



United States Department of the Interior



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

April 2, 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 summarizes information gathered at a March 18, 2019, site visit. Previous correspondence regarding this project includes January 8, 2018, letter responding to your December 21, 2017, request of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) for information regarding Specialty Granules' proposed Charmian Facility Pitts Quarry Expansion project located in Hamilton Township, Adams County, Pennsylvania. The Service sent a letter dated February 21, 2019, in response to new information regarding bog turtles in proximity to the proposed project. 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 listed as threatened bog turtle (*Clemmys muhlenbergii*), endangered Indiana bat (*Myotis sodalis*) and threatened northern long-eared bat (*Myotis septentrionalis*). This correspondence is due to new information regarding bog turtles.

In 2017, when you submitted your project for review we were unaware of a 2016 bog turtle record that was not yet included in the state's Pennsylvania Natural Diversity Inventory (PNDI) online project screening tool. In addition, the area of wetland habitat supporting bog turtles was not included in the December 16, 2015, Phase 1 survey report conducted by Skelly and Loy. Therefore, in order to better understand your project in relation to this new occurrence record, Nicole Ranalli, of my staff, participated in a site visit of March 18, 2019. Also among those in attendance were Kathy Gipe and Dan Ryan, Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission, Aura Stauffer, Pennsylvania Department of Conservation & Natural Resources, Chadwick Paronish, Licensed Professional Geologist for Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), and yourself. During the site visit the attendees discussed the quarry operations, including project

buffers, ground water and surface water monitoring, and data from current and past mining operations south of the proposed project. As described in an e-mail of March 19, 2019, perimeter groundwater monitoring wells and surface monitoring points within 1,000 feet of the permit area have been monitored, and baseline data collected.

Mr. Paronish concludes that based on the location of the wetland in relation to the project, no direct or indirect adverse effects to the hydrology of the offsite wetland is anticipated from the project. Monitoring well sites will be maintained by Specialty Granules during the project and monitored on a quarterly basis to confirm the assumption that no alteration to ground and surface water is occurring. Based on the aforementioned information, and DEP's expert opinion, and ongoing groundwater monitoring, the Service concurs with DEP's conclusion and we conclude that the effect of the proposed project on bog turtles will be insignificant or discountable.

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.

Sincerely,



For Sonja Jahrsdoerfer
Project Leader

cc:

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