



June 22, 2012

John Kessler
Ohio Department of Natural Resources
Office of Real Estate
2045 Morse Rd, Bldg F-1
Columbus, OH 43229

Reference: Inland Pipeline
Inland Tiffin-Easton Line
Hopewell, Clinton, Eden, Bloom, Venice, Richmond, New Haven,
Ripley,
Greenwich, Ruggles, Troy, Sullivan, Jackson, Congress, Canaan,
Milton,
Chippewa Townships; Town of Willard; Seneca, Huron, Ashland, and
Wayne
Counties, OH

Subject: Threatened/Endangered Species Project Review

STV Project No.: 38-15486

Dear Mr. Kessler:

STV Incorporated (STV) was retained by Inland Pipeline to perform an environmental investigation associated with a proposed pipeline repair. The proposed project involves replacing the current 8-inch petroleum products line with a new 12-inch line. The Inland Tiffin-Easton Line will run from an existing facility on the northwest side of Tiffin, OH approximately 82 miles in a west-southwesterly direction to an existing facility near Easton, OH. Land use within the project is a mix of agricultural land, forested land, herbaceous and scrub/shrub rangeland. Topographically the route is characterized by flat rolling fields and hills.

The proposed alignment will be installed in existing Sunoco Pipeline, LP (SLPL) right-of-way (ROW), with the exception of the western most 4.5 miles which will be constructed within a new ROW. Temporary workspace for construction of the pipeline will be 75-100 feet with a final permanent ROW of 50 feet. Total impact acreage for construction is approximately 950 acres.

The purpose of this letter is to determine if there are any species of concern within the Inland Pipeline project area. The project location map is shown on the Tiffin North, Tiffin South, Bloomville, Attica, Centerton, Willard, Greenwich, New London, Nova, Ashland North, Polk, West Salem, Creston, Rittman, and Doylestown USGS topographical maps. Previous coordination was conducted with Greg Schneider at the Division of Wildlife. Copies of this coordination are enclosed.



Thank you for your prompt attention to this request. If you have any questions, please contact me at 610-385-8359.

Sincerely,

Wendy K. Schellhamer

Wendy Schellhamer
Environmental Scientist

Wendy K. Schellhamer

From: Kessler, John [John.Kessler@dnr.state.oh.us]
Sent: Wednesday, July 25, 2012 11:02 AM
To: Wendy K. Schellhamer
Subject: FW: 12-420 Comments on Tiffin to Easton Pipeline



ODNR COMMENTS TO: Wendy Schellhamer, STV; WENDY.SCHELLHAMER@stvinc.com

Project: Inland Tiffin to Easton Pipeline

Location: Seneca, Huron, Ashland and Wayne 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 Division of Wildlife (DOW) has the following comments.

The Division of Wildlife recommends no in-water work from at least April 15 to June 30 to reduce impacts to aquatic species and their habitat.

Seneca County

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, 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 rayed bean (*Villosa fabalis*), a state endangered and federal endangered mussel species. 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, the project is not likely to impact this 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.

Huron County

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, 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 a county where current records exist for the Eastern massasauga (*Sistrurus catenatus*), a state endangered and a Federal candidate snake species. Due to the project's proximity to current records, and since wetlands are within the vicinity of the project, a habitat survey is 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 eastern massasauga is highly unlikely, a presence/absence survey will be required.

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.

Ashland County

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, 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 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. We recommend that the proposed project be developed to minimize indirect stream impacts (e.g., preserve wide riparian buffers, maximize erosion control, maximize permeable surfaces and storm-water retention).

The project is within the range of the trumpeter swan (*Cygnus buccinator*), a state endangered bird. A statewide survey has not been completed for this species. A lack of records does not indicate the species is absent from the area. Trumpeter swans prefer large marshes and lakes ranging in size from 40 to 150 acres. They like shallow wetlands one to three feet deep with a diverse mix of plenty of emergent and submergent vegetation and open water. Therefore, if this type of wetland habitat will be impacted, construction must be avoided in this habitat during the species' nesting period of May 1 to August 1. If this type of wetland habitat will not be impacted, the project is not likely to impact this species.

Wayne County

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, 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 a county where current records exist for the Eastern massasauga (*Sistrurus catenatus*), a state endangered and a Federal candidate snake species. Due to the location of the project, the project is not likely to impact this 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 bobcat (*Lynx rufus*), a state endangered species. Due to the mobility of this species, the project is not likely to have an impact on this species.

