



# United States Department of the Interior



FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE  
Pennsylvania Field Office  
110 Radnor Road, Suite 101  
State College, Pennsylvania 16801-4850

February 21, 2019

Kevin Moore  
Specialty Granules, LLC  
13424 Pennsylvania Ave., Suite 303  
Hagerstown, MD 21742

RE: USFWS Project #2010-1050  
PNDI Receipt #635546-FINAL

Dear Mr. Moore:

This letter supersedes the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service correspondence of January 8, 2018. The January 8, 2018, letter was in reply to your letter received on December 21, 2017, that provided the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) information regarding Specialty Granules' proposed Charmian Facility Pitts Quarry expansion project located in Hamilton Township, Adams County, Pennsylvania. 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.) to ensure the protection of endangered and threatened species.

The proposed project is located within the range of the federally threatened bog turtle (*Clemmys muhlenbergii*), endangered Indiana bat (*Myotis sodalis*) and threatened northern long-eared bat (*Myotis septentrionalis*). The Service's comments concerning Indiana and northern long-eared bats, as detailed in our letter of January 19, 2018, remain unchanged. This correspondence is the result of new information regarding bog turtles.

Bog turtles inhabit shallow, spring-fed fens, sphagnum bogs, swamps, marshy meadows, and pastures characterized by soft, muddy bottoms; clear, cool, slow-flowing water, often forming a network of rivulets; high humidity; and an open canopy. Bog turtles usually occur in small, discrete populations occupying suitable wetland habitat dispersed along a watershed. The occupied intermediate successional stage wetland habitat is usually a mosaic of micro-habitats ranging from dry pockets, to areas that are saturated with water, to areas that are periodically flooded. Some wetlands occupied by bog turtles are located in agricultural areas and are subject to grazing by livestock.

In 2017, when you submitted your project review request, a 2016 bog turtle record was not yet included in the State's PNDI system. In addition, the wetland in question was not included in the

December 16, 2015, Phase 1 survey report conducted by Skelly and Loy. Therefore, the Service's conclusion in the January 8, 2018, correspondence regarding bog turtles may not be accurate. In order to determine if your project may affect bog turtles, more information regarding the project and the hydrological connection to the wetland is necessary. Therefore, in light of the new information (i.e., the 2016 bog turtle occurrence record), the Service would like to request a field visit of the site in order to better understand possible impacts to the wetland's hydrology. Please contact this office at the phone number listed below in order to schedule a site visit with a Fish and Wildlife Service biologist.

*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 questions regarding this matter, please contact Nicole Ranalli of my staff at 814-234-4090, x7455.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sonja Jahrsdoerfer".

Sonja Jahrsdoerfer  
Project Leader

cc:

PFBC – C. Urban, K. Gipe  
DEP – Paronish, Chadwick  
DCNR – Stauffer, Aura