



Division of Environmental Planning and Habitat Protection 717-783-5957

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA Pennsylvania Game Commission 2001 ELMERTON AVENUE HARRISBURG, PA 17110-9797

"To manage all wild birds, mammals and their habitats for current and future generations."

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RULES AND DIRECTIVES BRANCH USNRC

August 29, 2012

Chief, Rulemaking, Announcements, and Directives Branch Division of Administrative Services Office of Administration Mail Stop TWB-05-B01M U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission Washington, D.C. 20555-0001

Re: Bell Bend Nuclear Power Plant Project - Request for Consultation and Participation in the Supplemental Scoping Process for the Revised Layout, Salem Township, Luzerne County Preliminary Screening of Alternate Locations - Montour, Luzerne, and Northumberland Counties

To Whom It May Concern,

Thank you for submitting your project to the Pennsylvania Game Commission (PGC) for review. The PGC has screened this project for potential impacts to species and resources of concern under PGC responsibility, which includes birds and mammals only. Please be aware that this letter supersedes that which was issued by the PGC on July 10, 2012 based on additional information regarding alternate project locations. These locations include the Montour site located in Derry Township, Montour County, the Humboldt site located in the Humboldt Industrial Park west of the City of Hazleton, Luzerne County, and the Seedco site located in Coal Township, Northumberland County.

Potential Impact Anticipated

PNDI records indicate species or resources of concern are located in the vicinity of the Bell Bend Nuclear Power Plant project area and alternate sites discussed above. 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 birds and mammals may be associated with your project.

Table with 4 columns: Scientific Name, Common Name, PA Status, Federal Status. Rows include Myotis sodalis (Indiana Bat), Myotis leibii (Eastern Small-footed Myotis), and Myotis septentrionalis (Northern myotis).

Next Steps

Indiana bats are a federally listed endangered species under the jurisdiction of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. As a result, our agency defers comments on potential impacts to Indiana bats to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Additional information is requested so that a more accurate determination can be made. Please provide the following information to the PGC at your earliest convenience.

SUNSI Review Complete Template = ADM-013

E-KIDS = ADM-03 Add = L. Quinn-Willingham (Lmg 1)

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- A signed copy of the PNDI receipt for each location, assuming the projects are small enough to be drawn using the PNDI Environmental Review Tool.
- Project narrative for each location describing where and what activities are proposed.
- Maps of each location illustrating the proposed limit of disturbance, existing and proposed conditions, etc.

Once the above documentation is received and reviewed, the PGC will determine if additional surveys (i.e. bat hibernacula investigations, small-footed bat roost assessment, and bat mist netting with telemetry for state threatened and endangered species, etc.) are needed to further assess the project's potential impacts. Please be aware that an applicant must submit the required PNDI documentation described above to the PGC in order for a formal review to be completed.

Conservation Measure(s)

Regardless of the potential need for additional surveys, the PGC recommends the following seasonal timber restriction to avoid potential impacts to *Myotis leibii*, *Myotis septentrionalis*, and other bat species that may be utilizing the project areas. All trees or dead snags greater than 5 inches in diameter at breast height that need to be harvested to facilitate the project 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 various project areas. The PGC is requesting that the final projects 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 Pennsylvania Natural Diversity Inventory data files. 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.

We appreciate the opportunity to provide these comments at this stage in the planning process. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact me at (717) 783-5957.

Sincerely,



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cc: Pamela Shellenberger, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
File