The project is within the range of the American bittern (*Botaurus lentiginosus*), a state endangered bird. A statewide survey has not been completed for this species. A lack of records does not indicate the species is absent from the area. Nesting bitterns prefer large undisturbed wetlands that have scattered small pools amongst dense vegetation. They occasionally occupy bogs, large wet meadows, and dense shrubby swamps. If this type of habitat will be impacted, construction must be avoided in this habitat during the species' nesting period of May 1 to July 31. If this type of habitat will not be impacted, the project is not likely to impact this species.

The project is within the range of the sandhill crane (*Grus canadensis*), a state endangered species. A statewide survey has not been completed for this species. A lack of records does not indicate the species is absent from the area. Sandhill cranes are primarily a wetland-dependent species. On their wintering grounds, they will utilize agricultural fields; however, they roost in shallow, standing water or moist bottomlands. On breeding grounds they require a rather large tract of wet meadow, shallow marsh, or bog for nesting. Therefore, if grassland, prairie, or wetland habitat will be impacted, construction must not occur in this habitat during the species' nesting period of April 1 to September 1. If this habitat will not be impacted, the project is not likely to have an impact on this species.

The project is within the range of the trumpeter swan (*Cygnus buccinator*), a state endangered bird. A statewide survey has not been completed for this species. A lack of records does not indicate the species is absent from the area. Trumpeter swans prefer large marshes and lakes ranging in size from 40 to 150 acres. They like shallow wetlands one to three feet deep with a diverse mix of plenty of emergent and submergent vegetation and open water. Therefore, if this type of wetland habitat will be impacted, construction must be avoided in this habitat during the species' nesting period of May 1 to August 1. If this type of wetland habitat will not be impacted, the project is not likely to impact this species.

The project is within the range of the Eastern hellbender (*Cryptobranchus alleganiensis alleganiensis*), a state endangered amphibian currently being evaluated for Federal Candidate status. We recommend that the proposed project be developed to minimize indirect stream impacts (e.g., preserve wide riparian buffers, maximize erosion control, and maximize permeable surfaces and storm-water retention).

Please note that wetlands known to contain an individual of or documented occurrences of federal or state-listed threatened or endangered plant or animal species are most likely considered high quality, Category 3 wetlands by the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency.

If you have any questions, please contact Brian Mitch at (614) 265-6715. Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Scenic Rivers: The Division of Watercraft has the following comments.

The Division of Watercraft, Scenic Rivers Program has completed an inter-Departmental review of the Inland Tiffin to Easton Pipeline Project. The proposed pipeline will affect the Sandusky State Scenic River; the Scenic Rivers program takes great interest in any activities that may affect the river and appreciates the opportunity to comment on the proposed project. The following recommendations and comments concerning the project are as follows:

