

SECTION C. (continued)

Operation/Site Location

U.S.G.S. Map Name(s) Ellsworth & Mather

Map Coordinates (center of proposed permit area)

Latitude 40° 0' 15" Longitude 80° 2' 17"

Method of latitude/longitude collection eMap

Horizontal accuracy (feet/inches) _____

- Horizontal Reference Datum
- N.Am. 1927
 - N.Am. 1983
 - World Geodetic 1984

Name or route number of nearest state/township road and a description of the location of the road that provides access to the operation Access to this mine will be the access road currently used for the applicant's Maggie Lynn Quarry (SMP No. 63100401) located off the west side of SR2041 (Morey Road) approximately 700 feet north of its intersection with Pump Station Road

Name(s) of receiving stream(s)/Chapter 93 Classification

Ten Mile Creek - TSF

MSHA Mine I.D. No

36-09163 issued July 2001

Extent of Mining

Mining Area		Remining	
List Rock/Mineral to be Mined (Include topsoil/overburden to be sold)	Acres of Rock/Mineral Removal	Total acres of abandoned mine land (i.e., open pits, refuse/spoil piles, surface area affected by underground mining) to be reaffected.	
<u>Benwood Limestone (surface)</u>	<u>8.9</u>		<u>0.0</u>
<u>Benwood Limestone (Underground)</u>	<u>256.6</u>		
_____	_____		
_____	_____		
Total surface acres to be affected by rock/mineral removal	<u>8.9</u>	Processing Facility	
Total underground acres to be affected by rock/mineral removal	<u>256.6</u>	Total acres to be affected	<u>2.0</u>
		Wetlands	
		Total acres of wetland to be affected by mining	<u>0.0</u>
		Total acres of wetland to be replaced	<u>0.0</u>
Permit Area (total acres of mining and support)	<u>359.1</u>		

**Surface area boundary is 110.1 Acres shown on Exhibit 9.

Restricted areas:

Are mining activities proposed in any of the following restricted areas?

- Yes No Areas which have been designated unsuitable for mining.
- Yes No Areas included in a petition, which has been accepted for review by the Department, for designation as unsuitable for mining.
- Yes No Areas within 300 feet of any public park, building, school, church, community, or institutional building.
- Yes No Areas within 100 feet of a cemetery or burial ground.
- Yes No Areas within the boundary of the Allegheny National Forest. If Yes, approval is required from U.S. Department of Interior.
- Yes No Areas within the boundary of a State Park, State Forest, or State Wild and Scenic River System. If Yes, approval is required from Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources.
- Yes No Areas within the boundary of a State Game Land. If Yes, approval is required from Pennsylvania Game Commission.
- Yes No Areas within the boundaries of the National Park System, the National Wildlife Refuge System, the National System of Trails, the National Wilderness Preservation System, and the Wild and Scenic Rivers System.
- Yes No Areas within 300 feet from any occupied dwelling. If Yes, provide details in Module 5.4.
- Yes No Areas within 100 feet of the outside right of way of a public road or a relocation of a public road. If Yes, provide details in Module 10.14.
- Yes No Areas within a watershed designated as "Special Protection" pursuant to 25 Pa. Code Chapter 93. If Yes, provide the "Anti-Degradation Supplement for Mining Permits" (Form No. 5600-PM-BMP0007)
- Yes No Areas within 100 feet of the bank of a perennial or intermittent stream. If Yes, provide details in Module 14.1.
- Yes No Areas within 125 feet of a permitted or registered oil or gas well. If Yes, provide details in Module 10.10.
- Yes No Areas within the right-of-way any type of utility line or 100 feet of an underground utility line. If Yes, provide details in Module 10.11.

