling a thin platform. Nests used for several years may grow taller and wider. Heron nests can give off a general impression of messiness or flimsiness.

Squirrel

Squirrel nests can reach basketball size or larger. They are distinguished from bird nests mainly by their materials, which include leaves and other soft vegetation material (e.g., grasses), and very few sticks. They are usually round shaped, and often look messy.

Legal definitions and protections for eagle and migratory bird nests.

Eagle Nests

BGEPA protects eagle nests in same manner it protects eagles; they cannot be destroyed, possessed, or relocated without a permit from the Service, which the Service only provides under a limited set of circumstances. Regulation defines an eagle nest as "any assemblage of materials built, maintained, or used by bald eagles or golden eagles for the purpose of reproduction" (50 CFR 22.3). A nest is an eagle nest if it was built by or ever used by eagles, even if other species of birds played a role in the nest's history. For example, if osprey build a nest and eagles take that nest over, legally, the nest is an eagle nest. Alternatively, if great horned owls begin to use a nest originally built by eagles, that nest remains an eagle nest for as long as it exists. An eagle nest also retains protection regardless of where it was built, whether it was ever finished or successful, or when it was last used. Additionally, BGEPA's protections apply regardless of the nest's size and condition.

Migratory Bird Nests

The Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) protects migratory bird nests in the many of the same ways that BGEPA protects eagle nests. Unless a permit is in place, migratory bird nests cannot be possessed or relocated at any time or intentionally destroyed while active. One notable difference between MBTA and BGEPA is MBTA's standard on inactive nests. If a migratory bird nest is inactive, meaning it does not contain viable eggs or chicks, it can be destroyed without a permit. (Note: the

APPENDIX C

terms 'active' and 'inactive' here are different from the 'in-use' and 'alternate' standards used for eagle nests [see Appendix E for definitions].) For more information, please read the Service's [2018 Nest Destruction Memo](#). Bird species protected under MBTA are listed under regulation at 50 CFR 10.13. Additional protections not described here apply to any migratory bird species listed under the Endangered Species Act. Tribal, state, and local laws may also place greater restrictions on the destruction of migratory bird nests.

APPENDIX C



Figure 1.



Figure 2.

APPENDIX C



Credit: Craig Koppie/USFWS

Figure 3.



Credit: Craig Koppie/USFWS

Figure 4.



Figure 5.



Figure 6.

APPENDIX D

Similar Activity Example Exercise

What is the purpose of this appendix? This appendix provides project screening form users with an example of how to assess the similarity between two activities. By reading through this example, landowners and project proponents can develop a better sense of what factors they should consider when answering the question of whether their activity is similar to an ongoing or previous activity tolerated by eagles.

In the example scenario, a proposed residential construction project is compared to previous farming activity. The example starts with an overview of the historic farming activity, nest, and proposed project; then goes through a full assessment, set up in table format; and finally closes with a summary of the determination and explanation of how that determination would influence completion of the form.

What is the scenario?Previous/Existing Activities

The project site is a large agricultural field that was farmed nearly every year for the past two decades. Human activity at the site was limited to occasional operation of heavy farm equipment. The broader area out to one mile includes other agricultural fields and medium density residential and commercial development.

Nest Location & History

Five years ago, a pair of bald eagles constructed a nest in a cottonwood located in the hedgerow bordering the agricultural field. The pair were unsuccessful in their first year, but fledged young from the nest each of the following four years up to present. Workers observed that the pair did not respond to operation of farming equipment, but became vigilant whenever an equipment operator stepped outside their vehicle.

Project Narrative

The proposed project will convert portions of the existing agricultural field to a residential development with 30 single-family homes, which places it under the screening form's Construction and Development category. Construction will require extending water, sewage, and electrical utilities and adding a small network of residential streets. Preparing each lot will involve grading, home and driveway construction, and landscaping. Ten acres of property near the nest will be signed over as a conservation easement.

