



Transcontinental Gas Pipe Line Company, LLC

**Requirement G-3 – Pennsylvania Department of
Conservation and Natural Resources**

Regional Energy Access Expansion Project – Effort Loop

**April 2021
(Revised March 2022)**



Transcontinental Gas Pipe Line Company, LLC

Requirement G-3.1

**Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural
Resources Correspondences**

Regional Energy Access Expansion Project – Effort Loop

**April 2021
(Revised March 2022)**

BUREAU OF FORESTRY

February 12, 2020

PNDI Number: 702499

Version: Final_1; 1/31/20

Ryan Nelson

WHM Consulting, LLC

2525 Green Tech Dr., Suite B

State College, PA 16803

Email: ryann@whmgroup.com (hard copy will not follow)

Re: Regional Energy Access Project

Delaware, Luzerne, Monroe, Northampton, Wyoming, York, PA

Dear Mr. Nelson,

Thank you for the submission of the Pennsylvania Natural Diversity Inventory (PNDI) Environmental Review Receipt Number 702499 (Final_1) for review. PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources screened this project for potential impacts to species and resources under DCNR's responsibility, which includes plants, terrestrial invertebrates, natural communities, and geologic features only.

Potential Impact Anticipated

PNDI records indicate species or resources under DCNR's jurisdiction are located in the project vicinity. Based on a detailed PNDI review, DCNR determined potential impacts to the following threatened or endangered species or species of special concern.

Tunkhannock Section:

Scientific Name	Common Name	PA Current Status	PA Proposed Status
<i>Glyceria obtusa</i>	Blunt Manna-grass	Endangered	Endangered
<i>Carex polymorpha</i>	Variable Sedge	Endangered	Threatened
<i>Carex collinsii</i>	Collin's Sedge	Endangered	Threatened
<i>Solidago uliginosa</i>	Bog Goldenrod	Threatened	Threatened
<i>Amelanchier sanguinea</i>	Roundleaf Serviceberry	Special Concern	Endangered
<i>Platanthera blephariglottis</i>	White Fringed-orchid	Special Concern	Endangered
<i>Bartonia paniculata</i>	Screw-stem	Special Concern	Rare

Plains Township Section:

Scientific Name	Common Name	PA Current Status	PA Proposed Status
<i>Lupinus perennis</i>	Lupine	Rare	Rare

Kingston-Dallas Section:

Scientific Name	Common Name	PA Current Status	PA Proposed Status
<i>Carex disperma</i>	Soft-leaved Sedge	Rare	Rare

Survey Request

DCNR requests a survey for the following species:

- ***Glyceria obtusa* (Blunt Manna-grass):** documented in and around utility right-of-way; suitable habitat includes swamps, bogs and moist, sandy, peaty ground; flowers July – August
- ***Carex polymorpha* (Variable Sedge):** documented near utility right-of-way; suitable habitat includes moist, open woods and barrens, in sandy-peaty soils; fruits June – early August

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- ***Carex collinsii* (Collin's Sedge)**: documented near utility right-of-way; suitable habitat includes flowers; fruits late June – mid August
 - ***Solidago uliginosa* (Bog Goldenrod)**: documented near utility right-of-way; suitable habitat includes bogs and swamps; flowers August – October
 - ***Amelanchier sanguinea* (Roundleaf Serviceberry)**: documented near utility right-of-way; suitable habitat includes open woods, rocky slopes and barrens; Flowers mid-April; fruits June – early July
 - ***Platanthera blephariglottis* (White Fringed-orchid)**: documented near utility right-of-way; suitable habitat includes sphagnum bogs and swamps; Flowers June – August
 - ***Bartonia paniculata* (Screw-stem)**: documented near utility right-of-way; suitable habitat includes hummocks in wet woods, wooded bogs and sphagnum pond margins; Flowers August – October
 - ***Lupinus perennis* (Lupine)**: documented in neighboring utility right-of-ways; suitable habitat includes alluvial sand and gravel bars, open fields, woods edges and roadsides in sandy soil; Flower April – July
 - ***Carex disperma* (Soft-leaved Sedge)**: documented in and around utility right-of-ways; suitable swampy woods, bogs and rhododendron swamp; fruits May – August
- ✓ A botanical survey for the above species should be conducted by a qualified botanist at the appropriate time of year. Please submit the resulting report to our office for review. Contact our office prior to the survey for detailed information about the species or for a list of qualified surveyors.
- ✓ **Your botanist should carefully review the new DCNR Botanical Survey Protocols available at <https://conservationexplorer.dcnr.pa.gov/content/survey-protocols>.** These protocols are recommended to ensure that all necessary information is collected and that survey reports are prepared properly. It is the expectation of DCNR that these protocols will be followed when conducting surveys for species under our jurisdiction.
- ✓ All target and non-target state-listed species found during the botanical survey should be reported to our office. **Please submit a completed Botanical Field Survey Form for each occurrence or population identified: <http://www.gis.dcnr.state.pa.us/PNDI/2015%20Field%20Survey%20Form.pdf>.** Mitigation measures and monitoring may be requested if state-listed species are found on or adjacent to the site.
- ✓ If preferred habitat does not exist on site, a survey may not be necessary. Please submit a habitat assessment report which describes the current land cover, habitat types, and species found on site.

