



Transcontinental Gas Pipe Line Company, LLC

Requirement G-4 – Pennsylvania Game Commission

Regional Energy Access Expansion Project – Effort Loop

April 2021



March 12, 2020

PGC ID Number: 202002030501

Mr. Ryan Nelson
WHM Consulting, LLC
2525 Green Tech Drive, Suite B
State College, Pennsylvania 16803
ryann@whmgroup.com

Re: *Transcontinental Gas Pipe Line Company, LLC (Transco)* - Regional Energy Access Project
State Game Lands No. 091 and 129

PNDI Receipt File: *project_receipt_regional_energy_access_pr_702499_FINAL_1.pdf*
Delaware, Luzerne, Monroe, Northampton, Wyoming and York Counties, Pennsylvania

Dear Mr. Nelson,

Thank you for submitting the Pennsylvania Natural Diversity Inventory (PNDI) Environmental Review Receipt File *project_receipt_regional_energy_access_pr_702499_FINAL_1.pdf* for review. The Pennsylvania Game Commission (PGC) screened this project for potential impacts to species and resources of concern under PGC responsibility, which includes birds and mammals only.

Potential Impact Anticipated

PNDI records indicate species or resources of concern are located in the vicinity of the project. The PGC has received and thoroughly reviewed the information that you provided to this office, as well as PNDI data, and has determined that potential impacts to the following endangered species may be associated with your project:

Scientific Name	Common Name	PA Status	Federal Status
<i>Myotis septentrionalis</i>	Northern Long-eared Bat	ENDANGERED	THREATENED
<i>Myotis leibii</i>	Eastern Small-footed Bat	THREATENED	N/A

Next Steps

Northern long-eared bats: Northern long-eared bats are a federally listed threatened species under the jurisdiction of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. As a result, our agency defers comments on potential impacts to Northern long-eared bats to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Eastern small-footed bats: The following surveys should be conducted for all areas associated with the project (including all access roads, contractor yards, proposed and alternative pipeline alignments, etc.) located between Milepost 8.0 and Milepost 17.5 of the Proposed 30" Regional

Energy Lateral portion of the project area located in Luzerne County. It should be noted that surveys are not requested for the balance of the proposed project area at this time.

- *Summer Day Roost Habitat Assessment.* A summer day roost habitat assessment should be completed following the PGC protocols that are outlined in the attached *PGC Eastern Small-footed Bat Environmental Review Guidance Document*. Upon completion, a habitat assessment report must be provided for PGC review. Upon review of the report, the PGC will determine if additional emergence count survey efforts are necessary. If the PGC requests emergence count surveys, they must be completed by a qualified individual three nights per year; one night in mid-June, one night the second week in July, and a third night during the last week in July. It is important to note that if the survey efforts and report submissions are timed properly it may be possible for both surveys to be completed during the 2020 survey season.
- *Winter Hibernacula Habitat Assessment.* A winter hibernacula habitat assessment should be completed following the PGC protocols that are outlined in the attached *PGC Eastern Small-footed Bat Environmental Review Guidance Document*. Results of the winter hibernacula habitat assessment are to be submitted to the PGC no later than December 31 of the year the survey is conducted. Any openings that met the criteria as having the potential as bat hibernacula will need to be surveyed in the fall to determine the presence or absence of bat species. A PGC special use permit needs to be obtained by the consultant in order to conduct any surveys that involve the handling of bats. Results of the fall sampling surveys are also to be submitted to the PGC no later than December 31st of the year the survey is conducted and will be used by the PGC to determine what, if any avoidance and minimization measures need to be implemented. It is important to note that if the survey efforts and report submissions are timed properly it may be possible for both surveys to be completed during the 2020 survey season.

Finally, portions of the proposed project appear to be located on or adjacent to on **State Game Lands No. 091 and 129**. Please contact Mr. Michael Beahm, Land Management Supervisor, at 570-675-1143 to discuss the project activities and coordinate obtaining the necessary approvals if your project will impact State Game Lands. It is recommended that you coordinate with Game Commission Staff early in your project planning process.

This response represents the most up-to-date summary of the PNDI data files and is valid for two (2) years from the date of this letter. An absence of recorded information does not necessarily imply actual conditions on site. Should project plans change or additional information on listed or proposed species become available, this determination may be reconsidered.