1. **Project Design**

- A. **Method:** The Sandusky State Scenic River crossing should be accomplished through the use of directional drilling or other sub-surface installation techniques if possible. Sufficient geotechnical data should be developed for the river crossing site showing the soils, geology and stratification of the proposed crossing locations. An exploration plan should be submitted to Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) showing the proposed locations of the pipeline crossing and have a detailed description of the subsurface features along the crossing to ensure a successful bore. Such data can be extremely important to facilitate crossings on the state scenic rivers, especially in areas such as the Sandusky River watershed where rivers flow through glaciated regions of the state and have channels and river valleys comprised of predominately unconsolidated glacial materials which can be highly susceptible to frac-outs.
- B. **Stream Crossing of the Sandusky State Scenic River and its Perennial Tributaries (Boring):** For stream crossings that are completed through directional drilling or other sub-surface installation techniques, bore pits should be located beyond the 100 year flood elevation of the Sandusky State Scenic River and its tributaries. This will greatly reduce the possibility of bore pits being inundated during a flood event. All boring and excavated materials from the bore pit should also be stored beyond the boundary of the 100 year floodplain to reduce the risk of these materials being inundated and washed back into the river or tributary. Any stock piles of excavated materials should be protected with appropriate sediment and erosion controls to reduce runoff. The bore pits should be reclaimed and seeded and mulched within two days following the completion of the crossing. Completion of the crossing should be defined as the placement of pipe in the tunnel from bore pit to bore pit, each end of the crossing. Bore pits and other disturbed areas located within the wooden riparian corridor of the Sandusky State Scenic River or its tributary streams should also be re-vegetated with native tree species. A list of native trees can be provided by the Regional Scenic River Manager.
- C. **Stream Crossings of Intermittent/Ephemeral Tributaries (Non-boring):** Where the trench crosses a stream with a solid or layered rock bottom, the contractor should saw cut the trench edges to a minimum depth of 4 inches. The trench should be backfilled with concrete encasement as indicated in the stream crossing detail on the approved plans. The contractor should also provide necessary means to prevent fracturing of the bedrock due to equipment crossings.
- D. **In-Stream Work and Open Trench Stream Crossings:** Stream crossings should be constructed during dry periods or periods of extremely low flow (August 1 through October 31). Stream crossings should not be performed from March 15-June 30 unless the streambed is dry. Stabilization of the crossing area should be conducted immediately upon completion of the stream crossing. Sod or erosion control matting should be utilized to stabilize stream banks at crossing locations. Stream banks and bottoms should be restored to previously existing contours and elevations. Stream elevations should be determined before in-stream work commences to ensure that all fill material and debris is completely removed before construction is completed. Restoration should also include tree plantings with species from the approved scenic river tree list.
- E. **Trench Opening:** No more than 500 feet of trench should be open at any given time. Trench opening, installation of pipe and backfilling should occur so as to minimize the amount of area disturbed. All open trenches should immediately be backfilled and seeded and mulched within seven days of completion of pipe installation.
- F. **Mitigation for Stream Impacts:** In addition to the preceding best management practices outlined above, additional mitigation may be required to offset the negative impacts to the Sandusky State Scenic River and its tributaries caused during the installation of the pipe line. Any mitigation required under Sections 401 and 404 of the Clean Water Act for Scenic River stream crossings should be implemented as protection or restoration projects within the associated watershed, preferably directly on the designated Scenic River sections. This will help to ensure the long term protection of these sensitive, high quality river systems. The Regional Scenic Rivers Manager may be able to assist with the identification and implementation of local mitigation projects.

2. **Directional Drill Best Management Practices**

- A. **Work Hours:** The drilling operation will be during daylight hours in order to facilitate monitoring of frac-outs in the Sandusky State Scenic River.
- B. **Operation:** The drilling operator must use the minimal amount of pressure or gallons per minute of drilling fluid necessary for the drilling, to help reduce the probability of frac-outs.
- C. **Inspection:** During the operation, the drilling crew must monitor the Sandusky State Scenic River for any frac-outs. The river should be inspected every half hour and the time recorded in a logbook that can be reviewed by other inspectors.

