



COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA PENNSYLVANIA GAME COMMISSION

2001 Elmerton Avenue
Harrisburg, PA 17110-9797

Wildlife Habitat Management
717-787-6818

August 10, 2017

PGC ID Number: 201508270201 Revision

Natalie Shearer
AECOM
Foster Plaza 6
681 Anderson Drive, Suite 400
Pittsburgh, PA 15220
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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 December 22, 2016 based on additional information provided in August 2017.

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:

Scientific Name	Common Name	PA Status
<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 that all work proposed between Potato Garden Run Road in Findlay Township, Allegheny County and State Route 980 in Robinson Township, Washington County be avoided during northern harrier breeding season, April 15 through August 31. To avoid impacts to northern harrier, all construction within 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
Straw Mulch – NO HAY			

**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 1st and March 31st.

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.

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
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A PNHP Partner



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