

ESCGP SECTION 1-8

PENNSYLVANIA NATURAL DIVERSITY INVENTORY (PNDI)

PennEast has completed surveys for threatened and endangered species in Carbon County. The species that may be impacted by the Project in Carbon County include northern long-eared bat (*Myotis septentrionalis*, federal threatened), bog turtle (*Glyptemys muhlenbergii*, federal threatened), eastern small-footed bat (*Myotis leibii*, state threatened), timber rattlesnake (*Crotalus horridus*, state delisted), Allegheny woodrat (*Neotoma magister*, state threatened), northern flying squirrel (*Glaucomys sabrinus macrotis*, state endangered) northern cricket frog (*Acris crepitans*, state endangered), variable sedge (*Carex polymorpha*, state endangered), northern panic grass (*Dicanthelium boreale*, state status tentatively undetermined), rough-leaved aster (*Eurybia radula*, state proposed threatened), thread rush (*Juncus filiformis*, state rare), Appalachian climbing fern (*Lygodium palmatum*, state rare), golden club (*Orontium aquaticum*, state rare), white fringed orchid (*Platanthera blephariglottis*, state proposed endangered and sensitive), and Torrey's bulrush (*Schoenoplectus torreyi*, state endangered). A summary of the surveys conducted and PNDI resolutions for these species is included below.

The Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (PADCNR), Pennsylvania Game Commission (PGC), and Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission (PFBC) have provided clearance letters for the Project dated February 4, 2020, March 10, 2020, and October 11, 2018, respectively. These letters are provided in the agency correspondence in ESCGP Section 1-8. On November 28, 2017, the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) issued a Biological Opinion (BO) for impacts that the Project may have on the northern long-eared bat and bog turtle. In its cover letter to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC), the USFWS stated that the Project is not likely to adversely affect the dwarf wedgemussel (*Alasmidonta heterodon*, federal endangered), Indiana bat (*Myotis sodalis*, federal endangered), or the northeastern bulrush (*Scirpus ancistrochaetus*, federal endangered). FERC has since re-initiated consultation with the USFWS to modify the 2017 BO, and the USFWS issued an amended BO on July 29, 2019. In the revised BO, the USFWS determined that the modifications will not result in affects above what was analyzed in the original BO. The amended BO concludes formal consultation regarding the Project between the USFWS and FERC.

PennEast requests that the PADEP utilize a sequential review of the PNDI coordination in accordance with the PADEP's *Policy for PNDI Coordination during Permit Review and Evaluation* (Document Number 021-0200-001), which allows for a concurrent review of the permit application while the permit applicant completes PNDI coordination.

A summary of agency consultations to date is provided in ESCGP Section 1-8 along with copies of the relevant correspondence.