



Pennsylvania Fish & Boat Commission

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

July 26, 2021

IN REPLY REFER TO
PNDI# 734429

Moody & Associates, Inc.
Jordan Bell
11548 Cotton Road
Meadville, Pennsylvania 16335

RE: Species Impact Review (SIR) – Rare, Candidate, Threatened and Endangered Species
PNDI Search No. 734429
Big Sewickley Creek
BEAVER County: Economy Borough

Dear Jordan Bell:

This responds to your inquiry about a Pennsylvania Natural Diversity Inventory (PNDI) Internet Database search on Big Sewickley Creek in Beaver County. 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 Pennsylvania Natural Diversity Inventory (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.

While no conflict was detected through the PNDI system, it has been brought to our attention that a threatened or endangered species is present in the project vicinity. The below species was detected in 2019 and a lag time between data collection and incorporation into the review tool, resulted in a “No Known Impact” letter. As noted on all PFBC PNDI response letters, “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”. This letter shall be considered a formal PFBC species impact review for the Big Sewickley Creek water withdrawal project.

Southern Redbelly Dace (*Chrosomus erythrogaster*, PA Threatened)

The Southern Redbelly Dace is known to inhabit areas proximal to the project vicinity. These fish utilize shallow riffles to spawn during the summer months and are extremely sensitive to siltation and

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loss of habitat due to low water levels. We are concerned that withdraws from the Sewickley Creek Watershed could have adverse effects on Southern Redbelly Dace populations. We recommend that an alternative water source be used to eliminate conflict with this imperiled species. If however, use of an alternative site is not possible, we request that justification for use of Big Sewickley Creek be provided; additionally, an on-site field view should be scheduled to discuss the project plans and address concerns.

If conflicts still exist, PFBC may request the completion of in-depth studies to provide base-line data that can be used to ensure the protection of Southern Redbelly Dace in the watershed.

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 Dakota Raab at 814-359-5117 and refer to the PNDI # 734429. Thank you for your cooperation and attention to this important matter of species conservation and habitat protection.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Dakota Raab".

Dakota Raab, Fisheries Biologist
Resource Extraction Section

DR/dn