

*Regional Energy Access Expansion Project
Transcontinental Gas Pipe Line Company, LLC
401 Water Quality Certification Application – Revision 1*

SECTION 2.0
PENNSYLVANIA NATURAL DIVERSITY INVENTORY
SEARCH AND AGENCY COORDINATION

**SECTION 2.1
PENNSYLVANIA NATURAL DIVERSITY
INVENTORY RECEIPT**

1. PROJECT INFORMATION

Project Name: **Regional Energy Access Project**

Date of Review: **9/8/2020 11:03:49 AM**

Project Category: **Energy Storage, Production, and Transfer, Energy Transfer, Pipeline (e.g., gas, oil) -- NEW (construction of new line in a new location)**

Project Area: **483.85 acres**

County(s): **Bucks; Chester; Delaware; Luzerne; Monroe; Northampton; Wyoming; York**

Watersheds HUC 8: **Brandywine-Christina; Lehigh; Lower Delaware; Lower Susquehanna; Middle Delaware-Mongaup-Brodhead; Middle Delaware-Musconetcong; Schuylkill; Upper Susquehanna-Lackawanna; Upper Susquehanna-Tunkhannock**

Watersheds HUC 12: **Abrahams Creek; Bear Creek; Buck Creek-Delaware River; Buckhorn Creek-Delaware River; Buckwha Creek; City of Wilkes-Barre-Mill Creek; City of Wilkes-Barre-Susquehanna River; Fishing Creek-Muddy Creek; Headwaters Pohopoco Creek; Leonard Creek; Little Valley Creek-Valley Creek; Lower Bowman Creek; Lower McMichael Creek; Mud Run; Obendorfers Creek-Susquehanna River; Oldmans Creek-Delaware River; Repaupo Creek-Delaware River; Toby Creek; Tunkhannock Creek; Upper McMichael Creek; Valley Creek; Wright Creek-Lehigh River**

Decimal Degrees: **41.293788, -75.808780**

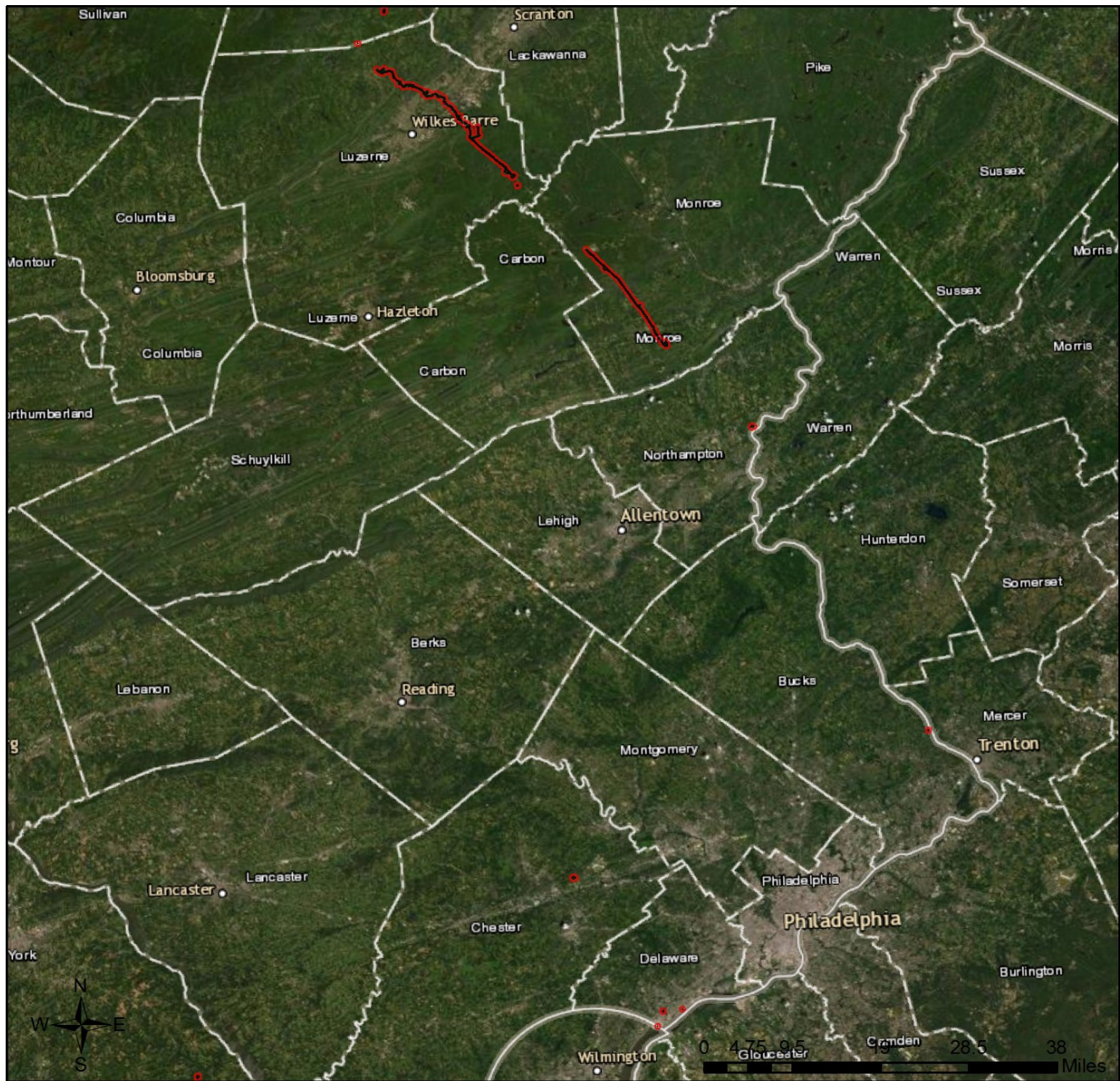
Degrees Minutes Seconds: **41° 17' 37.6351" N, 75° 48' 31.6082" W**

2. SEARCH RESULTS - LARGE PROJECT

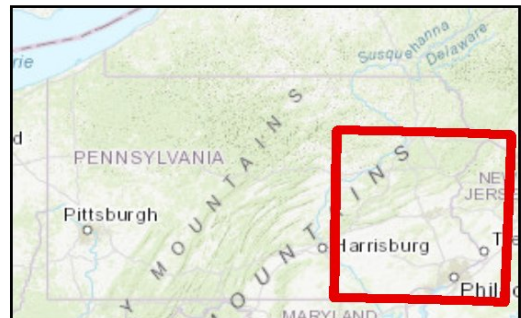
Agency	Results	Response
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Large Project. The project area is greater than 10 miles and/or 5,165 acres and therefore is categorized as a Large Project, and is not analyzed by the PNDI tool. Coordination is therefore required with the four jurisdictional agencies to determine if potential impacts to threatened and endangered and/or special concern species and resources within the project area. Please see the DEP Information section of the receipt if a PA Department of Environmental Protection Permit is required.

Regional Energy Access Project

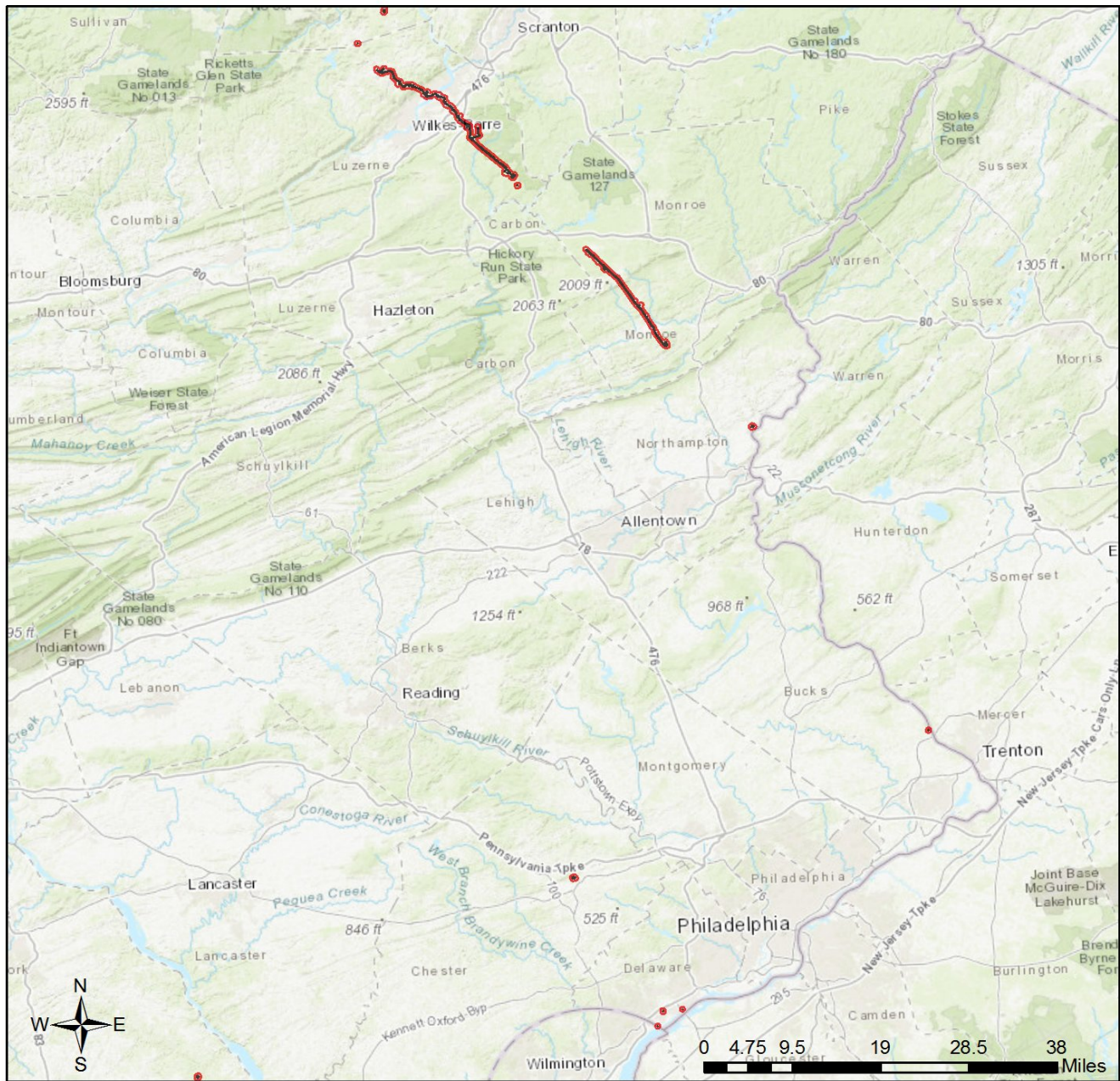


- Project Boundary
- Buffered Project Boundary



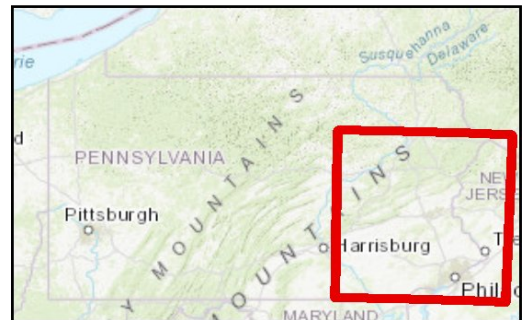
Service Layer Credits: Source: Esri, Maxar, GeoEye, Earthstar Geographics, CNES/Airbus DS, USDA, USGS, AeroGRID, IGN, and the GIS User Community
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Regional Energy Access Project



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Regardless of whether a DEP permit is necessary for this proposed project, any potential impacts to threatened and endangered species and/or special concern species and resources must be resolved with the appropriate jurisdictional agency. In some cases, a permit or authorization from the jurisdictional agency may be needed if adverse impacts to these species and habitats cannot be avoided.

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PA Game Commission

RESPONSE:

Further review of this project is necessary to resolve the potential impact(s). Please send project information to this agency for review (see WHAT TO SEND).

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***Note:** U.S.Fish and Wildlife Service requires applicants to mail project materials to the USFWS PA field office (see AGENCY CONTACT INFORMATION). USFWS will not accept project materials submitted electronically (by upload or email).

Check-list of Minimum Materials to be submitted:

___ Project narrative with a description of the overall project, the work to be performed, current physical characteristics of the site and acreage to be impacted.

___ A map with the project boundary and/or a basic site plan (particularly showing the relationship of the project to the physical features such as wetlands, streams, ponds, rock outcrops, etc.)

In addition to the materials listed above, USFWS REQUIRES the following

___ **SIGNED** copy of a Final Project Environmental Review Receipt

The inclusion of the following information may expedite the review process.

___ Color photos keyed to the basic site plan (i.e. showing on the site plan where and in what direction each photo was taken and the date of the photos)

___ Information about the presence and location of wetlands in the project area, and how this was determined (e.g., by a qualified wetlands biologist), if wetlands are present in the project area, provide project plans showing the location of all project features, as well as wetlands and streams.

4. DEP INFORMATION

The Pa Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) requires that a signed copy of this receipt, along with any required documentation from jurisdictional agencies concerning resolution of potential impacts, be submitted with applications for permits requiring PNDI review. Two review options are available to permit applicants for handling PNDI coordination in conjunction with DEP's permit review process involving either T&E Species or species of special concern. Under sequential review, the permit applicant performs a PNDI screening and completes all coordination with the appropriate jurisdictional agencies prior to submitting the permit application. The applicant will include with its application, both a PNDI receipt and/or a clearance letter from the jurisdictional agency if the PNDI Receipt shows a Potential Impact to a species or the applicant chooses to obtain letters directly from the jurisdictional agencies. Under concurrent review, DEP, where feasible, will allow technical review of the permit to occur concurrently with the T&E species consultation with the jurisdictional agency. The applicant must still supply a copy of the PNDI Receipt with its permit application. The PNDI Receipt should also be submitted to the appropriate agency according to directions on the PNDI Receipt. The applicant and the jurisdictional agency will work together to resolve the potential impact(s). See the DEP PNDI policy at <https://conservationexplorer.dcnr.pa.gov/content/resources>.

5. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

The PNDI environmental review website is a preliminary screening tool. There are often delays in updating species status classifications. Because the proposed status represents the best available information regarding the conservation status of the species, state jurisdictional agency staff give the proposed statuses at least the same consideration as the current legal status. If surveys or further information reveal that a threatened and endangered and/or special concern species and resources exist in your project area, contact the appropriate jurisdictional agency/agencies immediately to identify and resolve any impacts.

For a list of species known to occur in the county where your project is located, please see the species lists by county found on the PA Natural Heritage Program (PNHP) home page (www.naturalheritage.state.pa.us). Also note that the PNDI Environmental Review Tool only contains information about species occurrences that have actually been reported to the PNHP.

6. AGENCY CONTACT INFORMATION

PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources

Bureau of Forestry, Ecological Services Section
400 Market Street, PO Box 8552
Harrisburg, PA 17105-8552
Email: RA-HeritageReview@pa.gov

PA Fish and Boat Commission

Division of Environmental Services
595 E. Rolling Ridge Dr., Bellefonte, PA 16823
Email: RA-FBPACENOTIFY@pa.gov

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Pennsylvania Field Office
Endangered Species Section
110 Radnor Rd; Suite 101
State College, PA 16801
Email: IR1_ESPenn@fws.gov
NO Faxes Please

PA Game Commission

Bureau of Wildlife Habitat Management
Division of Environmental Planning and Habitat Protection
2001 Elmerton Avenue, Harrisburg, PA 17110-9797
Email: RA-PGC_PNDI@pa.gov
NO Faxes Please

7. PROJECT CONTACT INFORMATION

Name: Karen Olson
Company/Business Name: Williams-Transcontinental Gas Pipeline Company, LLC
Address: 2800 Post Oak Blvd, Level 11
City, State, Zip: Houston, TX 77056
Phone: (713) 215-4232 Fax: ()
Email: karen.olson@williams.com

8. CERTIFICATION

I certify that ALL of the project information contained in this receipt (including project location, project size/configuration, project type, answers to questions) is true, accurate and complete. In addition, if the project type, location, size or configuration changes, or if the answers to any questions that were asked during this online review change I agree to re-do the online environmental review.



applicant/project proponent signature

02/08/2022

date



Transcontinental Gas Pipe Line Company, LLC
2800 Post Oak Boulevard, Level 11
Houston, Texas 77056

January 31, 2020

**Re: PNDI Large Project Submission for Environmental Review
Transcontinental Gas Pipe Line Company, LLC
Regional Energy Access Project**

To Whom it May Concern:

Transcontinental Gas Pipe Line Company, LLC (Transco) is in the process of defining the proposed Regional Energy Access Project (Project), which would expand Transco's existing facilities to meet growing demand for natural gas. Currently, the Pennsylvania Project components consist of two pipeline segments, one new compressor station, upgrades to two existing compressor stations, and additions or modifications to aboveground ancillary facilities along the existing and proposed pipelines.

This correspondence is intended to initiate Pennsylvania Natural Diversity Index (PNDI) consultation with the Pennsylvania Game Commission, Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission, Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, and United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) regarding the presence of Threatened, Endangered, and special concern species occurring along or in the vicinity of the proposed Project.

For the purposes of the PNDI review, the Pennsylvania Project components are listed below:

Project Components

- Regional Energy Lateral - Approximately 22 miles of 30-inch-diameter pipeline, both co-located pipeline along the existing Transco Leidy pipeline system and greenfield pipeline, in Luzerne County, PA;
 - Ten Alternative Route options (Alt_REL_A-J); are included with this submission, as the route is still being designed;
- Effort Loop - Approximately 14 miles of 42-inch-diameter pipeline looping the existing Transco Leidy pipeline system in Monroe County, PA;
- New Compressor Station 510 - New gas turbine-driven Compressor Station in Northampton County, PA, located adjacent to the existing Leidy pipeline system. The options currently requested for review are:
 - CS 510 – Option MP 30.6
 - CS 510 – Option MP 31.4
 - CS 510 – Option MP 32.6
 - CS 510 – Option MP 33.1
- Existing Compressor Station 515 – Additional horsepower at an existing Compressor Station in Luzerne County, PA located adjacent to the existing Leidy pipeline system;

- Existing Compressor Station 195 – Modifications will include additional horsepower at an existing Compressor Station in York County. No earth disturbance is being proposed for the modification, and;
- Aboveground Ancillary Facilities – Modifications or additions of receipt and delivery meter stations, valve sites, and regulator stations along the proposed pipeline routes and along Transco’s existing pipeline system.

The summary table below outlines the location of Project components in Pennsylvania as shown on Attachment A: PA Natural Diversity Index - Project Map and Attachment B: Topographic Project Location Maps.

Table 1. Project Facility Summary Table		
Project Component	County	Attachment B - Topographic Project Location Map
Proposed 30" Regional Energy Lateral	Luzerne	1A-1D
Existing Compressor Station 515	Luzerne	1A
Existing Carverton Meter Station	Luzerne	1C & 1D
Proposed 42" Leidy D Effort Loop	Monroe	2A- 2C
Proposed Compressor Station 510	Northampton	3
Existing Lower Mud Run Meter Station and Delaware Regulator	Northampton	3
Existing Compressor Station 195	York	4
Existing Chapin Meter Station	Wyoming	5
Existing Puddlefield Meter Station	Wyoming	6
Existing Chester Meter Station	Delaware	7

The proposed Regional Energy Lateral and Effort Loop will be co-located within/adjacent to the existing Transco right-of-way (ROW) to the extent possible. The temporary and/or permanent ROW will need to be widened at varying widths to accommodate the Project construction. Potential access roads that may be proposed for use are included. In general, these are existing access roads that may be subject to improvements to accommodate Project construction.

Field surveys have not been initiated for the Project; however, are planned to begin in the spring of 2020. Temporary and permanent workspaces (e.g. disturbance areas) have not been defined at this time. During and following field surveys and throughout the design process, the proposed pipeline route and overall limits of disturbance areas are subject to refinements.

United States Geological Survey Mapping depicting the locations of the described Project facilities can be found in Attachment B. The draft large project PNDI review receipt is located within Attachment C. GIS shapefiles have been uploaded as part of the PNDI Online submission. A compact disc, as well as hard copies of this correspondence have been sent via U.S. mail to the USFWS. Within the shapefiles, attribute information is included that provides the unique identifiers to the features shown on the mapping.

Should the Project, as presented, indicate the need for species-specific field studies or indicate other Project considerations, please provide a response outlining those requirements.

If you have any questions regarding this correspondence and information request, or require additional Project information, please do not hesitate to call me at (713) 215-4232 or contact me via e-mail at karen.olson@Williams.com. Alternatively, you can contact Ryan Nelson, Senior Project Manager at WHM Consulting, LLC at (814) 689-1650 or via e-mail at ryann@whmgroup.com. I appreciate your assistance and thank you for your attention to this request.

