



VOLUME IIB

Attachment 1D

Agency Correspondence

Thomason, Buffy

From: Lott, Keith <keith_lott@fws.gov>
Sent: Thursday, April 16, 2015 9:57 AM
To: Thomason, Buffy
Cc: jennifer.ward@cardno.com; Karen Herrington; Jeff Gosse; christine.allen@ferc.gov; michael.nagy@cardno.com; Kara J. Harris; Patterson, Patricia
Subject: Followup from the Rover Pipeline meeting.
Attachments: 2015 Eastern Hellbender Surveyors - Ohio.pdf; 2015 Ohio Eastern Massasauga Surveyors.pdf

Buffy,

There were several action items from yesterday that I needed to address. If you have any questions regarding these please let me know. ~ Keith

Bat mist-netting:

Radio-telemetry of northern long-eared bats. After talking with other folks in our office we recommend that if northern long-eared bats are captured, a minimum of two bats should be radio tracked at each site. The purpose of this tracking is to determine roost tree locations and so that emergence counts can be conducted; nighttime/foraging telemetry data is not necessary. Male bats are more likely to roost singularly, thus when choosing which bats to radio track priority should be given to reproductively active female bats. Emergence counts should be conducted at each identified roost tree for a minimum of two nights. This information will be important when assessing potential impacts and documenting avoidance and minimization measures for the B.A./B.O.

Eastern Massasauga:

As I mentioned in our meeting yesterday, I wanted to reassess one portion of the mainline for potential impacts to eastern massasaugas. After reviewing the revised route and discussing it with our office lead on massasaugas we would like to see a habitat assessment done for Franklin and Wooster townships in Wayne County, Ohio. Should suitable habitat for this species be present we would recommend a survey be completed. A list of approved surveyors is attached to this email. I would recommend prioritizing this work since if surveys are necessary, they may take some time to complete. Should eastern massasaugas be detected during surveys please contact me in order to discuss options.

Witten Fork:

No federally listed mussels are known to occur within this stream. State listed mussel species may occur and we would recommend coordinating with the ODNR Division of Wildlife as to whether a survey for those species is necessary at the sites where Rover plans to cross this creek.

As stated in our previous letter, eastern hellbender salamanders are found in the Witten Fork. Our recommendation would be for surveyor from the attached list conduct a habitat assessment at the two locations where the pipeline is proposed to cross the Witten Fork. This habitat assessment should be conducted from 50 meters upstream of the proposed crossing, to 150 meters downstream of the proposed crossing. Should suitable habitat be found we would recommend at survey be conducted to determine if hellbenders are present. Should eastern hellbenders be detected during surveys please contact me in order to discuss options.

Bald eagle:

Last week one of our eagle nest monitor volunteers confirmed the approximate location of a new eagle nest close to the proposed pipeline corridor. Based on the approximate location, this nest is about 80 feet from the proposed pipeline corridor. Because the volunteer did not have access to the property I would recommend that a wildlife biologist go out and get GPS coordinates for the nest. The approximate location I was given was 82°24'57.633"W, 40°49'44.818" N. From what I was told the nest is among several great blue heron nests. Once we have a better idea of the location we can address whether a nest disturbance permit may be recommended.

Copperbelly water snake:

The proposed pipeline corridor does not cross any Townships where Copperbelly water snakes are known to occur in Ohio; therefore there will be no impacts to this species in Ohio.

--
Keith Lott
Wildlife Biologist
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
4625 Morse Road, Suite 104
Columbus, Ohio 43230

Phone: (614) 416-8993 ext. 31
Fax: (614) 416-8994

From: Dingledine, Jack <jack_dingledine@fws.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, June 02, 2015 2:37 PM
To: Whittle, Jason
Subject: Re: Revised Rover RTE info

Jason

My message went to by accident before I could review. You can ignore the comment about "communicate that info to Jason". Chris, who reviewed our records is right, we would normally not be concerned about MSB's or Poweshiek based on distance to a known record. However, as we discussed, our office would recommend you evaluate the types of wetlands to be crossed by the project, and you identify any of those that may be considered fens. If fens are found along the route, and you cannot directional drill under those, I would recommend a survey.

Please let me know if you have any more questions.

Jack Dingledine

Deputy Field Supervisor
U.S.Fish and Wildlife Service
East Lansing Field Office
2651 Coolidge Road
East Lansing, MI 48823
(517) 351-6320 (office)
(517) 230-6669 (mobile)
jack_dingledine@fws.gov

On Tue, Jun 2, 2015 at 2:30 PM, Dingledine, Jack <jack_dingledine@fws.gov> wrote:
Hi Jason,

Sorry for the delay in responding. We are very short staffed at the moment. We did review your updated shapefiles and have this to report:

No known eagle locations in proximity to the line (based on the 2014 survey)

No MSB or Poweshiek locations near as well. The closest MSB is ~6.5 miles away in west central Washtenaw.

A lot of close Massasauga hits in SW Livingston.

How do you want to communicate that info to Jason? I'm not sure we would normally be concerned with the butterflies based on distance.

Jack Dingledine

Deputy Field Supervisor
U.S.Fish and Wildlife Service
East Lansing Field Office
2651 Coolidge Road
East Lansing, MI 48823
(517) 351-6320 (office)
(517) 230-6669 (mobile)
jack_dingledine@fws.gov

On Fri, May 22, 2015 at 9:45 AM, Whittle, Jason <JWhittle@trcsolutions.com> wrote:

Just checking on the status of the RTE species info from the revised route I sent last week.

Thanks and have a great long weekend.

Jason B Whittle
Senior Ecologist



1382 West Ninth Street, Suite 200. Cleveland, OH 44113

T: 216.344.3072 | F: 216.344.3073 | C: 330.472.8210

[LinkedIn](#) | [Twitter](#) | [Blog](#) | www.trcsolutions.com