



Illinois Department of Natural Resources

One Natural Resources Way Springfield, Illinois 62702-1271
<http://dnr.state.il.us>

Pat Quinn, Governor
Marc Miller, Director

April 8, 2010

Russell Tanton
Illinois Emergency Management Agency
1035 Outer Park Drive
Springfield, IL62704-4462

RE: Streator acquisition and erosion control
IDNR Project #1008204

Dear Mr. Tanton:

This letter concerns the Endangered Species Consultation for the demolition of two commercial structures and the stabilization of the eroding Vermilion River streambank along Water Street in the southeast quarter of Section 26, Township 31 North, Range 3 East in Streator, LaSalle County. This project was submitted for consultation in accordance with the *Illinois Endangered Species Protection Act* [520 ILCS 10/11], the *Illinois Natural Areas Preservation Act* [525 ILCS 30/17], the *Interagency Wetland Policy Act* [20 ILCS 830], and Title 17 *Illinois Administrative Code* Part 1075 and Part 1090.

The stabilization plan calls for excavation of debris from within the river channel, clearing of existing woody vegetation from the streambank, construction of a gabion wall, and regrading of the adjacent bank slope with fill material placed behind the wall.

The Vermilion River in the project area is an Illinois Natural Areas Inventory site and has documented habitat for the state threatened River Redhorse (*Moxostoma carinatum*). Additionally, the state endangered Greater Redhorse (*Moxostoma valenciennesi*) has been reported at several locations upstream.

To minimize construction-related disturbances to the fish, the Department recommends that no heavy equipment be operated within the stream channel. Should that be infeasible, we suggest as an alternative that no construction activity be allowed in the wetted portion of the channel between March 15 and June 1, the approximate spawning period for the two redhorse species. We also recommend that the bank slope be reforested upon completion of the project to restore the area as much as possible to its existing condition.

Consultation on the part of the Department is terminated. In accordance with 17 Ill. Adm. Code 1075.40(h), IEMA must notify the Department of its decision regarding these recommendations, whether they will:

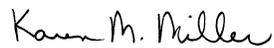
- Allow the action to proceed as originally proposed;
- Require the action to be modified per Department recommendations (please specify which measures if not all will be required); or
- Forgo the action.

This consultation is valid for two years unless new information becomes available that was not previously considered; the proposed action is modified; or additional species, essential habitat, or Natural Areas are identified in the vicinity. If the project has not been implemented within two years of the date of this letter, or any of the above listed conditions develop, a new consultation is necessary.

The natural resource review reflects the information existing in the Illinois Natural Heritage Database at the time of the project submittal, and should not be regarded as a final statement on the site being considered, nor should it be a substitute for detailed site surveys or field surveys required for environmental assessments. If additional protected resources are encountered during the project's implementation, you must comply with the applicable statutes and regulations. Also, note that termination does not imply IDNR's authorization or endorsement of the proposed action.

Please contact me if you have questions regarding this review.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Karen M. Miller".

Karen M. Miller
Division of Ecosystems and Environment