Respectfully submitted,

TRANSCONTINENTAL GAS PIPE LINE COMPANY, LLC

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Karen Olson", with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Karen Olson
Environmental Specialist

Attachments: Attachment A: PA Natural Diversity Index – Project Map
 Attachment B: Topographic Project Location Maps
 Attachment C: Draft Large Project PNDI Review Receipt

cc: Josh Henry, Transco
 Ryan Nelson, WHM Consulting, LLC

1. PROJECT INFORMATION

Project Name: **Regional Energy Access Project**

Date of Review: **1/31/2020 04:22:44 PM**

Project Category: **Energy Storage, Production, and Transfer, Energy Transfer, Pipeline (e.g., gas, oil) -- NEW (construction of new line in a new location)**

Project Area: **1,230.86 acres**

County(s): **Delaware; Luzerne; Monroe; Northampton; Wyoming; York**

Watersheds HUC 8: **Lehigh; Lower Delaware; Lower Susquehanna; Middle Delaware-Mongaup-Brodhead; Middle Delaware-Musconetcong; Upper Susquehanna-Lackawanna; Upper Susquehanna-Tunkhannock**

Watersheds HUC 12: **Abrahams Creek; Bear Creek; Buckhorn Creek-Delaware River; Buckwha Creek; City of Wilkes-Barre-Mill Creek; City of Wilkes-Barre-Susquehanna River; Fishing Creek-Muddy Creek; Headwaters Pohopoco Creek; Leonard Creek; Lower McMichael Creek; Mud Run; Obendoffers Creek-Susquehanna River; Repaupo Creek-Delaware River; Toby Creek; Tunkhannock Creek; Upper McMichael Creek; Wright Creek-Lehigh River**

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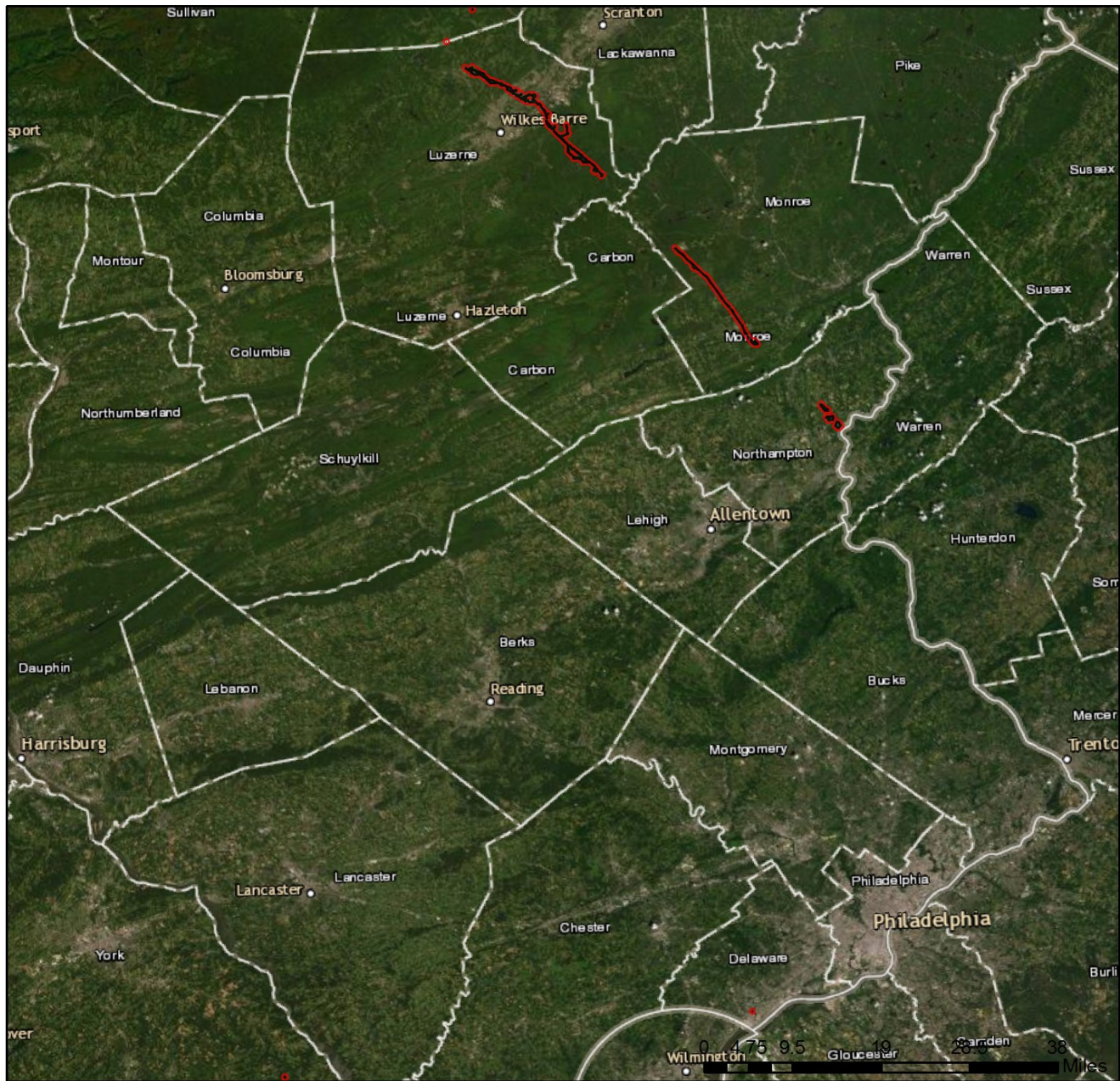
Degrees Minutes Seconds: **41° 17' 28.2376" N, 75° 48' 33.7465" W**

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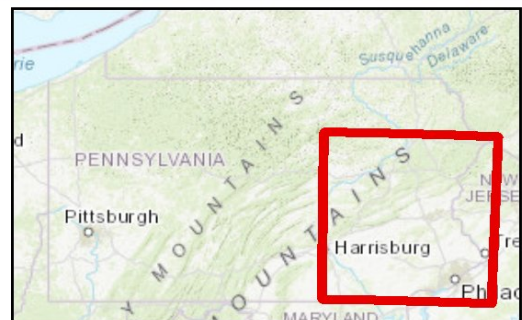
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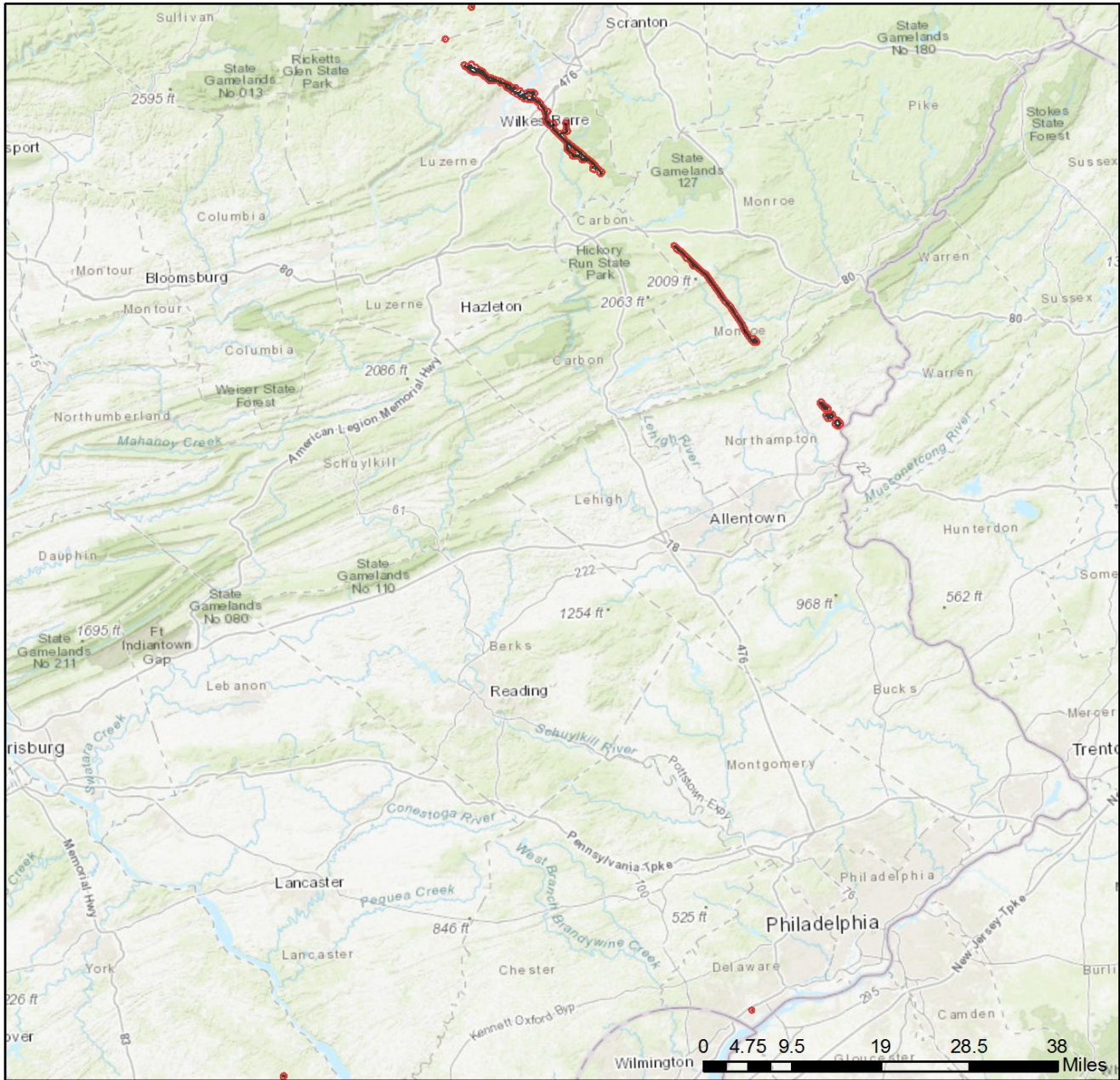


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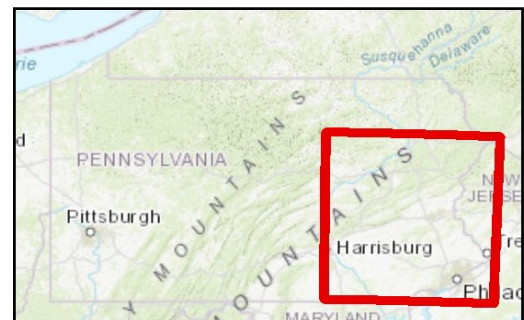


Service Layer Credits: Sources: Esri, HERE, DeLorme, Intermap, increment P Corp., GEBCO, USGS, FAO, NPS, NRCAN, GeoBase, IGN, Kadaster NL, Ordnance Survey, Esri Japan, METI, Esri China (Hong Kong), swisstopo, MapmyIndia, © OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GIS User Community
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400 Market Street, PO Box 8552
Harrisburg, PA 17105-8552
Email: RA-HeritageReview@pa.gov

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Pennsylvania Field Office
Endangered Species Section
110 Radnor Rd; Suite 101
State College, PA 16801
NO Faxes Please

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Division of Environmental Services
595 E. Rolling Ridge Dr., Bellefonte, PA 16823
Email: RA-FBPACENOTIFY@pa.gov

PA Game Commission

Bureau of Wildlife Habitat Management
Division of Environmental Planning and Habitat Protection
2001 Elmerton Avenue, Harrisburg, PA 17110-9797
Email: RA-PGC_PNDI@pa.gov
NO Faxes Please

7. PROJECT CONTACT INFORMATION

Name: Karen Olson
Company/Business Name: Williams - Transcontinental Gas Pipeline Company, LLC
Address: 2800 Post Oak Blvd, Level 11
City, State, Zip: Houston, TX 77056
Phone: (713) 215-4232 Fax: (713) 215-2222
Email: karen.olson@williams.com

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01/31/2020

applicant/project proponent signature

date



Transcontinental Gas Pipe Line Company, LLC
 2800 Post Oak Boulevard, Level 11
 Houston, Texas 77056

September 4, 2020

**Re: Updated PNDI Search ID: PNDI 702499
 Transcontinental Gas Pipe Line Company, LLC
 Regional Energy Access Expansion Project**

To Whom it May Concern:

Transcontinental Gas Pipe Line Company, LLC (Transco) is providing an update to the original PNDI online Large Project Review for the Regional Energy Access Expansion (REAE) Project (Project) submitted on January 31, 2020. This update provides additional details since the previous submission.

The following is a list of the agency unique identifiers for the Project:

Pennsylvania Game Commission – PGC ID# 202002030501
 Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission – SIR# 52530
 Pennsylvania Department of Conservation of Natural Resources – PNDI# 702499
 United States Fish and Wildlife Service – Project # 2020-0592

Since the previous submission, the Project name has been updated from the Regional Energy Access Project to the Regional Energy Access Expansion Project.

The summary table below outlines the location of Project components in Pennsylvania. A column has been added to this table to reflect general updates since the previous submission.

<u>Table 1. Project Facility Summary Table</u>			
Project Component	County	Project Locations Map	Update Summary
<u>Pipeline Components</u>			
Proposed 30" Regional Energy Lateral	Luzerne	REL 1-4	Revised Proposed Route
Proposed 42" Leidy D Effort Loop	Monroe	EL1 – EL3	Minor route adjustments
<u>Compressor Station Components</u>			
Existing Compressor Station 195	York	CS195-1	No Changes
Existing Compressor Station 200	Chester	CS200-1	New Project Component
Existing Compressor Station 515	Luzerne	CS515-1	Contractor Yard Added

Table 1. Project Facility Summary Table			
Proposed Compressor Station 510	Northampton	N/A	Removed from the Project
<u>Aboveground Ancillary Facilities</u>			
Hildebrandt/Lower Demunds REL Tie-Ins and Chapin 2 Interconnect	Luzerne	HLD-1	Revised naming
Existing Carverton Meter Station	Luzerne	CARV-1	No Changes
Existing Chester Meter Station	Chester	CMS-DEL-1	New Project Component
Existing Chapin Meter Station	Wyoming	CMS-WY-1	No Changes
Existing Puddlefield Meter Station	Wyoming	PMS-1	No Changes
Existing Post Road M&R	Delaware	PRMR-1	New Project Component
Proposed Chester Regulation	Delaware	CMS-DEL-1	New Project Component
Existing Delaware Regulator/Lower Mud Run Meter Station	Northampton	DEL/LMR-1	No Changes
Existing Mainline "A" Regulator	Bucks	MLA-1	New Project Component

The following Project information provides further detail on the Project Components listed above.

Project Components

- Regional Energy Lateral - Approximately 22 miles of 30-inch-diameter pipeline, both co-located pipeline along the existing Transco Leidy pipeline system and greenfield pipeline, in Luzerne County, PA;
 - The previously provided preliminary route alternatives have been removed and the current route is provided.
 - Route adjustments have been incorporated into the current alignment
- Effort Loop - Approximately 14 miles of 42-inch-diameter pipeline looping the existing Transco Leidy pipeline system in Monroe County, PA;
 - Some minor route adjustments have been incorporated into the current alignment
- Existing Compressor Station 195 – Modifications will include additional horsepower at an existing Compressor Station in York County. No earth disturbance is being proposed for the modification
 - No changes have been proposed
- Existing Compressor Station 200 – Modifications will connect existing Transco Mainline A into suction to support south flow
 - This facility was not previously included with the original PNDI Submission
- Existing Compressor Station 515 – Additional horsepower and facility modifications at an existing Compressor Station in Luzerne County, PA located adjacent to the existing Leidy pipeline system;
 - Addition of one gas-fired turbine drive compressor with approximately 31,871 HP and modifications of the existing compressors to support new project flow

- Abandon and replace approximate 17,000 HP from five existing gas-fired reciprocator driven compressors with one gas-fired turbine driver compressor with approximately 19,502 HP.
- Replacement of communication tower at Compressor Station 515. The new communication tower will be freestanding (e.g. not supported by guy wires) and approximately 380 feet high. The existing communication tower is 357 feet high and supported with guy wires. Lighting from the existing communication tower will be repurposed and is in compliance with Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) requirements.
- A contractor yard associated with this facility has been included.
- Aboveground Ancillary Facilities – Modifications or additions of receipt and delivery meter stations, valve sites, and regulator stations along the proposed pipeline routes and along Transco's existing pipeline system.
 - Four new project components have been added since the previous submission, as noted in the above table.

Revised Project location mapping is located within Attachment A of this submission. GIS shapefiles have been uploaded as part of the PNDI Online submission. A hard copy of this correspondence have been sent via U.S. mail to the USFWS.

Should the Project, as presented, indicate the need for additional species-specific field studies from what was previously requested or indicate other Project considerations, please provide a response outlining those requirements.

If you have any questions regarding this correspondence and information request, or require additional Project information, please do not hesitate to call me at (713) 215-4232 or contact me via e-mail at karen.olson@Williams.com. Alternatively, you can contact Ryan Nelson, Senior Project Manager at WHM Consulting, LLC at (814) 689-1650 or via e-mail at ryann@whmgroup.com. I appreciate your assistance and thank you for your attention to this request.

Respectfully submitted,

TRANSCONTINENTAL GAS PIPE LINE COMPANY, LLC



Karen Olson
Environmental Specialist

Attachments: Attachment A: Project Location Maps

cc: Josh Henry, Transco
Ryan Nelson, WHM Consulting, LLC

1. PROJECT INFORMATION

Project Name: **Regional Energy Access Project**

Date of Review: **9/8/2020 11:03:49 AM**

Project Category: **Energy Storage, Production, and Transfer, Energy Transfer, Pipeline (e.g., gas, oil) -- NEW (construction of new line in a new location)**

Project Area: **483.85 acres**

County(s): **Bucks; Chester; Delaware; Luzerne; Monroe; Northampton; Wyoming; York**

Watersheds HUC 8: **Brandywine-Christina; Lehigh; Lower Delaware; Lower Susquehanna; Middle Delaware-Mongaup-Brodhead; Middle Delaware-Musconetcong; Schuylkill; Upper Susquehanna-Lackawanna; Upper Susquehanna-Tunkhannock**

Watersheds HUC 12: **Abrahams Creek; Bear Creek; Buck Creek-Delaware River; Buckhorn Creek-Delaware River; Buckwha Creek; City of Wilkes-Barre-Mill Creek; City of Wilkes-Barre-Susquehanna River; Fishing Creek-Muddy Creek; Headwaters Pohopoco Creek; Leonard Creek; Little Valley Creek-Valley Creek; Lower Bowman Creek; Lower McMichael Creek; Mud Run; Obendorfers Creek-Susquehanna River; Oldmans Creek-Delaware River; Repaupo Creek-Delaware River; Toby Creek; Tunkhannock Creek; Upper McMichael Creek; Valley Creek; Wright Creek-Lehigh River**

Decimal Degrees: **41.293788, -75.808780**

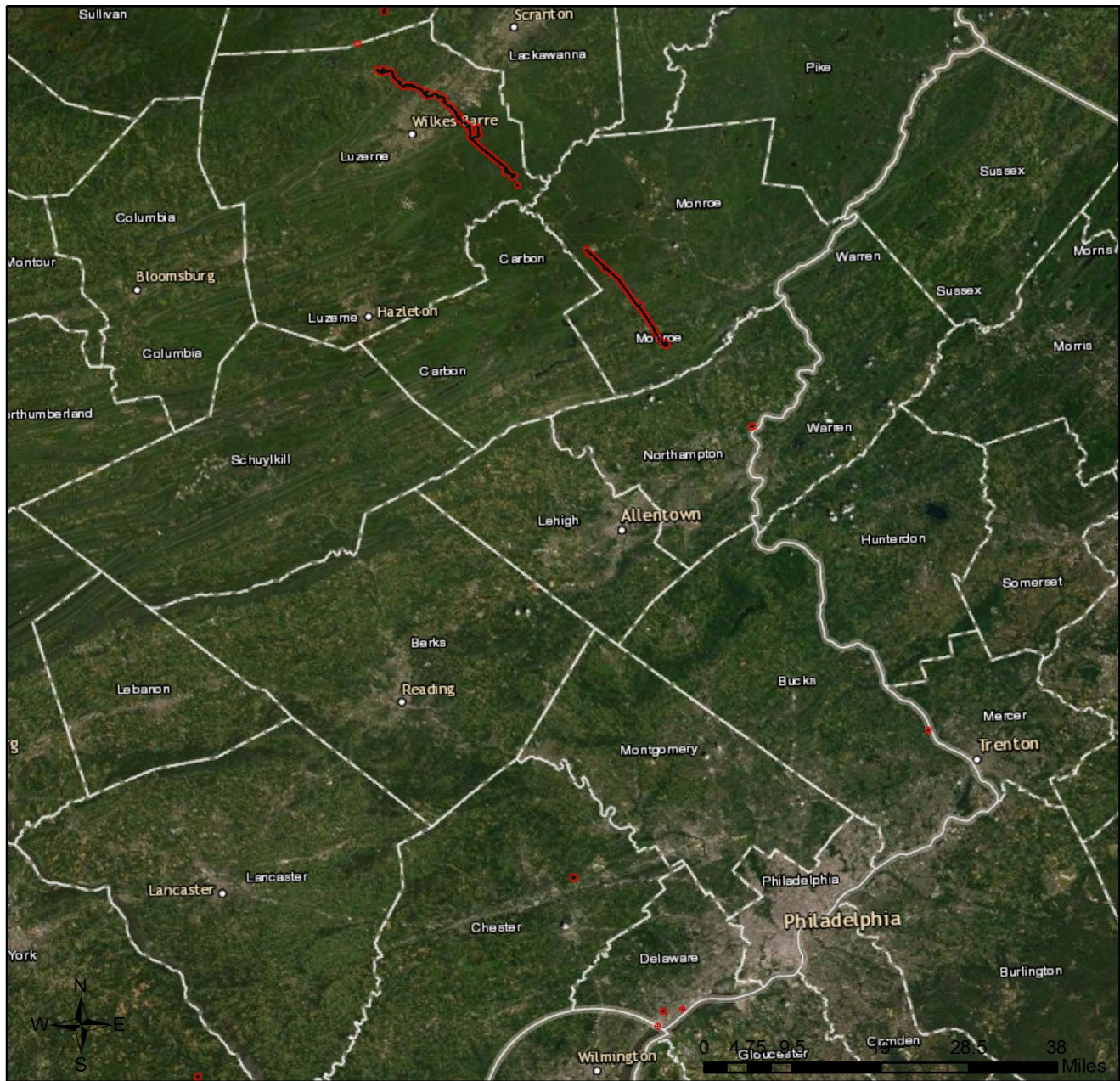
Degrees Minutes Seconds: **41° 17' 37.6351" N, 75° 48' 31.6082" W**

2. SEARCH RESULTS - LARGE PROJECT

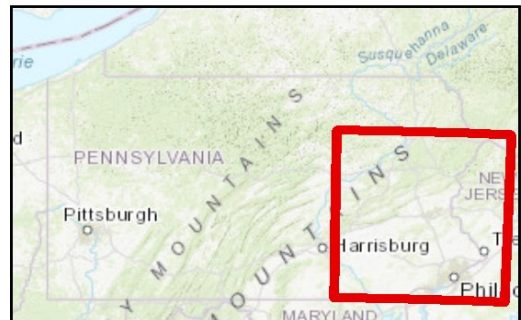
Agency	Results	Response
PA Game Commission	Potential Impact	FURTHER REVIEW IS REQUIRED, See Agency Response
PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources	Potential Impact	FURTHER REVIEW IS REQUIRED, See Agency Response
PA Fish and Boat Commission	Potential Impact	FURTHER REVIEW IS REQUIRED, See Agency Response
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	Potential Impact	FURTHER REVIEW IS REQUIRED, See Agency Response

Large Project. The project area is greater than 10 miles and/or 5,165 acres and therefore is categorized as a Large Project, and is not analyzed by the PNDI tool. Coordination is therefore required with the four jurisdictional agencies to determine if potential impacts to threatened and endangered and/or special concern species and resources within the project area. Please see the DEP Information section of the receipt if a PA Department of Environmental Protection Permit is required.