PNDI Review:

Utilize the Pennsylvania Natural Diversity Index (PNDI) (<https://conservationexplorer.dcnr.pa.gov/>) to determine if any threatened or endangered species and/or critical habitats exist in proximity to the proposed mining activities. Provide a copy of the PNDI receipt and any copies of correspondence with state or federal agencies regarding the PNDI review. If any threatened or endangered species or critical habitats are identified on the PNDI receipt, then provide details in Module 19.3.

PNDI Receipt Number: 781939. See pages 1-9 to 1-17. DCNR response pages 15c&15d

Materials have been sent to The US Fish and Wildlife Service. Their response is on page 1-17.

PHMC Review:

This project must be submitted for review to the PA State Historic Preservation Office using the PA-SHARE online tool at <https://share.phmc.pa.gov/pashare/landing>. (Project submitted through PA Share on 10/14/2021, SHPO responded with results of prior review)

Project Number Assigned by PHMC: 2019-1191-125

See pages 1-18 to 1-24.

Attach all correspondence received from PHMC.

Are any cultural or historic resources listed on the National Register of Historic Places located within or adjacent (within 1000 ft.) to the proposed permit area? Yes No

Are any publicly owned parks located within or adjacent (within 1000ft.) to the proposed permit area? Yes No

Are any significant archaeological sites located within or adjacent (within 1000ft.) to the proposed permit area? Yes No

If Yes to any of the three questions above, provide details in Module 10.18.

Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources
 PNDI Receipt: project_receipt_neiswonger_maggie_lynn_un_781939_FINAL_2.pdf

Project Search ID: PNDI-781939

1. PROJECT INFORMATION

Project Name: Neiswonger - Maggie Lynn Underground Mine (2023)
 Date of Review: 10/17/2023 03:23:47 PM
 Project Category: Mining, other non-coal minerals (limestone,shale)
 Project Area: 335.47 acres
 County(s): Greene; Washington
 Township/Municipality(s): DEEMSTON; MORGAN TOWNSHIP
 ZIP Code:
 Quadrangle Name(s): ELLSWORTH; MATHER
 Watersheds HUC 8: Lower Monongahela
 Watersheds HUC 12: Plum Run-Tenmile Creek
 Decimal Degrees: 40.004879, -80.038995
 Degrees Minutes Seconds: 40° 0' 17.5654" N, 80° 2' 20.3835" W



2. SEARCH RESULTS

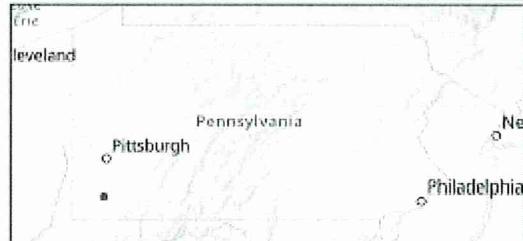
Agency	Results	Response
PA Game Commission	No Known Impact	No Further Review Required
PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources	Potential Impact	FURTHER REVIEW IS REQUIRED, See Agency Response
PA Fish and Boat Commission	No Known Impact	No Further Review Required
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	No Known Impact	No Further Review Required

As summarized above, Pennsylvania Natural Diversity Inventory (PNDI) records indicate there may be potential impacts to threatened and endangered and/or special concern species and resources within the project area. If the response above indicates "No Further Review Required" no additional communication with the respective agency is required. If the response is "Further Review Required" or "See Agency Response," refer to the appropriate agency comments below. Please see the DEP Information Section of this receipt if a PA Department of Environmental Protection Permit is required.

