
BUREAU OF FORESTRY

August 29, 2016

PNDI Number: 22470

Natalie Shearer

AECOM

681 Andersen Drive, Suite 400

Pittsburgh, PA 15220

Email: natalie.shearer@aecom.com (hard copy will not follow)

**Re: Shell Pipeline Company, LP – Falcon Ethane Pipeline Project
Beaver, Washington, and Allegheny Counties, PA**

Dear Ms. Shearer,

Thank you for the submission of your field survey for Pennsylvania Natural Diversity Inventory (PNDI) Environmental Review Receipt Number 22470 for review. PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources screened this project for potential impacts to species and resources under DCNR's responsibility, which includes plants, terrestrial invertebrates, natural communities, and geologic features only.

No Impact Anticipated per Survey (with Avoidance)

PNDI records indicate species or resources under DCNR's jurisdiction are located in the vicinity of the project. A botanical survey was conducted by AECOM between March 28 and April 28, 2016.

Climbing fern (*Lygodium palmatum*), a PA Watch List species, was documented on site and will be avoided. Harbinger-of-spring (*Erigenia bulbosa*; proposed PA Rare) was also identified but will be avoided through directional bore under Raccoon Creek and associated floodplain. No other species of special concern were found on the project site. Therefore, DCNR has determined that no impact is likely. No further coordination with our agency is needed for this project.

DCNR recommends the following steps to help prevent the spread of invasive species:

- The area of disturbance should be minimized to the fullest extent that would allow for construction. This will help to lessen the area of soil and vegetation disturbance associated with this project.
- If possible, please clean boot treads, construction equipment, and vehicles thoroughly (especially the undercarriage and wheels) before they are brought on site. This will remove invasive plant seeds and invasive earthworms/cocoons that may have been picked up at other sites.
- Do not transport unsterilized leaves, mulch, compost, or soil to the site from another location. Avoid using seed mixes that include invasive plant species (e.g. crown vetch) to re-vegetate the area. Please also use weed-free straw or hay mixes when possible. More information about invasive species in Pennsylvania can be found at the following link: <http://www.dcnr.state.pa.us/conservation/science/invasivespecies/index.htm>

This response represents the most up-to-date review of the PNDI data files and is valid for two (2) years only. If project plans change or more information on listed or proposed species becomes available, our determination may be reconsidered. Should the proposed work continue beyond the period covered by this letter, please resubmit the project to this agency as an "Update" (including an updated PNDI receipt, project narrative and accurate map). As a reminder, this finding applies to potential impacts under DCNR's jurisdiction only. Visit the PNHP website for directions on contacting the Commonwealth's other resource agencies for environmental review.

Should you have any questions or concerns, please contact Jason Ryndock, Ecological Information Specialist, by phone (717-705-2822) or via email (c-jryndock@pa.gov).

Sincerely



Greg Podnieszinski, Section Chief
Natural Heritage Section