Regional Energy Access Project

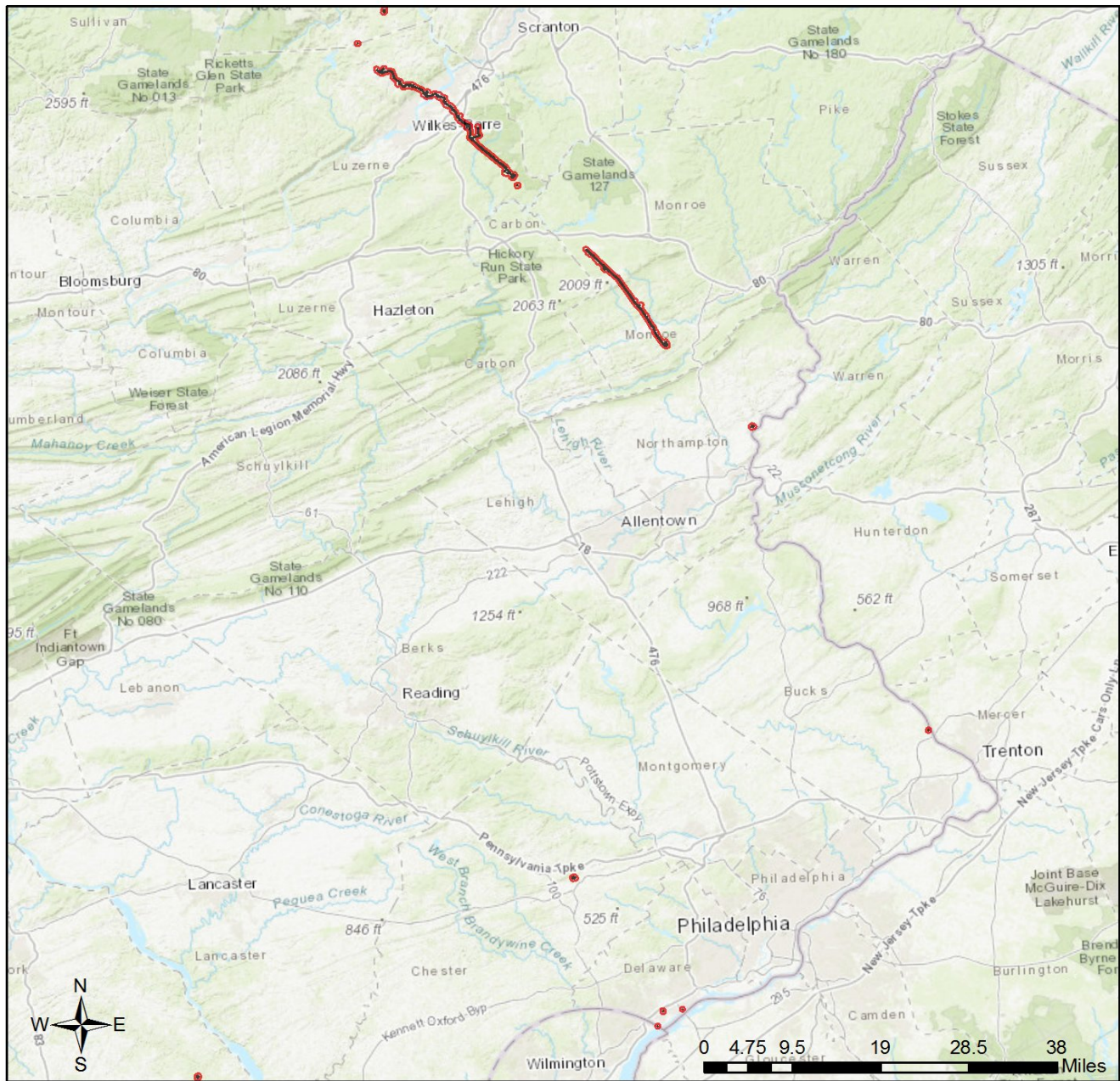


- Project Boundary
- Buffered Project Boundary



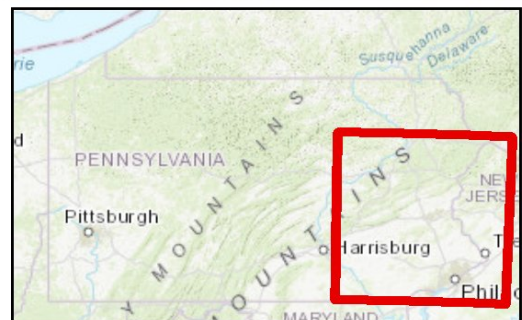
Service Layer Credits: Source: Esri, Maxar, GeoEye, Earthstar Geographics, CNES/Airbus DS, USDA, USGS, AeroGRID, IGN, and the GIS User Community
 Esri, HERE, Garmin, (c) OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GIS user community
 Sources: Esri, HERE, Garmin, Intermap, increment P Corp., GEBCO, USGS, FAO, NPS, NRCAN, GeoBase, IGN, Kadaster NL, Ordnance Survey, Esri Japan, METI, Esri China

Regional Energy Access Project



- Project Boundary
- Buffered Project Boundary

Service Layer Credits: Sources: Esri, HERE, Garmin, Intemap, increment P Corp., GEBCO, USGS, FAO, NPS, NRCAN, GeoBase, IGN, Kadaster NL, Ordnance Survey, Esri Japan, METI, Esri China (Hong Kong), (c) OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GIS User Community



3. AGENCY COMMENTS

Regardless of whether a DEP permit is necessary for this proposed project, any potential impacts to threatened and endangered species and/or special concern species and resources must be resolved with the appropriate jurisdictional agency. In some cases, a permit or authorization from the jurisdictional agency may be needed if adverse impacts to these species and habitats cannot be avoided.

These agency determinations and responses are **valid for two years** (from the date of the review), and are based on the project information that was provided, including the exact project location; the project type, description, and features; and any responses to questions that were generated during this search. If any of the following change: 1) project location, 2) project size or configuration, 3) project type, or 4) responses to the questions that were asked during the online review, the results of this review are not valid, and the review must be searched again via the PNDI Environmental Review Tool and resubmitted to the jurisdictional agencies. The PNDI tool is a primary screening tool, and a desktop review may reveal more or fewer impacts than what is listed on this PNDI receipt. The jurisdictional agencies **strongly advise against** conducting surveys for the species listed on the receipt prior to consultation with the agencies.

PA Game Commission

RESPONSE:

Further review of this project is necessary to resolve the potential impact(s). Please send project information to this agency for review (see WHAT TO SEND).

PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources

RESPONSE:

Further review of this project is necessary to resolve the potential impact(s). Please send project information to this agency for review (see WHAT TO SEND).

PA Fish and Boat Commission

RESPONSE:

Further review of this project is necessary to resolve the potential impact(s). Please send project information to this agency for review (see WHAT TO SEND).

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

RESPONSE:

Further review of this project is necessary to resolve the potential impact(s). Please send project information to this agency for review (see WHAT TO SEND).

WHAT TO SEND TO JURISDICTIONAL AGENCIES

If project information was requested by one or more of the agencies above, upload* or email* the following information to the agency(s). Instructions for uploading project materials can be found [here](#). This option provides the applicant with the convenience of sending project materials to a single location accessible to all three state agencies. Alternatively, applicants may email or mail their project materials (see AGENCY CONTACT INFORMATION).

***Note:** U.S.Fish and Wildlife Service requires applicants to mail project materials to the USFWS PA field office (see AGENCY CONTACT INFORMATION). USFWS will not accept project materials submitted electronically (by upload or email).

Check-list of Minimum Materials to be submitted:

___ Project narrative with a description of the overall project, the work to be performed, current physical characteristics of the site and acreage to be impacted.

___ A map with the project boundary and/or a basic site plan (particularly showing the relationship of the project to the physical features such as wetlands, streams, ponds, rock outcrops, etc.)

In addition to the materials listed above, USFWS REQUIRES the following

___ **SIGNED** copy of a Final Project Environmental Review Receipt

The inclusion of the following information may expedite the review process.

___ Color photos keyed to the basic site plan (i.e. showing on the site plan where and in what direction each photo was taken and the date of the photos)

___ Information about the presence and location of wetlands in the project area, and how this was determined (e.g., by a qualified wetlands biologist), if wetlands are present in the project area, provide project plans showing the location of all project features, as well as wetlands and streams.

4. DEP INFORMATION

The Pa Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) requires that a signed copy of this receipt, along with any required documentation from jurisdictional agencies concerning resolution of potential impacts, be submitted with applications for permits requiring PNDI review. Two review options are available to permit applicants for handling PNDI coordination in conjunction with DEP's permit review process involving either T&E Species or species of special concern. Under sequential review, the permit applicant performs a PNDI screening and completes all coordination with the appropriate jurisdictional agencies prior to submitting the permit application. The applicant will include with its application, both a PNDI receipt and/or a clearance letter from the jurisdictional agency if the PNDI Receipt shows a Potential Impact to a species or the applicant chooses to obtain letters directly from the jurisdictional agencies. Under concurrent review, DEP, where feasible, will allow technical review of the permit to occur concurrently with the T&E species consultation with the jurisdictional agency. The applicant must still supply a copy of the PNDI Receipt with its permit application. The PNDI Receipt should also be submitted to the appropriate agency according to directions on the PNDI Receipt. The applicant and the jurisdictional agency will work together to resolve the potential impact(s). See the DEP PNDI policy at <https://conservationexplorer.dcnr.pa.gov/content/resources>.

5. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

The PNDI environmental review website is a preliminary screening tool. There are often delays in updating species status classifications. Because the proposed status represents the best available information regarding the conservation status of the species, state jurisdictional agency staff give the proposed statuses at least the same consideration as the current legal status. If surveys or further information reveal that a threatened and endangered and/or special concern species and resources exist in your project area, contact the appropriate jurisdictional agency/agencies immediately to identify and resolve any impacts.

For a list of species known to occur in the county where your project is located, please see the species lists by county found on the PA Natural Heritage Program (PNHP) home page (www.naturalheritage.state.pa.us). Also note that the PNDI Environmental Review Tool only contains information about species occurrences that have actually been reported to the PNHP.

6. AGENCY CONTACT INFORMATION

PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources

Bureau of Forestry, Ecological Services Section
400 Market Street, PO Box 8552
Harrisburg, PA 17105-8552
Email: RA-HeritageReview@pa.gov

PA Fish and Boat Commission

Division of Environmental Services
595 E. Rolling Ridge Dr., Bellefonte, PA 16823
Email: RA-FBPACENOTIFY@pa.gov

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Pennsylvania Field Office
Endangered Species Section
110 Radnor Rd; Suite 101
State College, PA 16801
Email: IR1_ESPenn@fws.gov
NO Faxes Please

PA Game Commission

Bureau of Wildlife Habitat Management
Division of Environmental Planning and Habitat Protection
2001 Elmerton Avenue, Harrisburg, PA 17110-9797
Email: RA-PGC_PNDI@pa.gov
NO Faxes Please

7. PROJECT CONTACT INFORMATION

Name: Ryan Nelson
Company/Business Name: WHM Consulting, LLC
Address: 2525 Green Tech Drive; Suite B
City, State, Zip: State College, PA 16803
Phone: (814) 689-1650 Fax: ()
Email: ryann@whmgroup.com

8. CERTIFICATION

I certify that ALL of the project information contained in this receipt (including project location, project size/configuration, project type, answers to questions) is true, accurate and complete. In addition, if the project type, location, size or configuration changes, or if the answers to any questions that were asked during this online review change, I agree to re-do the online environmental review.

Ryan Nelson
applicant/project proponent signature

09/04/2020
date

SECTION 2.2
THREATENED AND ENDANGERED SPECIES
COORDINATION SUMMARY

THREATENED AND ENDANGERED SPECIES COORDINATION SUMMARY

This section discusses the presence of federally- and state-listed rare plant and animal species potentially occurring within or near the Project area. Coordination has been initiated with the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR), Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission (PFBC), Pennsylvania Game Commission (PGC), and the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). Agency coordination resulted in the identification of several species that may occur within the Project area and are provided below in Table 2.2-1. A concurrent review with the reviewing agencies is being conducted in conjunction with the Chapter 102 and 105 Permit Review Process.

Regional Energy Access Expansion Project
 401 Water Quality Certification Application
 Transcontinental Gas Pipe Line Company, LLC
 Section 2.2 – Threatened and Endangered Species Coordination Summary – Revision 1

**Table 2.2-1
 Federally- and State-Listed Species Potentially Occurring Within the Project Area**

Species Group	Species Common Name	Scientific Name	Federal Status	State Status ^a	Project Components with Potential Occurrence	County of Potential Occurrence within Project Area ^b	Planned Survey Timeframe	Survey Status
Mammals	Indiana bat	<i>Myotis sodalis</i>	Endangered	Endangered	Project components with tree clearing in PA including Regional Energy Lateral, Effort Loop, and facility modifications	All PA counties	Summer Presence/Absence Survey: May 15 – August 15; Potential Hibernacula: anytime without snow cover;	Complete
	Northern long-eared bat	<i>Myotis septentrionalis</i>	Threatened	Endangered	Project components in PA including Regional Energy Lateral, Effort Loop, and facility modifications	All PA counties	Potential Hibernacula Presence/Absence Surveys: September 15 – October 31	
	Eastern small-footed bat	<i>Myotis leibii</i>	Not listed	Threatened	Portions of the Regional Energy Lateral	Luzerne County, PA	Summer Day Roost Habitat Assessment: anytime without snow cover; Summer Emergence Counts: June 15 – July 31; Potential Hibernacula Presence/Absence Survey: September 15 – October 31; Potential Hibernacula: anytime without snow cover;	Complete

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**Table 2.2-1
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Species Group	Species Common Name	Scientific Name	Federal Status	State Status ^a	Project Components with Potential Occurrence	County of Potential Occurrence within Project Area ^b	Planned Survey Timeframe	Survey Status
Reptiles	Bog Turtle	<i>Clemmys muhlenbergii</i>	Threatened	Not listed	Portions of Effort Loop, Delaware River Regulator, Compressor Station 200, Compressor Station 195, Offsite wetland mitigation area	Delaware, Northampton, York, Chester and portions of Monroe County, PA	Habitat: Anytime soils are not frozen and without snow cover; Presence/absence: April 15 – June 15	Complete
	Timber Rattlesnake	<i>Crotalus horidus</i>	Not Listed	Species of Special Concern	Portion of Regional Energy Lateral	Luzerne County, PA	Phase I: Anytime without snow cover Phase II: April 15 – May 15	Complete
Mussels ^c	Elktoe	<i>Alasmidonta marginata</i>	Not listed	Rare	Vicinity of Regional Energy Lateral at the Susquehanna River	Luzerne County, PA	May 15 – October 1	Surveys not currently proposed due to trenchless crossing
	Green Floater	<i>Lasmigona subviridis</i>	Not listed	Rare	Vicinity of Regional Energy Lateral at the Susquehanna River	Luzerne County, PA	May 15 – October 1	Surveys not currently proposed due to trenchless crossing
	Triangle Floater	<i>Alasmidonta undulata</i>	Not listed	Rare	Vicinity of Regional Energy Lateral at the Susquehanna River	Luzerne County, PA	May 15 – October 1	Surveys not currently proposed due to trenchless crossing
Plants	Northeastern Bulrush	<i>Scirpus ancistrochaetus</i>	Endangered	Endangered (Proposed Threatened)	Regional Energy Lateral, Effort Loop, Compressor Station 515, Hildebrandt Tie-in, Lower Demunds REL Tie-in, Carverton Tie-in, Delaware River	Luzerne, Monroe, and Northampton Counties, PA	June 1 – September 30	Complete

Regional Energy Access Expansion Project
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 Section 2.2 – Threatened and Endangered Species Coordination Summary – Revision 1

**Table 2.2-1
 Federally- and State-Listed Species Potentially Occurring Within the Project Area**

Species Group	Species Common Name	Scientific Name	Federal Status	State Status ^a	Project Components with Potential Occurrence	County of Potential Occurrence within Project Area ^b	Planned Survey Timeframe	Survey Status
					Regulator			
	Blunt Manna-grass	<i>Glyceria obtusa</i>	Not listed	Endangered	Effort Loop	Monroe County, PA (Tunkhannock Township)	July – August	Complete
	Variable Sedge	<i>Carex polymorpha</i>	Not listed	Endangered (Proposed Threatened)	Effort Loop	Monroe County, PA (Tunkhannock Township)	July – August	Complete
	Collin’s Sedge	<i>Carex collinsii</i>	Not listed	Endangered (Proposed Threatened)	Effort Loop	Monroe County, PA (Tunkhannock Township)	July	Complete
	Soft-leaved Sedge	<i>Carex disperma</i>	Not listed	Rare	Regional Energy Lateral, Hildebrandt Tie-in, Lower Demunds REL Tie-in, Carverton Tie-in	Luzerne County, PA (Dallas and Kingston Townships)	July – August	Complete
	Bog Goldenrod	<i>Solidago ulginosa</i>	Not listed	Threatened	Effort Loop	Monroe County, PA (Tunkhannock Township)	August	Complete
	Roundleaf Serviceberry	<i>Amelanchier sanguinea</i>	Not listed	Special Concern (Proposed Endangered)	Effort Loop	Monroe County, PA (Tunkhannock Township)	Late April (due to late start to growing season on the Pocono plateau)	Complete
	White Fringed-orchid	<i>Platanthera blephariglottis</i>	Not listed	Special Concern (Proposed Endangered)	Effort Loop	Monroe County, PA (Tunkhannock Township)	July – August	Complete
	Screw-stem	<i>Bartonia paniculate</i>	Not listed	Special Concern (Proposed)	Effort Loop	Monroe County, PA (Tunkhannock Township)	August	Complete

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**Table 2.2-1
 Federally- and State-Listed Species Potentially Occurring Within the Project Area**

Species Group	Species Common Name	Scientific Name	Federal Status	State Status ^a	Project Components with Potential Occurrence	County of Potential Occurrence within Project Area ^b	Planned Survey Timeframe	Survey Status
				Rare)				
	Lupine	<i>Lupinus perennis</i>	Not listed	Rare	Regional Energy Lateral	Luzerne County, PA (Plains Township)	July	Complete

Sources: USFWS (Jahrsdoerfer 2020), PFBC (Lech 2020), PADCNR (Podniesinski 2020), PGC (Braun 2020)
^a Current status listed for PA – see column titled “County/State of Potential Occurrence within Project Area” for locations of possible occurrence.
^b Based on federal and state resource agency feedback.
^c Crossing at the Susquehanna River will be conducted via trenchless crossing methods. Field surveys are not necessary for mollusks when trenchless crossings are used and are not required for water withdrawal activities.

USFWS Coordination

Indiana Bat

The USFWS PA Field Office indicated the Project facilities in PA are within the range of the Indiana bat (*Myotis sodalis*), which is federally listed as endangered. In order to determine whether the Project will affect potential habitat for this species, the USFWS requested summer presence/absence surveys and winter habitat surveys to be conducted.

To minimize direct human contact with bats, PGC has imposed a temporary moratorium on the 2019-2020 bat mist net survey season to minimize potential disease transmission to bat populations. In lieu of mist net surveys, Transco conducted acoustic surveys during summer 2020 for bats for the pipelines and aboveground facilities in PA where forest clearing is required. Acoustic surveys involve placing detectors to record bat calls within suitable summer habitat. The acoustic samples are then analyzed using USFWS-approved acoustic bat identification software. A report was submitted to the USFWS and PGC on November 25, 2020.

A Phase I hibernacula search was conducted to identify potential hibernacula within 0.5 mile of the Regional Energy Lateral component of the Project between MPs 8.0 and 17.5 in Luzerne County, PA. A desktop analysis indicated that portions of the Regional Energy Lateral are located within areas that were previously mined. As a result, ground assessments were conducted throughout 2020. A total of 56 potential hibernacula were found within the survey area. Transco conducted acoustic sampling at 28 of these potential hibernacula in fall 2020. The acoustic surveys determined probable presence for the federally and state endangered Indiana bat (*Myotis sodalis*) at one location. A report with the 2020 fall acoustic results was submitted on February 25, 2021. Additionally, a report with locations and photos of the additional 28 potential hibernacula was also submitted. The remaining 26 suitable potential hibernacula were surveyed in 2021 (2 of the 28 were not surveyed, as they were flooded). A report with the 2021 fall sampling results was submitted on December 1, 2021. No Indiana bats were identified during these additional surveys.

As part of continued coordination with the USFWS, Transco is reviewing the results of the surveys with the agencies to determine the appropriate mitigation measures and time of year restrictions.

Northern Long-eared Bat

As noted in the USFWS PA Field Office correspondence dated May 12, 2020, the entire proposed Project in PA is located within the range of the federally-threatened northern long-eared bat (*Myotis septentrionalis*). The summer and fall acoustic surveys being conducted for Indiana bats also includes results for northern long-eared bats and other bat species. Summer acoustic surveys determined the probable presence of the northern long-eared bat at two survey sites associated with the Effort Loop and three survey sites associated with the Regional Energy Lateral. Reports were submitted to the USFWS on November 25, 2020 outlining the results of the 2020 Summer Acoustic Surveys. 2020 Fall acoustic surveys indicated a probable presence at three locations. On February 25, 2021, a report was submitted to the outlining the results of the 2020 Fall Bat Acoustic Phase 2 Hibernacula Survey completed for the Regional Energy Lateral. 2021 Fall Trapping surveys identified presence of the Northern Long-eared bat at one location. A report with the 2021 fall sampling results was submitted on December 1, 2021.

As part of continued coordination with the USFWS, Transco is reviewing the results of the surveys with the agencies to determine the appropriate mitigation measures and time of year restrictions.

Northeast Bulrush

Project components in PA are within the range of the northeastern bulrush (*Scirpus ancistrochaetus*), which is federally-listed as endangered (Jahrsdoerfer 2020). In order to conserve northeastern bulrush (if present), the USFWS PA Field Office recommended a 300-foot-wide upland buffer around wetlands, as well as 50- to 100-foot-wide buffers along waterways to filter pollutants and stabilize streambanks. If buffers are included, the USFWS PA Field Office states the proposed Project is not likely to adversely affect the northeastern bulrush (Jahrsdoerfer 2020). If this buffer could not be adopted, the USFWS requested a survey of potentially suitable wetland habitat for the presence of this species.

Surveys for northeastern bulrush were completed during the flowering/fruitletting season between June and September 2020. The species was not found within the Project limits. A Northeastern Bulrush Survey Report has been submitted to the USFWS on November 25, 2020 and is under review.

Bog Turtle

The USFWS PA Field Office states that sections of the Project located in Chester, Delaware, Northampton, York, and portions on Monroe County, PA are within the known range for the bog turtle (*Clemmy muhlenbergii*), which is federally-listed as threatened. Since wetlands occur within the Project area, the USFWS PA Field Office determined a Phase 1 Bog Turtle Habitat Survey should be completed. The survey was required within areas that will be directly or indirectly affected by the proposed Project, as applicable. Bog Turtle field surveys were completed in April and July 2020, and one potential site was found on the Effort Loop. As a result, further consultation with the USFWS regarding the potential site took place. Since disturbance is located adjacent to the wetland at the one location, and there will be no disturbance or hydrologic impacts to the potential bog turtle habitat, the USFWS concluded that Phase 2 surveys did not need to be conducted at the location. No other facilities had potential habitat identified during the habitat surveys. Based on field survey results and consultation with the USFWS PA Field Office, Transco does not anticipate impacts to bog turtles for the Project facilities in PA. A Negative Phase I Survey Results Report was submitted to the USFWS on 9/03/2020.

