



## United States Department of the Interior



FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE  
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In Reply Refer To:

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Project code: 2025-0062173

Project Name: Browns Ferry SLR

Subject: Concurrence letter for the project named 'Browns Ferry SLR' for the endangered Indiana bat and its critical habitat in the proposed project location, pursuant to the Indiana Bat Determination Key (DKey)

Dear Peyton Doub:

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) received on **July 01, 2025** your effect determination(s) for the 'Browns Ferry SLR' using the Indiana Bat DKey within the Information for Planning and Consultation (IPaC) system. The Service developed this system in accordance with the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (ESA) (87 Stat.884, as amended; 16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.).

Based on your answers and the assistance of the Service's Indiana Bat DKey, you made the following effect determination(s) for the proposed Action:

Species	Listing Status	Determination
Indiana Bat ( <i>Myotis sodalis</i> )	Endangered	NLAA

### Consultation Status

**NLAA Determinations:** NLAA determinations are those for which you made a “may affect – not likely to adversely affect” determination for the species for the proposed Action. Species with NLAA determinations are consistent with the programmatic evaluation in the standing analysis of proposed Actions the Alabama Ecological Services Field Office has identified that typically do not result in significant adverse effects to that species. If you uploaded documents (e.g., survey reports, habitat assessment) to support your “may affect – not likely to adversely affect” (NLAA) determination (these will be listed in the “Qualification Interview” attached to this letter), the Service has 15 calendar days to review those documents and notify you if we determine that those documents are not sufficient to support the determination. If you did not upload supporting documents, the Service has 5 business days to notify you if we determine that the proposed Action does not meet the criteria for a NLAA determination for the species. This verification

period allows the Alabama Ecological Services Field Office to apply local knowledge to evaluation of the Action, as we may identify a small subset of actions having impacts that were unanticipated. In such instances, the Alabama Ecological Services Field Office may request additional information to verify the effects determination reached through the key. If we do not notify you within the specified timeframes, you may accept this letter as the Service's concurrence with any NLAA determination(s) you made through this key.

The Service recommends that your agency contact the Alabama Ecological Services Field Office or re-evaluate the Action in IPaC if: 1) the scope, timing, duration, or location of the Action changes, 2) new information reveals the Action may affect listed species or designated critical habitat, or 3) a new species is listed or critical habitat designated. If any of the above conditions occurs, additional consultation with the Alabama Ecological Services Field Office should take place before project changes are final or resources committed.

In addition to the Indiana bat, the following species and/or critical habitats may also occur in your project area and **are not** covered by this conclusion:

- Eastern Hellbender *Cryptobranchus alleganiensis alleganiensis* Proposed Endangered
- Gray Bat *Myotis grisescens* Endangered
- Monarch Butterfly *Danaus plexippus* Proposed Threatened
- Pink Mucket (pearlymussel) *Lampsilis abrupta* Endangered
- Slackwater Darter *Etheostoma boschungii* Threatened
- Spectaclecase (mussel) *Cumberlandia monodonta* Endangered
- Whooping Crane *Grus americana* Experimental Population, Non-Essential

To address effects to other federally listed or proposed species and/or their designated critical habitat, you can request project-specific review by following the instructions in the "Next Steps" section of your species list letter, or you may use another determination key, if available.

#### **Additional Coordination**

To request additional technical assistance or consultation, please contact the Alabama Ecological Services Field Office . When you contact the office, please provide all relevant site-specific information regarding the proposed Action. The Alabama Ecological Services Field Office will respond within 30 to 60 days of your submittal.

**Action Description**

You provided to IPaC the following name and description for the subject Action.

**1. Name**

Browns Ferry SLR

**2. Description**

The following description was provided for the project 'Browns Ferry SLR':

NRC Subsequent License Renewal for Browns Ferry

The approximate location of the project can be viewed in Google Maps: <https://www.google.com/maps/@34.70701045,-87.11651636225423,14z>



## QUALIFICATION INTERVIEW

1. Does the project intersect the Indiana bat species list area?

**Automatically answered**

*Yes*

2. Will the proposed action involve Federal funding, permitting, or authorization, or will it be carried out by a Federal Agency?

*Yes*

3. Is the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), Federal Railroad Administration (FRA), or Federal Transit Administration (FTA) the lead Federal Agency for this action?

*No*

4. Are you the lead Federal Action Agency or designated non-federal representative requesting concurrence on behalf of the lead Federal Action Agency?

*Yes*

5. Will the proposed Action involve construction or operation of wind turbines?

*No*

6. Will the proposed Action involve blasting, other than a fireworks display?

*No*

7. Will the proposed Action involve a new point source discharge from a facility other than a water treatment plant or storm water system?

*No*

8. Will the proposed Action involve the creation of a new water-borne contaminant source (e.g., leachate pond, pits containing chemicals that are not NSF/ANSI 60 compliant)?

**Note:** For information regarding NSF/ANSI 60 please visit <https://www.nsf.org/knowledge-library/nsf-ansi-standard-60-drinking-water-treatment-chemicals-health-effects>

*No*

9. Will the proposed Action include the removal, replacement, repair and/or maintenance of an existing bridge or culvert?

*No*

10. Will the proposed Action involve perennial stream loss that would require an individual permit under 404 of the Clean Water Act?

*No*

11. Will the proposed Action involve discharge of sediment into a stream?

*No*

12. Does the Action Area contain any caves (including their associated sinkholes, fissures, or other karst features), rockshelters, underground quarries, or abandoned mine portals (including associated underground workings)?

*No*

13. Will the proposed project result in the removal of trees?

*No*

14. Based on the responses you have provided, we believe that the proposed Action is consistent with the type of Actions programmatically evaluated by the Service under the standing analyses that supports this determination key. These Actions typically conclude with "no effect" or "may affect - not likely to adversely affect" determinations for the Indiana bat.

What determination do you want to make for the Indiana bat:

**Note:** IPaC will not provide a concurrence for "no effect" determinations, because there is no statutory requirement to request concurrence from the Service. IPaC will provide concurrence for "May affect – not likely to adversely affect" determinations. If you choose "May affect – likely to adversely affect" or "Unsure," additional coordination with the Service is recommended.

*May affect – not likely to adversely affect (NLAA)*

## **IPAC USER CONTACT INFORMATION**

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