Should the proposed work continue beyond the period covered by this letter, please resubmit the project to this agency as an "Update" (including an updated PNDI receipt, project narrative and accurate map). If the proposed work has not changed and no additional information concerning listed species is found, the project will be cleared for PNDI requirements under this agency for two additional years.

This finding applies to impacts to birds and mammals only. To complete your review of state and federally-listed threatened and endangered species and species of special concern, please be sure that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, and/or the PA Fish and Boat Commission have been contacted regarding this project as directed by the online PNDI ER Tool found at www.naturalheritage.state.pa.us.

Please be sure to include the above-referenced PGC ID Number on any future correspondence with the PGC regarding this project.

Sincerely,



Olivia A. Braun
Environmental Planner
Division of Environmental Planning & Habitat Protection
Bureau of Wildlife Habitat Management
Phone: 717-787-4250, Extension 73128
Fax: 717-787-6957
E-mail: Olbraun@pa.gov

A PNHP Partner



OAB/oab

Enclosure: *Pennsylvania Game Commission Eastern Small-footed Bat (Myotis leibii) Environmental Review Guidance Document*

cc: Schnupp
Brauning
Turner
Figured
Beahm
Wenner
Havens
Librandi Mumma
H:\OIL&GAS_PNDI_Reviews\Statewide & Multi-Region Projects

Kevin Clark WHM

From: Chris Sanders <sanders@batgate.com>
Sent: Wednesday, September 9, 2020 12:40 PM
To: 'Anderson, Robert'; 'Shellenberger, Pamela'; 'Braun, Olivia'
Cc: 'Olson, Karen'; 'Henry, Josh'; Ryan Nelson
Subject: Regional Energy Access Project - Regional Energy Lateral Hibernacula Search Report - 9/9/20 Map update
Attachments: 2020 REA Hibernacula Investigation Report v2-2 small.pdf

Hello Pam and Olivia,

Attached is a updated version of the report. The report mapping has been updated to reflect the additional surveyed area completed along the current route on the eastern portion of the Project.

If you have any questions on this report, please let us know.

If you have any comments or concur with the plan to acoustically sample these portals, we are ramping up to begin deployment and are poised to tweak our methods to fit any comments.

Thanks,
Chris

Chris Sanders



Sanders Environmental Inc.
322 Borealis Way
Bellefonte PA 16823
814-659-8257 (cell)

From: Chris Sanders <sanders@batgate.com>
Sent: Friday, September 4, 2020 3:29 PM
To: 'Anderson, Robert' <robert_m_anderson@fws.gov>; 'Shellenberger, Pamela' <pamela_shellenberger@fws.gov>; 'Braun, Olivia' <olbraun@pa.gov>
Cc: 'Olson, Karen' <Karen.Olson@williams.com>; 'Henry, Josh' <Josh.Henry@williams.com>; 'Ryan Nelson' <ryann@whmgroup.com>
Subject: Regional Energy Access Project - Regional Energy Lateral Hibernacula Search Report

Hello Pam and Olivia,

Attached is the REA Hibernacula Investigation Report. We will send our proposed study plan in a separate email as file sizes, although reduced via adobe, are too large for both to fit in one email. Please let me know if you have any questions.

Thanks,
Chris

Chris Sanders



Sanders Environmental Inc.
322 Borealis Way
Bellefonte PA 16823
814-659-8257 (cell)

Kevin Clark WHM

From: Ryan Nelson
Sent: Wednesday, September 9, 2020 11:40 AM
To: Braun, Olivia
Cc: Chris Sanders (sanders@batgate.com); Henry, Josh
Subject: RE: Regional Energy Access Project - Regional Energy Lateral Hibernacula Search Report

Olivia,

Thank you for talking through the comments with me yesterday and providing clarification. Below is a response to each of those comments.

1. Surveys have been completed in the mile post range noted below. Mapping in the report has been updated to reflect this survey area related to the current project route. Chris Sanders will be sending the updated report later today with the updated mapping.
2. Blasting is proposed within this section of the pipeline.
3. An updated PNDI has been posted via the online submission.

Should you have further questions, please let me know.