3. **Best Management Practices**

- A. **Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP):** A Notice of Intent (NOI) must be submitted to obtain coverage under a General Stormwater Permit, if the project will result in a land disturbance greater than one acre. The NOI must be submitted 21 days prior to construction. Copies of NOI forms and Instructions can be found at <http://epa.ohio.gov/dsw/storm/stormform.asp>. A SWPPP must be developed specific for the project. The SWPPP must be developed to address sediment and erosion controls in compliance with the General Storm Water Permit Associated with Construction Activities. The SWPPP must be submitted for review to the attention of the appropriate district office's Ohio EPA Storm Water Coordinator, prior to construction.
- B. **Erosion Controls:** A sediment and erosion control plan should be developed for the site and implemented before earthwork commences. Once the site is cleared and grubbed, temporary sediment and erosion controls should be implemented and maintained until final site stabilization is achieved. Particular attention should be given to any drainage ways, ditches and streams that could convey sediment laden water directly to the Sandusky State Scenic River. Properly installed (framed and entrenched) sediment fence should be utilized around the work site perimeter and storm water inlets. Appropriately designed rock-check dams and other erosion controls should be utilized in ditches and drainage ways. All temporary sediment and erosion controls should be removed upon completion of site stabilization. Any area where the utility line has been completely installed, stabilization will be required within seven days. All denuded areas, including ditches, culverts and river/stream banks, should be permanently seeded and mulched (or fiber mat) immediately upon completion of earthwork or temporarily seeded and mulched (or fiber mat). For the disturbed areas within 120 feet of the stream, temporary and/or permanent erosion control cover should be required within two days following the installation of the utility line. Temporary seeding and mulching should be no more than 500 feet behind the point of installation of the utility line at any given time. Straw bales should not be permitted as a form of erosion control. Access roads constructed on slopes should be graveled to prevent erosion from surface runoff.
- C. **Storage of Fuels, Petrochemicals and Equipment:** Idle equipment, petrochemicals and toxic/hazardous materials should not be stored in the floodplain or near any drainage ways, ditches or streams that could convey such materials to the Sandusky State Scenic River or any of its tributaries. Petrochemicals and toxic/hazardous materials should not be discharged into any State Scenic River, their floodplains or any of their tributary drainage ways, ditches or streams. Refueling of equipment should not occur in floodplains or near any tributary drainage ways, ditches or streams.
- D. **Spill Prevention:** The permittee should develop a Spill Prevention Countermeasure and Contingency Plan (SPCC) in the event of a spill or break in an equipment hydraulic line, which may discharge into waters of the state. All spills must be reported to the Ohio Spill Line (1-800-282-9378) in accordance with OAC 3750.06.
- E. **Trench and Groundwater De-watering:** No wastewater of any kind should be directly discharged into the Sandusky State Scenic River or any of its tributary streams, drainage ways or ditches. Any water pumped from open trenches should be passed through a sediment impoundment structure that provides for complete settling of all suspended solids or pumped onto a vegetated area a sufficient distance from the stream so as to provide for complete infiltration. Adequate outlet protection must be provided for each impoundment. There should be no discharges of turbid water to the Sandusky State Scenic Rivers or its tributaries.
- F. **Clearing and Grubbing:** Clearing and grubbing in the areas directly adjacent to any of the stream crossings or the Sandusky State Scenic River should not take place until 72 hours before installation of the utility crossing. All streambank vegetation should be left undisturbed to the maximum extent possible. Areas where vegetation is removed should be re-vegetated with native tree species. Any disturbed streambanks should be returned to previously existing contours and elevations. Trees should be one inch in diameter and balled/ burlap nursery stock. After a full growing season for the trees, any stakes and guide wires should be removed and properly disposed of. Any trees that die during the first growing season should be replaced. Care should be taken not to girdle or scuff tree trunks or damage any standing trees.
- G. **Equipment Crossing:** All equipment crossings should be constructed with washed of non-erodible fill a minimum of three inches in diameter. Equipment or vehicle crossing of all streams without the use of a stabilized non-erodible crossing will be prohibited.

Geological Survey: The Division of Geological Survey offers the following comments.

The contractor should check for potential Abandoned Underground Mines (AUMs), abandoned oil & gas wells, and reclaimed or unreclaimed strip mining along the eastern end of the proposed pipeline project.

ODNR appreciates the opportunity to provide these comments. Please contact John Kessler at (614) 265-6621 if you have questions about these comments or need additional information.

John Kessler, P.E.
Ohio Department of Natural Resources
Office of Real Estate
2045 Morse Rd., Columbus, OH 43229-6605
phone: 614-265-6621
email: john.kessler@dnr.state.oh.us



December 13, 2012

File Code: 28.00

Ohio Department of Natural Resources
Office of Real Estate
2045 Morse Rd.
Columbus, OH 43229-6605

Reference: Sunoco Pipeline, L.P. (as operator of Inland Corporation)
Inland Tiffin to Easton Pipeline Project
Seneca, Huron, Ashland, and Wayne Counties, OH

Subject: Response to Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR),
Division of Wildlife (DOW) Comments

STV Project No.: 38-15486

Dear Mr. Kessler:

STV Energy Services, Inc. (STV) was retained by Sunoco Pipeline, LP (SPLP) to perform an environmental investigation associated with a proposed pipeline. SPLP proposes to install the Inland Tiffin to Easton pipeline. This new 12-inch line will be installed primarily within the existing FM line right-of-way (ROW) from the former Inland Tiffin Junction to the Easton Junction, approximately 82 miles in length. Land use within the project is a mix of agricultural land, forested land, herbaceous and scrub/shrub rangeland. Topographically the route is characterized by flat rolling fields and hills.