Transco is proposing wetland mitigation at an off-site location in Northampton County. The PNDI review indicated a potential occurrence of the bog turtle. A phase 1 survey was completed at the site in September 2020, and it was determined that potentially suitable bog turtle habitat is present. A Phase 2 Presence/Absence Survey and Phase 3 Trapping survey was completed in the spring of 2021, and no bog turtles were found. A report was submitted to the USFWS and a response letter was provided on October 6, 2021, indicating the proposed project is not likely to adversely affect the bog turtle.

DCNR Coordination

State-Listed Plant Species

The DCNR identified several target plant species within the counties crossed by the pipeline facilities (see Table 2.2-1). Target species include those that are state-listed or proposed for state listing as rare, threatened, or endangered. The DCNR indicated these species were documented in or near the proposed ROW, and they requested plant surveys be conducted for these target species in the Project area (Podniesinski 2020, Podniesinski 2020b). Survey windows vary for each species based primarily on flowering times, or other times of year when the plant is most readily apparent. Table 2.2-2 describes suitable habitat and flowering windows

for each of the seven state-listed plant species. The federally-listed northeastern bulrush is previously described under the USFWS Coordination section.

**Table 2.2-2
 Habitat and Flowering Windows for State-Listed Plant Species Potentially Occurring Within the Project Area**

Common Name	Scientific Name	Habitat	Flowering Window
Blunt Manna-grass	<i>Glyceria obtusa</i>	Swamps, bogs; moist, sandy, peaty ground	July-August
Variable Sedge	<i>Carex polymorpha</i>	Moist, open woods and barrens; sandy-peaty soils	June -Early August (Fruit)
Collin's Sedge	<i>Carex collinsii</i>	Flowers	June-mid August (Fruit)
Bog Goldenrod	<i>Solidago ulginosa</i>	Bogs and swamps	August-October
Roundleaf Serviceberry	<i>Amelanchier sanguinea</i>	Open woods, rocky slopes and barrens	Mid-April; Fruits June-early July
White Fringed-orchid	<i>Platanthera blephariglottis</i>	Sphagnum bogs and swamps	June-August
Screw-stem	<i>Bartonia paniculata</i>	Hummocks in wet woods, wooded bogs, and sphagnum pond margins	August-October
Lupine	<i>Lupinus perennis</i>	Alluvial sand and gravel bars, open fields, wood edges and roadsides in sandy soils	April-July
Soft-leaved Sedge	<i>Carex disperma</i>	Swampy woods, bogs, and rhododendron swamp	May-August (Fruit)
Sources: Podniesinski 2020			

Field surveys for PA state-listed plants were completed with no target species identified for the following species: Northeastern bulrush (*Scirpus ancistrochaetus*), variable sedge (*Carex polymorpha*), Collin's sedge (*Carex collinsii*), soft-leaved sedge (*Carex disperma*), bog goldenrod (*Solidago ulginosa*), roundleaf serviceberry (*Amelanchier sanguinea*), Lupine (*Lupinus perennis*) and screw-stem (*Bartonia paniculata*). Blunt-manna grass (*Glyceria obtusa*) and white-fringed orchid (*Platanthera blephariglottis*) were found within the Project area. Surveys also identified two plants that were not on the DCNR PNDI response: Showy goldenrod (*Solidago speciosa*) was found along the Effort Loop and purple bedstraw (*Galium latifolium*) on the Regional Energy Lateral. A Botanical Survey Report was submitted to the DCNR on November 25, 2020. A field survey for Lupine was completed in 2021 from MPs 8.3 to 9.9 on the Regional Energy Lateral, with no Lupine identified during the surveys. A report was submitted to the DCNR on August 12, 2021 outlining the results of the survey findings. On August 23, 2022, the DCNR provided a

response letter for the Project indicating “No Impact Anticipated per Avoidance, Mitigation, and Monitoring”.

PFBC Coordination

Timber Rattlesnake

According to correspondence with the PFBC, the portion of the Regional Energy Lateral east of I-476 is in close proximity to known critical timber rattlesnake (*Crotalus horridus*) habitat (Lech 2020b). The PFBC requested Transco complete a habitat assessment to be conducted in the portions of the Regional Energy Lateral located East of I-476. During follow up email correspondence, the study area was refined to approximately milepost 6.5 and 9.0 (I-476) (Lech 2020c).

Transco completed Phase I habitat assessment surveys in summer 2020 between approximately MP 6.5 and MP 9.0. Surveys were conducted within a survey corridor extending 300 feet of the LOD. Potential denning and gestational habitat were identified in the study area during Phase I Habitat Assessment surveys. A Phase II presence/absence survey was completed in 2021 in habitat areas where potential denning habitat was identified. One den location was confirmed during surveys. Transco submitted a survey report outlining the results and the PFBC provided a response on September 7, 2021 (Lech 2021). Transco has adopted the recommended avoidance and minimization measures which include workspace reductions, exclusion fencing and construction monitoring (Lech 2021). Additionally, Transco proposes to re-construct rock habitat identified as gestation habitat during the Project construction restoration (Lech 2020e). Consultation with the PFBC regarding the Timber Rattlesnake is complete.

Mussels

The PFBC has determined that three species of rare mussels are known from the vicinity of the Regional Energy Lateral Susquehanna River crossing and are likely to occur within the proposed Project area. The species include: Elktoe (*Alasmidonta marginata*), Green Floater (*Lasmigona subviridis*), and Triangle Floater (*Alasmidonta undulata*). The PFBC recommended mussel surveys to be completed in the areas that may be directly or indirectly affected by the proposed in-stream work that will take place within the Susquehanna River, unless the pipeline will be installed via horizontal directional drill (Lech 2020, Lech 2020b). Transco proposes to cross the Susquehanna River via a trenchless technique (Direct Pipe®) and therefore does not anticipate a need for mussel surveys. PFBC also confirmed that the small cable that may be laid in the streambed for surveying the location of the Direct Pipe® progress and that temporary water

intake at the river crossing would not require mussel surveys. Instead, the PFBC recommended running a PNDI as part of the water withdrawal application, for which no impacts were found (Lech 2020c). Therefore, consultation is complete with the PFBC regarding mussels and no impacts to protected mussels are anticipated as a result of this Project.

PGC Coordination

Eastern Small-footed Bat

The PGC has determined the Eastern small-footed bat (*Myotis leibii*), a threatened species in PA, is located within the vicinity of the Project. Therefore, the PGC recommended surveys to be conducted for areas associated with the Project located between MP 8.0 and 17.5 of the Regional Energy Lateral portion located in Luzerne County, PA. Field surveys to be completed include: Summer Day Roost Habitat Assessment and Winter Hibernacula Habitat assessment (Braun 2020, Braun 2020b).

Transco completed an assessment of Eastern Small-Footed Bat summer habitat within 0.25 mile of the Regional Energy Lateral component of the Project between MPs 8.0 and 17.5 in Luzerne County, PA throughout 2020. A total of 14 sites containing potentially suitable day roost rocky habitat were documented. A report was submitted to the PGC on November 25, 2020. Transco completed Presence/Absence Surveys of the day roost habitat in 2021 and none of the habitats had documented use. A report was submitted to the PGC on September 24, 2021 and the PGC indicated they had no questions or comments after their review on September 27, 2021.

A Phase I hibernacula search was conducted to identify potential hibernacula within 0.5 mile of the Regional Energy Lateral component of the Project between MP 8.0 and 17.5 in Luzerne County, PA. A desktop analysis indicated that portions of the Regional Energy Lateral are located within areas that were previously mined. As a result, ground assessments were conducted throughout 2020. A total of 56 potential hibernacula were found within the survey area. Transco conducted acoustic sampling at 28 of these potential hibernacula in fall 2020 and determined the probable presence of the state-threatened eastern small-footed bat at 8 locations. A report with the 2020 fall acoustic results was submitted on February 25, 2021. Additionally, a report with locations and photos of the additional 28 potential hibernacula was submitted.

The remaining 26 suitable potential hibernacula were surveyed in 2021 (2 of the 28 were not surveyed, as they were flooded). A report with the 2021 fall sampling results was submitted on December 1, 2021. Two hibernacula had documented use of the Eastern Small-Footed Bat.

A 2020 Summer Bat Acoustic Presence/Absence Survey Report was also submitted to the USFWS and PGC on November 25, 2020. The report outlined the probable presence of the eastern small-footed bat at 4 locations associated with the Regional Energy Lateral.

As part of continued coordination with the PGC, Transco is reviewing the results of the surveys with the agencies to determine the appropriate mitigation measures and time of year restrictions.

Additional State-Listed Bat Species

Though the autoclassifier used to conduct acoustic surveys has not been specifically approved for species other than federally-listed species, the detectors determined the probable presence of two Pennsylvania state endangered bat species: little brown bat and tri-colored bat. During the 2020 Summer Bat Acoustic Surveys probable presence for the little brown at 10 sites on the Regional Energy Lateral and 2 sites on the Effort Loop. Probable presence was also determined for the tri-colored bat at 2 sites on the Regional Energy Lateral and 1 site on the Effort Loop. During 2020 Fall Bat Acoustic Phase 2 Hibernacula Surveys, the probable presence of the little brown bat was identified at 5 locations and at 2 locations for the tri-colored bat. During the 2021 Fall Trapping surveys, the tri-colored bat was captured at two locations.

As part of continued coordination with the PGC, Transco is reviewing the results of the surveys with the agencies to determine the appropriate mitigation measures and time of year restrictions.

REFERENCES

- Braun, Olivia A. 2020. Initial PNDI Response. PGC ID Number 202002030501. March 12, 2020.
- Braun, Olivia A. 2020. Updated PNDI Response. PGC ID Number 202002030501. October 19, 2020
- Jahrsdoerfer, Sonja. 2020. USFWS Pennsylvania Field Office PNDI Response Letter. May 12, 2020.
- Jahrsdoerfer, Sonja. 2021. Bog Turtle Survey Response Letter. October 6, 2021.
- Lech, Greg. 2020. Initial PNDI Response. Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission (PFBC). February 6, 2020.
- Lech, Greg. 2020b. Updated PNDI Response. Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission (PFBC). October 6, 2020.
- Lech, Greg. 2020c. Personal communication [Phone call, email]. Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission (PFBC). October 27, 2020.
- Lech, Greg. 2020c. Personal communication [Phone call, email]. Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission (PFBC). October 29, 2020.
- Lech, Greg. 2020d. Updated PNDI Response. Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission (PFBC). December 30, 2020.
- Lech, Greg. 2021. Updated PNDI Response. Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission (PFBC). September 7, 2021.
- Podnieszinski, Greg. 2020. Initial PNDI Response. Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (PADCNR). February 12, 2020.
- Podnieszinski, Greg. 2020. Updated PNDI Response. Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (PADCNR). October 20, 2020.
- Podnieszinski, Greg. 2021. Updated PNDI Response. Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (PADCNR). August 23, 2021.

SECTION 2.3

PENNSYLVANIA DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION & NATURAL RESOURCES CORRESPONDENCE

BUREAU OF FORESTRY

February 12, 2020

PNDI Number: 702499

Version: Final_1; 1/31/20

Ryan Nelson

WHM Consulting, LLC

2525 Green Tech Dr., Suite B

State College, PA 16803

Email: ryann@whmgroup.com (hard copy will not follow)

Re: Regional Energy Access Project

Delaware, Luzerne, Monroe, Northampton, Wyoming, York, PA

Dear Mr. Nelson,

Thank you for the submission of the Pennsylvania Natural Diversity Inventory (PNDI) Environmental Review Receipt Number 702499 (Final_1) 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.

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.

Tunkhannock Section:

Scientific Name	Common Name	PA Current Status	PA Proposed Status
<i>Glyceria obtusa</i>	Blunt Manna-grass	Endangered	Endangered
<i>Carex polymorpha</i>	Variable Sedge	Endangered	Threatened
<i>Carex collinsii</i>	Collin's Sedge	Endangered	Threatened
<i>Solidago uliginosa</i>	Bog Goldenrod	Threatened	Threatened
<i>Amelanchier sanguinea</i>	Roundleaf Serviceberry	Special Concern	Endangered
<i>Platanthera blephariglottis</i>	White Fringed-orchid	Special Concern	Endangered
<i>Bartonia paniculata</i>	Screw-stem	Special Concern	Rare

Plains Township Section:

Scientific Name	Common Name	PA Current Status	PA Proposed Status
<i>Lupinus perennis</i>	Lupine	Rare	Rare

Kingston-Dallas Section:

Scientific Name	Common Name	PA Current Status	PA Proposed Status
<i>Carex disperma</i>	Soft-leaved Sedge	Rare	Rare

Survey Request

DCNR requests a survey for the following species:

- ***Glyceria obtusa* (Blunt Manna-grass):** documented in and around utility right-of-way; suitable habitat includes swamps, bogs and moist, sandy, peaty ground; flowers July – August
- ***Carex polymorpha* (Variable Sedge):** documented near utility right-of-way; suitable habitat includes moist, open woods and barrens, in sandy-peaty soils; fruits June – early August

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- ***Carex collinsii* (Collin's Sedge)**: documented near utility right-of-way; suitable habitat includes flowers; fruits late June – mid August
 - ***Solidago uliginosa* (Bog Goldenrod)**: documented near utility right-of-way; suitable habitat includes bogs and swamps; flowers August – October
 - ***Amelanchier sanguinea* (Roundleaf Serviceberry)**: documented near utility right-of-way; suitable habitat includes open woods, rocky slopes and barrens; Flowers mid-April; fruits June – early July
 - ***Platanthera blephariglottis* (White Fringed-orchid)**: documented near utility right-of-way; suitable habitat includes sphagnum bogs and swamps; Flowers June – August
 - ***Bartonia paniculata* (Screw-stem)**: documented near utility right-of-way; suitable habitat includes hummocks in wet woods, wooded bogs and sphagnum pond margins; Flowers August – October
 - ***Lupinus perennis* (Lupine)**: documented in neighboring utility right-of-ways; suitable habitat includes alluvial sand and gravel bars, open fields, woods edges and roadsides in sandy soil; Flower April – July
 - ***Carex disperma* (Soft-leaved Sedge)**: documented in and around utility right-of-ways; suitable swampy woods, bogs and rhododendron swamp; fruits May – August
- ✓ A botanical survey for the above species should be conducted by a qualified botanist at the appropriate time of year. Please submit the resulting report to our office for review. Contact our office prior to the survey for detailed information about the species or for a list of qualified surveyors.
- ✓ **Your botanist should carefully review the new DCNR Botanical Survey Protocols available at <https://conservationexplorer.dcnr.pa.gov/content/survey-protocols>.** These protocols are recommended to ensure that 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.
- ✓ All target and non-target state-listed species found during the botanical survey should be reported to our office. **Please submit a completed Botanical Field Survey Form for each occurrence or population identified: <http://www.gis.dcnr.state.pa.us/PNDI/2015%20Field%20Survey%20Form.pdf>.** Mitigation measures and monitoring may be requested if state-listed species are found on or adjacent to the site.
- ✓ If preferred habitat 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 and a permit has not been acquired, please resubmit the project to this agency as an "Update" (including an updated PNDI receipt, project narrative, description of project changes 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 Alexander Dogonniuck, Ecological Information Specialist, by phone (717-783-3913) or via email (c-adogonni@pa.gov).

Sincerely



Greg Podnieszinski, Section Chief
Natural Heritage Section

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BUREAU OF FORESTRY

October 20, 2020

PNDI Number: 702499

Version: Final_4; 9/08/20

Ryan Nelson

WHM Consulting, LLC

2525 Green Tech Dr., Suite B

State College, PA 16803

Email: ryann@whmgroup.com (hard copy will not follow)

Re: Regional Energy Access Project

Delaware, Luzerne, Monroe, Northampton, Wyoming, York, PA

Dear Ryan Nelson,

Thank you for the submission of the Pennsylvania Natural Diversity Inventory (PNDI) Environmental Review Receipt Number 702499 (Final_4) 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.

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.

Tunkhannock Section:

Scientific Name	Common Name	PA Current Status	PA Proposed Status
<i>Glyceria obtusa</i>	Blunt Manna-grass	Endangered	Endangered
<i>Carex polymorpha</i>	Variable Sedge	Endangered	Threatened
<i>Carex collinsii</i>	Collin's Sedge	Endangered	Threatened
<i>Solidago uliginosa</i>	Bog Goldenrod	Threatened	Threatened
<i>Amelanchier sanguinea</i>	Roundleaf Serviceberry	Special Concern	Endangered
<i>Platanthera blephariglottis</i>	White Fringed-orchid	Special Concern	Endangered
<i>Bartonia paniculata</i>	Screw-stem	Special Concern	Rare

Plains Township Section:

Scientific Name	Common Name	PA Current Status	PA Proposed Status
<i>Lupinus perennis</i>	Lupine	Rare	Rare

Kingston-Dallas Section:

Scientific Name	Common Name	PA Current Status	PA Proposed Status
<i>Carex disperma</i>	Soft-leaved Sedge	Rare	Rare

Survey Request

DCNR requests a survey for the following species:

- ***Glyceria obtusa* (Blunt Manna-grass):** documented in and around utility right-of-way; suitable habitat includes swamps, bogs and moist, sandy, peaty ground; flowers July – August
- ***Carex polymorpha* (Variable Sedge):** documented near utility right-of-way; suitable habitat includes moist, open woods and barrens, in sandy-peaty soils; fruits June – early August

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- ***Carex collinsii* (Collin's Sedge)**: documented near utility right-of-way; suitable habitat includes flowers; fruits late June – mid August
 - ***Solidago uliginosa* (Bog Goldenrod)**: documented near utility right-of-way; suitable habitat includes bogs and swamps; flowers August – October
 - ***Amelanchier sanguinea* (Roundleaf Serviceberry)**: documented near utility right-of-way; suitable habitat includes open woods, rocky slopes and barrens; Flowers mid-April; fruits June – early July
 - ***Platanthera blephariglottis* (White Fringed-orchid)**: documented near utility right-of-way; suitable habitat includes sphagnum bogs and swamps; Flowers June – August
 - ***Bartonia paniculate* (Screw-stem)**: documented near utility right-of-way; suitable habitat includes hummocks in wet woods, wooded bogs and sphagnum pond margins; Flowers August – October
 - ***Lupinus perennis* (Lupine)**: documented in neighboring utility right-of-ways; suitable habitat includes alluvial sand and gravel bars, open fields, woods edges and roadsides in sandy soil; Flower April – July
 - ***Carex disperma* (Soft-leave Sedge)**: documented in and around utility right-of-ways; suitable habitat includes swampy woods, bogs, and rhododendron swamps; fruits May – August
- ✓ A botanical survey for the above species should be conducted by a qualified botanist at the appropriate time of year. Please submit the resulting report to our office for review. Contact our office prior to the survey for detailed information about the species or for a list of qualified surveyors.
- ✓ **Your botanist should carefully review the new DCNR Botanical Survey Protocols available at <https://conservationexplorer.dcnr.pa.gov/content/survey-protocols>.** These protocols are recommended to ensure that 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.
- ✓ All target and non-target state-listed species found during the botanical survey should be reported to our office. **Please submit a completed Botanical Field Survey Form for each occurrence or population identified: <http://www.gis.dcnr.state.pa.us/PNDI/2015%20Field%20Survey%20Form.pdf>.** Mitigation measures and monitoring may be requested if state-listed species are found on or adjacent to the site.
- ✓ If preferred habitat 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 and a permit has not been acquired, please resubmit the project to this agency as an "Update" (including an updated PNDI receipt, project narrative, description of project changes 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 Alexander Dogonniuck, Ecological Information Specialist, by phone (717-783-3913) or via email (c-adogonni@pa.gov).

Sincerely



Greg Podnieszinski, Section Chief
Natural Heritage Section

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From: Dogonniuck, Alexander <c-adogonni@pa.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, February 16, 2021 1:44 PM
To: Henry, Josh
Subject: Re: [External] Regional Energy Access Expansion Project - PNDI #702499 - 2020 Botanical Survey Report

Josh,

Thanks for talking on the phone earlier. I quickly refreshed myself with the project and agree with the avoidance and minimization measures proposed in section 6.0 of the botanical survey report. As the project stands currently I would likely reply with a clearance letter requesting these same measures, plus an additional monitoring measure. Currently, the measures I would request are:

- Avoid and buffer *Galium latifolium* (Purple Bedstraw) and *Platanthera blephariglottis* (White Fringed Orchid) populations, install orange protective fencing along LOD adjacent to species location. Ensure that project activities do not indirectly impact the populations via erosion, runoff, change of hydrology, etc.
- Minimization and mitigation of impact to *Glyceria obtusa* (Blunt Manna-grass) and *Solidago speciosa* (Showy Goldenrod) populations is recommended. Topsoil segregation and natural reseeding is also recommended as well as wash racks to reduce the introduction and spread of invasive plant species.
- Monitoring of these populations for two to three years after project activities are completed to assess the success of the avoidance, minimization, and mitigation techniques.

Let me know if this correspondence suffices, or you would rather an official information letter from DCNR.

Alex

Alexander Dogonniuck | Ecological Information Specialist
PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources
Bureau of Forestry | Natural Heritage Section
400 Market Street | Harrisburg, PA 17105-8552
Phone: (717) 783-3913 | E-Mail: c-adogonni@pa.gov

From: Henry, Josh <Josh.Henry@williams.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 16, 2021 11:00 AM
To: Dogonniuck, Alexander <c-adogonni@pa.gov>
Subject: RE: [External] Regional Energy Access Expansion Project - PNDI #702499 - 2020 Botanical Survey Report

Alexander,

I am following up on my voicemail that I left you just a moment ago. I was not sure if reaching out by phone would work due to COVID protocols. If you could give me a call back at 412-713-0485 at your convenience, I would appreciate it.

Thank you!

Josh Henry
412-713-0485

If you have received this message in error, please reply to advise the sender of the error and then immediately delete this message.

From: Dogonniuck, Alexander <c-adogonni@pa.gov>
Sent: Monday, February 1, 2021 10:40 AM
To: Ryan Nelson <ryann@whmgroup.com>
Cc: Henry, Josh <Josh.Henry@williams.com>; David Wood <davidw@whmgroup.com>; Olson, Karen <Karen.Olson@williams.com>
Subject: Re: [External] Regional Energy Access Expansion Project - PNDI #702499 - 2020 Botanical Survey Report

Hi Ryan,

I just wanted to let you know that your botanical report has been received, reviewed, and is filed in our system. Since the botanical report only covers certain portions of the project area and more investigation is planned for 2021, I am waiting to come to a determination or conclude the project until after I receive the remaining botanical report.

