


**COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
PENNSYLVANIA GAME COMMISSION**

Date: June 12, 2023

Subject: Notification of New Large Noncoal Surface Mine
Permit Application
Bishop Brothers Construction Company, Inc.
Permit No.08230301, Minard Mine
Athens Township, Bradford County

To (via e-mail): Gregory Aaron, P.G.
Chief, Permit & Technical Services
Moshannon District Mining Office

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

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

Module 14

No wetlands impacts are proposed. However, actual mining operations may provide additional critical information with respect to potential wetland impacts. Six piezometers will be installed adjacent to Wetlands I, II and J prior to mining and monitored. Should field measurements and observations indicate adverse impacts, then a mitigation plan for wetlands restoration must be developed and adequately address the loss of these resources due to the proposed mining operations.

Module 23

Permanent Cover

Because of its ability to out-compete other grass species and/or non-native nature, and because there are higher value wildlife habitat grasses we recommend either minimizing the use of annual ryegrass, redbud, and orchard grass, or eliminating and replacing with a combination of oats (spring) and/or wheat (fall), along with crimson, red and/or white clover.

Woody Plants

We recommend not planting European white birch. Sweet (black) or gray birch are alternatives, and river birch is an alternative for riparian/wet areas. We recommend not

planting American ash for survival is unlikely due to the widespread presence of the invasive emerald ash borer.

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

Please feel free to contact me at 717-787-4250 ext. 73621 should you have any questions or concerns.

JJP/jjp