This response represents the most up-to-date review of the PNDI data files and is valid for two (2) years only. If project plans change or more information on listed or proposed species becomes available, our determination may be reconsidered. Should the proposed work continue beyond the period covered by this letter and a permit has not been acquired, please resubmit the project to this agency as an "Update" (including an updated PNDI receipt, project narrative, description of project changes and accurate map). As a reminder, this finding applies to potential impacts under DCNR's jurisdiction only. Visit the PNHP website for directions on contacting the Commonwealth's other resource agencies for environmental review.

Should you have any questions or concerns, please contact Alexander Dogonniuck, Ecological Information Specialist, by phone (717-783-3913) or via email (c-adogonni@pa.gov).

Sincerely



Greg Podnieszinski, Section Chief
Natural Heritage Section

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BUREAU OF FORESTRY

October 20, 2020

PNDI Number: 702499

Version: Final_4; 9/08/20

Ryan Nelson

WHM Consulting, LLC

2525 Green Tech Dr., Suite B

State College, PA 16803

Email: ryann@whmgroup.com (hard copy will not follow)

Re: Regional Energy Access Project

Delaware, Luzerne, Monroe, Northampton, Wyoming, York, PA

Dear Ryan Nelson,

Thank you for the submission of the Pennsylvania Natural Diversity Inventory (PNDI) Environmental Review Receipt Number 702499 (Final_4) for review. PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources screened this project for potential impacts to species and resources under DCNR's responsibility, which includes plants, terrestrial invertebrates, natural communities, and geologic features only.

Potential Impact Anticipated

PNDI records indicate species or resources under DCNR's jurisdiction are located in the project vicinity. Based on a detailed PNDI review, DCNR determined potential impacts to the following threatened or endangered species or species of special concern.

Tunkhannock Section:

Scientific Name	Common Name	PA Current Status	PA Proposed Status
<i>Glyceria obtusa</i>	Blunt Manna-grass	Endangered	Endangered
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Scientific Name	Common Name	PA Current Status	PA Proposed Status
<i>Lupinus perennis</i>	Lupine	Rare	Rare

Kingston-Dallas Section:

Scientific Name	Common Name	PA Current Status	PA Proposed Status
<i>Carex disperma</i>	Soft-leaved Sedge	Rare	Rare

Survey Request

DCNR requests a survey for the following species:

- ***Glyceria obtusa* (Blunt Manna-grass):** documented in and around utility right-of-way; suitable habitat includes swamps, bogs and moist, sandy, peaty ground; flowers July – August
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- ***Carex collinsii* (Collin's Sedge)**: documented near utility right-of-way; suitable habitat includes flowers; fruits late June – mid August
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 - ***Platanthera blephariglottis* (White Fringed-orchid)**: documented near utility right-of-way; suitable habitat includes sphagnum bogs and swamps; Flowers June – August
 - ***Bartonia paniculate* (Screw-stem)**: documented near utility right-of-way; suitable habitat includes hummocks in wet woods, wooded bogs and sphagnum pond margins; Flowers August – October
 - ***Lupinus perennis* (Lupine)**: documented in neighboring utility right-of-ways; suitable habitat includes alluvial sand and gravel bars, open fields, woods edges and roadsides in sandy soil; Flower April – July
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- ✓ A botanical survey for the above species should be conducted by a qualified botanist at the appropriate time of year. Please submit the resulting report to our office for review. Contact our office prior to the survey for detailed information about the species or for a list of qualified surveyors.
- ✓ **Your botanist should carefully review the new DCNR Botanical Survey Protocols available at <https://conservationexplorer.dcnr.pa.gov/content/survey-protocols>.** These protocols are recommended to ensure that all necessary information is collected and that survey reports are prepared properly. It is the expectation of DCNR that these protocols will be followed when conducting surveys for species under our jurisdiction.
- ✓ All target and non-target state-listed species found during the botanical survey should be reported to our office. **Please submit a completed Botanical Field Survey Form for each occurrence or population identified: <http://www.gis.dcnr.state.pa.us/PNDI/2015%20Field%20Survey%20Form.pdf>.** Mitigation measures and monitoring may be requested if state-listed species are found on or adjacent to the site.
- ✓ If preferred habitat does not exist on site, a survey may not be necessary. Please submit a habitat assessment report which describes the current land cover, habitat types, and species found on site.