Thanks,
Ryan

From: Braun, Olivia <olbraun@pa.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, September 08, 2020 11:25 AM
To: Ryan Nelson <ryann@whmgroup.com>
Subject: Regional Energy Access Project - Regional Energy Lateral Hibernacula Search Report

Hi Ryan,

Late last week, the PGC was provided a copy of the Winter Hibernacula Habitat Assessment completed by Sanders Environmental that was requested in the PGC's March 12, 2020 PNDI response letter. Based upon a brief review of this document, the PGC offers the following comments and requests for additional information.

- The report explains that a ½-mile buffer around the proposed pipeline route located between Mile Marker 8 and 17.5 was assessed. However, when comparing the pipeline alignment illustrated in the approved study plan (dated March 9, 2020) and that which was shown in the assessment report (dated September 4, 2020), it appears that the pipeline route has changed while the study area remained the same. Therefore, it appears that portions of the PGC requested 1,000' buffer (or ¼ mile buffer if blasting is required) of the proposed pipeline located between Mile Marker 8 and 17.5 were not assessed for potential winter habitat. All portions of the project area located between Mile Marker 8 and 17.5 and the requested buffer must be assessed and the results be added to an updated report.
- Confirmation of whether or not blasting will be required within this section of the pipeline project.

Additionally, since it appears that the pipeline alignment has been changed in this section (and perhaps elsewhere as well), the PGC requests that an updated PNDI receipt and submittal be provided for PGC review. This will allow the PGC to review the updated project and determine what, if any additional surveys may be necessary.

Thanks,
Olivia Braun | Environmental Planner 2

Environmental Planning and Habitat Protection Division
Bureau of Wildlife Habitat Management
Pennsylvania Game Commission
2001 Elmerton Avenue | Harrisburg, PA 17110
Phone: 717-787-4250, Ext. 73128
olbraun@pa.gov

I am teleworking and can be reached through email.



October 19, 2020

PGC ID Number: 202002030501 - Revision

Mr. Ryan Nelson
WHM Consulting, LLC
2525 Green Tech Drive, Suite B
State College, Pennsylvania 16803
ryann@whmgroup.com

Re: *Transcontinental Gas Pipe Line Company, LLC (Transco)* - Regional Energy Access Project
State Game Lands No. 091 and 129
PNDI Receipt File: *project_receipt_regional_energy_access_pr_702499_FINAL_4.pdf*
Bucks, Chester, Delaware, Luzerne, Monroe, Northampton, Wyoming and York Counties,
Pennsylvania

Dear Mr. Nelson,

Thank you for submitting the Pennsylvania Natural Diversity Inventory (PNDI) Environmental Review Receipt File *project_receipt_regional_energy_access_pr_702499_FINAL_4.pdf* for review. The Pennsylvania Game Commission (PGC) screened this project for potential impacts to species and resources of concern under PGC responsibility, which includes birds and mammals only.

Potential Impact Anticipated

PNDI records indicate species or resources of concern are located in the vicinity of the project. The PGC has received and thoroughly reviewed the information that you provided to this office, as well as PNDI data, and has determined that potential impacts to the following endangered species may be associated with your project:

Scientific Name	Common Name	PA Status	Federal Status
<i>Myotis septentrionalis</i>	Northern Long-eared Bat	ENDANGERED	THREATENED
<i>Myotis leibii</i>	Eastern Small-footed Bat	THREATENED	N/A

Next Steps

Northern long-eared bats: Northern long-eared bats are a federally listed threatened species under the jurisdiction of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. As a result, our agency defers comments on potential impacts to Northern long-eared bats to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Eastern small-footed bats: The following surveys should be conducted for all areas associated with the project (including all access roads, contractor yards, proposed and alternative pipeline alignments, etc.) located between Milepost 8.0 and Milepost 17.5 of the Proposed 30" Regional

Energy Lateral portion of the project area located in Luzerne County. It should be noted that surveys are not requested for the balance of the proposed project area at this time.