Thanks,
Alex


Alexander Dogonniuck | Ecological Information Specialist
PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources
Bureau of Forestry | Natural Heritage Section
400 Market Street | Harrisburg, PA 17105-8552
Phone: (717) 783-3913 | E-Mail: c-adogonni@pa.gov

From: Ryan Nelson <ryann@whmgroup.com>
Sent: Wednesday, November 25, 2020 1:20 PM
To: Dogonniuck, Alexander <c-adogonni@pa.gov>
Cc: Henry, Josh <Josh.Henry@williams.com>; David Wood <davidw@whmgroup.com>; Olson, Karen (<Karen.Olson@williams.com> <karen.olson@williams.com>
Subject: [External] Regional Energy Access Expansion Project - PNDI #702499 - 2020 Botanical Survey Report

ATTENTION: This email message is from an external sender. Do not open links or attachments from unknown sources. To report suspicious email, forward the message as an attachment to CWOPA_SPAM@pa.gov.

Good Afternoon, Alexander,

Transcontinental Gas Pipeline Company, LLC, has completed the 2020 plant surveys and report as requested in the previously provided PNDI responses (PNDI #702499). The report summarizes those findings during the 2020 survey season. The report can be found at the link below. Please contact me with any questions. If you have issues accessing the report, please let me know.

 [2020 Survey Report](#)

Thanks!

Ryan

Ryan Nelson, PWS
Senior Project Manager
WHM Consulting, LLC
A Member of Prima Terra Holdings, LLC
2525 Green Tech Drive, Suite B
State College, PA 16803
Office – 814-689-1650 ext. 102
Mobile – 814-592-9848
ryann@whmgroup.com

August 23, 2021

PNDI Number: 702499

Version: Final_4; 9/8/20

Ryan Nelson

WHM Consulting, LLC

2525 Green Tech Dr., Suite B

State College, PA 16803

Email: ryann@whmgroup.com (hard copy will not follow)

Re: Regional Energy Access Project

Bucks, Chester, Delaware, Luzerne, Monroe, Northampton, Wyoming, York County, PA

Dear Ryan Nelson,

Thank you for the submission of your field survey for Pennsylvania Natural Diversity Inventory (PNDI) Environmental Review Receipt Number **702499 (Final_4)** 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 Avoidance, Mitigation, and Monitoring

PNDI records indicate species or resources under DCNR's jurisdiction are located in the vicinity of the project. DCNR requested a botanical survey for multiple species for PNDI-702499. Surveys were conducted by botanists of WHM Consulting, LLC throughout 2020 (PNDI-727947) and 2021 (PNDI-702499). The 2020 botanical surveys identified listed and target species, but the 2021 botanical surveys did not.

State listed plant species identified during the survey include *Galium latifolium*, *Platanthera blephariglottis*, *Glyceria obtusa*, and *Solidago speciosa*. The *Galium latifolium* and *Platanthera blephariglottis* populations are located outside and adjacent to the project LOD. Portions of the *Glyceria latifolium* and *Solidago speciosa* populations are located within the project LOD and will be impacted by project activities. As such the following measures are requested:

- Avoid and buffer *Galium latifolium* (Purple Bedstraw) and *Platanthera blephariglottis* (White Fringed Orchid) populations. Please install orange protective fencing along the LOD adjacent to species location. Ensure that project activities do not indirectly impact the populations via erosion, runoff, change of hydrology, etc.
- Minimize direct impacts to *Glyceria obtusa* (Blunt Manna-grass) and *Solidago speciosa* (Showy Goldenrod) populations to the greatest extent practicable.
- Mitigate for unavoidable impacts by performing topsoil segregation to facilitate natural reseeding after project disturbances occur. In addition, please utilize wash racks at construction access locations to reduce the introduction and spread of invasive plant species.
- Please monitor these populations for two to three years after project activities are completed to assess the health and recovery of these impacted populations. Yearly monitoring reports should be submitted to DCNR

Recommended Actions:

- 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.
- Revegetate or cover disturbed soil and soil stockpiles as soon as possible to discourage the germination of invasive plants. Implement proper erosion control practices to stabilize soil and reduce runoff.
- Do not use seed mixes that include invasive species. Please also use weed-free straw or hay mixes. More information about invasive species in Pennsylvania can be found at the following link:
<http://www.dcnr.pa.gov/Conservation/WildPlants/InvasivePlants/Pages/default.aspx>
- Use habitat appropriate seed mixes. For example, when reseeding along a waterway, utilize a riparian seed mix. The Bureau of Forestry Planting & Seeding Guidelines can be found here for recommendations:
http://www.docs.dcnr.pa.gov/cs/groups/public/documents/document/dcnr_20031083.pdf
- **Use native plants for landscaping, revegetation, and stormwater management. Do not use nonnative invasive species. Reduce the area of lawn and impermeable surfaces to the fullest extent practicable in favor of native gardens or native habitat restoration (e.g., forest, meadow, wetland, etc.).**
- Report occurrences of invasive species to iMapInvasives at <https://www.imapinvasives.org/>. Focus on large infestations and species that are not yet well established in the region or in Pennsylvania (<https://www.paimapinvasives.org/be-on-the-lookout>).

Should you have any questions or concerns, please contact Alexander Dogonniuck, Ecological Information Specialist, by phone (717-783-3913) or via email (c-adogonni@pa.gov).

Sincerely



Greg Podnieszinski, Section Chief
Natural Heritage Section

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*Regional Energy Access Expansion Project
Transcontinental Gas Pipe Line Company, LLC
401 Water Quality Certification Application – Revision 1*

**SECTION 2.4
PENNSYLVANIA GAME COMMISSION
CORRESPONDENCE**



March 12, 2020

PGC ID Number: 202002030501

Mr. Ryan Nelson
WHM Consulting, LLC
2525 Green Tech Drive, Suite B
State College, Pennsylvania 16803
ryann@whmgroup.com

Re: *Transcontinental Gas Pipe Line Company, LLC (Transco)* - Regional Energy Access Project
State Game Lands No. 091 and 129

PNDI Receipt File: *project_receipt_regional_energy_access_pr_702499_FINAL_1.pdf*
Delaware, Luzerne, Monroe, Northampton, Wyoming and York Counties, Pennsylvania

Dear Mr. Nelson,

Thank you for submitting the Pennsylvania Natural Diversity Inventory (PNDI) Environmental Review Receipt File *project_receipt_regional_energy_access_pr_702499_FINAL_1.pdf* for review. The Pennsylvania Game Commission (PGC) screened this project for potential impacts to species and resources of concern under PGC responsibility, which includes birds and mammals only.

Potential Impact Anticipated

PNDI records indicate species or resources of concern are located in the vicinity of the project. The PGC has received and thoroughly reviewed the information that you provided to this office, as well as PNDI data, and has determined that potential impacts to the following endangered species may be associated with your project:

Scientific Name	Common Name	PA Status	Federal Status
<i>Myotis septentrionalis</i>	Northern Long-eared Bat	ENDANGERED	THREATENED
<i>Myotis leibii</i>	Eastern Small-footed Bat	THREATENED	N/A

Next Steps

Northern long-eared bats: Northern long-eared bats are a federally listed threatened species under the jurisdiction of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. As a result, our agency defers comments on potential impacts to Northern long-eared bats to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Eastern small-footed bats: The following surveys should be conducted for all areas associated with the project (including all access roads, contractor yards, proposed and alternative pipeline alignments, etc.) located between Milepost 8.0 and Milepost 17.5 of the Proposed 30" Regional

Energy Lateral portion of the project area located in Luzerne County. It should be noted that surveys are not requested for the balance of the proposed project area at this time.

- *Summer Day Roost Habitat Assessment.* A summer day roost habitat assessment should be completed following the PGC protocols that are outlined in the attached *PGC Eastern Small-footed Bat Environmental Review Guidance Document*. Upon completion, a habitat assessment report must be provided for PGC review. Upon review of the report, the PGC will determine if additional emergence count survey efforts are necessary. If the PGC requests emergence count surveys, they must be completed by a qualified individual three nights per year; one night in mid-June, one night the second week in July, and a third night during the last week in July. It is important to note that if the survey efforts and report submissions are timed properly it may be possible for both surveys to be completed during the 2020 survey season.
- *Winter Hibernacula Habitat Assessment.* A winter hibernacula habitat assessment should be completed following the PGC protocols that are outlined in the attached *PGC Eastern Small-footed Bat Environmental Review Guidance Document*. Results of the winter hibernacula habitat assessment are to be submitted to the PGC no later than December 31 of the year the survey is conducted. Any openings that met the criteria as having the potential as bat hibernacula will need to be surveyed in the fall to determine the presence or absence of bat species. A PGC special use permit needs to be obtained by the consultant in order to conduct any surveys that involve the handling of bats. Results of the fall sampling surveys are also to be submitted to the PGC no later than December 31st of the year the survey is conducted and will be used by the PGC to determine what, if any avoidance and minimization measures need to be implemented. It is important to note that if the survey efforts and report submissions are timed properly it may be possible for both surveys to be completed during the 2020 survey season.

Finally, portions of the proposed project appear to be located on or adjacent to on **State Game Lands No. 091 and 129**. Please contact Mr. Michael Beahm, Land Management Supervisor, at 570-675-1143 to discuss the project activities and coordinate obtaining the necessary approvals if your project will impact State Game Lands. It is recommended that you coordinate with Game Commission Staff early in your project planning process.

This response represents the most up-to-date summary of the PNDI data files and is valid for two (2) years from the date of this letter. An absence of recorded information does not necessarily imply actual conditions on site. Should project plans change or additional information on listed or proposed species become available, this 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). If the proposed work has not changed and no additional information concerning listed species is found, the project will be cleared for PNDI requirements under this agency for two additional years.

This finding applies to impacts to birds and mammals only. To complete your review of state and federally-listed threatened and endangered species and species of special concern, please be sure that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, and/or the PA Fish and Boat Commission have been contacted regarding this project as directed by the online PNDI ER Tool found at www.naturalheritage.state.pa.us.

Please be sure to include the above-referenced PGC ID Number on any future correspondence with the PGC regarding this project.

Sincerely,



Olivia A. Braun
Environmental Planner
Division of Environmental Planning & Habitat Protection
Bureau of Wildlife Habitat Management
Phone: 717-787-4250, Extension 73128
Fax: 717-787-6957
E-mail: Olbraun@pa.gov

A PNHP Partner



OAB/oab

Enclosure: *Pennsylvania Game Commission Eastern Small-footed Bat (Myotis leibii) Environmental Review Guidance Document*

cc: Schnupp
Brauning
Turner
Figured
Beahm
Wenner
Havens
Librandi Mumma
H:\OIL&GAS_PNDI_Reviews\Statewide & Multi-Region Projects



October 19, 2020

PGC ID Number: 202002030501 - Revision

Mr. Ryan Nelson
WHM Consulting, LLC
2525 Green Tech Drive, Suite B
State College, Pennsylvania 16803
ryann@whmgroup.com

Re: *Transcontinental Gas Pipe Line Company, LLC (Transco)* - Regional Energy Access Project
State Game Lands No. 091 and 129
PNDI Receipt File: *project_receipt_regional_energy_access_pr_702499_FINAL_4.pdf*
Bucks, Chester, Delaware, Luzerne, Monroe, Northampton, Wyoming and York Counties,
Pennsylvania

Dear Mr. Nelson,

Thank you for submitting the Pennsylvania Natural Diversity Inventory (PNDI) Environmental Review Receipt File *project_receipt_regional_energy_access_pr_702499_FINAL_4.pdf* for review. The Pennsylvania Game Commission (PGC) screened this project for potential impacts to species and resources of concern under PGC responsibility, which includes birds and mammals only.

Potential Impact Anticipated

PNDI records indicate species or resources of concern are located in the vicinity of the project. The PGC has received and thoroughly reviewed the information that you provided to this office, as well as PNDI data, and has determined that potential impacts to the following endangered species may be associated with your project:

Scientific Name	Common Name	PA Status	Federal Status
<i>Myotis septentrionalis</i>	Northern Long-eared Bat	ENDANGERED	THREATENED
<i>Myotis leibii</i>	Eastern Small-footed Bat	THREATENED	N/A

Next Steps

Northern long-eared bats: Northern long-eared bats are a federally listed threatened species under the jurisdiction of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. As a result, our agency defers comments on potential impacts to Northern long-eared bats to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Eastern small-footed bats: The following surveys should be conducted for all areas associated with the project (including all access roads, contractor yards, proposed and alternative pipeline alignments, etc.) located between Milepost 8.0 and Milepost 17.5 of the Proposed 30" Regional

Energy Lateral portion of the project area located in Luzerne County. It should be noted that surveys are not requested for the balance of the proposed project area at this time.

- *Summer Day Roost Habitat Assessment.* A summer day roost habitat assessment should be completed following the PGC protocols that are outlined in the attached *PGC Eastern Small-footed Bat Environmental Review Guidance Document*. Upon completion, a habitat assessment report must be provided for PGC review. Upon review of the report, the PGC will determine if additional emergence count survey efforts are necessary. If the PGC requests emergence count surveys, they must be completed by a qualified individual three nights per year; one night in mid-June, one night the second week in July, and a third night during the last week in July.
- *Winter Hibernacula Habitat Assessment.* A winter hibernacula habitat assessment was completed by Sanders Environmental Inc. and the results were provided to the PGC in a report dated September 9, 2020. A total of 28 openings that met the criteria as having the potential to be bat hibernacula were identified during the assessment. Based upon these results, Sanders Environmental Inc. provided a study plan to the PGC on September 4, 2020 to complete fall sampling surveys on all 28 openings to determine the presence or absence of bat species. The PGC approved the study plan on September 11, 2020. It is the PGC's understanding that fall survey efforts are currently underway. Results of the fall sampling surveys are to be submitted to the PGC no later than December 31st of the year the survey is conducted and will be used by the PGC to determine what, if any avoidance and minimization measures need to be implemented.

Finally, portions of the proposed project appear to be located on or adjacent to on **State Game Lands No. 091 and 129**. Please contact Mr. Michael Beahm, Land Management Supervisor, at 570-675-1143 to discuss the project activities and coordinate obtaining the necessary approvals if your project will impact State Game Lands. It is recommended that you coordinate with Game Commission Staff early in your project planning process.

This response represents the most up-to-date summary of the PNDI data files and is valid for two (2) years from the date of this letter. An absence of recorded information does not necessarily imply actual conditions on site. Should project plans change or additional information on listed or proposed species become available, this 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). If the proposed work has not changed and no additional information concerning listed species is found, the project will be cleared for PNDI requirements under this agency for two additional years.

This finding applies to impacts to birds and mammals only. To complete your review of state and federally-listed threatened and endangered species and species of special concern, please be sure that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, and/or the PA Fish and Boat Commission have been contacted regarding this project as directed by the online PNDI ER Tool found at www.naturalheritage.state.pa.us.

Please be sure to include the above-referenced PGC ID Number on any future correspondence with the PGC regarding this project.

Sincerely,



Olivia A. Braun
Environmental Planner
Division of Environmental Planning & Habitat Protection
Bureau of Wildlife Habitat Management
Phone: 717-787-4250, Extension 73128
Fax: 717-787-6957
E-mail: Olbraun@pa.gov

A PNHP Partner



OAB/oab

Enclosure: *Pennsylvania Game Commission Eastern Small-footed Bat (Myotis leibii) Environmental Review Guidance Document*

cc: Schnupp
Brauning
Turner
Librandi
Figured
Wenner
Beahm
H:\OIL&GAS_PNDI_Reviews\Statewide & Multi-Region Projects

Kevin Clark WHM

From: Ryan Nelson
Sent: Wednesday, September 9, 2020 11:40 AM
To: Braun, Olivia
Cc: Chris Sanders (sanders@batgate.com); Henry, Josh
Subject: RE: Regional Energy Access Project - Regional Energy Lateral Hibernacula Search Report

Olivia,

Thank you for talking through the comments with me yesterday and providing clarification. Below is a response to each of those comments.

1. Surveys have been completed in the mile post range noted below. Mapping in the report has been updated to reflect this survey area related to the current project route. Chris Sanders will be sending the updated report later today with the updated mapping.
2. Blasting is proposed within this section of the pipeline.
3. An updated PNDI has been posted via the online submission.

Should you have further questions, please let me know.

Thanks,
Ryan

From: Braun, Olivia <olbraun@pa.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, September 08, 2020 11:25 AM
To: Ryan Nelson <ryann@whmgroup.com>
Subject: Regional Energy Access Project - Regional Energy Lateral Hibernacula Search Report

Hi Ryan,

Late last week, the PGC was provided a copy of the Winter Hibernacula Habitat Assessment completed by Sanders Environmental that was requested in the PGC's March 12, 2020 PNDI response letter. Based upon a brief review of this document, the PGC offers the following comments and requests for additional information.

- The report explains that a ½-mile buffer around the proposed pipeline route located between Mile Marker 8 and 17.5 was assessed. However, when comparing the pipeline alignment illustrated in the approved study plan (dated March 9, 2020) and that which was shown the assessment report (dated September 4, 2020), it appears that the pipeline route has changed while the study area remained the same. Therefore, it appears that portions of the PGC requested 1,000' buffer (or ¼ mile buffer if blasting is required) of the proposed pipeline located between Mile Marker 8 and 17.5 were not assessed for potential winter habitat. All portions of the project area located between Mile Marker 8 and 17.5 and the requested buffer must be assessed and the results be added to an updated report.
- Confirmation of whether or not blasting will be required within this section of the pipeline project.

Additionally, since it appears that the pipeline alignment has been changed in this section (and perhaps elsewhere as well), the PGC requests that an updated PNDI receipt and submittal be provided for PGC review. This will allow the PGC to review the updated project and determine what, if any additional surveys may be necessary.

Thanks,
Olivia Braun | Environmental Planner 2

Environmental Planning and Habitat Protection Division
Bureau of Wildlife Habitat Management
Pennsylvania Game Commission
2001 Elmerton Avenue | Harrisburg, PA 17110
Phone: 717-787-4250, Ext. 73128
olbraun@pa.gov

I am teleworking and can be reached through email.

Kevin Clark WHM

From: Chris Sanders <sanders@batgate.com>
Sent: Wednesday, September 9, 2020 12:40 PM
To: 'Anderson, Robert'; 'Shellenberger, Pamela'; 'Braun, Olivia'
Cc: 'Olson, Karen'; 'Henry, Josh'; Ryan Nelson
Subject: Regional Energy Access Project - Regional Energy Lateral Hibernacula Search Report - 9/9/20 Map update
Attachments: 2020 REA Hibernacula Investigation Report v2-2 small.pdf

Hello Pam and Olivia,

Attached is a updated version of the report. The report mapping has been updated to reflect the additional surveyed area completed along the current route on the eastern portion of the Project.

If you have any questions on this report, please let us know.

If you have any comments or concur with the plan to acoustically sample these portals, we are ramping up to begin deployment and are poised to tweak our methods to fit any comments.

Thanks,
Chris

Chris Sanders



Sanders Environmental Inc.
322 Borealis Way
Bellefonte PA 16823
814-659-8257 (cell)

From: Chris Sanders <sanders@batgate.com>
Sent: Friday, September 4, 2020 3:29 PM
To: 'Anderson, Robert' <robert_m_anderson@fws.gov>; 'Shellenberger, Pamela' <pamela_shellenberger@fws.gov>; 'Braun, Olivia' <olbraun@pa.gov>
Cc: 'Olson, Karen' <Karen.Olson@williams.com>; 'Henry, Josh' <Josh.Henry@williams.com>; 'Ryan Nelson' <ryann@whmgroup.com>
Subject: Regional Energy Access Project - Regional Energy Lateral Hibernacula Search Report

Hello Pam and Olivia,

Attached is the REA Hibernacula Investigation Report. We will send our proposed study plan in a separate email as file sizes, although reduced via adobe, are too large for both to fit in one email. Please let me know if you have any questions.

Thanks,
Chris

Chris Sanders



Sanders Environmental Inc.
322 Borealis Way
Bellefonte PA 16823
814-659-8257 (cell)

Ryan Nelson

From: Ryan Nelson
Sent: Thursday, February 25, 2021 3:00 PM
To: Henry, Josh; Librandi Mumma, Tracey; Shellenberger, Pamela
Cc: Chris Sanders (sanders@batgate.com); Olson, Karen; Ali Trunzo
Subject: Regional Energy Access Expansion Project - Survey Reports

Good Afternoon Pam and Traci,

I have posted the following reports to the Sharepoint site below. Included are both previously submitted reports and new reports.

Previously Submitted Reports:

1. 2020 Summer Bat Acoustic Presence/Absence Survey Report
2. Summer Acoustic Study Summary Letter and Site 12 Review
3. 2020 Eastern Small-Footed Bat Habitat Assessment
4. Phase 1 Hibernacula Search

New Reports:

1. 2020 Fall Bat Acoustic – Phase 2 Hibernacula Survey
2. Phase 1 Hibernacula Search – Addendum

 [USFWS PGC 022321](#)

Should you have any questions on the reports or have issues accessing the sharepoint, please contact me.

Thank you!

Ryan

Ryan Nelson, PWS
Senior Project Manager
WHM Consulting, LLC
A Member of Prima Terra Holdings, LLC
2525 Green Tech Drive, Suite B
State College, PA 16803
Office – 814-689-1650 ext. 102
Mobile – 814-592-9848
ryann@whmgroup.com

Ryan Nelson

From: Henry, Joshua <Josh.Henry@williams.com>
Sent: Wednesday, December 1, 2021 1:40 PM
To: Shellenberger, Pamela; Guers, Sue
Cc: Olson, Karen; Ryan Nelson; Chris Sanders; Broush, Jennifer (EXT)
Subject: USFWS/PGC Meeting Minutes and 2021 Fall Trapping Report
Attachments: 112221_USFWS_PGC_Mtg_Minutes.pdf

All,

I hope everyone had a wonderful Thanksgiving. Please see the attached meeting minutes from our call on 11/22/2021. I have also attached a link to the 2021 Fall Trapping Report, if this does not work for you, please let me know. I will be reaching out again soon to set up another meeting to go through the updated TOYR's as outlined in the minutes.

 [2021 Fall Trapping Report](#)

Thank you,



Josh Henry | Williams | Environmental Specialist

Office: 412-787-4277 | Cell: 412-713-0485 | 2000 Commerce Drive, Park Place 2, Pittsburgh, PA, 15275



If you have received this message in error, please reply to advise the sender of the error and then immediately delete this message.

From: [GM, PGC_PNDI](#)
To: sanders@batgate.com
Cc: [Henry, Josh](#); [Ryan Nelson](#); [Olson, Karen](#)
Subject: RE: [External] 2021 Eastern small-footed bat summer habitat report addendum and emergence count report
Date: Monday, September 27, 2021 7:57:07 AM
Attachments: [image001.jpg](#)

Thanks Chris! We are in receipt of both documents and have no questions/comments after our review.

