

Greene, Patty

From: Denick, Roger <Roger.Denick@stantec.com>
Sent: Monday, February 20, 2012 3:28 PM
To: Denick, Roger
Subject: FW: 12-065; Proposed Pipeline in Vinton, Gallia & Meigs Counties (Project No. 173520065)

From: Mitch, Brian [<mailto:Brian.Mitch@dnr.state.oh.us>]
Sent: Thursday, February 16, 2012 2:26 PM
To: Carter, Kim
Cc: Asnani, Kashmira
Subject: 12-065; Proposed Pipeline in Vinton, Gallia & Meigs Counties (Project No. 173520065)



ODNR COMMENTS TO Kim Carter, Senior Environmental Scientist, Stantec Consulting Inc., 1500 Lake Shore Drive, Suite 100, Columbus, Ohio 43204

Project: The proposed project involves the installation of a pipeline. The pipeline is for water supply only and will utilize an approximate 50' easement between the Ohio River and the southeast portion of Vinton County.

Location: The study area is located in portions of Meigs, Gallia and Vinton Counties.

The Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) has completed a review of the above referenced project. These comments were generated by an inter-disciplinary review within the Department. These comments have been prepared under the authority of the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act (48 Stat. 401, as amended; 16 U.S.C. 661 et seq.), the National Environmental Policy Act, the Coastal Zone Management Act, Ohio Revised Code and other applicable laws and regulations. These comments are also based on ODNR's experience as the state natural resource management agency and do not supersede or replace the regulatory authority of any local, state or federal agency nor relieve the applicant of the obligation to comply with any local, state or federal laws or regulations.

Fish and Wildlife: The ODNR, Division of Wildlife (DOW) has the following comments.

The project is within the range of the Indiana bat (*Myotis sodalis*), a state and federally endangered species. The following species of trees have relatively high value as potential Indiana bat roost trees: Shagbark hickory (*Carya ovata*), Shellbark hickory (*Carya laciniosa*), Bitternut hickory (*Carya cordiformis*), Black ash (*Fraxinus nigra*), Green ash (*Fraxinus pennsylvanica*), White ash (*Fraxinus americana*), Shingle oak (*Quercus imbricaria*), Northern red oak (*Quercus rubra*), Slippery elm (*Ulmus rubra*), American elm (*Ulmus americana*), Eastern cottonwood (*Populus deltoides*), Silver maple (*Acer saccharinum*), Sassafras (*Sassafras albidum*), Post oak (*Quercus stellata*), and White oak (*Quercus alba*). Indiana bat habitat consists of suitable trees that include dead and dying trees of the species listed above with exfoliating bark, crevices, or cavities in upland areas or riparian corridors and living trees of the species listed above with exfoliating bark, cavities, or hollow areas formed from broken branches or tops. If suitable trees occur within the project area, these trees must be conserved. If suitable habitat occurs on the project area and trees must be cut, cutting must occur between September 30 and April 1. If suitable trees must be cut during the summer months of April 2 to September 29, a net survey must be conducted in May or June prior to cutting. Net surveys shall incorporate either two net sites per square kilometer of project area with each net site containing a minimum of two nets used for two consecutive nights, or one net site per kilometer of stream within the project limits with each net site containing a minimum of two nets used for two consecutive nights. If no tree removal is proposed, the project is not likely to impact this species.

