



# COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA PENNSYLVANIA GAME COMMISSION

2001 Elmerton Avenue  
Harrisburg, PA 17110-9797

Wildlife Habitat Management  
717-787-6818

December 30, 2016

**PGC ID Number: 201508270201 Revision**

Natalie Shearer  
AECOM  
Foster Plaza 6  
681 Anderson Drive, Suite 400  
Pittsburgh, PA 15220  
natalie.shearer@aecom.com

Re: Shell Pipeline Company, LP – Northeast Ethane Pipeline (*Revision*)  
Large Project PNDI Review  
Beaver, Allegheny, & Washington Counties, PA

Dear Ms. Shearer,

Thank you for submitting your Pennsylvania Natural Diversity Inventory (PNDI) Large Project Environmental Review request. 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. This letter is an update to the letter issued on May 13, 2016 based on the Northern Harrier Survey Report submitted on December 22, 2016.

### **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 threatened, endangered, and species of special concern may be associated with your project. Therefore, additional measures are necessary to avoid potential impacts to the species listed below:

<b>Scientific Name</b>	<b>Common Name</b>	<b>PA Status</b>
<i>Asio flammeus</i>	Short-eared Owl	ENDANGERED
<i>Circus cyaneus</i>	Northern Harrier	THREATENED
<i>Lasionycteris noctivagans</i>	Silver-haired Bat	SPECIAL CONCERN

### **Next Steps**

#### Short-eared Owl

Short-eared owl presence/absence surveys were conducted on the requested survey areas during 2016. One short-eared owl was observed during the surveys, however as only a single observation

was made during the survey period, it is determined that no impact to short-eared owls is likely from this project.

### Northern Harrier

Northern harrier presence/absence surveys were conducted on the requested survey areas during 2016. A total of 67 northern harrier observations were made during the two surveys, with 35 of the observations during the northern harrier survey period. Based on the unusually high number of observations at these locations, the PGC recommends avoiding construction within the 1000 foot buffer, identified on the attached habitat map, during northern harrier breeding season, April 15 through August 31. To avoid impacts to northern harrier, all construction in these areas should occur between September 1 and April 14.

The PGC is also recommending that Shell Pipeline Company, LP use the following seed mix within areas identified in the PGC Survey Area Map to ensure the establishment of beneficial herbaceous habitat for grassland species post-construction:

Species	Common Name	Seed/Acre	Percent Live Seed
<i>Avena sativa – spring planting</i>	annual oats	30lb	
<i>Lolium multiflorum- fall planting</i>	annual ryegrass	10lb	
<i>Schizachyrium scoparium</i>	little bluestem	4 lbs	10-67
<i>Sorghastrum nutans</i>	indian-grass	2 lbs	10-50
<i>Bouteloua curtipendula</i>	side-oats grama	1 lb	5-25
<i>Panicum virgatum</i>	switchgrass	1 lb	10-12
<i>Rudbeckia triloba plus another*</i>	black-eyed susan	¼ lb	1-5, each
<i>Coreopsis tripteris</i>	tall tickseed	1 oz	1-5
<i>Chasmanthium latifolium</i>	sea-oats	1lb	1-30
<b>Straw Mulch – NO HAY</b>			

\**Rudbeckia triloba* plus another *Rudbeckia* sp. that is appropriate for site conditions

### Conservation Measures

Silver-haired bats are a species of special concern, and therefore, not a target species for additional surveys. However, because of their ecological significance the following seasonal restriction is suggested to avoid potential impacts to roosting silver-haired bats:

- All trees or dead snags greater than 5 inches in diameter at breast height that need to be harvested to facilitate the project (including any access roads or off-ROW work spaces) should be cut between November 1<sup>st</sup> and March 31<sup>st</sup>.

National Wetland Inventory Mapping (NWI) and/or aerial photos suggest that wetlands are located within the project area. The PGC is requesting that the final project avoid, or at least minimize to the greatest practical extent, any adverse impacts to these resources and their associated wildlife habitat.

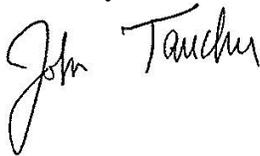
This response represents the most up-to-date summary of the PNDI data files and is valid for two (2) years from the date of this letter. An absence of recorded information does not necessarily

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](http://www.naturalheritage.state.pa.us).