APPENDIX D

Factor	Previous/Existing Activity: Farming	Proposed Activity: Construction	Similar?
NATURE	Heavy equipment preparing field, planting, and harvesting crop. Two-three workers, generally confined to closed cab tractors.	Twenty workers either in heavy equipment or on foot. Ground disturbance. Placement/extension of utilities. Landscaping. Construction of 20 homes.	No
HISTORY	Farming activity predated nesting and continued while eagles successfully fledged young from the nest. This success demonstrates the eagles tolerated the farming.	N/A	Yes
DISTANCE	Distance between farming activity and the nest tree was essentially 0 feet; the hedgerow in which the nest is located bounds the agricultural field.	Nearest lot boundary will be 400 feet from nest. Area between home and nest will be converted conservation easement and left in passive, natural state.	Yes
TIMING	Farming activity began in March and continued through October each year.	Proposed schedule is April through October.	Yes
DURATION	The field was generally worked for one to two days at time, from sunrise to sundown.	On days of construction activity, work will occur during standard business hours.	Yes
FREQUENCY	Intermittent. Farming occurred in stages (e.g., fertilizing, plowing, harvesting) and events were often separated by weeks or months.	Continuous. Work will occur most weekdays and occasionally on weekends.	No
NOISE	Farming equipment (e.g., tractor) generated loud noises within the range of 80 – 100 decibels.	Construction will not require blasting or pile driving. Construction equipment (e.g., backhoes) will generate loud noise within the range of 80 – 95 decibels.	Yes
VISIBILITY	High. Because the field was flat and there was no vegetation other than the hedgerow, practically all farming activity was visible to the nest.	High. There will be no topography or vegetation screening view of construction. Visibility will only begin to lower once exterior walls are put up.	Yes

Final Assessment & Conclusion

The proposed construction activity is different from the historic farming activity in general nature and frequency. Construction will require more workers and more equipment, operating at greater intensity and higher frequency. Because of these differences, the construction cannot be considered similar to the historic farming activity, and it cannot be assumed that the breeding pair will tolerate the activity. Avoidance measures will be necessary to reduce the likelihood of disturbing the nest.

Having made these conclusions, the form user would mark 'No' to the question on page 5 of whether the activity was similar to an ongoing or previous activity. Then, at the next question the user would mark 'Yes' because the project would be visible to nest over the open intervening space. At that point, the form would direct them to implement AMs 2, 4, and 5. The project design, as proposed, would not meet AM 2, the 660-foot buffer. The user's options then would be to revise the project to eliminate the portions within 660 feet of the nest and sign the self-certification, or check no on the commitment to follow all recommended AMs and seek further guidance.

APPENDIX E

Limitations of This Form

This project screening form is not a permit or authorization to disturb bald eagles. It does not free you from legal liability under BGEPA. Rather, this form provides instruction on how to minimize the legal risk of disturbing nesting bald eagles.

The effectiveness of this form depends on the accuracy and completeness of your answers and your compliance with the avoidance measures. Using this form inappropriately may put you at risk of disturbing nesting bald eagles and violating BGEPA.

This form's recommendations are specific to the Northeast and may not be effective outside this region. If your project is in another area of the U.S., do not use this form. Instead, consult with your regional eagle biologist or migratory bird permit office for guidance matched to your locality.

This form only relates to managing activities near bald eagle nests. It does not provide direction on how to avoid disturbing bald eagle communal roosts and concentration areas, which, compared to nest sites, have different biological significance to eagles and present different sets of concerns. If you believe your activities have any potential to affect a communal roost or concentration area, consult the [Guidelines](#) document for guidance.

Conditions such as the location and existence of nests and surrounding habitat are subject to change between years. For this reason, the Service recommends revisiting your determinations every breeding season after completing this form until your project is complete. The more time that passes between when you complete this form and when you end your activities, the more likely it is that conditions will change enough that your original determinations no longer apply.

