



Pennsylvania Fish & Boat Commission

Division of Environmental Services
Resource Extraction Section
595 E Rolling Ridge Dr.
Bellefonte, PA 16823

August 23, 2021

IN REPLY REFER TO

SIR# 54553

PNDI# 734429

Moody & Associates, Inc.
Jordan Bell
11548 Cotton Road
Meadville, Pennsylvania 16335

**RE: Species Impact Review (SIR) – Rare, Candidate, Threatened and Endangered Species
PNDI Search No. 734425_1 & 734429
North Fork - Big Sewickley Creek & Big Sewickley Creek
BEAVER County: Economy Borough**

Dear Jordan Bell:

This responds to your inquiry about a Pennsylvania Natural Diversity Inventory (PNDI) Internet Database search “potential conflict” or a threatened and endangered species impact review. These projects are screened for potential conflicts with rare, candidate, threatened or endangered species under Pennsylvania Fish & Boat Commission jurisdiction (fish, reptiles, amphibians, aquatic invertebrates only) using the Pennsylvania Natural Diversity Inventory (PNDI) database and our own files. These species of special concern are listed under the Endangered Species Act of 1973, the Wild Resource Conservation Act, and the Pennsylvania Fish & Boat Code (Chapter 75), or the Wildlife Code.

Southern Redbelly Dace (*Chrosomus erythrogaster*, PA Threatened)

On Tuesday, August 17, 2021 we conducted a field view to discuss the protection of this species and the needs of the proposed project. You have requested to withdrawal up to 2 MGD from Big Sewickley Creek and 1 MGD from North Fork Sewickley Creek and have proposed maintaining passby flow equal to 20% of the Average Daily Flow (ADF) in accordance with Susquehanna River Basin Commission (SRBC) Policy No. 2003-1. While both Big Sewickley Creek and North Fork Big Sewickley Creek are designated as trout stocked fisheries (TSF) by the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), due to the presence of this threatened species, we request that Policy No. 2003-1 guidance for High Quality (HQ) and Exceptional Value (EV) watersheds be followed. Policy No. 2003-1 states that “withdrawals may not cause greater than a 5% loss of habitat” and is based on SRBC Publication 191A. As such, we request that passby flow be adjusted to 25% and 35% for Big Sewickley and North Fork Big Sewickley Creek, respectively. Furthermore, we request that gaging stations be established at both locations as soon as practicable to build site specific curves for flow

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estimation over the course of the withdrawals. Intake screen spacing and entrance velocities must not exceed 3/16" and 0.5 ft/sec as stated in the water management plan. Additionally, withdrawals from the Big Sewickley Creek site should be prioritized once waterlines and related infrastructure for transport to the B15 well pad are installed.

A report of total daily withdrawals shall be provided to this office on a monthly basis by mail or via email to draab@pa.gov while pumping operations are active. We also request that installation of pumps be coordinated with this office and our regional Waterways Conservation Officer Matthew Raetsch at mraetsch@pa.gov.

Provided that these requirements and best management practices are followed, I do not anticipate the proposed activity having any significant adverse impacts to Southern Redbelly Dace populations in the Big Sewickley Creek Watershed.

This response represents the most up-to-date summary of the PNDI data and our files and is valid for two (2) years from the date of this letter. An absence of recorded species information does not necessarily imply species absence. Our data files and the PNDI system are continuously being updated with species occurrence information. Should project plans change or additional information on listed or proposed species become available, this determination may be reconsidered, and consultation shall be re-initiated.

If you have any questions regarding this review, please contact Dakota Raab at 814-359-5117 and refer to the SIR # 54553. Thank you for your cooperation and attention to this important matter of species conservation and habitat protection.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Dakota Raab".

Dakota Raab, Fisheries Biologist
Resource Extraction Section

DR/dn