The project is within the range of the Sheepnose (*Plethobasus cyphus*), a state endangered and federal proposed endangered mussel, the Fanshell (*Cyprogenia stegaria*), a state and federally endangered mussel, the pink Mucket (*Lampsilis orbiculata*), a state and federally endangered mussel, the washboard (*Megaloniais nervosa*), a state endangered mussel, the snuffbox (*Epioblasma triquetra*), a state endangered and federal endangered mussel, the butterfly (*Ellipsaria lineolata*), a state endangered mussel, the Ohio Pigtoe (*Pleurobema cordatum*), a state endangered mussel, the long-solid (*Fusconaia maculata maculata*), a state endangered mussel, the little spectaclecase (*Villosa lienosa*), a state endangered mussel, the monkeyface (*Quadrula metanevra*), a state endangered mussel, and the yellow sandshell (*Lampsilis teres*), a state endangered mussel. If there is a history of mussels near the proposed project area, it may be necessary for a professional malacologist approved by the DOW to conduct a mussel survey in the project area. Surveys are to be done within six months before in-water work. If mussels that cannot be avoided are found in a project area, as a last resort, the DOW may recommend a professional malacologist collect and relocate the mussels to suitable and similar habitat upstream of the proposed project. The mussel survey must be conducted using standard mussel survey methodologies to include hand grabbing, snorkeling, and the use of SCUBA equipment if depths preclude efficient sampling by other methods. The survey should include excavation of two to three, one-quarter meter quadrants to a depth of at least 10 cm to search for juvenile mussels, and any located must be relocated along with the adult specimens. Individual adult mussel specimens must be marked when relocated. Juveniles are not to be marked and will not be part of future monitoring efforts. If mussels are relocated, it is recommended the recipient site be monitored in two years to determine survivorship. Monitoring must follow the same survey protocol used during the relocation effort, and all marked individuals must be tallied. If no in-water work is proposed in perennial streams, the project is not likely to impact these species.

The project is within the range of the American burying beetle (*Nicrophorus americanus*) a state and federal endangered beetle. Due to the habitat requirements of this species, the project is not likely to impact this species.

The project is within the range of the black bear (*Ursus americanus*), a state endangered species, and the bobcat (*Lynx rufus*), a state endangered species. Due to the mobility of these species, the project is not likely to have an impact on these species.

The project is within the range of the bald eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*), a state threatened species. However, the Ohio Biodiversity Database currently has no records of this species near the project area.

The project is within the range of the Eastern hellbender (*Cryptobranchus alleganiensis alleganiensis*), a state endangered amphibian currently being evaluated for Federal Candidate status. A statewide survey has not been completed for this species. A lack of records does not indicate the species is absent from that area. Therefore, if in-water work in perennial streams is proposed for this project, a survey conducted by an approved herpetologist may be required to determine the presence or absence of the species. If no in-water work is proposed, the project is not likely to impact this species.

The project is within a county where current records exist for the timber rattlesnake (*Crotalus horridus horridus*), a state endangered and federal species of concern. Due to the project's proximity to current records, a habitat survey may be required on the proposed site. The survey must be done by a professional herpetologist approved by the DOW. Unless the herpetologist determines that the presence of the timber rattlesnake is highly unlikely, a presence/absence survey will be required.

The project is within the range of the Ohio lamprey (*Ichthyomyzon bdellium*), a state endangered fish. The DOW recommends no in-water work in perennial streams at least April 15 to June 30 to reduce impacts to indigenous aquatic species and their habitat. If no in-water work is proposed, the project is not likely to impact this species.

The project is within the range of the blue corporal (*Ladona deplanata*), a state endangered dragonfly. Wetland impacts must be avoided in order to avoid potential impacts to this species.

The project is also within the range of the Eastern spadefoot toad (*Scaphiopus holbrookii*), a state endangered species. This species is found in areas of sandy soils that are associated with river valleys. Breeding habitats may include flooded agricultural fields or other water holding depressions. Based on its close proximity to known sites for this species, if the type of habitat described above exists at the project site, the DOW recommends an Eastern spadefoot toad habitat survey be done to determine the potential for impacts to this species. Because of their fossorial habits, unpredictable breeding season, and short larval period, the survey should only be conducted by a herpetologist approved by the ODNR, Division of Wildlife.

The ODNR, Ohio Biodiversity Database has records for rare or endangered species at this project site, as shown in the attached shapefile. The files are projected in NAD83 Ohio State Plane South. The units are feet. This data will not be published or distributed beyond the scope of the project description on the data request form without prior written permission of the Biodiversity Database Program. Records included in the "data" layer may be for rare and endangered plants and animals, geologic features, high quality plant communities and animal assemblages. Fields included are scientific and common names, state and federal statuses, as well as managed area and date of the most recent observation. State and federal statuses are defined as: E = endangered, T = threatened, P = potentially threatened, SC = species of concern, SI = special interest, A = recently added to inventory, status not yet determined, FE =

federal endangered, FT = federal threatened, FPE = federal potentially endangered, FC = federal candidate and FSC = federal species of concern.