Kind Regards,

Matt

From: Chris Sanders <sanders@batgate.com>
Sent: Friday, September 24, 2021 11:45 AM
To: Caccese, Matthew <mcaccese@pa.gov>; GM, PGC_PNDI <RA-PGC_PNDI@pa.gov>
Cc: 'Henry, Josh' <Josh.Henry@williams.com>; Ryan Nelson <ryann@whmgroupp.com>; 'Olson, Karen' <Karen.Olson@williams.com>
Subject: [External] 2021 Eastern small-footed bat summer habitat report addendum and emergence count report

ATTENTION: *This email message is from an external sender. Do not open links or attachments from unknown sources. To report suspicious email, forward the message as an attachment to CWOPA_SPAM@pa.gov.*

Report on 2021 eastern small footed bat night vision emergence counts and a 2021 addendum to the 2020 ESFB habitat assessment report for the Williams REA project is attached. Please review and let us know if you have any comments/questions.

Thanks,
Chris

Chris Sanders



Sanders Environmental Inc.
322 Borealis Way
Bellefonte PA 16823
814-659-8257 (cell)

SECTION 2.5
PENNSYLVANIA FISH AND BOAT COMMISSION
CORRESPONDENCE



Pennsylvania Fish & Boat Commission

Division of Environmental Services

Natural Gas Section
595 E Rolling Ridge Dr.
Bellefonte, PA 16823

February 6, 2020

IN REPLY REFER TO
SIR# 52530

WHM Consulting, Inc.
Ryan Nelson
2525 Green Tech Drive
State College, Pennsylvania 16803

**RE: Species Impact Review (SIR) – Rare, Candidate, Threatened and Endangered Species
PNDI Search No. 702499_1
Regional Energy Access Project
DELAWARE County: - LUZERNE County: - MONROE County: - NORTHAMPTON
County: - WYOMING County: - YORK County:**

Dear Ryan Nelson:

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 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.

The project was detailed to contain multiple components and you presented multiple alternatives. Based on your submission the project is comprised of **(Response in bold)**:

- Regional Energy Lateral - Approximately 22 miles of 30-inch-diameter pipeline, both collocated pipeline along the existing Transco Leidy pipeline system and greenfield pipeline, in Luzerne County, PA;
- o Ten Alternative Route options (Alt_REL_A-J); are included with this submission, as the route is still being designed;

Elktoe (*Alasmidonta marginata*, Rare)
Green Floater (*Lasmigona subviridis*, Rare)
Triangle Floater (*Alasmidonta undulata*, Rare)

Rare or protected mussel species are known from the vicinity of the project site at the

Our Mission:

www.fish.state.pa.us

To protect, conserve and enhance the Commonwealth's aquatic resources and provide fishing and boating opportunities.

Susquehanna River. These mussels and other mussel species are likely to occur within the proposed project area. To avoid potential impacts to these mussel species, it is recommended that you complete a mussel survey in the areas proposed to be directly and indirectly affected by the proposed instream work that will take place within the Susquehanna River. A mussel survey is recommended in order to determine the species present and their abundances.

A list of qualified malacologists and a Pennsylvania Fish & Boat Commission (PFBC) approved mussel survey protocol is enclosed for your convenience when arranging for a mussel survey. Prior to conducting a survey, qualified malacologist should submit a proposed work plan to this office. Upon completion of the mussel survey, please send a copy of the final report to this office for further evaluation. We look forward to receiving this information. The mussel survey season begins May 15 and concludes October 1.

A freshwater mussel survey is not recommended if the pipeline is installed via horizontal directional drill.


-
- Effort Loop - Approximately 14 miles of 42-inch-diameter pipeline looping the existing Transco Leidy pipeline system in Monroe County, PA;
 - New Compressor Station 510 - New gas turbine-driven Compressor Station in Northampton County, PA, located adjacent to the existing Leidy pipeline system. The options currently requested for review are:
 - o CS 510 – Option MP 30.6
 - o CS 510 – Option MP 31.4
 - o CS 510 – Option MP 32.6
 - o CS 510 – Option MP 33.1
 - Existing Compressor Station 515 – Additional horsepower at an existing Compressor Station in Luzerne County, PA located adjacent to the existing Leidy pipeline system;
 - Existing Compressor Station 195 – Modifications will include additional horsepower at an existing Compressor Station in York County. No earth disturbance is being proposed for the modification, and;
 - Aboveground Ancillary Facilities – Modifications or additions of receipt and delivery meter stations, valve sites, and regulator stations along the proposed pipeline routes and along Transco’s existing pipeline system.

Except for occasional transient species, rare, candidate, threatened or endangered species under our jurisdiction are not known to exist in the vicinity of the project area. Therefore, no biological assessment or further consultation regarding rare species is needed with the Commission. Should project plans change, or if additional information on listed or proposed species becomes available, this determination may be reconsidered.

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 Greg Lech at 610-847-8772 and refer to the SIR # 52530. Thank you for your cooperation and attention to this important matter of species conservation and habitat protection.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Greg Lech". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "G" and "L".

Greg Lech
Natural Gas Section

GPL/dn



Pennsylvania Fish & Boat Commission

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

October 6, 2020

IN REPLY REFER TO
SIR# 52530

WHM Consulting, Inc.
Ryan Nelson
2525 Green Tech Drive
State College, Pennsylvania 16803

**RE: Species Impact Review (SIR) – Rare, Candidate, Threatened and Endangered Species
PNDI Search No. 702499_4
Regional Energy Access Expansion Project
DELAWARE County: - LUZERNE County: - MONROE County: - NORTHAMPTON
County: - WYOMING County: - YORK County:**

Dear Ryan Nelson:

This responds to your inquiry about your updated 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 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.

Correspondence from this office was originally delivered on February 6, 2020 listing freshwater mussels as a potential concern. On September 8, 2020 we received additional information regarding the proposed project, including adjustments to components and routes. **After a review of the new information, only the Regional Energy Lateral contains species of concern and further investigations are recommended.**

Our Mission:

www.fish.state.pa.us

To protect, conserve and enhance the Commonwealth's aquatic resources and provide fishing and boating opportunities.

Regional Energy Lateral - Approximately 22 miles of 30-inch-diameter pipeline, both colocated pipeline along the existing Transco Leidy pipeline system and greenfield pipeline, in Luzerne County, PA

Elktoe (*Alasmidonta marginata*, Rare)

Green Floater (*Lasmigona subviridis*, Rare)

Triangle Floater (*Alasmidonta undulata*, Rare)

Rare or protected mussel species are known from the vicinity of the project site at the Susquehanna River. These mussels and other mussel species are likely to occur within the proposed project area. To avoid potential impacts to these mussel species, it is recommended that you complete a mussel survey in the areas proposed to be directly and indirectly affected by the proposed instream work that will take place within the Susquehanna River. A mussel survey is recommended in order to determine the species present and their abundances.

A list of qualified malacologists and a Pennsylvania Fish & Boat Commission (PFBC) approved mussel survey protocol is enclosed for your convenience when arranging for a mussel survey. Prior to conducting a survey, qualified malacologist should submit a proposed work plan to this office. Upon completion of the mussel survey, please send a copy of the final report to this office for further evaluation. We look forward to receiving this information. The mussel survey season begins May 15 and concludes October 1.

A freshwater mussel survey is not recommended if the pipeline is installed via horizontal directional drill.

Timber Rattlesnake (*Crotalus horridus*, Species of Special Concern)

Timber Rattlesnakes occur in the forested, mountainous regions of the Commonwealth. They prefer forested areas to forage for small mammals (e.g., mice and chipmunks) and southerly-facing slopes for hibernating and other thermoregulatory activities. The Timber Rattlesnake is threatened by habitat loss/alteration, wanton killing, and poaching.

Given the proximity of the project to known critical Timber Rattlesnake habitat, we recommend that a Timber Rattlesnake habitat assessment be conducted in the project area (**East of I-476**) and by a qualified Timber Rattlesnake surveyor. We have included a list of qualified surveyors and habitat assessment protocol for your convenience. This list is not an exhaustive list of qualified rattlesnake surveyors in Pennsylvania as there may be qualified surveyors who have not asked to be placed on this list. It is not mandatory that you use someone on this list. Upon completion of the habitat survey, the qualified rattlesnake biologist is to submit a report to this office for review and comment. The habitat survey report should include color photographs of the project area (keyed to a site map or diagram) and a description of habitats occurring within the immediate area to be developed (including access roads), as well as the surrounding area. Potential Timber Rattlesnake critical habitat (denning/gestating areas) should be photographed and mapped accordingly. In addition, the report should also include detailed project plans and maps with a description of the proposed work (including access roads), project impacts and alternatives. Pending the review of this information, a survey targeting the presence of the Timber Rattlesnake in the project area and/or other project modifications may be requested.

Effort Loop - Approximately 14 miles of 42-inch-diameter pipeline looping the existing Transco Leidy pipeline system in Monroe County, PA;

Existing Compressor Station 195 – Modifications will include additional horsepower at an existing Compressor Station in York County;

Existing Compressor Station 200 – Modifications will connect existing Transco Mainline A into suction to support south flow;

Existing Compressor Station 515 – Additional horsepower and facility modifications at an existing Compressor Station in Luzerne County, PA located adjacent to the existing Leidy pipeline system;

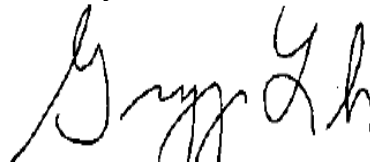
Aboveground Ancillary Facilities – Modifications or additions of receipt and delivery meter stations, valve sites, and regulator stations along the proposed pipeline routes and along Transco's existing pipeline system.

Except for occasional transient species, rare, candidate, threatened or endangered species under our jurisdiction are not known to exist in the vicinity of the project area. Should project plans change, or if additional information on listed or proposed species becomes available, this determination may be reconsidered.

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 Greg Lech at 814-470-6776 and refer to the SIR # 52530. Thank you for your cooperation and attention to this important matter of species conservation and habitat protection.

Sincerely,



Gregory Lech
Resource Extraction Section

GPL/dn

Kevin Clark WHM

From: Ryan Nelson
Sent: Wednesday, November 25, 2020 1:44 PM
To: Lech, Gregory
Cc: Philip Dunning; Henry, Josh; Olson, Karen (Karen.Olson@williams.com)
Subject: Regional Energy Access Project - Phase 1 Timber Rattlesnake Habitat Assessment

Good Afternoon, Greg,

Transcontinental Gas Pipeline Company, LLC, has completed the 2020 Phase 1 Timber Rattlesnake Habitat Assessment and report as requested in the previously provided PNDI response (SIR#52530). The report can be found at the link below. Please contact me with any questions. If you have issues accessing the report, please let me know.

 [Timber Rattlesnake Report](#)

Thanks!

Ryan Nelson, PWS
Senior Project Manager
WHM Consulting, LLC
A Member of Prima Terra Holdings, LLC
2525 Green Tech Drive, Suite B
State College, PA 16803
Office – 814-689-1650 ext. 102
Mobile – 814-592-9848
ryann@whmgroup.com

Ryan Nelson

From: Ryan Nelson
Sent: Thursday, October 29, 2020 6:29 PM
To: Lech, Gregory
Subject: RE: SIR 52530 Regional Energy Access Expansion - PAFBC

Greg,

Thanks for discussing with me the need for Mussel Surveys on the Project on Monday, after you sent this email. I am sending this email to recap our discussion.

Regarding the HDD, I discussed the small cable that is laid in the stream bed for monitoring drill progress and you indicated that would not trigger mussel surveys. You noted that Transco should coordinate with the PFBC for the potential need of a Aid to Navigation Plan.

Regarding the temporary water intake proposed at the river crossing, you noted that it would likely not trigger a mussel survey and a PNDI should be ran as part of the water withdrawal application. I ran a PNDI review for intakes after our call, and no impacts were noted.

If anything I note above is inconsistent with our conversation, please let me know.

Thanks and have a great evening!

Ryan

From: Lech, Gregory <glech@pa.gov>
Sent: Monday, October 26, 2020 1:24 PM
To: Ryan Nelson <ryann@whmgroup.com>
Subject: SIR 52530 Regional Energy Access Expansion - PAFBC

Hi Ryan,

I wanted to follow-up on the voicemail you left me recently regarding the freshwater mussel survey requested. If the Susquehanna River is open-trenched, we request a freshwater mussel survey occur to determine if sensitive species are present. If the Susquehanna River is crossed via HDD, then no impact is anticipated and no survey is requested.

Multiple options were presented in our letter since a chosen crossing method did not appear to be discussed. Also with similar large pipeline projects in vicinity, HDD was originally proposed, however due to historic mining in the area, open-trench was ultimately chosen.

I did follow-up with a voicemail also last week.

Feel free to reach out with any questions.

Regards,

Gregory Lech | Fisheries Biologist
PA Fish & Boat Commission | Division of Environmental Services
P.O. Box 356 | Revere, PA 18953

Phone: 814.470.6776
www.fishandboat.com

Ryan Nelson

From: Lech, Gregory <glech@pa.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, October 27, 2020 3:26 PM
To: Ryan Nelson
Cc: Henry, Josh
Subject: RE: [External] REAE - Timber Rattlesnake Study Area Map

Ryan,

The projected area should provide adequate survey coverage for the requested Timber Rattlesnake habitat assessment east of I-476. The project area that will be collocated has been previously assessed/disturbed and should avoid known sensitive areas. We can officially incorporate comments into our next consultation letter to document.

Regards,

Gregory Lech | Fisheries Biologist
PA Fish & Boat Commission | Division of Environmental Services
Phone: 814.470.6776
E-mail: glech@pa.gov
www.fishandboat.com

-----Original Message-----

From: Ryan Nelson <ryann@whmgroup.com>
Sent: Tuesday, October 27, 2020 10:44 AM
To: Lech, Gregory <glech@pa.gov>
Cc: Henry, Josh <Josh.Henry@williams.com>
Subject: [External] REAE - Timber Rattlesnake Study Area Map

ATTENTION: This email message is from an external sender. Do not open links or attachments from unknown sources. To report suspicious email, forward the message as an attachment to CWOPA_SPAM@pa.gov.

Greg,

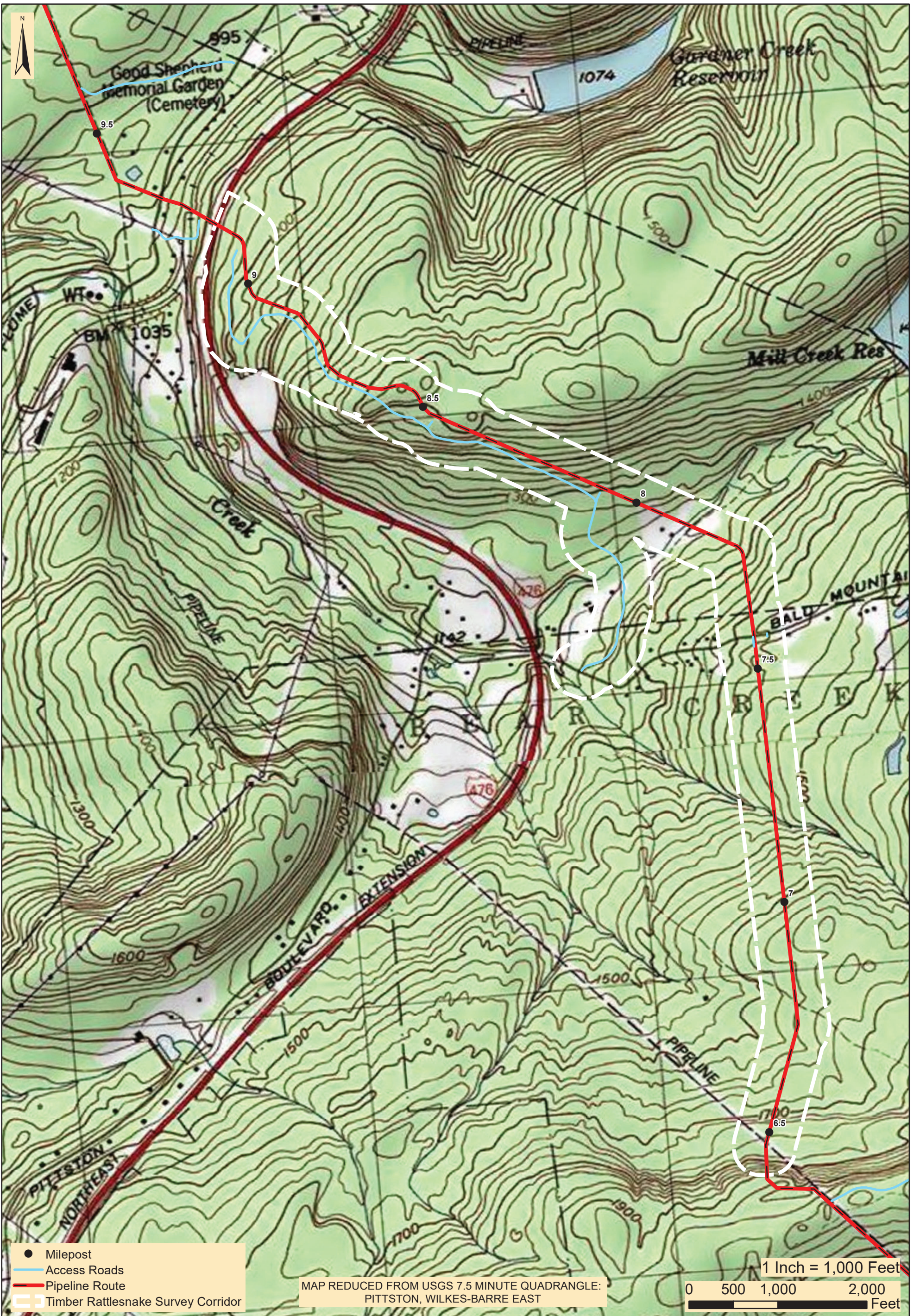
I am reaching out to you to follow up on the requested study area for Timber Rattlesnakes on the Regional Energy Access Expansion Project. Based on previous discussions, you noted that only a portion of the Project east of I-476 is where surveys were requested, not the entire route. The attached map represents what was surveyed in 2020 for the Project. Would you be able to confirm this is an acceptable study area?

Thanks,
Ryan

Ryan Nelson, PWS
Senior Project Manager
WHM Consulting, LLC
A Member of Prima Terra Holdings, LLC
2525 Green Tech Drive, Suite B

State College, PA 16803
Office - 814-689-1650 ext. 102
Mobile - 814-592-9848
ryann@whmgroup.com

M:\GIS\PROJECTS\REGIONAL_ENERGY_ACCESS\REGIONAL_ENERGY_LATERAL\Rattlesnake Survey Report\REA_RATTLESNAKE_FIGURE_1_TOPO_LOCATION_MAP_10142020.mxd



2525 Green Tech Drive, Suite B,
State College, PA 16803
Tele: 814.689.1650 Fax: 814.689.1557

TRANSCONTINENTAL GAS PIPELINE COMPANY, LLC
REGIONAL ENERGY ACCESS EXPANSION
REGIONAL ENERGY LATERAL
TIMBER RATTLESNAKE OVERALL SURVEY MAP

BEAR CREEK & PLAINS TOWNSHIPS LUZERNE COUNTY PENNSYLVANIA

Date:	10/27/2020
WHM PROJECT NUMBER:	WILLIAMS-20-244
Drawn By:	FTN
Figure Number:	1



Pennsylvania Fish & Boat Commission

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

September 7, 2021

IN REPLY REFER TO
SIR# 52530

WHM Consulting, Inc.
Ryan Nelson
2525 Green Tech Drive
State College, Pennsylvania 16803

**RE: Species Impact Review (SIR) – Rare, Candidate, Threatened and Endangered Species
PNDI Search No. 702499_4
Regional Energy Access Expansion Project
DELAWARE County: - LUZERNE County: - MONROE County: - NORTHAMPTON
County: - WYOMING County: - YORK County:**

Dear Ryan Nelson:

This responds to your updated inquiry about a Pennsylvania Natural Diversity Inventory (PNDI) Internet Database search “potential conflict” or a threatened and endangered species impact review related to the Regional Energy Access Expansion Project (Project).

Timber Rattlesnake (*Crotalus horridus*, Species of Special Concern)

On August 5, 2021, you provided a report, “**Timber Rattlesnake (*Crotalus horridus*) Phase II Presence/Absence Report.**” August 2021. This report followed the results of a habitat assessment and visual encounters with the species in vicinity of the Project.

Since a confirmed den (Habitat Area 4) was identified, we are concerned about direct and indirect effects that the proposed Project could have on the local population of the Timber Rattlesnake. We concur with Section 4. Conclusions and Mitigation Measures. **Additionally, if work is to be conducted from April 15-October 15, then we recommend that you take the following precautions to safeguard workers and rattlesnakes:**

1. A PFBC approved Timber Rattlesnake biologist who has the proper permits (Scientific Collector’s Permit), and the proper skills to handle this venomous species will be on-site prior to and during construction.

2. The PFBC approved Timber Rattlesnake biologist will be on-site prior to and during construction activities, during the above time frame, to inspect and clear the area (including staging areas

Our Mission:

www.fish.state.pa.us

To protect, conserve and enhance the Commonwealth’s aquatic resources and provide fishing and boating opportunities.

and access roads) of Timber Rattlesnakes and to capture and remove any rattlesnakes that may interfere with work activities.

3. Timber Rattlesnakes observed on-site are to be measured, sexed, and the habitat characterized where the snake was found. All captured snakes should be released within proximity (under 100 meters) of the capture site if possible. Rattlesnake captures and relocations are to be documented by photographs, habitat descriptions, in addition to being mapped and labeled accordingly. The biologist is to submit a report to this office (Natural Diversity Section) following the completion of the project documenting all of the activity and herpetofauna encountered.

4. If erosion control fabric is to be used at this site, materials that are known to reduce the risk of snake entrapment should be selected, such as loosely woven natural fiber ECM. **Use of monofilament/plastic netting should be avoided.**

5. Workers responsible for implementing this project should be advised that Timber Rattlesnakes may be encountered, and that avoidance is the best means of minimizing risks to personal safety. It is suggested a procedure be implemented for Timber Rattlesnake encounters and workers are to be advised that the Timber Rattlesnake is a state protected species and is not to be harmed. Killing of Timber Rattlesnakes is prohibited by the Commission pursuant to 58 Pa. Code Section 79.6.

6. During the construction period, PFBC personnel may communicate with the on-site biologist and may visit the site area periodically to view the progression of the project and answer any questions or concerns that may arise. For safety purposes, PFBC personnel will register with the on-site manager upon entering the construction area.

7. Install orange fencing in vicinity of the confirmed den to ensure the area is avoided by workers.

8. Reconstruct any identified gestation habitat that is disturbed based on the PFBC Guidelines (Enclosed).

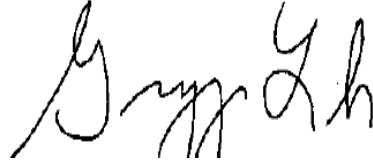
Enclosed is the list of PFBC approved rattlesnake biologists for your convenience. It is not an exhaustive list of qualified rattlesnake biologists in Pennsylvania as there may be qualified surveyors who have not asked to be placed on this list. It is not mandatory that you use someone on this list.

