


**COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
PENNSYLVANIA GAME COMMISSION**

Date: February 12, 2018

Subject: Specialty Granules, LLC
Permit No.: 01180301
APS ID No.: 958912
Auth ID No.; 1213260 & 1213264
Hamiltonban Township, Adams County

To (via e-mail): Chad Paronish
Geologic Specialist
Cambria District Mining Office

From: Jeff Painter, P.G. 
Section Oil/Gas and Mineral Development
Bureau of Wildlife Habitat Management

Thank you for submitting the above referenced mine permit application to our office for review and comment. We have completed both office and field reviews and determined that except for occasional transient individuals, this project should not affect endangered or threatened species of bird or mammal recognized by the Pennsylvania Game Commission (PGC) nor do we anticipate any adverse impacts to any critical or unique habitats. We provide the following comments.

Module 14

Based on information provided, no direct impacts to five delineated wetlands (A-E) along the proposed eastern permit boundary are anticipated. Based on hydrologic modeling, potential indirect impacts to Wetland D may occur. The operator proposes to monitor Wetland D during mining activities, and proposes that a mitigation plan will be developed should any impacts be observed. The monitoring plan should include all identified wetlands, and plans for any necessary mitigation must adequately address the impact to or loss of all wetlands resources due to the proposed mining operations.

Module 23

Permanent cover seed mixtures A and D include varieties of fescue. Studies have shown fescue (*Fetuca sp.*) to be toxic to several wildlife species. In addition, because of its ability to out-compete other grass species, it could create a sterile fescue environment. We emphasize that, while Exhibit 18 does not include a list of seed mixtures containing any fescue, replacing the fescue species with a combination of big and little bluestem (*Andropogon gerardi* and *Andropogon virginicus*, respectively), indiagrass (*Sorghastrum*

nutans) and switchgrass (*Panicum virgatum*) should either of these mixtures be used is recommended.

Based on our office review only, we have no objections to the issuance of this permit provided that the requests referenced above are implemented, but should project plans change or if additional information becomes available, then this determination could be re-evaluated.

Please feel free to contact me at 717-787-4250 ext. 3621 should you have any questions or concerns.

JJP/jjp