Our inventory program has not completely surveyed Ohio and relies on information supplied by many individuals and organizations. Therefore, a lack of records for any particular area is not a statement that rare species or unique features are absent from that area.

Geological Survey: The ODNR, Division of Geological Survey recommends that the contractor check for potential Abandoned Underground Mines (AUMs), abandoned oil & gas wells, and reclaimed or unreclaimed strip mining at the site. Some local fine-grained soils and bedrock formations along steep slopes also may be prone to landslides and slumping, especially when saturated.

ODNR appreciates the opportunity to provide these comments. Please contact Brian Mitch at (614) 265-6378 if you have questions about these comments or need additional information.

Brian Mitch, Environmental Review Manager
Ohio Department of Natural Resources
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Office: (614) 265-6378
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brian.mitch@dnr.state.oh.us

Greene, Patty

From: Carter, Kim <Kim.Carter@stantec.com>
Sent: Friday, March 01, 2013 2:38 PM
To: brian.mitch@dnr.state.oh.us
Cc: Greene, Patty; Denick, Roger; Kiser, James; Rodgers, Brad
Subject: Rolling Hills Generating, LLC- Threatened and Endangered Species Coordination
Attachments: ODNR Cover Letter.PDF

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Due By: Wednesday, March 06, 2013 10:00 AM
Flag Status: Flagged

Brian,

As described in the cover letter attached, please use the link below to access the threatened and endangered species habitat assessment which also includes supporting documentation of surveys completed for the Indiana bat and mussel species known to occur in or near the project area. We look forward to working with you to complete threatened and endangered species coordination and if you have any problems accessing these reports please let me know.

Automatic Login

FTP site link: <ftp://s0315084601:1383527@ftptmp.stantec.com>

By clicking on the link above (or pasting the link into Windows Explorer) you will be automatically logged into your FTP site.

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Stantec

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March 1, 2013
File: 173520065

Brian Mitch
Ohio Department of Natural Resources
Environmental Services Section
2045 Morse Road, Building E-3
Columbus, OH 43229-6693

Reference: Threatened and Endangered Species Coordination for the Proposed Rolling Hills Generating, LLC Conversion and Pipeline Project, Gallia, Meigs, and Vinton Counties, Ohio

Dear Mr. Mitch,

Rolling Hills Generating, LLC (RHG) is proposing to construct two water pipelines within a 17-mile long alignment, a water intake structure, and a return water outfall at the Ohio River in Gallia, Meigs, and Vinton Counties, Ohio. RHG plans to expand the current facility, which includes the conversion from a simple cycle to a combined cycle electric generating facility. The Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) completed a review of the proposed project and provided comments through email correspondence on 16 February 2012. It was requested that a habitat assessment be conducted on habitats throughout the project area, which includes the RHG facility site, the proposed alignment to the Ohio River at a location just downstream of the Village of Middleport lagoons, and areas along the Ohio River riverfront from the Village of Middleport lagoons upstream to just south of the Village of Middleport (See included *Threatened and Endangered Species Habitat Assessment for the Proposed Rolling Hills Generating, LLC Conversion and Pipeline Project in Gallia, Meigs, and Vinton Counties, Ohio* report). This was completed in an effort to determine if the project area supports suitable habitat for any federal or state listed threatened or endangered species, prior to approval of the proposed project. The proposed project will require both federal and state permits; therefore, this information was prepared to assist in coordination with the ODNR in compliance with applicable state laws and regulations and to address comments received from your office.

Based on communications with ODNR, the following species are those in which a habitat assessment was conducted during this effort: Indiana bat (*Myotis sodalis*), American burying beetle (*Nicrophorus americanus*), eastern spadefoot toad (*Scaphiopus holbrookii*), timber rattlesnake (*Crotalus horridus*), blue corporal (*Ladona deplanata*), black bear (*Ursus americanus*), bobcat (*Lynx rufus*), bald eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*), eastern hellbender (*Cryptobranchus alleganiensis alleganiensis*), Ohio lamprey (*Ichthyomyzon bdellium*), and numerous freshwater mussels, including the butterfly (*Ellipsaria lineolata*), clubshell (*Pleurobema clava*), fanshell (*Cyprogenia stegaria*), little spectaclecase (*Villosa lienosa*), long-solid (*Fusconaia maculata maculata*), monkeyface (*Quadrula metanevra*), Ohio pigtoe (*Pleurobema cordatum*), pink mucket (*Lampsilis orbiculata*), sheepnose (*Plethobasus cyphus*), snuffbox (*Epioblasma triquetra*), washboard (*Megaloniaias nervosa*), and yellow sandshell (*Lampsilis teres*).

