

BUREAU OF FORESTRY

September 24, 2015

PNDI Large Project Number: 22470

Natalie L. Shearer
AECOM
Foster Plaza 6
681 Andersen Drive, Suite 400
Pittsburgh, PA 15220
EMAIL: natalie.shearer@aecom.com (hard copy will not follow)

**Re: Shell Pipeline Company, LP Northeast Pipeline Project
Greene, Shippingport, Independence, Raccoon, Center, and Potter Township; Beaver County; Chartiers and Mount Pleasant Townships, Washington County; and Robinson, North Fayette, and Findlay Townships; Allegheny County, PA**

Dear Ms. Shearer,

Thank you for the submission of the Pennsylvania Natural Diversity Inventory (PNDI) Environmental Review Large Project Number **22470**. 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.

Potential Impact Anticipated

PNDI records indicate species or resources under DCNR's jurisdiction are located in the project vicinity. Based on a detailed PNDI review, DCNR determined potential impacts to the following threatened or endangered species or species of special concern.

Scientific Name	Common Name	PA Current Status	PA Proposed Status
<i>Clematis viorna</i>	Vase-vine Leather-flower	Endangered	Endangered
<i>Erigenia bulbosa</i>	Harbinger-of-spring	Threatened	Rare
<i>Erythronium albidum</i>	White Trout-lily	Not Listed	Rare
<i>Iodanthus pinnatifidus</i>	Purple Rocket	Endangered	Endangered
<i>Trillium flexipes</i>	Declined Trillium	Undetermined	Threatened
<i>Trillium nivale</i>	Snow Trillium	Rare	Rare

Survey Request

DCNR requests a survey for the following species:

- ***Clematis viorna* (Vase-vine Leather-flower):** locally documented in floodplain and slopes of Raccoon Creek; prefers rich wooded banks and thickets; flowers May – July
- ***Erigenia bulbosa* (Harbinger-of-spring):** locally documented in forested floodplain of Raccoon Creek at intersection with proposed pipeline as provided in GIS shapefile. While this species is not as rare in the western part of Pennsylvania as it is in the eastern half of the state, DCNR requests that it is included in plant surveys because of the high likelihood of impact in this particular location. Prefers seeps and spring heads on wooded slopes; flowers March – April
- ***Erythronium albidum* (White Trout-lily):** locally documented in forested floodplain of Raccoon Creek; prefers moist woods and rich slopes, especially on limestone; flowers April – May

- ***Iodanthus pinnatifidus* (Purple Rocket)**: locally documented in forested floodplain of Raccoon Creek; prefers moist alluvial woods and wooded slopes; flowers May – June
 - ***Trillium flexipes* (Declined Trillium)**: locally documented along wooded tributaries and talus slopes of Raccoon Creek; prefers wooded stream valleys and talus slopes; flowers late April – early May
 - ***Trillium nivale* (Snow Trillium)**: locally documented in tributary ravines along Raccoon Creek; prefers steep wooded stream valleys, especially on limestone; flowers late March – April
- ✓ A survey for the above species should be conducted by a qualified botanist *at the appropriate time of year and then submitted to our office for review*. **Your botanist should carefully review the new DCNR Botanical Survey Protocols available at <http://www.gis.dcnr.state.pa.us/hgis-er/Login.aspx>. These protocols are recommended to ensure that the all necessary information is collected and that survey reports are prepared properly. It is the expectation of DCNR that these protocols will be followed when conducting surveys for species under our jurisdiction.**
 - ✓ Your botanist should *fill out the field survey form while performing their survey*: <http://www.gis.dcnr.state.pa.us/hgis-er/hgis/2012%20DCNR%20Field%20Survey%20Form.pdf>. Contact our office prior to the survey for detailed information about the species, or for a list of qualified surveyors.
 - ✓ Any target and non-target state-listed species found during the site visit should be reported to our office. Mitigation measures and monitoring may be requested if species or communities of special concern are found on or adjacent to site.
 - ✓ If the land type(s) does not exist on site, a survey may not be necessary; please submit a habitat assessment report which describes the current land cover, habitat types, and species found on site.

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 Meredith Malone, Forest Program Specialist, by phone (717-787-7067) or via email (memalone@pa.gov).

Sincerely,



Greg Podnieszinski, Section Chief
Natural Heritage Section

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