



Pennsylvania Fish & Boat Commission

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Division of Environmental Services
Natural Diversity Section
450 Robinson Lane
Bellefonte, PA 16823-9620
(814) 359-5237 Fax: (814) 359-5175

October 14, 2010

IN REPLY REFER TO
SIR# 35087

BRADLEY WISE
PPL
TWO NORTH NINTH ST
BERWICK, PA 18603

RE: Species Impact Review (SIR) – Rare, Candidate, Threatened and Endangered Species
BELL BEND NUCLEAR POWER PLANT
UPDATE TO SIR 27486
SALEM Township, LUZERNE County, Pennsylvania

Dear Mr. WISE:

I have examined the map accompanying your recent correspondence, which shows the location for the above referenced project. Based on records maintained in the Pennsylvania Natural Diversity Inventory (PNDI) database and our own files, the following rare or protected species are known from the vicinity of the project site:

| <u>Common Name</u> | <u>Scientific Name</u> | <u>PA Status</u> |
|-----------------------|-----------------------------|------------------|
| Northern cricket frog | <i>Acris crepitans</i> | endangered |
| Yellow lampmussel | <i>Lampsilis cariosa</i> | rare |
| Green floater | <i>Lasmigona subviridis</i> | rare |

The Northern cricket frog is a small (less than 2") frog species found in a wide variety of habitats including permanent bodies of water such as slow-moving streams, ponds, lakes, marshes, bogs, and swamps, but also semi-permanent ponds and seasonal forest pools. Breeding occurs from May to August with metamorphosed froglets emerging July to September. The Northern cricket frog occurs in small, isolated populations in eastern Pennsylvania. These small populations are threatened by pollution, and filling/clearing of wetlands and breeding habitat.

If wetlands, waterways, or vernal pools are to be directly or indirectly impacted by the project activity, we will need to conduct a more thorough evaluation of the potential adverse impacts to the northern cricket frog. Please provide us with the following information to assist us with our review: detailed project plans including a project narrative, identification and delineation of wetlands or streams within the direct and indirect impact area, and color photographs (dated, labeled, and keyed to a map) of wetlands, vernal pools, or waterways expected to be impacted. A habitat assessment or presence/absence survey may be requested for the species of concern.

Freshwater mussels are the most imperiled taxonomic group in North America. Nearly half of the species known to occur in the Commonwealth are now extirpated (locally extinct) from Pennsylvania. We

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To protect, conserve and enhance the Commonwealth's aquatic resources and provide fishing and boating opportunities.

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WISE

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are concerned about direct and indirect (i.e., runoff) effects that the proposed project may have on the species of concern. Freshwater mussel species are extremely vulnerable to physical (i.e., siltation, dredging, trenching, rip-rap) and chemical (i.e., pH, temperature, dissolved oxygen, organic contaminants, heavy metals) changes to their aquatic environment. Therefore, we recommend construction techniques that eliminate in-stream work, sedimentation and changes to water quality. I recommend that you avoid any in-stream disturbance or water quality degradation in the Susquehanna River during and after the project installation. Storm sewers and retention basins should be designed so as to minimize/remove all silt from the water before it is released into the river. Strict erosion and sedimentation control measures, as well as best management practices should be employed.

If wetlands or water bodies *are not* to be disturbed by the proposed activity, and provided that best management practices are employed and strict erosion and sedimentation control measures are maintained, I do not foresee any adverse impacts to the species of concern listed above or any other rare or protected species under Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission jurisdiction.

Note that this office performed no field inspection of the project area. Consequently, comments in this letter are not meant to address other issues or concerns that might arise concerning matters under Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission jurisdiction or that of other authorities. If you have any questions regarding this response, please contact Kathy Gipe at 814-359-5186 and refer to the **SIR number at the top of this letter**. Thank you for your cooperation and attention to this matter of nongame species conservation.

Sincerely,



Christopher A. Urban, Chief
Natural Diversity Section

CAU/KDG/mr