Reference: Threatened and Endangered Species Coordination for the Proposed Rolling Hills Generating, LLC Conversion and Pipeline Project, Gallia, Meigs, and Vinton Counties, Ohio*Indiana Bat*

The entire project area provides potential suitable summer habitat for the Indiana bat. A summer Indiana bat mist netting survey was performed between July and August of 2012. This survey was completed by Federally permitted biologists and followed the USFWS's (2007) recommended guidelines (See included *Indiana Bat (Myotis sodalis) Mist Net Survey for the Proposed Rolling Hills Generating, LLC Conversion and Pipeline Project, Gallia, Meigs, and Vinton Counties, Ohio* report). Despite the sampling effort, no Indiana bats were captured. In addition, there were eleven underground abandoned mine portals observed within the project area or adjacent to the project area (within 1,000 feet of the centerline). Each mine portal was evaluated from the entrance and then monitored with acoustical bat detectors for two nights to determine if bats were occupying them. It was determined that three of the mine portals showed evidence of bats using them with the recording of at least 50 calls per night. The data that was collected from the detectors will be coordinated with USFWS and ODNR in a separate report (See included *Endangered Bat Winter Habitat Assessment for the Proposed Rolling Hills Generating, LLC Conversion and Pipeline Project, Gallia, Meigs, and Vinton Counties, Ohio* report). Although it is not possible to determine with absolute certainty the absence of Indiana bats within the project area, the lack of Indiana bat captures at mist net site locations suggests their probable absence during the summer reproductive season within the project area.

American Burying Beetle

Due to the variability in habitats used by the American burying beetle, potential habitat for the American burying beetle could occur in small areas throughout the project area. In the above referenced email correspondence from your office dated 16 February 2012, it was acknowledged that due to the habitat requirements of this species, the proposed project is not likely to impact this species. In addition, in an email correspondence dated 12 December 2012 with Angela Boyer (USFWS), it was determined that only projects occurring within a 10-mile radius of the Waterloo Wildlife Management Area release site in Athens County and the Wildcat Hollow release site on the Wayne National Forest in Perry County require consultation under Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act. The closest release site to the project area is at Waterloo Wildlife Management Area in Athens County which is approximately 19 miles north of the project area. Since this species is not known to travel over great distances and tends to remain in areas that provide them the best habitat (Personal communication with Angela Boyer on 10 December 2012) and because the project area is outside the 10-mile radius, no additional consultation with USFWS should be required for the American burying beetle unless additional new information becomes available for the species. Therefore, based on communications with federal and state agencies, the proposed project is not likely to impact this species.

Eastern Spadefoot Toad

Potential eastern spadefoot toad habitat that was observed in the project area occurred in areas along the floodplains of the Ohio River in Meigs County. Most of the areas adjacent to the Ohio River provided potential burrowing habitat for the eastern spadefoot toad due to soils in these areas. Soils in these areas include Cidermill silt loam (CkA) and Nolin silt loam (No) which are sandy to silty loam soils that are not compacted and facilitate burrowing. Potential breeding habitat for the eastern spadefoot toad was also present in the areas consisting of large wetland complexes, water-filled road ruts, and ephemeral ponds. Based on the habitat assessment and the known locations of eastern spadefoot toad occurrences, it is most likely that spadefoots are present within the project area.