STV submitted a request for review to ODNR on June 21, 2012 and received a letter from your office on July 25, 2012 (see attached) detailing action to be taken before and during construction of the proposed pipeline in efforts to minimize environmental impacts. The following letter is our response to each of the comments made by DOW.

The DOW “recommends no in-water work from at least April 15th to June 30th to reduce impacts to aquatic species and their habitat.” In general, streams that are greater than 15 feet wide or of high quality will be directionally drilled. Additionally, many of the streams in the project area are intermittent or ephemeral streams. There are 35 perennial stream crossings, most of which are of low quality. Two perennial streams scored high based on the HHEI system scoring. However, the substrate and location of these streams do not indicate a presence of high quality biological life inhabiting these reaches. The attached table lists the perennial streams in the project area, a description of their existing conditions and the proposed construction methodology. As an additional protection measure to aquatic species, SPLP will maintain Best Management Practices and Erosion and Sedimentation Control measures throughout the duration of construction. Based on the habitat quality of those streams being open trenched, STV feels that impacts to aquatic species is minimal, and requests that no in-water restriction be imposed on this project.

The DOW stated that the Indiana bat's (*Myotis sodalis*) range is within project boundaries. Bat surveys were conducted by a United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) qualified surveyor according to USFWS protocol in July and August of this year. No Indiana bats were found on the Inland Tiffin to Easton Line. An email was received October 11, 2012 stating the concurrence by USFWS with the findings of the Indiana bat surveys. A copy of this email is attached.

The DOW stated that the rayed bean (*Villosa fabalis*) has a range within the Seneca County portion of the project boundaries. There is no history of these mussels within the project area streams based on the USFWS list of endangered mussels and their respective locations. Additionally, there are 18 streams in the project area within Seneca County. Of these streams, eight are perennial, six are ephemeral, and four are intermittent. Three perennial streams will be directionally drilled. The remaining five streams do not have appropriate habitat for the rayed bean. The attached table includes a list of all perennial streams, a description of their habitat, and construction methodology for crossing. Based on the lack of habitat in the perennial streams that are being trenched, STV feels impacts to the rayed bean are unlikely, eliminating the need for presence/absence surveys. The USFWS stated in an email dated December 11, 2012 that they agreed no additional survey work would be required for the rayed bean (see attached).

The DOW stated that the Eastern Massasauga (*Sistrurus catenatus*) range is within project boundaries. Snake surveys were conducted by a USFWS qualified surveyor in October of this year and no Eastern massasauga were found on the Tiffin to Easton Pipeline. A clearance email was received November 21, 2012 stating the concurrence by USFWS with the finding of the Eastern Massasauga surveys. Additionally an email was received from ODNR on December 7, 2012 stating their concurrence with the Eastern Massasauga findings. Copies of these emails are attached.

The bald eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*) and the bobcat (*Lynx rufus*) have ranges that are also within the project boundaries. However, the DOW stated that the bald eagle has no record of being near the project area based on the Ohio Biodiversity Database, and due to the mobility of the bobcat, the project is not likely to have an impact on this species.

The Eastern hellbender (*Cryptobranchus alleganiensis alleganiensis*) is also known to have a range within the Ashland and Wayne County portions of the project boundaries. Hellbenders are found in medium to large perennial streams with rocky substrates. All streams with the capability to provide habitat for this species will be directionally drilled, therefore, this project should have no impact to the Eastern hellbender (see attached table).

The American bittern (*Botaurus lentiginosus*), a state endangered bird, has a range within the project boundaries. Bitterns prefer large undisturbed wetlands that have scattered small pools amongst dense vegetation. They occasionally occupy bogs, large wet meadows, and dense shrubby swamps. Since the pipeline is being constructed mainly within existing ROW, and high qualify/large wetlands (including wetlands with ORAM

scores of 3) are being drilled, American bittern habitat will not be impacted and therefore no direct impacts to the American bittern are anticipated.

The project is within the range of the sandhill crane (*Grus canadensis*). They will utilize agricultural fields, shallow, standing water and moist bottomlands. For breeding grounds they require a rather large tract of wet meadow, shallow marsh, or bog for nesting. Based on the drilling of high quality/large wetlands and with the mobility of the species, direct impacts to this species are not anticipated.