- *Summer Day Roost Habitat Assessment.* A summer day roost habitat assessment should be completed following the PGC protocols that are outlined in the attached *PGC Eastern Small-footed Bat Environmental Review Guidance Document*. Upon completion, a habitat assessment report must be provided for PGC review. Upon review of the report, the PGC will determine if additional emergence count survey efforts are necessary. If the PGC requests emergence count surveys, they must be completed by a qualified individual three nights per year; one night in mid-June, one night the second week in July, and a third night during the last week in July.
- *Winter Hibernacula Habitat Assessment.* A winter hibernacula habitat assessment was completed by Sanders Environmental Inc. and the results were provided to the PGC in a report dated September 9, 2020. A total of 28 openings that met the criteria as having the potential to be bat hibernacula were identified during the assessment. Based upon these results, Sanders Environmental Inc. provided a study plan to the PGC on September 4, 2020 to complete fall sampling surveys on all 28 openings to determine the presence or absence of bat species. The PGC approved the study plan on September 11, 2020. It is the PGC's understanding that fall survey efforts are currently underway. Results of the fall sampling surveys are to be submitted to the PGC no later than December 31st of the year the survey is conducted and will be used by the PGC to determine what, if any avoidance and minimization measures need to be implemented.

Finally, portions of the proposed project appear to be located on or adjacent to on **State Game Lands No. 091 and 129**. Please contact Mr. Michael Beahm, Land Management Supervisor, at 570-675-1143 to discuss the project activities and coordinate obtaining the necessary approvals if your project will impact State Game Lands. It is recommended that you coordinate with Game Commission Staff early in your project planning process.

This response represents the most up-to-date summary of the PNDI data files and is valid for two (2) years from the date of this letter. An absence of recorded information does not necessarily imply actual conditions on site. Should project plans change or additional information on listed or proposed species become available, this determination may be reconsidered.

Should the proposed work continue beyond the period covered by this letter, please resubmit the project to this agency as an "Update" (including an updated PNDI receipt, project narrative and accurate map). If the proposed work has not changed and no additional information concerning listed species is found, the project will be cleared for PNDI requirements under this agency for two additional years.

This finding applies to impacts to birds and mammals only. To complete your review of state and federally-listed threatened and endangered species and species of special concern, please be sure that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, and/or the PA Fish and Boat Commission have been contacted regarding this project as directed by the online PNDI ER Tool found at www.naturalheritage.state.pa.us.

Please be sure to include the above-referenced PGC ID Number on any future correspondence with the PGC regarding this project.

Sincerely,



Olivia A. Braun
Environmental Planner
Division of Environmental Planning & Habitat Protection
Bureau of Wildlife Habitat Management
Phone: 717-787-4250, Extension 73128
Fax: 717-787-6957
E-mail: Olbraun@pa.gov

A PNHP Partner



OAB/oab

Enclosure: *Pennsylvania Game Commission Eastern Small-footed Bat (Myotis leibii) Environmental Review Guidance Document*

cc: Schnupp
Brauning
Turner
Librandi
Figured
Wenner
Beahm
H:\OIL&GAS_PNDI_Reviews\Statewide & Multi-Region Projects

Ryan Nelson

From: Ryan Nelson
Sent: Thursday, February 25, 2021 3:00 PM
To: Henry, Josh; Librandi Mumma, Tracey; Shellenberger, Pamela
Cc: Chris Sanders (sanders@batgate.com); Olson, Karen; Ali Trunzo
Subject: Regional Energy Access Expansion Project - Survey Reports

Good Afternoon Pam and Traci,

I have posted the following reports to the Sharepoint site below. Included are both previously submitted reports and new reports.

Previously Submitted Reports:

1. 2020 Summer Bat Acoustic Presence/Absence Survey Report
2. Summer Acoustic Study Summary Letter and Site 12 Review
3. 2020 Eastern Small-Footed Bat Habitat Assessment
4. Phase 1 Hibernacula Search

New Reports:

1. 2020 Fall Bat Acoustic – Phase 2 Hibernacula Survey
2. Phase 1 Hibernacula Search – Addendum

 [USFWS PGC 022321](#)

Should you have any questions on the reports or have issues accessing the sharepoint, please contact me.

Thank you!

Ryan

Ryan Nelson, PWS
Senior Project Manager
WHM Consulting, LLC
A Member of Prima Terra Holdings, LLC
2525 Green Tech Drive, Suite B
State College, PA 16803
Office – 814-689-1650 ext. 102
Mobile – 814-592-9848
ryann@whmgroup.com