Reference: Threatened and Endangered Species Coordination for the Proposed Rolling Hills Generating, LLC Conversion and Pipeline Project, Gallia, Meigs, and Vinton Counties, Ohio*Timber Rattlesnake*

Potential timber rattlesnake habitat occurred in the southeastern portion of the proposed pipeline in areas with young to mature mixed mesophytic forests in the form of traditional and non-traditional habitats. Traditional habitats included areas containing solar exposed rock outcrops that provided open rock for potential rookeries and hibernaculum. Some of these outcrops were located several hundred feet upslope of the proposed alignment along old mine benches but still provided low quality habitat. Non-traditional habitat in the form of mammal holes, rootrots, and crevices in the ground most likely exist in the project area but are difficult to evaluate. Based on the habitat assessment, potential habitat occurs in small fragmented forested areas compared to the large contiguous areas the timber rattlesnake prefers. Due to the fragmented nature of the forests in this portion of the pipeline, impacts to the timber rattlesnake are not anticipated.

Blue Corporal Dragonfly

Potential blue corporal habitat that was observed in the project area includes perennial stream channels, large wetland complexes, and isolated ponds within open areas or riparian forests that provide habitat for both juvenile and adult blue corporal dragonflies. Potential habitat for the blue corporal was observed in nine areas throughout the proposed project. Potential habitat includes streams and wetlands that provide a water source for reproduction and the large open areas allow for foraging along forested areas and large stream channels. Although potential habitat was observed within the project area this habitat was of low to moderate quality. During the planning phase of the proposed project RHG was able to avoid impacting nearly half of the streams and wetlands that provided potential habitat for this species. It is not anticipated that the blue corporal will be impacted by the proposed project.

Black Bear

Potential habitat observed within the project area occurred mostly in the southern portion of the pipeline alignment where the terrain is rugged in nature compared to the northern portion of the alignment. The southern portion of the alignment still contains young to mature mixed mesophytic forests and/or early successional forest as compared to the northern portions where much of the forest was removed by surface mining and/or agriculture. Habitats observed included mature mixed mesophytic forests and early successional forests exhibiting dense to moderately dense midstory and shrub layers allowing for large amounts of foraging areas for the black bear. No dens were observed in the project area, but some of the abandoned underground mines and shady talus slopes associated with mining benches could provide den sites. A black bear was observed in Areas 123 and 124 within the past four years (personal communication with private landowner, Mr. Mark Hood, on 10 September 2012). The construction of the proposed project may cause temporary shifts in black bears home range, but will not kill individuals, or cause long-term effects. However, it is anticipated and further referenced in the email correspondence from your office dated 16 February 2012, that due to the mobility of black bears, the proposed project is not likely to have an impact on this species.

Bobcat

Potential habitat observed within the project area occurred throughout the project area where forested (mature and early successional) conditions occurred. However, the highest quality habitat occurs in the

Reference: Threatened and Endangered Species Coordination for the Proposed Rolling Hills Generating, LLC Conversion and Pipeline Project, Gallia, Meigs, and Vinton Counties, Ohio

southern portion of the pipeline alignment where the terrain is rugged in nature. The southern portion of the project area contains a variety of heavily forested habitat types. Habitats observed included mature mixed mesophytic forests and early successional forests exhibiting dense to moderately dense midstory and shrub layers providing bobcats with their preferred prey and hunting cover. No dens were observed in the project area, but large downed logs, talus slopes, mine high walls, and abandoned underground mines could serve as den sites. The construction of the proposed project may cause temporary shifts in the bobcats home range, but will not kill individuals, or cause long-term effects. However, it is anticipated and further referenced in the email correspondence from your office dated 16 February 2012, that due to the mobility of bobcats, the proposed project is not likely to have an impact on this species.

Bald Eagle

Potential habitat observed within the project area occurred along the Ohio River within the riparian floodplain forested strips running along the bank, however no nests were observed during the field visit. There are no known eagle nests in or near the project area (ODNR and personal communication with Keith Lott with USFWS on 18 December 2012). Therefore, based on the habitat assessment and the known locations of bald eagle nests the proposed project is not likely to impact this species.

Eastern Hellbender

Hellbenders prefer shallow, swift flowing perennial streams with little turbidity where they can hide during the day under large rocks. Most perennial streams within the project area had slow flow and very limited cover within the channel. One perennial stream, Leading Creek, provided potential habitat for the eastern hellbender. Leading Creek is a large perennial stream channel that flows year around and provides areas of cover within the channel. Water quality within this section of stream most likely is not good enough to sustain a population of eastern hellbenders. RHG plans to directionally bore Leading Creek; therefore, the proposed project is not likely to have an impact on this species.