This response represents the most up-to-date review of the PNDI data files and is valid for two (2) years only. If project plans change or more information on listed or proposed species becomes available, our determination may be reconsidered. Should the proposed work continue beyond the period covered by this letter and a permit has not been acquired, please resubmit the project to this agency as an "Update" (including an updated PNDI receipt, project narrative, description of project changes and accurate map). As a reminder, this finding applies to potential impacts under DCNR's jurisdiction only. Visit the PNHP website for directions on contacting the Commonwealth's other resource agencies for environmental review.

Should you have any questions or concerns, please contact Alexander Dogonniuck, Ecological Information Specialist, by phone (717-783-3913) or via email (c-adogonni@pa.gov).

Sincerely



Greg Podnieszinski, Section Chief
Natural Heritage Section

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From: Dogonniuck, Alexander <c-adogonni@pa.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, February 16, 2021 1:44 PM
To: Henry, Josh
Subject: Re: [External] Regional Energy Access Expansion Project - PNDI #702499 - 2020 Botanical Survey Report

Josh,

Thanks for talking on the phone earlier. I quickly refreshed myself with the project and agree with the avoidance and minimization measures proposed in section 6.0 of the botanical survey report. As the project stands currently I would likely reply with a clearance letter requesting these same measures, plus an additional monitoring measure. Currently, the measures I would request are:

- Avoid and buffer *Galium latifolium* (Purple Bedstraw) and *Platanthera blephariglottis* (White Fringed Orchid) populations, install orange protective fencing along LOD adjacent to species location. Ensure that project activities do not indirectly impact the populations via erosion, runoff, change of hydrology, etc.
- Minimization and mitigation of impact to *Glyceria obtusa* (Blunt Manna-grass) and *Solidago speciosa* (Showy Goldenrod) populations is recommended. Topsoil segregation and natural reseeding is also recommended as well as wash racks to reduce the introduction and spread of invasive plant species.
- Monitoring of these populations for two to three years after project activities are completed to assess the success of the avoidance, minimization, and mitigation techniques.

Let me know if this correspondence suffices, or you would rather an official information letter from DCNR.

Alex

Alexander Dogonniuck | Ecological Information Specialist
PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources
Bureau of Forestry | Natural Heritage Section
400 Market Street | Harrisburg, PA 17105-8552
Phone: (717) 783-3913 | E-Mail: c-adogonni@pa.gov

From: Henry, Josh <Josh.Henry@williams.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 16, 2021 11:00 AM
To: Dogonniuck, Alexander <c-adogonni@pa.gov>
Subject: RE: [External] Regional Energy Access Expansion Project - PNDI #702499 - 2020 Botanical Survey Report

Alexander,

I am following up on my voicemail that I left you just a moment ago. I was not sure if reaching out by phone would work due to COVID protocols. If you could give me a call back at 412-713-0485 at your convenience, I would appreciate it.

Thank you!

Josh Henry
412-713-0485

If you have received this message in error, please reply to advise the sender of the error and then immediately delete this message.

From: Dogonniuck, Alexander <c-adogonni@pa.gov>
Sent: Monday, February 1, 2021 10:40 AM
To: Ryan Nelson <ryann@whmgroup.com>
Cc: Henry, Josh <Josh.Henry@williams.com>; David Wood <davidw@whmgroup.com>; Olson, Karen <Karen.Olson@williams.com>
Subject: Re: [External] Regional Energy Access Expansion Project - PNDI #702499 - 2020 Botanical Survey Report

Hi Ryan,

I just wanted to let you know that your botanical report has been received, reviewed, and is filed in our system. Since the botanical report only covers certain portions of the project area and more investigation is planned for 2021, I am waiting to come to a determination or conclude the project until after I receive the remaining botanical report.

Thanks,
Alex


Alexander Dogonniuck | Ecological Information Specialist
PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources
Bureau of Forestry | Natural Heritage Section
400 Market Street | Harrisburg, PA 17105-8552
Phone: (717) 783-3913 | E-Mail: c-adogonni@pa.gov

From: Ryan Nelson <ryann@whmgroup.com>
Sent: Wednesday, November 25, 2020 1:20 PM
To: Dogonniuck, Alexander <c-adogonni@pa.gov>
Cc: Henry, Josh <Josh.Henry@williams.com>; David Wood <davidw@whmgroup.com>; Olson, Karen (<Karen.Olson@williams.com> <karen.olson@williams.com>
Subject: [External] Regional Energy Access Expansion Project - PNDI #702499 - 2020 Botanical Survey Report

ATTENTION: This email message is from an external sender. Do not open links or attachments from unknown sources. To report suspicious email, forward the message as an attachment to CWOPA_SPAM@pa.gov.