This form only addresses nesting bald eagles. To identify other USFWS-managed resources and suggested conservation measures for your project, go to <https://ecos.fws.gov/ipac/>.

Wind energy developers seeking to address potential take of eagles should use this form in conjunction with the Service's [Eagle Conservation Plan Guidance](#). Use of this form alone will not assure wind projects' compliance with BGEPA's protections on disturbance or other take.

Certain states and localities have their own laws, regulations, and guidelines for protecting bald eagles and their nests. Completing this form does not guarantee that you are also in compliance with these other standards and/or regulations. If you are unfamiliar with your state and local standards, consult with the appropriate agencies and authorities.

You are responsible for ensuring that your activities comply with all applicable Federal, tribal, State, and local laws and regulations. This form will only help you in your compliance with BGEPA and its protections on the nesting activity of bald eagles.

APPENDIX F

Glossary of Terms

Alternate nest – one of potentially several nests within a nesting territory that is not an in-use nest at the current time. When there is no in-use nest, all nests in the territory are alternate nests. Also sometimes referred to as an inactive nest (e.g., in the Service’s 2009 Eagle Rule).

Communal roost – an area where eagles gather repeatedly in the course of a season and shelter overnight and sometimes during the day in the event of inclement weather.

Disturb – to agitate or bother a bald or golden eagle to a degree that causes, or is likely to cause, based on the best scientific information available, 1) injury to an eagle, 2) a decrease in its productivity, by substantially interfering with normal breeding, feeding, or sheltering behavior, or 3) nest abandonment, by substantially interfering with normal breeding, feeding, or sheltering behavior.

In addition to immediate impacts, this definition also covers impacts that result from human-caused alterations initiated around a previously used nest site during a time when eagles are not present, if, upon the eagle’s return, such alterations agitate or bother an eagle to a degree that injures an eagle or substantially interferes with normal breeding, feeding, or sheltering habits and causes, or is likely to cause, a loss of productivity or nest abandonment.

Eagle nest – any assemblage of materials built, maintained, or used by bald eagles or golden eagles for the purpose of reproduction.

Fledge – to leave the nest and begin flying. For bald eagles, this normally occurs at 10-12 weeks of age.

In-use nest – a bald or golden eagle nest characterized by the presence of one or more eggs, dependent young, or adult eagles on the nest in the past 10 days during the breeding season. Also sometimes referred to as an active nest.

Landscape buffer – a natural or human-made landscape feature that screens eagles from human activity (e.g., strip of trees, hill, cliff, berm, sound wall).

Nest abandonment – nest abandonment occurs when adult eagles desert or stop attending a nest and do not subsequently return and successfully raise young in that nest for the duration of a breeding season. Nest abandonment can be caused by altering habitat near a nest, even if the

alteration occurs prior to the breeding season. Whether the eagles migrate during the non-breeding season, or remain in the area throughout the non-breeding season, nest abandonment can occur at any point between the time the eagles return to the nesting site for the breeding season and the time when all progeny from the breeding season have dispersed.

Nesting territory – the area that contains one or more eagle nests within the home range of a mated pair of eagles, regardless of whether such nests were built by the current resident pair.

Northeast – Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Maryland, Delaware, Virginia, West Virginia, and the District of Columbia.

Project footprint – the area of land (and water) temporarily or permanently altered by a project.

Tolerate – the acceptance of specific human activities by eagles at the nest site. Demonstrated in the eagles' continued ability to successfully feed, breed, and shelter, and the general absence of stress or agitation in their behavior.