Neiswonger - Maggie Lynn Underground Mine (2023)

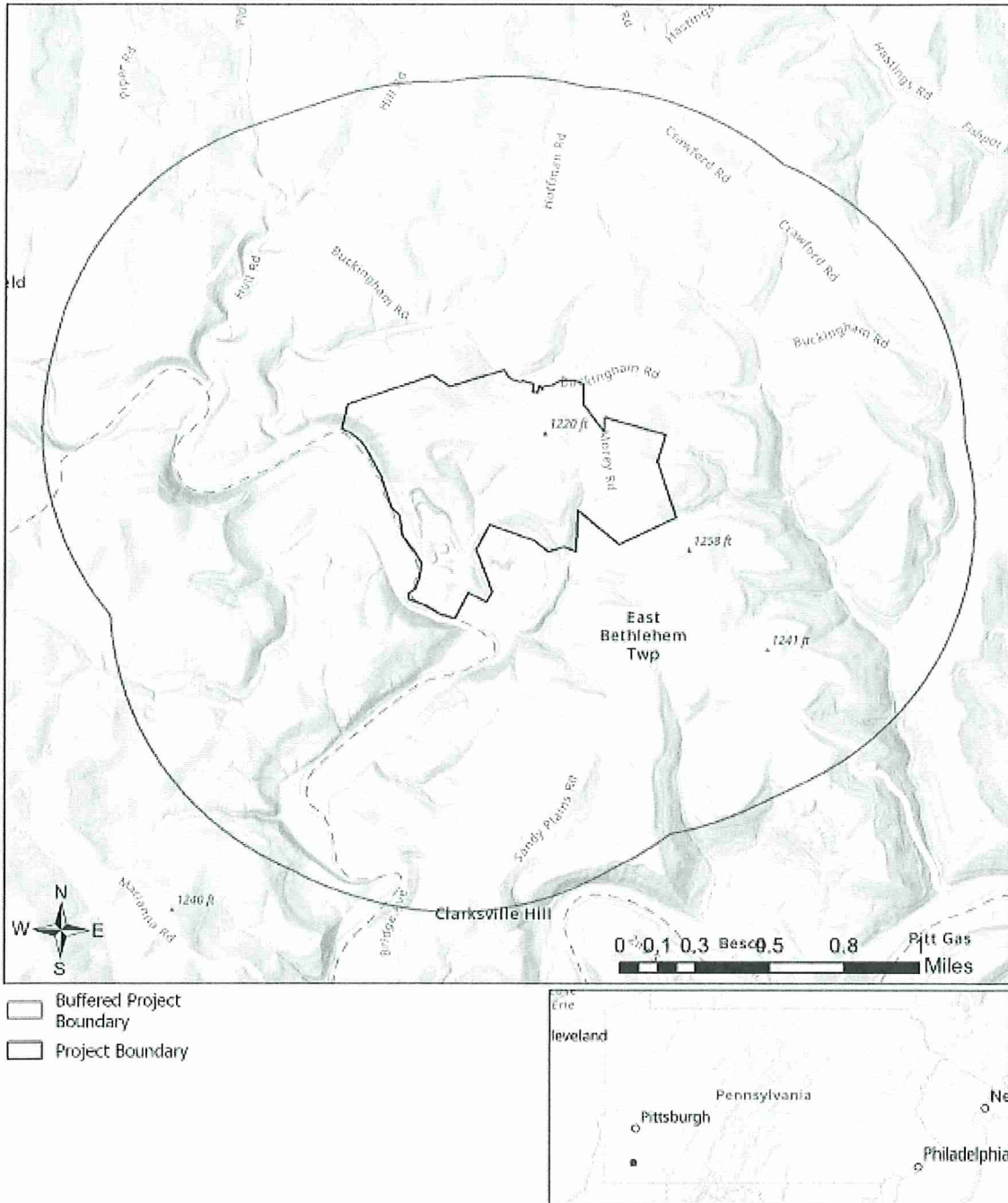


-  Buffered Project Boundary
-  Project Boundary



Sources: Esri, Airbus DS, USGS, NGA, NASA, CGIAR, N Robinson, NCEAS, NLS, OS, MMA, Geodatasyrrelsen, Rijkswaterstaat, GSA, Geoland, FEMA, Intermap and the GIS user community

Neiswonger - Maggie Lynn Underground Mine (2023)



Sources: Esri, Airbus DS, USGS, NGA, NASA, CGIAR, N Robinson, NCEAS, NLS, OS, NIMA, Geodatasystemen, Rijkswaterstaat, GSA, Geoland, FEMA, Intermap and the GIS user community

RESPONSE TO QUESTION(S) ASKED

Q1: Will the entire project area (including any discharge), plus a 300 feet buffer around the project area, all occur in or on an existing building, parking lot, driveway, road, road shoulder, street, runway, paved area, railroad bed, maintained (periodically mown) lawn, crop agriculture field or maintained orchard?