Good Afternoon, Alexander,

Transcontinental Gas Pipeline Company, LLC, has completed the 2020 plant surveys and report as requested in the previously provided PNDI responses (PNDI #702499). The report summarizes those findings during the 2020 survey season. The report can be found at the link below. Please contact me with any questions. If you have issues accessing the report, please let me know.

 [2020 Survey Report](#)

Thanks!

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

August 23, 2021

PNDI Number: 702499

Version: Final_4; 9/8/20

Ryan Nelson

WHM Consulting, LLC

2525 Green Tech Dr., Suite B

State College, PA 16803

Email: ryann@whmgroup.com (hard copy will not follow)

Re: Regional Energy Access Project

Bucks, Chester, Delaware, Luzerne, Monroe, Northampton, Wyoming, York County, PA

Dear Ryan Nelson,

Thank you for the submission of your field survey for Pennsylvania Natural Diversity Inventory (PNDI) Environmental Review Receipt Number **702499 (Final_4)** for review. PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources screened this project for potential impacts to species and resources under DCNR's responsibility, which includes plants, terrestrial invertebrates, natural communities, and geologic features only.

No Impact Anticipated per Avoidance, Mitigation, and Monitoring

PNDI records indicate species or resources under DCNR's jurisdiction are located in the vicinity of the project. DCNR requested a botanical survey for multiple species for PNDI-702499. Surveys were conducted by botanists of WHM Consulting, LLC throughout 2020 (PNDI-727947) and 2021 (PNDI-702499). The 2020 botanical surveys identified listed and target species, but the 2021 botanical surveys did not.

State listed plant species identified during the survey include *Galium latifolium*, *Platanthera blephariglottis*, *Glyceria obtusa*, and *Solidago speciosa*. The *Galium latifolium* and *Platanthera blephariglottis* populations are located outside and adjacent to the project LOD. Portions of the *Glyceria latifolium* and *Solidago speciosa* populations are located within the project LOD and will be impacted by project activities. As such the following measures are requested:

- Avoid and buffer *Galium latifolium* (Purple Bedstraw) and *Platanthera blephariglottis* (White Fringed Orchid) populations. Please install orange protective fencing along the LOD adjacent to species location. Ensure that project activities do not indirectly impact the populations via erosion, runoff, change of hydrology, etc.
- Minimize direct impacts to *Glyceria obtusa* (Blunt Manna-grass) and *Solidago speciosa* (Showy Goldenrod) populations to the greatest extent practicable.
- Mitigate for unavoidable impacts by performing topsoil segregation to facilitate natural reseeding after project disturbances occur. In addition, please utilize wash racks at construction access locations to reduce the introduction and spread of invasive plant species.
- Please monitor these populations for two to three years after project activities are completed to assess the health and recovery of these impacted populations. Yearly monitoring reports should be submitted to DCNR

Recommended Actions:

- Clean boot treads, construction equipment, and vehicles thoroughly (especially the undercarriage and wheels) before they are brought on site. This will remove invasive plant seeds and invasive earthworms/cocoons that may have been picked up at other sites.
- Do not transport unsterilized leaves, mulch, compost, or soil to the site from another location.
- Revegetate or cover disturbed soil and soil stockpiles as soon as possible to discourage the germination of invasive plants. Implement proper erosion control practices to stabilize soil and reduce runoff.
- Do not use seed mixes that include invasive species. Please also use weed-free straw or hay mixes. More information about invasive species in Pennsylvania can be found at the following link:
<http://www.dcnr.pa.gov/Conservation/WildPlants/InvasivePlants/Pages/default.aspx>
- Use habitat appropriate seed mixes. For example, when reseeding along a waterway, utilize a riparian seed mix. The Bureau of Forestry Planting & Seeding Guidelines can be found here for recommendations:
http://www.docs.dcnr.pa.gov/cs/groups/public/documents/document/dcnr_20031083.pdf
- **Use native plants for landscaping, revegetation, and stormwater management. Do not use nonnative invasive species. Reduce the area of lawn and impermeable surfaces to the fullest extent practicable in favor of native gardens or native habitat restoration (e.g., forest, meadow, wetland, etc.).**
- Report occurrences of invasive species to iMapInvasives at <https://www.imapinvasives.org/>. Focus on large infestations and species that are not yet well established in the region or in Pennsylvania (<https://www.paimapinvasives.org/be-on-the-lookout>).

Should you have any questions or concerns, please contact Alexander Dogonniuck, Ecological Information Specialist, by phone (717-783-3913) or via email (c-adogonni@pa.gov).

Sincerely



Greg Podnieszinski, Section Chief
Natural Heritage Section

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Transcontinental Gas Pipe Line Company, LLC

Requirement G-3.2 – 2020 DCNR Botanical Survey Report

Regional Energy Access Expansion Project – Effort Loop

April 2021

Transco requests that the Threatened and Endangered Species Survey Report be accorded privileged treatment, and that it be placed in a non-public file.