



October 09, 2015

Gary Smith
PA Fish & Boat Commission
Bureau of Wildlife Habitat Management
Division of Environmental Services
450 Robinson Lane
Bellefonte PA 16823

**Subject: PFBC SIR # 41856
Request for a No Impact Determination for Mussel Species, Fish Species,
and Eastern Red Belly Turtle
Sunoco Pipeline, L.P. - Pennsylvania Pipeline Project (Previously Part of
the Mariner East 2 Pipeline Project)**

Dear Mr. Smith:

Tetra Tech, Inc. (Tetra Tech) has been retained by Sunoco Pipeline, L.P. (SPLP) to conduct environmental field surveys and permitting services for the proposed Pennsylvania Pipeline Project (PPP) formerly part of the Mariner East 2 Pipeline Project (ME2). On behalf of SPLP, Tetra Tech is requesting a no impact determination from the Pennsylvania Fish & Boat Commission (PFBC) for the PPP.

A Large Project Pennsylvania Natural Diversity Inventory (PNDI) Environmental Review Request including a large project form, project description, and preliminary project USGS topographic mapping was initially provided to the PGC under the preliminary project name "Mariner East 2 Pipeline - Trans-Pennsylvania" on December 12, 2013. We received a response letters dated January 27, 2014 and May 21, 2014 from PFBC. Those letters are included for reference as Attachment 1. The Mariner East 2 Project was originally going to encompass all of the project activities within the state of Pennsylvania (PA). After field activities began, the project was split into two separate and independent projects; the Ohio Pipeline Project (OPP) and the PPP. Initially, a 20-inch diameter pipeline would be installed within a 50-foot-wide right-of-way (ROW) from Houston, PA to Marcus Hook, PA (306 miles) and a second, up to 20-inch diameter pipeline, would be installed in the same ROW. The second line is proposed to be installed from SPLP's Delmont Station, Westmoreland County, Pennsylvania to the Marcus Hook facility, paralleling the initial line for approximately 255 miles (Attachment 2).

PFBC identified freshwater mussel species: yellow lampmussel (*Lampsilis cariosa*), rainbow mussel (*Villosa iris*), elktoe (*Alasmidonta marginata*), and triangle floater (*Alasmidonta undulata*); fish species: ghost shiner (*Notropis buchani*) and brook stickleback (*Culaea inconstans*), and the eastern red belly turtle (*Pseudemys rubriventris*) as potentially occurring within the Project area. PFBC also indicated that the timber rattlesnake (*Crotalus horridus*) was located within the vicinity of the Mariner East 2 Project. The timber rattlesnake was addressed in a separate submittal and a no impact determination for the Project was received on September 22, 2015 for this species.

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PFBC indicated that mussel species could potentially occur within the Project area within Aughwick Creek (yellow lampmussel and rainbow mussel), Tuscarora Creek (rainbow mussel), and Conodoguinet Creek (yellow lampmussel, elktoe, and triangle floater, and rainbow mussel). PFBC indicated that fish species could potentially occur within the Project area within the Monongahela River (ghost shiner) and Little Conemaugh River (brook stickleback). PFBC recommended directional boring rather than open cutting these creeks and rivers to avoid potential impacts to these species and that any other in-stream be avoided, strict erosion and sedimentation control measures are maintained, and best management practices be employed. Additionally, PFBC indicated that the following contingencies be implemented for drilling/boring operations:

- Have a designated environmental inspector on site for the duration of the entire crossing operation.
- Stop the bore/drill immediately if anyone on site observes an Inadvertent Return.
- Have a Vac Truck on site or on call (within three hours) to begin clean-up of the release in the stream channel to prevent downstream migration of drilling fluids
- Notify PFBC Bureau of Law Enforcement Regional Office within 24 hours

SPLP plans to drill/bore Aughwick Creek, Tuscarora Creek, Conodoguinet Creek, Monongahela River, and Little Conemaugh River. SPLP will also avoid any in-stream work, implement and maintain strict erosion and sedimentation control measure, and employ best management practices during construction and restoration activities. SPLP has completed geotechnical surveys at drilling/boring locations to aid in the prevention of inadvertent returns. SPLP has also developed an Inadvertent Return Contingency Plan for the PPP (Attachment 3) that outlines the sequence of events should an inadvertent return occur during drilling/boring on the Project. In addition, SPLP will also implement the PFBC requested contingencies which include having an environmental inspector present, stopping the drill/bore immediately if an inadvertent return is observed, having a Vac truck on call (within 3 hours), and providing notification to PFBC within 24 hours of an inadvertent return. Given these measures, potential impacts to yellow lampmussel, rainbow mussel, elktoe, triangle floater; ghost shiner, and brook stickleback will be avoided.

PFBC identified that the eastern red belly turtle could potentially occur within areas of the Project in Chester and Delaware counties. PFBC requested a habitat assessment to determine presence/absence of potential redbelly turtle habitat and/or nesting habitat at the proposed project in areas with large, deep streams, rivers, ponds, lakes and wetlands with permanent water or the area within 300ft of these water features. As a result of this request, eastern redbelly turtle habitat assessments were completed by PFBC approved biologists on August 25, 27 & 29, 2014, September 2, 4, 5, 9, 10 & 12, 2014 and June 29, 2015 for these areas. The results of these surveys are presented in the attached Habitat Assessment Report (Attachment 4).

Overall, 201 properties within the Study Area were evaluated to determine if there was suitable habitat (aquatic or nesting) for the eastern redbelly turtle within or adjacent to the pipeline right-of-way. Of those areas surveyed, only two areas identified as suitable nesting habitat and one area identified as suitable aquatic habitat would be disturbed by the construction of the Project, as all other suitable habitat areas would be outside of the Project limits of disturbance or would be crossed via drilling/boring. These include areas near Pond-A4 (Attachment 4, Figure 2b), Wetland I2 (Attachment 4, Figure 2i), and Stream H52 near Wetland Q75 (Attachment 4, Figure



2d). For these suitable nesting habitat areas, SPLP proposes to have a PFBC approved biologist complete pre-construction surveys for nesting eastern redbelly turtles should land disturbance be necessary during the nesting season (late May through mid-July). Prior to crossing the area near stream H52, SPLP would have a PFBC approved biologist complete pre-construction presence/absence surveys for eastern redbelly turtles in this area. Given these measures, impacts to eastern redbelly turtle are expected to be avoided.

On behalf of SPLP, Tetra Tech would like to request the PFBCs review of and concurrence with our no impacts determination for the yellow lampmussel, rainbow mussel, elktoe, triangle floater; ghost shiner, brook stickleback, and eastern redbelly turtle. Thank you for your assistance in this matter. If you have any questions regarding this request, please feel free to contact me at 412.921.8167 or preston.smith@tetrattech.com.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'P. Smith', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Preston R. Smith
Manager, Wetlands and Ecological Services Department

Attachments:

- PA Fish & Game Commission PNDI Response Package (Attachment 1)
- Pennsylvania Pipeline Project Map (Attachment 2)
- Inadvertent Return Contingency Plan for PPP (Attachment 3)
- Eastern Redbelly Turtle Habitat Assessment Survey Report (Attachment 4)

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