



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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October 18, 2012

Large Project PNDI Review

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 (BBNPP) Project – Request for Consultation and Participation in
the Supplemental Scoping Process and Preliminary Screening of Alternate Locations
BBNPP Site– Salem Township, Luzerne County, Pennsylvania

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 those that were issued on July 10, 2012 and August 29, 2012 based on additional information regarding this alternate project location and discussions held with the NRC on October 17, 2012. Per discussions with the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) on October 17, 2012, it was explained that the NRC is in the process of completing an impact assessment for the existing BBNPP site and the three alternative locations located within Pennsylvania. With that said, the NRC has been requested that potential impacts for each location be identified for inclusion in the NRC's assessment. Therefore, in an effort to clearly identify potential impacts related to each site, the PGC will issue separate letters for the existing BBNPP site and the three alternative locations within Pennsylvania (known as the Montour site, the Seedco site, and the Humboldt site). This letter is pertaining to the PNDI review that was completed for the BBNPP site located in Salem Township, Luzerne County, Pennsylvania.

Potential Impact Anticipated

PNDI records indicate species or resources of concern are located in the vicinity of the project. 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 the following endangered species may be associated with your project:

Scientific Name	Common Name	PA Status	Federal Status
<i>Myotis sodalis</i>	Indiana Bat	ENDANGERED	ENDANGERED
<i>Myotis leibii</i>	Eastern Small-footed Myotis	THREATENED	N/A
<i>Myotis septentrionalis</i>	Northern myotis	SPECIAL CONCERN	N/A

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.

Additionally, because of their ecological significance, the following seasonal restriction is suggested to avoid potential impacts to *Myotis leibii*, *Myotis septentrionalis*, and other bats within the area. All trees or dead snags greater than 5 inches in diameter at breast height that need to be harvested to facilitate the project (including any access roads or off-R.O.W. work spaces) shall be cut between November 16 and March 31.

Conservation Measure(s)

National Wetland Inventory Mapping (NWI) and/or aerial photos suggest that wetlands may be located within the project area along Walker Run and several unnamed tributaries of the Susquehanna River. The PGC is requesting that the final project 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 PNDI data files and is valid for two (2) years from the date of this letter. 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.

Should the proposed work continue beyond the period covered by this letter, please resubmit the project to this agency as an "Update" (including an updated PNDI receipt, project narrative and accurate map). If the proposed work has not changed and no additional information concerning listed species is found, the project will be cleared for PNDI requirements under this agency for two additional years.

This finding applies to impacts to birds and mammals only. To complete your review of state and federally-listed threatened and endangered species and species of special concern, please be sure that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, and/or the PA Fish and Boat Commission have been contacted regarding this project as directed by the online PNDI ER Tool found at www.naturalheritage.state.pa.us.

Sincerely,



Olivia A. Mowery
Environmental Planner
Division of Environmental Planning & Habitat Protection
Bureau of Wildlife Habitat Management
Phone: 717-787-4250, Extension 3128
Fax: 717-787-6957
E-mail: OMowery@pa.gov

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cc: File