Ohio Lamprey

Eleven perennial streams located within the project area were evaluated for potential habitat for the Ohio lamprey. Nine of these streams ranged from 5 – 20 ft in width and dominated by sand, gravel, cobble, and bedrock substrates and exhibited low flow and/or no flow with isolated shallow pools at the time of the field visit. Due to the lack of flow and or water quality issues associated with mining and agricultural practices these streams do not provide habitat for aquatic fish species. One perennial stream channel, Leading Creek, provided potential habitat for the Ohio lamprey within the project area. Ephemeral and intermittent stream channels do not provide enough flow throughout the year to maintain fish populations. RHG plans to directionally bore Leading Creek; therefore, the proposed project is not likely to have an impact on this species.

Mussel Species

Eleven mussel species were evaluated in this habitat assessment, including the butterfly, clubshell, fanshell, little spectaclecase, long-solid, monkeyface, Ohio pigtoe, pink mucket, sheepnose, snuffbox, washboard, and yellow sandshell. One hundred and twenty-two intermittent and ephemeral streams were found within the

Reference: Threatened and Endangered Species Coordination for the Proposed Rolling Hills Generating, LLC Conversion and Pipeline Project, Gallia, Meigs, and Vinton Counties, Ohio

project area. These streams ranged from 1 – 5 ft in width and were high gradient, headwater streams dominated by sand, gravel, and detritus substrates with little to no flow observed at the time of the field visit. Due to the lack of flow, these streams do not provide habitat for aquatic mussel species. Eleven perennial streams located within the project area were evaluated for potential mussel habitat. Nine of these streams ranged from 5 – 20 ft in width and dominated by sand, gravel, cobble, and bedrock substrates and exhibited low flow and/or no flow with isolated shallow pools at the time of the field visit. Due to the lack of flow and or water quality issues associated with mining and agricultural practices these streams do not provide habitat for aquatic mussel species. One perennial stream, Leading Creek, provided potential habitat for aquatic mussel species. Leading Creek is a large river that drains into the Ohio River. The river channel is approximately 90 ft wide with relatively deep water.

A freshwater mussel survey was completed between 17 September and 26 September 2012 in the Ohio River adjacent to Leading Creek and 1,397 live mussels comprising 22 species were found (See included *Ohio River Freshwater Mussel Survey for the Proposed Rolling Hills Generating, LLC Conversion and Pipeline Project in Gallia, Meigs, and Vinton Counties, Ohio* report). No federally endangered species were found but a substantial portion of the live animals were designated as endangered, threatened, or of concern in Ohio. The most numerous species, three-horned wartyback (*Obliquaria reflexa*), is designated as threatened by the State of Ohio and accounted for 469 individuals or about 34 percent of the live animals observed. The State threatened black sandshell (*Ligumia recta*) was also very numerous and accounted for 10 percent of the live animals captured. Other State listed species included butterfly, monkeyface, Ohio pigtoe, washboard, pocketbook (*Lampsyllis ovata*), round pigtoe (*Pleurobema sintoxia*), and deertoe (*Truncilla truncata*). We are assuming due to the proximity of known mussel locations in the Ohio River that Leading Creek provides potential habitat for mussel species since the proposed crossing is located approximately 400 ft (121.9 m) upstream from the confluence with Ohio River. Due to water depth and discolored water, habitat assessments could not determine if appropriate substrate was present in Leading Creek at the proposed crossing. RHG plans to directionally bore Leading Creek; therefore, no impacts to these species is expected in Leading Creek.

Based on our determinations please provide guidance if additional surveys are required to complete coordination with ODNR. Stantec is transmitting four (4) final reports referenced in this letter to assist in your review of this proposed project. Please use the FTP site link provided to access these reports. Please contact us if you need hard copies of these reports. We look forward to your review of these materials.

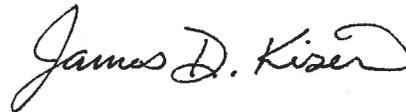
If you have any questions, comments or concerns, please contact James Kiser or myself via our contact information below or Patricia Greene, Rolling Hills Generating, LLC, at (402) 691-9553 or PGreene@tenaska.com at your convenience.