This review is limited to the referenced species report. For additional Project information, please consult our letter dated October 6, 2020.

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 Gregory Lech at 814-470-6776 and refer to the SIR # 52530. Thank you for your cooperation and attention to this important matter of species conservation and habitat protection.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gregory Lech". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Gregory" written in a larger, more prominent script than the last name "Lech".

Gregory Lech
Resource Extraction Section

GPL/dn

SECTION 2.6
UNITED STATES FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
CORRESPONDENCE



United States Department of the Interior



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

May 12, 2020

Karen Olsen
Transcontinental Gas Pipe Line Company, L.L.C.
2800 Post Oak Blvd. Level 11
Houston, TX 77056

RE: USFWS Project #2020-0592

Dear Ms. Olsen:

Thank you for your letter of February 4, 2020; your emails of March 17, 2020, March 27, 2020, and April 17, 2020, which provided additional information; and our follow-up phone call on April 16, 2020, regarding information about federally listed and proposed endangered and threatened species within the area affected by the proposed Regional Energy Access Project. This project is located in Delaware, Luzerne, Monroe, Northampton, Wyoming and York Counties, Pennsylvania. 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 and the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA, 16 U.S.C. 703-712; Ch. 128; July 13, 1918; 40 Stat. 755, as amended) to ensure the protection of migratory bird species.

The project consists of an expansion of Transco's existing facilities to meet growing natural gas demands. This involves two pipeline segments (approximately 22 miles of 30" pipeline and 14 miles of 42" pipeline), one new compressor station in Northampton County, upgrades to two existing compressor stations, one in Luzerne and one in York County, and additions/modifications to aboveground ancillary facilities along the existing and proposed pipelines.

Federally Listed Species

Indiana and northern long-eared bats

With the exception of Wyoming County, the proposed project is located within the range of the Indiana bat (*Myotis sodalis*), a species that is federally listed as endangered. The entire proposed project is located within the range of the federally threatened northern long-eared bat (*Myotis septentrionalis*).

Indiana bats and northern long-eared bats hibernate in caves and abandoned mines during the winter months (November through March), and use a variety of upland, wetland and riparian

habitats during the spring, summer and fall. These bats usually roost in dead or living trees with exfoliating bark, crevices or cavities. Female Indiana and northern long-eared bats form nursery colonies under the exfoliating bark of dead or living trees, such as shagbark hickory, black birch, red oak, white oak, and sugar maple, in upland or riparian areas.

Approximately 250 acres of trees are proposed for removal. Land clearing, especially of forested areas, may adversely affect these bat species by killing, injuring or disturbing roosting bats, and by removing or reducing the quality of foraging and roosting habitat. Due to the anticipated impacts of the project to forested habitat, a bat survey of the project area should be conducted between May 15 and August 15 by a qualified, Service-approved biologist using the *2020 INDIANA BAT SUMMER SURVEY GUIDELINES*, which can be found at the following link: <http://www.fws.gov/northeast/pafo/surveys.html>. Survey results should be submitted to the Service for review and concurrence.

In addition, if any natural caves or abandoned mines occur within the project area, it is possible that bats may be using them during hibernation or potentially as summer roost sites. Entrances to these potential hibernacula could be intentionally or inadvertently closed or destroyed during activities such as land clearing, grading, fill disposal, mining, road construction or building construction. If bats are present within a cave or abandoned mine when this occurs, they will become trapped inside and perish. Even if bats are not present during the closure, they may be adversely affected when they return to their hibernaculum in the fall and find it closed. This will force them to expend energy looking for another suitable hibernaculum during a time when it is crucial that they store up sufficient fat reserves for hibernation. Bats are at an increased risk of mortality when they enter hibernation with insufficient fat reserves, or are unable to locate a cave/mine with the suite of conditions (*e.g.*, temperature, humidity, air flow) necessary for successful hibernation.

To determine whether this project will affect any potential Indiana bat or northern long-eared bat hibernacula, the project area should be surveyed for cave and mine openings. All openings should be accurately mapped using a GPS unit. If potentially unstable mines (*e.g.*, abandoned coal mines) occur in the project area, the openings of these mines should be evaluated using the *PROTOCOL FOR ASSESSING BAT USE OF POTENTIAL HIBERNACULA* which can be found at the following link:

https://www.fws.gov/northeast/pafo/pdf/20190826_PENNSYLVANIA%20PROTOCOL%20FOR%20ASSESSING%20POTENTIAL%20HIBERNACULA_Appendix%20A.pdf.

The Pennsylvania Game Commission has developed this protocol to determine whether abandoned mines may serve as potentially suitable bat habitat. Following this initial mine opening assessment, a qualified bat surveyor (<https://www.fws.gov/northeast/pafo/endangered/surveys.html>) should survey each potentially suitable opening, as well as the area in the immediate vicinity of these openings. Surveys should be carried out in accordance with the survey protocol and a copy of the survey results should be submitted to the Service and the Pennsylvania Game Commission for review and concurrence.

If any caves or stable hard rock mines (*e.g.*, limestone mines) occur in the project area, they should be surveyed for hibernating bats during the winter. Interior winter hibernacula surveys should be coordinated with the Pennsylvania Game Commission. Survey results should be submitted to the Service for review and concurrence. If caves or hard rock mines cannot be safely entered, their openings should be surveyed as described above.

Prior to conducting any survey, however, the Pennsylvania Game Commission should be contacted to determine whether or not they have surveyed the cave/mine in the past. If adequate surveys have been conducted in the recent past, this may preclude the need to conduct additional surveys.

Should Indiana bats or northern long-eared bats be found during any survey, further consultation with the Service will be necessary, including the submission of detailed project plans, and an analysis of alternatives to avoid and minimize adverse effects.

Status of Northern long-eared bat

Finally, during our meeting on April 16, 2020, you asked about the status of the northern long-eared bat and the recent court order. During our conversations, you asked about scenarios that involved the northern long-eared bat being listed as endangered, or the 4(d) rule being dropped. At this time, the species remains listed as threatened with a 4(d) rule, and it is not possible to predict if, or when the status may change. There are no known northern long-eared bat or Indiana bat roost trees near the proposed right-of-way (ROW), and no known Indiana bat hibernacula or known northern long-eared bat hibernacula within 0.25 mile of the ROW.

However, to assist your planning purposes, please note that there is 1 northern long-eared bat hibernacula approximately 2 miles directly west of where the ROW crosses Pittston Boulevard, and a group of northern long-eared hibernacula approximately 1.5-2 miles northeast of the ROW between I-81 and Route 476.

In accordance with the Northern Long-Eared Bat Interim Conferencing Guidance, northern long-eared bat hibernacula are defined as all suitable habitat located within 5 miles of a hibernaculum. Suitable spring staging/fall swarming habitat for this species consists of a variety of forested/wooded habitats where they roost, forage, and travel, which is most typically within 5 miles of a hibernaculum. Impacts to winter hibernacula habitat consist of clearing trees within 5 miles of caves or mines where this species hibernates, thus reducing staging/swarming habitat. Per our discussions on April 16, 2020, and using the best scientific information available for this species, you should consider the locations of these known northern long-eared bat hibernacula in your project planning.

Bog turtle

Delaware, Northampton, York, and portions of Monroe County are within the known range of the bog turtle (*Clemmys muhlenbergii*), a species that is federally listed as threatened. Bog turtles inhabit shallow, spring-fed fens, sphagnum bogs, swamps, marshy meadows, and pastures characterized by soft, muddy bottoms; clear, cool, slow-flowing water, often forming a network of rivulets; high humidity; and an open canopy. Bog turtles usually occur in small, discrete populations occupying suitable wetland habitat dispersed along a watershed. The occupied "intermediate successional stage" wetland habitat is usually a mosaic of micro-habitats ranging from dry pockets, to areas that are saturated with water, to areas that are periodically flooded. Some wetlands occupied by bog turtles are located in agricultural areas and are subject to grazing by livestock.

Because wetlands occur within the project area, their potential suitability as bog turtle habitat should be assessed, as described under "*Bog Turtle Habitat Survey*" (Phase 1 survey) of the

Guidelines for Bog Turtle Surveys (www.fws.gov/northeast/pafo/endangered/surveys.html). This Phase 1 survey should evaluate all wetlands within the project action area. The project “action area” includes all areas that will be directly or indirectly affected by the proposed project (including all phases of multi-phased projects) and all project-associated features, such as roads, water and sewer lines, utility lines, stormwater and sedimentation basins, buildings and other structures, driveways, parking lots, yards/lawns, and wells.

Due to the skill required to correctly identify potential bog turtle habitat, we recommend that the Phase 1 survey be done by a qualified surveyor (<https://www.fws.gov/northeast/pafo/endangered/surveys.html>). Service concurrence of negative habitat results is not necessary when a qualified surveyor does the survey in full accordance with USFWS guidelines. Please send a courtesy copy of negative results to us (label as "Negative Phase 1 Survey Results by Qualified Bog Turtle Surveyor: USFWS Courtesy Copy"). If the Phase 1 survey is done by someone who is not on this list, it is likely that third-party verification of the findings will be necessary. Current staffing shortages preclude our ability to conduct field visits to confirm determinations regarding habitat conditions. Use of a qualified surveyor will expedite our review of the survey results.

If potential bog turtle habitat is found in the project action area, efforts should be made to avoid any direct or indirect impacts to those wetlands (*Bog Turtle Conservation Zones* see www.fws.gov/northeast/pafo/endangered/bogturtle.html). Avoidance of direct and indirect effects means no disturbance to or encroachment into the wetlands (e.g., filling, ditching or draining) for any project-associated features or activities. Adverse effects may also be anticipated to occur when lot lines include portions of the wetland; when an adequate upland buffer is not designated around the wetland (*Bog Turtle Conservation Zones*); or when roads, stormwater/sedimentation basins, impervious surfaces, or wells affect the hydrology of the wetland.

If potential habitat is found, submit (along with your Phase 1 survey results) a detailed project description and detailed project plans documenting how direct and indirect impacts to the wetlands will be avoided. If adverse effects to these wetlands cannot be avoided, a more detailed and thorough survey will be necessary, as described under “*Bog Turtle Survey*” (Phase 2 survey) of the *Guidelines*. The Phase 2 survey should be conducted by a qualified bog turtle surveyor (www.fws.gov/northeast/pafo/endangered/surveys.html).

According to our April 16, 2020 conversation, we understand that you are in the process of completing Phase 1 surveys. Please submit survey results to the Service for review and concurrence.

Northeastern bulrush

Luzerne, Monroe and Northampton Counties are within the known range of the northeastern bulrush (*Scirpus ancistrochaetus*), a federally listed, endangered plant.

Potential habitat for this species could be affected if the project will directly or indirectly affect wetlands. The northeastern bulrush is typically found in ponds, wet depressions, shallow sinkholes, vernal pools, small emergent wetlands, or beaver-influenced wetlands. These wetlands are often located in forested areas and characterized by seasonally variable water levels.

To conserve northeastern bulrush (if present) and other wetland-dependent species of concern, project-related activities should avoid adversely affecting the surface and groundwater recharge areas. This would include establishment of 300-foot wide upland buffer areas around wetlands, as well as 50-100 foot wide buffers along waterways (perennial and intermittent rivers, streams, creeks and tributaries). When adequately vegetated, these buffers will act to filter pollutants and stabilize streambanks. Earth disturbance, spraying or tree-cutting activities (tree felling, skid trails etc.), should not occur in these wetlands and their buffers. If these buffers are included, implementation of the proposed project is not likely to adversely affect the northeastern bulrush.

If you are unable to adopt the buffer restrictions detailed above, we recommend that a qualified botanist with field experience in the identification of this species conduct a thorough survey of all potentially suitable wetland habitat within the proposed project area to determine the presence of the northeastern bulrush before any permits are approved or earth-moving activities begin. Surveys for this species should be conducted between June 1 and September 30, when the flowering/fruitleting culm is present. A survey report should be submitted to the Service for review and comment. A list of botanists skilled in the location and identification of the northeastern bulrush is available here: <https://www.fws.gov/northeast/pafo/endangered/surveys.html>.

In cases where adverse effects to federally listed species cannot be avoided, further consultation with the Service would be necessary to avoid potential violations of section 9 (prohibiting “take” of listed species) and/or section 7 (requiring Federal agencies to consult) of the Endangered Species Act. Information about the section 7 and section 10 consultation processes (for Federal and non-Federal actions, respectively) can be obtained by contacting this office or accessing the Service’s Endangered Species Home Page (<http://endangered.fws.gov>).

Assessment of Risks to Migratory Birds

The Service is the principal Federal agency charged with protecting and enhancing populations and habitat of migratory bird species. The Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) prohibits the taking, killing, possession, transportation, and importation of migratory birds, their eggs, parts, and nests, except when specifically authorized by the Department of the Interior. The Service recognizes that some birds may be killed even if all reasonable measures to avoid take are implemented.

The potential exists for avian mortality from habitat destruction and alteration within the project boundaries. Site-specific factors that should be considered in project siting to avoid and minimize the risk to birds include avian abundance; the quality, quantity and type of habitat; geographic location; type and extent of bird use (*e.g.* breeding, foraging, migrating, etc.); and landscape features. Please review the following general recommendations for avoiding and minimizing impacts to migratory birds within and around the project area.

1. Where disturbance is necessary, clear natural or semi-natural habitats (*e.g.*, forests, woodlots, reverting fields, shrubby areas) and perform maintenance activities (*e.g.*, mowing) between September 1 and March 31, which is outside the nesting season for most native bird species. Without undertaking specific analysis of breeding species and their respective nesting seasons on the project site, implementation of this seasonal restriction will avoid take of most breeding birds, their nests, and their young (*i.e.*, eggs, hatchlings, fledglings).

2. Minimize land and vegetation disturbance during project design and construction. To reduce habitat fragmentation, co-locate roads, fences, lay down areas, staging areas, and other infrastructure in or immediately adjacent to already-disturbed areas (*e.g.*, existing roads, pipelines, agricultural fields) and cluster development features (*e.g.*, buildings, roads) as opposed to distributing them throughout land parcels. Where this is not possible, minimize roads, fences, and other infrastructure.
3. Avoid permanent habitat alterations in areas where birds are highly concentrated. Examples of high concentration areas for birds are wetlands, State or Federal refuges, Audubon Important Bird Areas, private duck clubs, staging areas, rookeries, leks, roosts, and riparian areas. Avoid establishing sizable structures along known bird migration pathways or known daily movement flyways (*e.g.*, between roosting and feeding areas).
4. To conserve area-sensitive species, avoid fragmenting large, contiguous tracts of wildlife habitat, especially if habitat cannot be fully restored after construction. Maintain contiguous habitat corridors to facilitate wildlife dispersal. Where practicable, concentrate construction activities, infrastructure, and man-made structures (*e.g.*, buildings, cell towers, roads, parking lots) on lands already altered or cultivated, and away from areas of intact and healthy native habitats. If not feasible, select fragmented or degraded habitats over relatively intact areas.
5. Develop a habitat restoration plan for the proposed site that avoids or minimizes negative impacts to birds, and that creates functional habitat for a variety of bird species. Use only plant species that are native to the local area for revegetation of the project area.

Please be aware that because these are general guidelines, some of them may not be applicable to the current project design or they may have already been included in the project design.

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 project, please contact Pamela Shellenberger of my staff at 814-234-4090.

Sincerely,



Sonja Jahrsdoerfer
Project Leader

cc: Tracey Librandi Mumma



Transcontinental Gas Pipe Line Company, LLC
2800 Post Oak Boulevard, Level 11
Houston, Texas 77056

February 4, 2020

United States Department of Interior
Fish and Wildlife Service
Pennsylvania Field Office
110 Radnor Road, Suite 101
State College, PA 16801-4850

**Re: PNDI Large Project Submission for Environmental Review
Transcontinental Gas Pipe Line Company, LLC
Regional Energy Access Project**

To Whom it May Concern:

Transcontinental Gas Pipe Line Company, LLC (Transco) is in the process of defining the proposed Regional Energy Access Project (Project), which would expand Transco's existing facilities to meet growing demand for natural gas. Currently, the Pennsylvania Project components consist of two pipeline segments, one new compressor station, upgrades to two existing compressor stations, and additions or modifications to aboveground ancillary facilities along the existing and proposed pipelines.

This correspondence is intended to initiate Pennsylvania Natural Diversity Index (PNDI) consultation with the Pennsylvania Game Commission, Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission, Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, and United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) regarding the presence of Threatened, Endangered, and special concern species occurring along or in the vicinity of the proposed Project.

For the purposes of the PNDI review, the Pennsylvania Project components are listed below:

Project Components

- Regional Energy Lateral - Approximately 22 miles of 30-inch-diameter pipeline, both co-located pipeline along the existing Transco Leidy pipeline system and greenfield pipeline, in Luzerne County, PA;
 - Ten Alternative Route options (Alt_REL_A-J); are included with this submission, as the route is still being designed;
- Effort Loop - Approximately 14 miles of 42-inch-diameter pipeline looping the existing Transco Leidy pipeline system in Monroe County, PA;
- New Compressor Station 510 - New gas turbine-driven Compressor Station in Northampton County, PA, located adjacent to the existing Leidy pipeline system. The options currently requested for review are:

- CS 510 – Option MP 30.6
- CS 510 – Option MP 31.4
- CS 510 – Option MP 32.6
- CS 510 – Option MP 33.1
- Existing Compressor Station 515 – Additional horsepower at an existing Compressor Station in Luzerne County, PA located adjacent to the existing Leidy pipeline system;
- Existing Compressor Station 195 – Modifications will include additional horsepower at an existing Compressor Station in York County. No earth disturbance is being proposed for the modification, and;
- Aboveground Ancillary Facilities – Modifications or additions of receipt and delivery meter stations, valve sites, and regulator stations along the proposed pipeline routes and along Transco’s existing pipeline system.

The summary table below outlines the location of Project components in Pennsylvania as shown on Attachment A: PA Natural Diversity Index - Project Map and Attachment B: Topographic Project Location Maps.

Table 1. Project Facility Summary Table		
Project Component	County	Attachment B - Topographic Project Location Map
Proposed 30" Regional Energy Lateral	Luzerne	1A-1D
Existing Compressor Station 515	Luzerne	1A
Existing Carverton Meter Station	Luzerne	1C & 1D
Proposed 42" Leidy D Effort Loop	Monroe	2A- 2C
Proposed Compressor Station 510	Northampton	3
Existing Lower Mud Run Meter Station and Delaware Regulator	Northampton	3
Existing Compressor Station 195	York	4
Existing Chapin Meter Station	Wyoming	5
Existing Puddlefield Meter Station	Wyoming	6
Existing Chester Meter Station	Delaware	7

The proposed Regional Energy Lateral and Effort Loop will be co-located within/adjacent to the existing Transco right-of-way (ROW) to the extent possible. The temporary and/or permanent ROW will need to be widened at varying widths to accommodate the Project construction. Potential access roads that may be proposed for use are included. In general, these are existing access roads that may be subject to improvements to accommodate Project construction.

Field surveys have not been initiated for the Project; however, are planned to begin in the spring of 2020. Temporary and permanent workspaces (e.g. disturbance areas) have not been defined at this time. During and following field surveys and throughout the design process, the proposed pipeline route and overall limits of disturbance areas are subject to refinements.

United States Geological Survey Mapping depicting the locations of the described Project facilities can be found in Attachment B. The final large project PNDI review receipt is located within Attachment C. GIS shapefiles have been uploaded as part of the PNDI Online submission. A compact disc, as well as hard copies of this correspondence have been sent via U.S. mail to the USFWS. Within the shapefiles, attribute information is included that provides the unique identifiers to the features shown on the mapping.

Should the Project, as presented, indicate the need for species-specific field studies or indicate other Project considerations, please provide a response outlining those requirements.

If you have any questions regarding this correspondence and information request, or require additional Project information, please do not hesitate to call me at (713) 215-4232 or contact me via e-mail at karen.olson@Williams.com. Alternatively, you can contact Ryan Nelson, Senior Project Manager at WHM Consulting, LLC at (814) 689-1650 or via e-mail at ryann@whmgroup.com. I appreciate your assistance and thank you for your attention to this request.

Respectfully submitted,

TRANSCONTINENTAL GAS PIPE LINE COMPANY, LLC

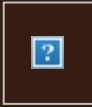
A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Karen Olson", with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Karen Olson
Environmental Specialist

Attachments: Attachment A: PA Natural Diversity Index – Project Map
 Attachment B: Topographic Project Location Maps
 Attachment C: Final Large Project PNDI Review Receipt

cc: Josh Henry, Transco
 Ryan Nelson, WHM Consulting, LLC

From: [UPS Quantum View](#)
To: sfox@whmgroup.com
Subject: UPS Delivery Notification, Tracking Number 1Z8797VV0393892874
Date: Wednesday, February 5, 2020 10:07:58 AM



Your package has been delivered.

Delivery Date: Wednesday, 02/05/2020

Delivery Time: 10:04 AM

At the request of WHM CONSULTING, INC this notice alerts you that the status of the shipment listed below has changed.

Shipment Detail

Tracking Number:	1Z8797VV0393892874 Fish Wildlife Serv PA Field Off US Dept of Interior 110 RADNOR RD ROOM 101 STATE COLLEGE, PA 16801 US
Ship To:	
UPS Service:	UPS GROUND
Number of Packages:	1
Weight:	1.0 LBS
Delivery Location:	OFFICE THEES
Reference Number 1:	WILLIAMS 244-3A



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Kevin Clark WHM

From: Shellenberger, Pamela <pamela_shellenberger@fws.gov>
Sent: Friday, March 13, 2020 1:09 PM
To: Chris Sanders; Anderson, Robert M; 'Braun, Olivia'
Cc: 'Olson, Karen'; 'Henry, Josh'; Ryan Nelson
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] Regional Energy Access Project - Regional Energy Lateral Hibernacula Search

Good afternoon,

Chris, I reviewed your Phase 2 hibernacula search proposal and agree with the methods you outlined. Please note that we are working on a formal response to William's February 4, 2020 letter, and will reflect this proposed hibernacula survey and correspondence in that letter.

Thank you,

Pamela Shellenberger

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Pennsylvania Field Office
110 Radnor Road, Suite 101
State College, PA 16801
814-234-4090 x7459
<http://www.fws.gov/northeast/pafo/>

Working with others to conserve, protect, and enhance fish, wildlife, plants, and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people.