Pennsylvania Fish & Boat Commission

Division of Environmental Services

Natural Gas Section
595 E Rolling Ridge Dr.
Bellefonte, PA 16823

September 27, 2017

IN REPLY REFER TO

SIR# 46205

Williams Transcontinental Pipe Line Company
Karen Olson
2800 Post Oak Blvd
Houston, Texas 77251

**RE: Species Impact Review (SIR) – Rare, Candidate, Threatened and Endangered Species
PNDI Search No. LARGE PROJECT REVIEW
Northeast Supply Enhancement Project
LANCASTER County: Drumore Township, East Drumore Township, Eden Township -
CHESTER County: East Whiteland Township**

Dear Karen Olson:

This responds to your most recent inquiry regarding a Pennsylvania Natural Diversity Inventory (PNDI) Internet Database search “potential conflict” or a threatened and endangered species impact review related to the Northeast Supply Enhancement Project (Project) which has been reviewed for potential conflicts to sensitive species under the jurisdiction of the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission (PFBC).

Additional information was provided by representatives of the Project, by e-mail, on September 22, 2017. The update included: a change to the Project limits-of-disturbance (LOD); and milepost (MP) 1685.79 to MP1686.89, which was previously proposed as horizontal directional drill, will now be installed via open-cut.

Based on the updated LOD and construction methodology, the PFBC does not anticipate significant adverse impacts to the Chesapeake logperch as a result of the Project.

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.

Our Mission:

www.fish.state.pa.us

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

If you have any questions regarding this review, please contact Gregory Lech at 610-847-8772 and refer to the SIR # 46205. Thank you for your cooperation and attention to this important matter of species conservation and habitat protection.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "Heather Smiles". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Heather A. Smiles, Chief
Natural Gas Section

HAS/GPL/dn

Cc: Stephen Czapka (Ecology and Environment, Inc.)



United States Department of the Interior



FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

Pennsylvania Field Office
110 Radnor Road, Suite 101
State College, Pennsylvania 16801-4850

July 5, 2017

Stephen Czapka
Ecology & Environment, Inc.
348 Southport Circle, Suite 101
Virginia Beach, VA 23452

RE: USFWS Project #2016-1006

Dear Mr. Czapka:

This responds to your email of June 29, 2017, which provided the Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) with additional information regarding the proposed Quarryville Loop of Transco's Northeast Supply Enhancement project located in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania. The proposed project is within the range of the bog turtle (*Clemmys muhlenbergii*) and the northern long-eared bat (*Myotis septentrionalis*), species that are federally listed as threatened. 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.*).

Bog turtle

You provided a copy of a June 2017, Phase 2/3 survey report, which indicates that six wetlands (W-T02-006A-1, W-T02-006-2, W-T02-008A-1, W-T02-001, W-T02-010, and W-T06-001A-1) within the action area were surveyed for bog turtles. According to this report, Robert Bull conducted surveys from April 26, 2017 through June 1, 2017; no bog turtles were found. We reviewed the survey methodology and agree construction of the proposed Quarryville Loop project will not affect the bog turtle.

Northern long-eared bat

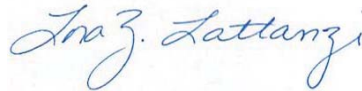
The proposed project is not located within 0.25 mile of a known northern long-eared bat hibernaculum or within 150 feet from a known, occupied maternity roost tree; therefore, any incidental take that may occur is not prohibited in accordance with the conservation rule (i.e., 4(d) rule) specific for this species. The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) is authorizing this project; therefore, consultation under section 7 of the Act is required. The Service completed a nationwide biological opinion that fulfills this requirement, provided the conditions of the 4(d) rule are implemented. More information about the programmatic consultation and the streamlined procedures to meet this requirement are detailed at: <http://www.fws.gov/midwest/endangered/mammals/nleb/>.

Thank you for allowing the Service to provide technical assistance during the planning phase of this project. We look forward to reviewing FERC's final biological assessment for the Transco's Northeast Supply Enhancement project.

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 further questions regarding this matter, please contact Brian Scofield of my staff at 814-234-4090.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Lora Z. Lattanzi". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Lora" and last name "Lattanzi" clearly legible.

Lora Z. Lattanzi
Field Office Supervisor

cc:

PFBC – Urban (curban@pa.gov)

PFBC – Smiles (hsmiles@pa.gov)