Your answer is: No

Q2: The proposed project is in the range of the Indiana bat. Describe how the project will affect bat habitat (forests, woodlots and trees) and indicate what measures will be taken in consideration of this. Round acreages up to the nearest acre (e.g., 0.2 acres = 1 acre).

Your answer is: No forests, woodlots or trees will be affected by the project.

Q3: Will any forest or woodland areas be disturbed (temporarily or permanently), cut, cleared, inundated (flooded), or sprayed as a result of carrying out any part of this project?

Your answer is: No

Q4: Is tree removal, tree cutting or forest clearing of 40 acres or more necessary to implement all aspects of this project?

Your answer is: No

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:

No Impact is anticipated to threatened and endangered species and/or special concern species and resources.

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).

DCNR Species: (Note: The Pennsylvania Conservation Explorer tool is a primary screening tool, and a desktop review may reveal more or fewer species than what is listed below. After desktop review, if a botanical survey is required by DCNR, we recommend the DCNR Botanical Survey Protocols, available here: <https://conservationexplorer.dcnr.pa.gov/content/survey-protocols>)

Scientific Name	Common Name	Current Status	Proposed Status	Survey Window
Sensitive Species**				
Diarrhena americana	American Beakgrain	Special Concern Species'	Endangered	Flowers / fruits July - mid-September

Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources

Project Search ID: PNDI-781939

PNDI Receipt: project_receipt_neiswonger_maggie_lynn_un_781939_FINAL_2.pdf

Scientific Name	Common Name	Current Status	Proposed Status	Survey Window
<i>Erigenia bulbosa</i>	Harbinger-of-spring	Threatened	Special Concern Species*	Flowers March - April
<i>Erythronium albidum</i>	White Trout-lily	Special Concern Species*	Special Concern Species*	Flowers April - May
<i>Houstonia canadensis</i>	Fringed Bluets	Special Concern Species*	Endangered	Flowers May - June
<i>Matelea obliqua</i>	Oblique Milkvine	Endangered	Endangered	Flowers late April -October
Sensitive Species**		Special Concern Species*	Endangered	Flowers May - June; identifiable throughout growing season

PA Fish and Boat Commission

RESPONSE:

No impact is anticipated to threatened and endangered species and/or special concern species and resources.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

RESPONSE:

No impacts to federally listed or proposed species are anticipated. Therefore, no further consultation/coordination under the Endangered Species Act (87 Stat. 884, as amended; 16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq. is required. Because no take of federally listed species is anticipated, none is authorized. This response does not reflect potential Fish and Wildlife Service concerns under the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act or other authorities.

* Special Concern Species or Resource - Plant or animal species classified as rare, tentatively undetermined or candidate as well as other taxa of conservation concern, significant natural communities, special concern populations (plants or animals) and unique geologic features.

** Sensitive Species - Species identified by the jurisdictional agency as collectible, having economic value, or being susceptible to decline as a result of visitation.

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) (see AGENCY CONTACT INFORMATION). 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 (but not USFWS).

*If information was requested by USFWS, applicants must email, or mail, project information to IR1_ESPenn@fws.gov to initiate a review. USFWS will not accept uploaded project materials.

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.

Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources

Project Search ID: PNDI-781939

PNDI Receipt: project_receipt_neiswonger_maggie_lynn_un_781939_FINAL_2.pdf

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>.

Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources

Project Search ID: PNDI-781939

PNDI Receipt: [project_receipt_neiswonger_maggie_lynn_un_781939_FINAL_2.pdf](#)

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

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 Fish and Boat Commission

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

PA Game Commission

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

7. PROJECT CONTACT INFORMATION

Name: Sherman Bloom
Company/Business Name: GeoTech Engineering Inc.
Address: 4031 Allport Cutoff
City, State, Zip: Morrisdale PA 16858
Phone: (814) 342-7090 Fax: (814) 342-7099
Email: sbloom@geotech-engineering.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.

Sherman Bloom
applicant/project proponent signature

10/19/2023
date



 BUREAU OF FORESTRY

July 27, 2023

PNDI Number: 781939

Version: Final_1; 3/16/23

Sherman Bloom
 GeoTech Engineering
 4031 Allport Cutoff
 Morrisdale, PA 16858
 Email: sbloom@geotech-engineering.com (hard copy will not follow)

Re: Neiswonger – Maggie Lynn Underground Mine (2023)
 Deemston Township, Washington County, PA

Dear Sherman,

Thank you for the submission of the Pennsylvania Natural Diversity Inventory (PNDI) Environmental Review Receipt Number 781939 (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.

No Impact Anticipated (with Avoidance Measure)

PNDI records indicate species or resources under DCNR's jurisdiction are located in the vicinity of the project. However, based on the information you submitted concerning the nature of the project, the immediate location, and our detailed resource information, and the Avoidance Measure detailed below, DCNR has determined that no impact is likely. No further coordination with our agency is needed for this project.

Avoidance Measure: A botanical survey conducted by GeoTech Engineering during the 2018 field season documented a population of running buffalo clover (*Trifolium stoloniferum*; PA Endangered; Globally Vulnerable) within the previously proposed surface mining permit area (PNDI 664082). The population was avoided and buffered. Please continue to avoid impacting this location. It is DCNR's understanding that the surface mining permit area has not changed since our review of PNDI 664082. Our office does not approve of any additional surface impacts at this time.

Note: This project impacts the Tenmile Creek Valley Natural Heritage Area, a site of global significance. At this particular location along the slopes of Tenmile Creek, Yellow Oak - Redbud Woodland, an ecological community of concern, provides habitat for running buffalo clover and tall larkspur (*Delphinium exaltatum*; PA Endangered; Globally Vulnerable). DCNR supports moving the current mining operation underground if it will avoid additional surface impacts to remaining woodland along the slopes of Tenmile Creek.

Recommended Best Management Practices:

- Use a conservative approach to project design that minimizes permanent and temporary disturbances to soil and native vegetation. This will conserve habitat and limit opportunities for invasive plants.
- Clean boot treads, tools, 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 worksites.

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Version: Final_1; 3/16/23

- Use clean project materials (e.g., weed-free straw) or materials native to the worksite to avoid introducing invasive species from contaminated sources.
- Revegetate or cover disturbed soil and stockpiles quickly 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. More information about invasive plants 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, use a riparian seed mix when reseeding along a waterway. The Bureau of Forestry Planting & Seeding Guidelines can be found at the following link 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 habitat restoration (e.g., forest, meadow, wetland, etc.). More information about lawn conversion can be found at the following link: <https://www.dcnr.pa.gov/Conservation/Water/LawnConversion/Pages/default.aspx>
- Plant forest buffers where trees were historically present along streams, wetlands, and bodies of water. Buffers should be a minimum of 35 feet in width (ideally at least 100 feet in width). Where trees are not appropriate (e.g., powerline rights-of-way), buffer with native shrubs and herbaceous plants. More information about riparian buffers can be found at the following link: <https://www.dcnr.pa.gov/Conservation/Water/RiparianBuffers/Pages/default.aspx>
- Manage road/utility rights-of-way, median strips, edges, and other green spaces for diverse native plant communities and wildlife (e.g., monarch butterfly). In seed mixes, include wildflowers that have overlapping bloom periods and provide forage for pollinators throughout the growing season. Avoid blanket herbicide applications; instead, spot-treat undesirable tall woody vegetation and invasive weeds. Where mowing is necessary, reduce frequency to once every few years during the dormant season (i.e., after first frost in late fall and before bird nesting in early spring), leaving some refugia for overwintering wildlife.
- Monitor for invasive plants before, during, and after project activities and promptly control any identified infestations. Frequent monitoring allows for early detection and rapid response.