The trumpeter swan (*Cygnus buccinator*) is also known to have a range that includes the project boundaries. The preferred habitat is large marshes and lakes ranging in size from 40 to 150 acres. They like shallow wetlands one to three feet deep with a diverse mix of emergent and submergent vegetation and open water. As previously stated, lakes and/or wetlands of this size/quality will be drilled and direct impacts will not occur.

STV requests your concurrence that no additional investigations are required for this project, and no moratoriums/time of year restrictions will be required to reduce impacts to species of concern. If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact me at 610-385-8359.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Wendy K. Schellhamer". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Wendy K. Schellhamer
Environmental Scientist

Tiffin to Easton Perennial Stream Crossings

| Number | Crossing Number | Stream Name | Designated Use | QHEI/ HHEI Score | Rating | Crossing Methodology | Bed Composition | Stream Habitat Composition | Stream Attribute at Pipeline Crossing | Rayed Bean Habitat (?) | Hellbender Habitat (?) |
|--------|-----------------|---|------------------------------|------------------|--------------|----------------------|--|--|---------------------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|
| 1 | DS19 | Sandusky River | WWH, MWH, PWS, AWS, IWS, PCR | N/A | N/A | HDD | N/A | N/A | N/A | Y | N/A |
| 2 | DS1 | Unnamed Tributary to Honey Creek | N/A | 51 | Class II | Open Trench | 95% Muck/5% Woody Debris | Aquatic Macrophytes, Logs/Woody Debris | Flat flowing water | N | N/A |
| 3 | DS2 | Rock Creek | WWH, AWS, IWS, PCR | N/A | N/A | HDD | N/A | N/A | N/A | Y | N/A |
| 4 | DS10 | Rock Creek | WWH, AWS, IWS, PCR | N/A | N/A | Open Trench | 40% Clay/40% Gravel/20% Cobble | Overhanging Vegetation, Aquatic Macrophytes, Logs/Woody Debris | Standing Water, Muddy | N | N/A |
| 5 | DS13 | Honey Creek | WWH, AWS, IWS, PCR | N/A | N/A | HDD | N/A | N/A | N/A | N | N/A |
| 6 | DS14 | Honey Creek | WWH, AWS, IWS, PCR | N/A | N/A | Open Trench | 50% Sand/50% Gravel | Overhanging Vegetation, Aquatic Macrophytes, Logs/Woody Debris | Standing Water / Interstitial flow | N | N/A |
| 7 | CS12 | Unnamed Tributary to Honey Creek | N/A | 51.5 | Fair | Open Trench | 30% Gravel/30% Silt/20% Sand | Undercut Banks, Overhanging Vegetation, Aquatic Macrophytes, | Standing Water, Muddy | N | N/A |
| 8 | CS13 | Unnamed Tributary to Honey Creek | N/A | 48 | Fair | Open Trench | 30% Hardpan/30% Silt/20% Sand/20% Gravel | Overhanging Vegetation, Aquatic Macrophytes, Logs/Woody Debris | Standing Water | N | N/A |
| 9 | CS11 | Marsh Run | WWH, AWS, IWS, PCR | N/A | N/A | HDD | N/A | N/A | Flat water | N/A | N/A |
| 10 | CS10 | West Branch Huron River | WWH, SSH, AWS, IWS, PCR | N/A | N/A | HDD | N/A | N/A | Flat flowing water | N/A | N/A |
| 11 | CS5 | Unnamed Tributary to the Southwest Branch of the Vermillion River | N/A | 38.5 | Poor | Open Trench | 45% Silt/45% Sand | N/A | Standing Water / Interstitial flow | N/A | N/A |
| 12 | CS2 | Unnamed Tributary to the Southwest Branch of the Vermillion River | N/A | 37.5 | Poor | Open Trench | 30% Sand/30% Gravel/25% Silt | N/A | Standing Water / Interstitial flow | N/A | N/A |
| 13 | CS1 | Unnamed Tributary to the Southwest Branch of the Vermillion River | N/A | 49 | Class II | Open Trench | 50% Sand/25% Gravel | N/A | Standing Water / Interstitial flow | N/A | N/A |
| 14 | BSF | Unnamed Tributary to the Vermillion River | N/A | 54 | Class II | Open Trench | 50% Sand/40% Muck | N/A | Standing Water / Interstitial flow | N/A | N/A |
| 15 | BSG | Unnamed Tributary to the Vermillion River | N/A | 76.5 | Class II/III | Open Trench | 80% Silt/10% Cobble/10% Gravel | N/A | Flat water | N/A | N |
| 16 | BSH | Unnamed Tributary to the Vermillion River | N/A | 48 | Class II | Open Trench | 45% Silt/25% Cobble/25% Gravel | N/a | Flat flowing water | N/A | N |
| 17 | BSK | Unnamed Tributary to the Vermillion River | WWH, AWS, IWS, PCR | N/A | N/A | HDD | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N |
| 18 | BSL | Vermillion River | WWH, SSH, AWS, IWS, PCR | N/A | N/A | Open Trench | 100% Silt | N/A | Standing Water, Muddy | N/A | N |
| 19 | BSM | Unnamed Tributary to the Vermillion River | N/A | 54 | Class II | Open Trench | 100% Silt | N/A | Flat flowing water | N/A | N |

