



United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

Pennsylvania Field Office
315 South Allen Street, Suite 322
State College, Pennsylvania 16801-4850



February 27, 2006

Theodore Smith
Division of Waste Management
and Environmental Protection
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, DC 20555-0001

RE: USFWS Project #2006-0964

Dear Mr. Smith:

This responds to your letter of January 26, 2006, requesting information about federally listed and proposed endangered and threatened species within the area affected by the proposed riprap erosion barrier project located in Berks County, Pennsylvania. The following comments are provided pursuant to the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (87 Stat. 884; as amended; 16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*) to ensure the protection of endangered and threatened species.

Except for occasional transient species, no federally listed or proposed threatened or endangered species under our jurisdiction are known to occur within the project impact area. Therefore, no biological assessment nor further consultation under the Endangered Species Act are required with the Fish and Wildlife Service. This determination is valid for two years from the date of this letter. If the proposed project has not been fully implemented prior to this, an additional review by this office will be necessary. Also, should project plans change, or if additional information on listed or proposed species becomes available, this determination may be reconsidered. A compilation of certain federal status species in Pennsylvania is enclosed for your information.

This response relates only to endangered or threatened species under our jurisdiction based on an office review of the proposed project's location. No field inspection of the project area has been conducted by this office. Consequently, this letter is not to be construed as addressing potential Service concerns under the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act or other authorities.

Requests for information regarding State-listed endangered or threatened species should be directed to the Pennsylvania Game Commission (birds and mammals), the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission (fish, reptiles, amphibians and aquatic invertebrates), and the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (plants).

To avoid potential delays in reviewing your project, please use the above-referenced USFWS project tracking number in any future correspondence regarding this project.

Please contact Pam Shellenberger of my staff at 814-234-4090 if you have any questions or require further assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David Densmore", with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

David Densmore
Supervisor

Enclosure

Federally Listed, Proposed, and Candidate Species in Pennsylvania

(revised July 27, 2004)

<u>Common Name</u>	<u>Scientific Name</u>	<u>Status¹</u>	<u>Distribution (Counties and/or Watersheds)</u>
MAMMALS			
Indiana bat	<i>Myotis sodalis</i>	E	Hibernacula: Armstrong, Blair, Fayette, Lawrence, Luzerne, Mifflin and Somerset Co. Maternity sites: Blair Co.
BIRDS			
Bald eagle	<i>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</i>	T	Nesting: Armstrong, Berks, Butler, Centre, Chester, Crawford, Dauphin, Erie, Forest, Huntingdon, Lancaster, Lebanon, Lycoming, Mercer, Monroe, Montgomery, Northumberland, Pike, Tioga, Venango, Warren, Wayne and York Co. Winter: near ice-free sections of rivers, lakes and reservoirs (e.g., Delaware River, Pymatuning Reservoir)
Piping plover	<i>Chareidrius melodus</i>	E	Migratory. No nesting in Pennsylvania since 1950s. Designated critical habitat on Presque Isle (Erie Co)
REPTILES			
Bog turtle	<i>Clemmys (Glyptemys) muhlenbergii</i>	T	Adams, Berks, Bucks, Chester, Cumberland, Delaware, Franklin, Lancaster, Lebanon, Lehigh, Monroe, Montgomery, Northampton, Schuylkill and York Co. [Historically found in Crawford, Mercer and Philadelphia Co.]
E. massasauga rattlesnake	<i>Sistrurus catenatus catenatus</i>	C	Butler, Crawford, Mercer and Venango Co. [Historically found in Allegheny and Lawrence Co.]
MUSSELS			
Clubshell	<i>Pleurobema clava</i>	E	French Creek and Allegheny River (and some tributaries) in Clarion, Crawford, Erie, Forest, Mercer, Venango, and Warren Co.; Shenango River (Mercer and Crawford Co.) [Has not been found recently in 13 streams of historical occurrence in Butler, Beaver, Fayette, Greene, Lawrence, Mercer, and Westmoreland Co.]
Dwarf wedgemussel	<i>Alasmidonta heterodon</i>	E	Delaware River (Wayne Co.). [Has not been found recently in streams of historical occurrence in the Delaware River watershed (Bucks, Carbon, Chester, Philadelphia Co.) or Susquehanna River watershed (Lancaster Co.)]
Northern riffleshell	<i>Epioblasma torulosa rangiana</i>	E	French Creek and Allegheny River (and some tributaries) in Clarion, Crawford, Erie, Forest, Mercer, Venango, and Warren Co. [Has not been found recently in streams of historical occurrence, including: Shenango River (Lawrence Co.), Conewango Creek (Warren Co.)]

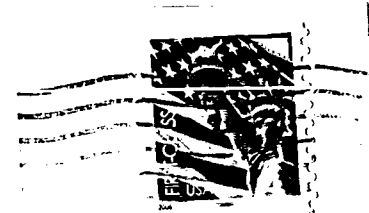
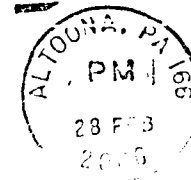
<u>Common Name</u>	<u>Scientific Name</u>	<u>Status</u> ¹	<u>Distribution (Counties and/or Watersheds)</u>
MUSSELS (continued)			
Rayed bean	<i>Villosa fabalis</i>	C	French Creek and Allegheny River (Armstrong, Clarion, Crawford, Erie, Forest, Mercer, Venango, Warren Co.); Cussewago Creek (Crawford Co.). [Has not been found recently in 5 streams of historical occurrence in Armstrong, Lawrence, Mercer and Warren Co.]
Sheepnose	<i>Plethobasus cyphus</i>	C	Allegheny River (Forest and Venango Co.). [Has not been found recently in streams of historical occurrence, including: Allegheny River (Armstrong Co.), Beaver River (Lawrence Co.), Ohio River (Allegheny and Beaver Co.), and Monongahela River (Washington Co.)]
FISH			
Shortnose sturgeon ²	<i>Acipenser brevirostrum</i>	E	Delaware River and other Atlantic coastal waters
PLANTS			
Northeastern bulrush	<i>Scirpus ancistrochaetus</i>	E	Adams, Bedford, Blair, Carbon, Centre, Clinton, Columbia, Cumberland, Dauphin, Franklin, Huntingdon, Lackawanna, Lehigh, Lycoming, Mifflin, Monroe, Perry, Snyder, Tioga, and Union Co. [Historically found in Northampton Co.]
Small-whorled pogonia	<i>Isotria medeoloides</i>	T	Centre, Chester, and Venango Co. [Historically found in Berks, Greene, Monroe, Montgomery and Philadelphia Co.]

¹ E = Endangered; T = Threatened; P = Proposed for listing; C = Candidate

² Shortnose sturgeon is under the jurisdiction of the National Marine Fisheries Service

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