Sincerely,



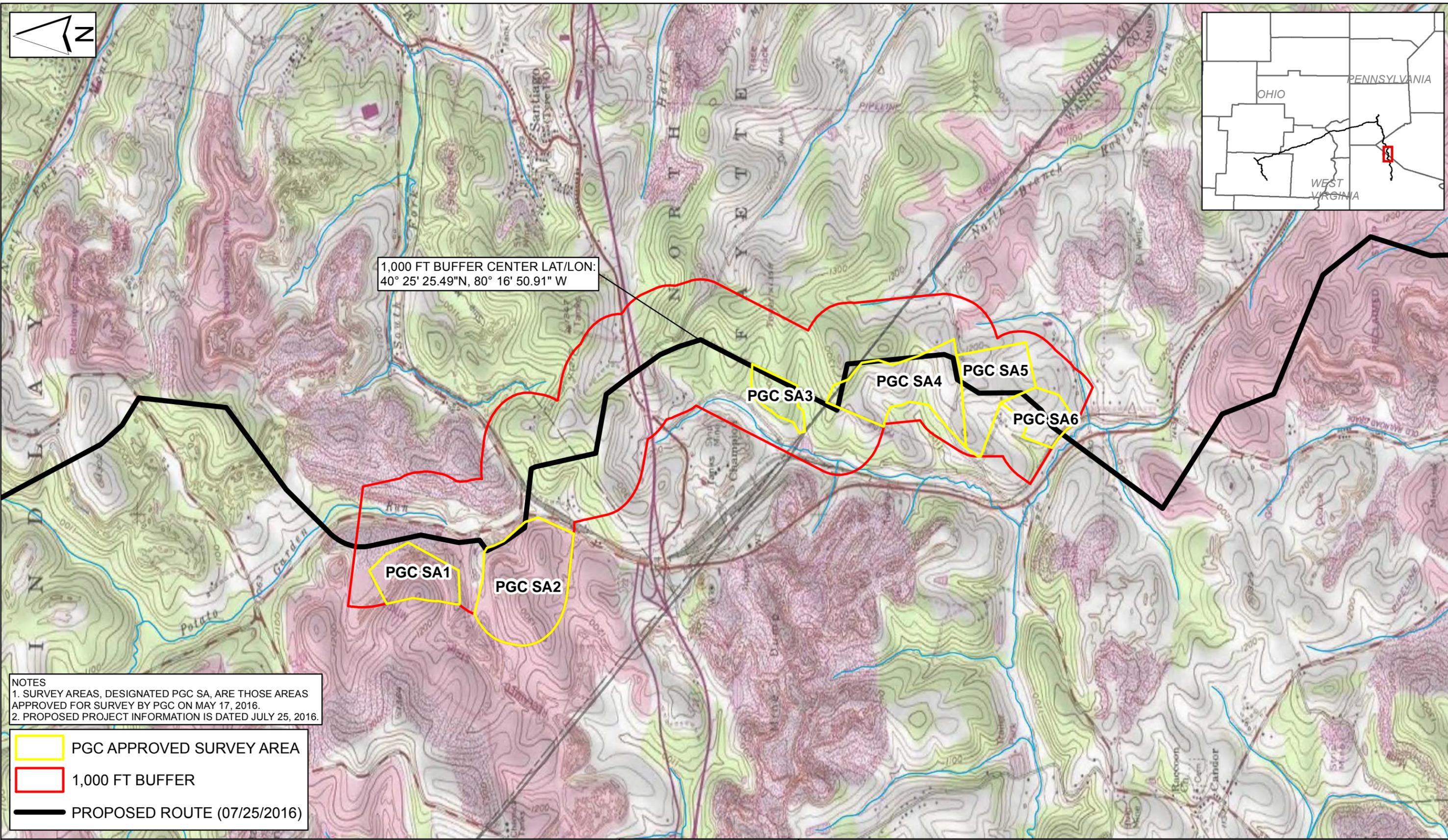
John Taucher  
Division of Environmental Planning & Habitat Protection  
Bureau of Wildlife Habitat Management  
Phone: 717-787-4250, Extension 3632  
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A PNHP Partner



JWT/jwt

cc: Anderson  
Trusso  
Brauning  
Gross  
Barber  
Turner  
Librandi Mumma  
H:\OIL&GAS\_PNDI\_Reviews\Southwest Region



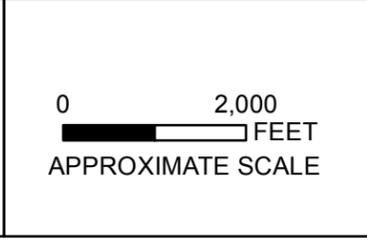
1,000 FT BUFFER CENTER LAT/LON:  
40° 25' 25.49"N, 80° 16' 50.91" W

**NOTES**  
 1. SURVEY AREAS, DESIGNATED PGC SA, ARE THOSE AREAS APPROVED FOR SURVEY BY PGC ON MAY 17, 2016.  
 2. PROPOSED PROJECT INFORMATION IS DATED JULY 25, 2016.

- PGC APPROVED SURVEY AREA
- 1,000 FT BUFFER
- PROPOSED ROUTE (07/25/2016)

**USGS QUADRANGLE: CLINTON, PENNSYLVANIA**  
 1,000 FT BUFFER CENTER LAT/LON: 40° 25' 25.49" N, 80° 16' 50.91" W  
 FINDLAY AND NORTH FAYETTE TOWNSHIPS, ALLEGHENY COUNTY AND  
 ROBINSON TOWNSHIP, WASHINGTON COUNTY

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**AECOM**  
 FOSTER PLAZA 6  
 681 ANDERSEN DRIVE  
 SUITE 400  
 PITTSBURGH, PA 15220

**SHORT-EARED OWL/NORTHERN HARRIER  
 PRESENCE/ABSENCE SURVEY  
 FIGURE 1 LOCATION MAP**

SHELL PIPELINE COMPANY, LP  
 FALCON ETHANE PIPELINE SYSTEM

DRAWN BY: CMG	CHECKED BY: ATB	DATE: 11/21/2016
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