| Number | Crossing Number | Stream Name | Designated Use | QHEI/ HHEI Score | Rating | Crossing Methodology | Bed Composition | Stream Habitat Composition | Stream Attribute at Pipeline Crossing | Rayed Bean Habitat (?) | Hellbender Habitat (?) |
|--------|-----------------|---|--------------------|------------------|--------------|----------------------|--------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|
| 20 | BSN | Unnamed Tributary to the Vermillion River | N/A | 71.5 | Class II/III | Open Trench | 40% Silt/30% Cobble/30% Gravel | N/A | Standing Water / Interstitial flow | N/A | N |
| 21 | BSX | Unnamed Tributary to Orange Creek | N/A | 58 | Good | Open Trench | 30% Gravel/30% Silt/20% Sand | Undercut Banks, Overhanging Vegetation, Aquatic Macrophytes, | Standing Water, Muddy | N/A | N |
| 22 | AS24 | Killbuck Creek | WWH, AWS, IWS, PCR | N/A | N/A | HDD | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N |
| 23 | AS20 | Unnamed Tributary to Killbuck Creek | N/A | 67 | Class II | Open Trench | 50% Silt / 50% Cobble | N/A | Flat Water | N/A | N |
| 24 | AS19 | Unnamed Tributary to Killbuck Creek | N/A | 41 | Class II | Open Trench | 90% Muck / 10% Gravel | N/A | Flat water | N/A | N |
| 25 | AS18 | Unnamed Tributary to Killbuck Creek | N/A | 64 | Class II | Open Trench | 90% Silt / 10% Gravel | N/A | Flat water | N/A | N |
| 26 | AS14 | Killbuck Creek | WWH, AWS, IWS, PCR | N/A | N/A | Open Trench | 45% Gravel/35% | Undercut Banks, Overhanging | Flat water | N/A | N |
| 27 | AS13 | Unnamed Tributary to Chippewa Creek | N/A | 65 | Class II | Open Trench | 65% Silt / 25% Gravel | N/A | Flat water | N/A | N |
| 28 | AS12 | Unnamed Tributary to Chippewa Creek | N/A | 61 | Class II | Open Trench | 80% Muck/ 20% Gravel | N/A | Flat water | N/A | N |
| 29 | AS11 | Unnamed Tributary to Chippewa Creek | N/A | 59 | Class II | Open Trench | 70% Silt/ 30% Gravel | N/A | Flat water | N/A | N |
| 30 | AS10 | Unnamed Tributary to Chippewa Creek | N/A | 68 | Class II | Open Trench | 60% Silt/ 30% Cobble | N/A | Flat water | N/A | N |
| 31 | AS8 | Unnamed Tributary to Chippewa Creek | N/A | 54 | Class II | HDD | 100% Silt | N/A | Flat water | N/A | N |
| 32 | AS6 | Unnamed Tributary to Chippewa Creek | N/A | 41 | Class II | Open Trench | 100% Muck | N/A | Flat water | N/A | N |
| 33 | AS5 | Unnamed Tributary to Chippewa Creek | N/A | 46 | Class II | HDD | 100% Muck | N/A | Flat water | N/A | N |
| 34 | AS4 | Chippewa Creek | WWH, AWS, IWS, PCR | N/A | N/A | HDD | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N |
| 35 | AS2 | Mill Creek | WWH, AWS, IWS, PCR | N/A | N/A | HDD | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N |

*N/A = streams in Counties outside the