From: Chris Sanders <sanders@batgate.com>
Sent: Monday, March 9, 2020 3:06 PM
To: Anderson, Robert M <robert_m_anderson@fws.gov>; Shellenberger, Pamela <pamela_shellenberger@fws.gov>; 'Braun, Olivia' <olbraun@pa.gov>
Cc: 'Olson, Karen' <Karen.Olson@williams.com>; 'Henry, Josh' <Josh.Henry@williams.com>; 'Ryan Nelson' <ryann@whmgroup.com>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Regional Energy Access Project - Regional Energy Lateral Hibernacula Search

Hello Bob, Pam, and Olivia,

Attached is our proposed Phase 2 study plan for hibernacula searches along the Regional Energy Access Project, which results from a Phase 1 desktop search of the project. Spring seems to be coming early this year and we like to perform the Phase 2 before understory leaf out, as that will make searches for potential hibernacula more reliable. Please review at your convenience and let us know if you concur.

Thanks,
Chris

Chris Sanders



Sanders Environmental Inc.
322 Borealis Way
Bellefonte PA 16823
814-659-8257 (cell)

Kevin Clark WHM

From: Chris Sanders <sanders@batgate.com>
Sent: Wednesday, September 9, 2020 12:40 PM
To: 'Anderson, Robert'; 'Shellenberger, Pamela'; 'Braun, Olivia'
Cc: 'Olson, Karen'; 'Henry, Josh'; Ryan Nelson
Subject: Regional Energy Access Project - Regional Energy Lateral Hibernacula Search Report - 9/9/20 Map update
Attachments: 2020 REA Hibernacula Investigation Report v2-2 small.pdf

Hello Pam and Olivia,

Attached is a updated version of the report. The report mapping has been updated to reflect the additional surveyed area completed along the current route on the eastern portion of the Project.

If you have any questions on this report, please let us know.

If you have any comments or concur with the plan to acoustically sample these portals, we are ramping up to begin deployment and are poised to tweak our methods to fit any comments.

Thanks,
Chris

Chris Sanders



Sanders Environmental Inc.
322 Borealis Way
Bellefonte PA 16823
814-659-8257 (cell)

From: Chris Sanders <sanders@batgate.com>
Sent: Friday, September 4, 2020 3:29 PM
To: 'Anderson, Robert' <robert_m_anderson@fws.gov>; 'Shellenberger, Pamela' <pamela_shellenberger@fws.gov>; 'Braun, Olivia' <olbraun@pa.gov>
Cc: 'Olson, Karen' <Karen.Olson@williams.com>; 'Henry, Josh' <Josh.Henry@williams.com>; 'Ryan Nelson' <ryann@whmgroup.com>
Subject: Regional Energy Access Project - Regional Energy Lateral Hibernacula Search Report

Hello Pam and Olivia,

Attached is the REA Hibernacula Investigation Report. We will send our proposed study plan in a separate email as file sizes, although reduced via adobe, are too large for both to fit in one email. Please let me know if you have any questions.

Thanks,
Chris

Chris Sanders



Sanders Environmental Inc.
322 Borealis Way
Bellefonte PA 16823
814-659-8257 (cell)

Kevin Clark WHM

From: Ryan Nelson
Sent: Tuesday, March 17, 2020 3:22 PM
To: Shellenberger, Pamela; Olson, Karen
Subject: RE: Regional Energy Access Project
Attachments: REA Project Shapefiles.zip

Hi Pam!

Attached are confidential shapefiles for the limited purpose of facilitating your environmental review. The information is entitled to protection from disclosure under Pennsylvania's Freedom of Information Act on the basis of its business confidentiality and because it is critical energy infrastructure information CEII category.

If you have any questions, please contact me.

Thanks
Ryan

Ryan Nelson, PWS
Senior Project Manager
WHM Consulting, Inc.
A Member of the WHM Group sm
2525 Green Tech Drive, Suite B
State College, PA 16803
Office – 814-689-1650 ext. 102
Mobile – 814-592-9848
ryann@whmgroup.com

From: Shellenberger, Pamela <pamela_shellenberger@fws.gov>
Sent: Friday, March 13, 2020 1:23 PM
To: Olson, Karen <Karen.Olson@williams.com>
Cc: Ryan Nelson <ryann@whmgroup.com>
Subject: Regional Energy Access Project

Good afternoon -

Thank you for your letter of February 4, 2020. Can you please send me shapefiles of the project with mile markers? I realize this maybe have been included on the CD you provided, but our laptops no longer have CD players. (?)

Thank you!

Pamela Shellenberger

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Pennsylvania Field Office
110 Radnor Road, Suite 101
State College, PA 16801
814-234-4090 x7459
<http://www.fws.gov/northeast/pafo/>

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Kevin Clark WHM

From: Ryan Nelson
Sent: Friday, March 27, 2020 2:01 PM
To: Shellenberger, Pamela; Olson, Karen
Cc: Henry, Josh
Subject: RE: Regional Energy Access Project

Pam,

Below is a summary table of the current tree clearing estimates, broken down for each Project component. These estimates are subject to change as the Project layout develops. If you need additional information, please contact me or Karen.

Regional Energy Access Project - Tree Clearing Summary		
Project Component	County	Tree Clearing Estimate (acres)
Proposed 30" Regional Energy Lateral (Includes Compressor Station 515, and Carverton Meter station)	Luzerne	+/- 180
Proposed 42" Leidy D Effort Loop	Monroe	+/-70
Proposed Compressor Station 510	Northampton	<5
Existing Lower Mud Run Meter Station and Delaware Regulator	Northampton	<1
Existing Compressor Station 195	York	0
Existing Chapin Meter Station	Wyoming	<1
Existing Puddlefield Meter Station	Wyoming	<1
Existing Chester Meter Station	Delaware	<1

Thanks,
Ryan

From: Shellenberger, Pamela <pamela_shellenberger@fws.gov>
Sent: Friday, March 13, 2020 1:26 PM
To: Olson, Karen <Karen.Olson@williams.com>
Cc: Ryan Nelson <ryann@whmgroup.com>
Subject: Re: Regional Energy Access Project

Additionally, since a lot of this is co-located, can you provide me with an idea of how many acres of trees will be removed for each of the project areas listed under the 'project components' section on the February 4, 2020 cover letter?

Thanks, again!

Pamela Shellenberger

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Pennsylvania Field Office
110 Radnor Road, Suite 101
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814-234-4090 x7459
<http://www.fws.gov/northeast/pafo/>

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From: Shellenberger, Pamela <pamela_shellenberger@fws.gov>
Sent: Friday, March 13, 2020 1:22 PM
To: Olson, Karen <Karen.Olson@williams.com>
Cc: 'Ryan Nelson' <ryann@whmgroup.com>
Subject: Regional Energy Access Project

Good afternoon -

Thank you for your letter of February 4, 2020. Can you please send me shapefiles of the project with mile markers? I realize this maybe have been included on the CD you provided, but our laptops no longer have CD players. (?)

Thank you!

Pamela Shellenberger

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
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110 Radnor Road, Suite 101
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<http://www.fws.gov/northeast/pafo/>

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Kevin Clark WHM

From: Shellenberger, Pamela <pamela_shellenberger@fws.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, May 12, 2020 11:41 AM
To: Ryan Nelson
Cc: Henry, Josh; Olson, Karen (Karen.Olson@williams.com)
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] REA - Bog Turtle Survey Follow Up Questions

Hi Ryan,

Thank you for your patience on my response. I appreciate the additional information you provided about this site. Due to the disturbance that is already adjacent to the wetland (a road and businesses), and the fact that there will be no disturbance or hydrologic impacts to the potential bog turtle habitat, the Service has concluded that there is no need to conduct Phase 2 surveys on the potential bog turtle habitat wetland at the Route 209 site.

Please let me know if you have further questions.

Thank you,

Pamela Shellenberger

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Pennsylvania Field Office
110 Radnor Road, Suite 101
State College, PA 16801
814-234-4090 x7459
<http://www.fws.gov/northeast/pafo/>

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Note: I am temporarily teleworking. You can continue to reach me through email or by calling the number listed above.

From: Ryan Nelson <ryann@whmgroup.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 12, 2020 9:01 AM
To: Shellenberger, Pamela <pamela_shellenberger@fws.gov>
Cc: Henry, Josh <Josh.Henry@williams.com>; Olson, Karen (Karen.Olson@williams.com) <Karen.Olson@williams.com>
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] REA - Bog Turtle Survey Follow Up Questions

Pam,

I am following up with you on the SR 209 wetland with potential bog turtle habitat, which we have been discussing over the past couple of weeks. I apologize for again reaching out to you, as I know working lately has been challenging for us

all with the Covid-19 restrictions we all are facing. That said, I am following up to see if you have made a determination of survey or construction BMP needs at this site based on the information provided. Since we are now almost in the middle of the bog turtle season, Transco needs to determine if surveys are necessary. Due to the size of the wetland, Phase 2 Presence/Absence Surveys and Trapping would both be proposed at this site. Surveys are scheduled to begin on May 14 if you determine surveys are necessary or if we do not receive a response, to error on the side of caution.

Thank you for your time in reviewing this site and if you have any questions, please contact me.

Thanks
Ryan

From: Ryan Nelson
Sent: Friday, May 08, 2020 6:09 AM
To: 'Shellenberger, Pamela' <pamela_shellenberger@fws.gov>
Cc: 'Olson, Karen (Karen.Olson@williams.com)' <Karen.Olson@williams.com>; 'Henry, Josh' <Josh.Henry@williams.com>
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] REA - Bog Turtle Survey Follow Up Questions

Good morning, Pam,

I am following up with you to see if you have determined if surveys are needed in the SR 209 wetland we have been discussing.

Thanks
Ryan

From: Ryan Nelson
Sent: Tuesday, May 05, 2020 2:56 PM
To: Shellenberger, Pamela <pamela_shellenberger@fws.gov>
Cc: Olson, Karen (Karen.Olson@williams.com) <Karen.Olson@williams.com>; Henry, Josh <Josh.Henry@williams.com>
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] REA - Bog Turtle Survey Follow Up Questions

Pam,

The pipeline would cross under Culvert 1, remaining in place.

Culvert 2 is associated with stormwater.

Thanks
Ryan

From: Shellenberger, Pamela <pamela_shellenberger@fws.gov>
Sent: Monday, May 04, 2020 4:00 PM
To: Ryan Nelson <ryann@whmgroup.com>
Cc: Olson, Karen (Karen.Olson@williams.com) <Karen.Olson@williams.com>; Henry, Josh <Josh.Henry@williams.com>
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] REA - Bog Turtle Survey Follow Up Questions

Thanks, Ryan.

Would the pipeline cross under culvert 1?

Was there any continuous flow through culvert 2, or just stormwater flow?

Pamela Shellenberger

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Pennsylvania Field Office
110 Radnor Road, Suite 101
State College, PA 16801
814-234-4090 x7459
<http://www.fws.gov/northeast/pafo/>

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Note: I am temporarily teleworking. You can continue to reach me through email or by calling the number listed above.

From: Ryan Nelson <ryann@whmgroupp.com>
Sent: Monday, May 4, 2020 2:09 PM
To: Shellenberger, Pamela <pamela_shellenberger@fws.gov>
Cc: Olson, Karen (<Karen.Olson@williams.com> <Karen.Olson@williams.com>); Henry, Josh <Josh.Henry@williams.com>
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] REA - Bog Turtle Survey Follow Up Questions

Pam,

Flow is west to east.

Culvert Notes:

- Culvert 1 carries surface hydrology from W2-T6 to the gravel area shown on the map. This culvert would not be removed during construction, therefore no impact during or post construction.
- Culvert 2 is likely associated with stormwater, due to the proximity to SR 209 and the parking area. The need for removal of culvert 2 will be evaluated through design due to the crossing of Rt 209. If the need to impact this culvert is identified, the culvert would be removed at the crossing location for installation of the bore pit for the crossing of SR209. It would be capped on the downstream side to prevent any runoff from the bore pit into the culvert. The culvert would be restored post-construction, if the need to impact is determined.
- Culverts 3 and 4 will not be impacted.

Sediment control and BMP's will be put in place around the LOD to protect culverts 1 and 3 and inlet protection will be provided for culvert 2 if necessary.

Excavations in this area will occur for up to 2 months due to the complexity of the road crossing and parking lot. It will take 6-8 months for the full restoration to be completed.

Thanks,
Ryan

From: Shellenberger, Pamela <pamela_shellenberger@fws.gov>
Sent: Friday, May 01, 2020 4:29 PM
To: Ryan Nelson <ryann@whmgroup.com>
Cc: Olson, Karen (Karen.Olson@williams.com) <Karen.Olson@williams.com>; Henry, Josh <Josh.Henry@williams.com>
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] REA - Bog Turtle Survey Follow Up Questions

Ryan,

Thank you for this additional information. So flow direct is basically west to east into the potential bog turtle habitat? How will hydrology look during and post construction? Will the culverts be restored? How long will construction take in this area?

Thanks,

Pamela Shellenberger

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Pennsylvania Field Office
110 Radnor Road, Suite 101
State College, PA 16801
814-234-4090 x7459
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Note: I am temporarily teleworking. You can continue to reach me through email or by calling the number listed above.

From: Ryan Nelson <ryann@whmgroup.com>
Sent: Thursday, April 30, 2020 4:45 PM
To: Shellenberger, Pamela <pamela_shellenberger@fws.gov>
Cc: Olson, Karen (Karen.Olson@williams.com) <Karen.Olson@williams.com>; Henry, Josh <Josh.Henry@williams.com>
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] REA - Bog Turtle Survey Follow Up Questions

Pam,

Regarding the Sugar Hollow Site, thank you for the clarification.

Regarding the Route 209 site, since your response was provided, the site was re-visited to further review the hydrologic connection status of the potential bog turtle habitat and the delineated wetlands. It was determined that there is a connection via culverts. The culvert locations are shown on the attached mapping. Descriptions of each are provided below. Photographs of this area have also been included.

- Culvert 1 - A culvert is located at the down valley portion of W2-T6. This culvert travels under the parking lot perpendicular to the pipeline and outlets in a gravel area west of Dairy Lane.

- Culvert 2 – A culvert travels underneath the same parking lot, approximately parallel to the pipeline, and outlets in the same gravel area as Culvert 1.
- Culvert 3 – This culverts inlet is at the gravel area noted above, for the outlets of Culverts 1 and 2. This culvert travels under Dairy Lane.
- Culvert 4 – This culvert is separate from culverts 1-3 and travels underneath Dairy Lane

If you need further information to complete your determination of the need for surveys at this location, please let me know.

Thanks
Ryan

From: Shellenberger, Pamela <pamela_shellenberger@fws.gov>
Sent: Monday, April 20, 2020 4:51 PM
To: Ryan Nelson <ryann@whmgroupp.com>
Cc: Olson, Karen <Karen.Olson@williams.com>; Henry, Josh <Josh.Henry@williams.com>
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] REA - Bog Turtle Survey Follow Up Questions

Ryan,

Thanks for this follow-up information.

For the Route 209 site, are wetlands that are potential bog turtle habitat hydrologically connected (via stream, wetland, culvert, bridge etc.) to the delineated conceptual wetlands?

For the Sugar Hollow site that is 700' outside of the modeled range of the bog turtle, as of January 2020, we do not consider this to be within the range of the bog turtle, nor is it nearby a known occurrence that is with the range of the bog turtle.

Please let me know if you have any questions.
Thank you!

Pamela Shellenberger

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Pennsylvania Field Office
110 Radnor Road, Suite 101
State College, PA 16801
814-234-4090 x7459
<http://www.fws.gov/northeast/pafo/>

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Note: I am temporarily teleworking. You can continue to reach me through email or by calling the number listed above.

From: Ryan Nelson <ryann@whmgroup.com>
Sent: Friday, April 17, 2020 8:38 AM
To: Shellenberger, Pamela <pamela_shellenberger@fws.gov>
Cc: Olson, Karen <Karen.Olson@williams.com>; Henry, Josh <Josh.Henry@williams.com>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] REA - Bog Turtle Survey Follow Up Questions

Pam,

In follow up to our call yesterday regarding bog turtles on Transco's Regional Energy Access Project, Phase 1 surveys were completed on the Effort Loop in Monroe County last week by Bob Bull. Two areas were identified with potential habitat. A summary of those is outlined below. Coordinates near each location are provided in the maps.

Habitat Area Summary

1. Area 1 (Near State Route 209/Dairy Lane)
 - a. Wetland not to be impacted, but is within 80' of workspace
 - b. Pipeline and wetland are separated by a 2-lane road (Dairy Lane).
 - c. West of Dairy lane is a mechanics garage and large parking lot, where the pipeline is proposed

2. Area 2 (Sugar Hollow Road)
 - a. Wetland/stream complex along Sugar Hollow Run
 - b. Wetlands are to be impacted by pipeline (and stream to be crossed)
 - c. Potential habitat is currently not proposed for impact.
 - d. The PNDI viewer indicates this area out of the range of the bog turtle (by +/- 700')

Question

Given the conditions of each site noted above, would Phase 2 surveys be required? We would plan to complete surveys in 2020.

If you need further information, please let me know.

Thanks
Ryan

Ryan Nelson, PWS
Senior Project Manager
WHM Consulting, Inc.
A Member of the WHM Group sm
2525 Green Tech Drive, Suite B
State College, PA 16803
Office – 814-689-1650 ext. 102
Mobile – 814-592-9848
ryann@whmgroup.com



United States Department of the Interior



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

October 6, 2021

Ryan Nelson
WHM Consulting, LLC
2525 Green Tech Drive, Suite B
State College, PA 16803

RE: USFWS Project # 2020-1530
PNDI Receipt #731161

Dear Mr. Nelson:

Thank you for your letters of September 29, 2020, and August 31, 2021, which provided the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) with Phase 1, Phase 2, and Phase 3 bog turtle surveys regarding the proposed Perin Wetland Mitigation Project located in Plainfield Township, Northampton County, Pennsylvania. Perin proposes to build a wetland mitigation site on an existing farm for a proposed transmission line. The project area is within the range of the bog turtle (*Clemmys muhlenbergii*), a species that is federally listed as threatened. 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.

To determine the potential effects of the proposed project on bog turtles and their habitat, Robert Bull, a recognized qualified bog turtle surveyor, conducted a Phase 1 bog turtle habitat assessment on September 17, 2020. According to the Phase 1 report, one wetland extends to within 300 feet of the proposed limit of disturbance. Following the methods described under “*Bog Turtle Habitat Survey*” (Phase 1 survey) of the *Guidelines for Bog Turtle Surveys*, Mr. Bull determined that the wetland referred to as Wetland 1 had the combination of soils, vegetation, and hydrology typical of habitat occupied by bog turtles. We concur with this determination.

To conduct a more detailed and thorough evaluation of Wetland 1, Mr. Bull and his assistants completed Phase 2 bog turtle surveys not only on Wetland 1 (Habitat Area A (2.7 acres)), but also a second wetland called Habitat Area B (0.18 acre) on May 1, 14, 23, and 31, 2021. According to the survey report, although the sites contained suitable bog turtle habitat, and several amphibian and reptile species were observed (green frog, painted turtle, red eared slider, spotted turtle, snapping turtle, northern water snake, northern red salamander, long tailed salamander) no bog turtles were found in these wetlands.

To verify and further support the Phase 2 findings, Mr. Bull also conducted a Phase 3 trapping survey for 21 days (concurrently with the Phase 2 survey); between May 14 and June 9, 2021 (30,240 trap hours). According to the survey report, incidental captures included: green frog, red salamander, painted turtle, snapping turtle, spotted turtle, cat bird, red-wing blackbirds, and Virginia rail, but no bog turtles were captured as a result of the trapping effort (60 traps). Additionally, no bog turtles were observed by the trapping team incidental to the trapping efforts.

Based on our review of this information, including the project description, project locations, and anticipated activities; and the probable absence of bog turtles in the subject wetlands, we conclude that construction and implementation of the proposed project are not likely to adversely affect the bog turtle.

This determination is valid for 2 years from the date of this letter. If the proposed project has not been fully implemented prior to this, an additional review by this office is recommended. Should project plans change, or if additional information on listed or proposed species becomes available, this determination may be reconsidered.

This response relates only to endangered or threatened species under our jurisdiction, based on an office review of the proposed project's location. No field evaluation has been completed by this office.

To avoid potential delays in reviewing of your project, please use the above-referenced USFWS project tracking number in any future correspondence regarding this project.

If you have any further questions regarding this matter, please contact Jennifer Kagel of my staff at Jennifer_Kagel@fws.gov.

Sincerely,



Sonja Jahrsdoerfer
Project Leader

ryann@whmgroup.com

Ryan Nelson

From: Ryan Nelson
Sent: Thursday, February 25, 2021 3:00 PM
To: Henry, Josh; Librandi Mumma, Tracey; Shellenberger, Pamela
Cc: Chris Sanders (sanders@batgate.com); Olson, Karen; Ali Trunzo
Subject: Regional Energy Access Expansion Project - Survey Reports

Good Afternoon Pam and Traci,

I have posted the following reports to the Sharepoint site below. Included are both previously submitted reports and new reports.

Previously Submitted Reports:

1. 2020 Summer Bat Acoustic Presence/Absence Survey Report
2. Summer Acoustic Study Summary Letter and Site 12 Review
3. 2020 Eastern Small-Footed Bat Habitat Assessment
4. Phase 1 Hibernacula Search

New Reports:

1. 2020 Fall Bat Acoustic – Phase 2 Hibernacula Survey
2. Phase 1 Hibernacula Search – Addendum

 [USFWS PGC 022321](#)

Should you have any questions on the reports or have issues accessing the sharepoint, please contact me.

Thank you!

Ryan

Ryan Nelson, PWS
Senior Project Manager
WHM Consulting, LLC
A Member of Prima Terra Holdings, LLC
2525 Green Tech Drive, Suite B
State College, PA 16803
Office – 814-689-1650 ext. 102
Mobile – 814-592-9848
ryann@whmgroup.com

Ryan Nelson

From: Henry, Joshua <Josh.Henry@williams.com>
Sent: Wednesday, December 1, 2021 1:40 PM
To: Shellenberger, Pamela; Guers, Sue
Cc: Olson, Karen; Ryan Nelson; Chris Sanders; Broush, Jennifer (EXT)
Subject: USFWS/PGC Meeting Minutes and 2021 Fall Trapping Report
Attachments: 112221_USFWS_PGC_Mtg_Minutes.pdf

All,

I hope everyone had a wonderful Thanksgiving. Please see the attached meeting minutes from our call on 11/22/2021. I have also attached a link to the 2021 Fall Trapping Report, if this does not work for you, please let me know. I will be reaching out again soon to set up another meeting to go through the updated TOYR's as outlined in the minutes.

 [2021 Fall Trapping Report](#)

Thank you,



Josh Henry | Williams | Environmental Specialist

Office: 412-787-4277 | Cell: 412-713-0485 | 2000 Commerce Drive, Park Place 2, Pittsburgh, PA, 15275



If you have received this message in error, please reply to advise the sender of the error and then immediately delete this message.