Respectfully,

STANTEC CONSULTING SERVICES INC.

March 1, 2013
Page 6 of 6

Reference: Threatened and Endangered Species Coordination for the Proposed Rolling Hills Generating, LLC Conversion and Pipeline Project, Gallia, Meigs, and Vinton Counties, Ohio



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James Kiser
Senior Biologist
Tel: (502) 396-3199
James.Kiser@stantec.com

Attachment: Please use the FTP site link to access the following reports:

Report: Indiana Bat (*Myotis sodalis*) Mist Net Survey for the Proposed Rolling Hills Generating, LLC Conversion and Pipeline Project, Gallia, Meigs, and Vinton Counties, Ohio

Report: Endangered Bat Winter Habitat Assessment for the Proposed Rolling Hills Generating, LLC Conversion and Pipeline Project, Gallia, Meigs, and Vinton Counties, Ohio

Report: Threatened and Endangered Species Habitat Assessment for the Proposed Rolling Hills Generating, LLC Conversion and Pipeline Project in Gallia, Meigs, and Vinton Counties, Ohio

Report: Ohio River Freshwater Mussel Survey for the Proposed Rolling Hills Generating, LLC Conversion and Pipeline Project in Gallia, Meigs, and Vinton Counties, Ohio

cc. Patricia Greene, Rolling Hills Generating, LLC
Roger Denick, Stantec Consulting
Brad Rodgers, Stantec Consulting

Greene, Patty

To: Greene, Patty
Subject: RE: Rolling Hills Generating, LLC- Threatened and Endangered Species Coordination

From: Mitch, Brian [<mailto:Brian.Mitch@dnr.state.oh.us>]

Sent: Monday, April 15, 2013 9:55 AM

To: Carter, Kim

Cc: Greene, Patty <PGreene@TENASKA.com> (PGreene@TENASKA.com); Denick, Roger; Kiser, James; Rodgers, Brad

Subject: RE: Rolling Hills Generating, LLC- Threatened and Endangered Species Coordination

Kim,

The Division of Wildlife offers the following comments regarding the habitat assessment for Rolling Hills Generating, LLC Proposed Conversion and Pipeline project.

Indiana Bat: Although no Indiana bats were detected during mist net surveys, the DOW recommends the applicant conduct seasonal clearing of habitat trees (October 1 through March 31).

Eastern Spadefoot: We recommended in our comment letter to Stantec (ONDR #12-065, dated February 16, 2012) that habitat surveys for the Eastern spadefoot and timber rattlesnake be conducted by herpetologist approved by the DOW (see attached list).

The DOW recommends that the applicant submit a mitigation/avoidance plan for spadefoots. This plan should be prepared by one of the DOW approved herpetologist. The DOW request a copy of this mitigation plan for review and comment.

Timber rattlesnake: If timber rattlesnakes are encountered during construction, work should immediately be stopped and the DOW should be contacted.

Mussel Species: The DOW recommends the applicant find an alternative that will avoid the potential taking of mussels. If this is not possible, the DOW recommends a professional malacologist collect and relocate the mussels to suitable and similar habitat upstream of the proposed project.

Thanks for the opportunity to comment.

Brian Mitch, Compliance Coordinator
Ohio Division of Wildlife
2045 Morse Road, Building G-2
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Office: (614) 265-6715
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From: Carter, Kim [<mailto:Kim.Carter@stantec.com>]

Sent: Friday, March 01, 2013 3:38 PM

To: Mitch, Brian

Cc: Greene, Patty <PGreene@TENASKA.com> (PGreene@TENASKA.com); Denick, Roger; Kiser, James; Rodgers, Brad

Subject: Rolling Hills Generating, LLC- Threatened and Endangered Species Coordination

Brian,

As described in the cover letter attached, please use the link below to access the threatened and endangered species habitat assessment which also includes supporting documentation of surveys completed for the Indiana bat and mussel species known to occur in or near the project area. We look forward to working with you to complete threatened and endangered species coordination and if you have any problems accessing these reports please let me know.

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Kim Carter

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APPROVED HERPETOLOGISTS

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