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 Jason Ryndock, Ecological Information Specialist, by phone (717-705-2822) or via email (c-jryndock@pa.gov).

Sincerely,



Greg Podnieszinski, Section Chief
Natural Heritage Section

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 BUREAU OF FORESTRY

July 19, 2022

 PNDI Number: 744670
 Version: Final_1; 10/19/21

Sherman Bloom
GeoTech Engineering
 4031 Allport Cutoff
 Morrisdale, PA 16858
 Email: sbloom@geotech-engineering.com (hard copy will not follow)

Re: Neiswonger - Maggie Lynn Underground Mine
Deemston, Morgan Township; Greene, Washington County, PA

Dear Sherman Bloom,

Thank you for the submission of your field survey for Pennsylvania Natural Diversity Inventory (PNDI) Environmental Review Receipt Number 744670 (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.

No Impact Anticipated per Avoidance, Mitigation, and Monitoring

Between the summer of 2018 and 2022 GeoTech Engineers have been monitoring a reported population of *Trifolium stoloniferum* (Running Buffalo Clover; PA Endangered) upslope from the edge of the mining impact area. During the 2021 and 2022 monitoring reports no individuals were seen at the previously known location. It is assumed that population, therefore, no longer exists, and thus mining activities will no longer have an impact on the population. No further coordination with our agency is needed for this project.

Recommended Best Management Practices:

- Use a conservative approach to project design that minimizes permanent and temporary disturbances to soil and native vegetation. This will conserve habitat and limit opportunities for invasive plants.
- Clean boot treads, tools, 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 worksites.
- Use clean project materials (e.g., weed-free straw) or materials native to the worksite to avoid introducing invasive species from contaminated sources.
- Revegetate or cover disturbed soil and stockpiles quickly 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. More information about invasive plants 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, use a riparian seed mix when reseeding along a waterway. The Bureau of Forestry Planting & Seeding Guidelines can be found at the following link for recommendations: http://www.docs.dcnr.pa.gov/cs/groups/public/documents/document/dcnr_20031083.pdf

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PNDI Number: 744670
Version: Final_1; 10/19/21

- 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 habitat restoration (e.g., forest, meadow, wetland, etc.). More information about lawn conversion can be found at the following link: <https://www.dcnr.pa.gov/Conservation/Water/LawnConversion/Pages/default.aspx>
- Plant forest buffers where trees were historically present along streams, wetlands, and bodies of water. Buffers should be a minimum of 35 feet in width (ideally at least 100 feet in width). Where trees are not appropriate (e.g., powerline rights-of-way), buffer with native shrubs and herbaceous plants. More information about riparian buffers can be found at the following link: <https://www.dcnr.pa.gov/Conservation/Water/RiparianBuffers/Pages/default.aspx>
- Manage rights-of-way for diverse native plant communities and wildlife (e.g., monarch butterfly). In seed mixes, include wildflowers that have overlapping bloom periods and provide forage for pollinators throughout the growing season. Avoid blanket herbicide applications; instead, spot-treat undesirable tall woody vegetation and invasive weeds. Where mowing is necessary, reduce frequency to once every few years during the dormant season (i.e., after first frost in late fall and before bird nesting in early spring), leaving some refugia for overwintering wildlife.
- Monitor for invasive plants before, during, and after project activities and promptly control any identified infestations. Frequent monitoring allows for early detection and rapid response.

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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