



# Illinois Department of Natural Resources

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

Pat Quinn, Governor  
Marc Miller, Director

January 26, 2011

Melvyn A. Skvarla  
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign  
Facilities & Services, Planning Division  
1501 South Oak Street, M/c 800  
Champaign, IL 61820-6905

RE: Allerton Park Bridge Replacement and Road Work  
IDNR Project # 1104224

Dear Mr. Skvarla:

This letter concerns the Endangered Species Consultation and wetland review for a proposed road project that extends from Allerton Road to Old Timber Road and includes replacement of the bridge and improvements to the existing roadway north and south of the bridge. 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], and Title 17 *Illinois Administrative Code Part 1075*, the *Interagency Wetland Policy Act* [20 ILCS 830], and *17 Ill. Adm. Code 1090*.

While project design plans are not yet finalized, the Department believes the action is likely to have an adverse impact on the state-endangered Eastern Massasauga (*Sistrurus catenatus*) and state-threatened Kirtland's Snake (*Clonophis kirtlandi*) which are known to occur in the area. Because of the high probability of a take, the Department recommends the University request Incidental Take Authorization (ITA) for these species in accordance with 17 Ill Adm. Code Part 1080. Communication concerning the ITA application should be directed to Joe Kath, Office of Resource Conservation, One Natural Resources Way, Springfield, IL 62702. Phone: 217-785-8764; e-mail: [Joe.Kath@illinois.gov](mailto:Joe.Kath@illinois.gov).

Because the river at the bridge site is listed on the IL Natural Areas Inventory as a high quality natural community with unusual concentrations of flora or fauna and with habitat suitable for state-listed species, the Department recommends a survey be conducted for mussels, as well as for the state-threatened Mudpuppy salamander (*Necturus maculosus*).

The department also recommends the university consider adopting the following measures to avoid or minimize adverse impact to snakes during construction and when the road is reopened.

- Do not place borrow pits or fill material in the floodplain or at the southern entry in the vacant field. Fill should go on the far north end, or the furthest distance from any known location of the snakes.
- Place exclusionary silt fencing around the work site. Inspect the site daily to determine if snakes are on-site.
- Educate on-site personnel about the snakes before construction begins.

- If any snake is encountered during construction, stop work immediately and contact Eric Smith, IDNR (217-784-4730); Chris Phillips, INHS (217-369-3494); or John Griesbaum, on site at Allerton Park.
- Consider making the road one-way so that traffic will stay in the middle of the road, as opposed to cars passing close to the edge where snakes might not be visible.
- Install speed bumps in the road along the floodplain to slow traffic enough so drivers can see snakes before running over them.
- Install signs indicating snakes have the right-of-way on the road.

Work on the southern portion of the road will be approximately 600 feet from the Upper Sangamon River Land and Water Reserve. Following are stipulations for all disturbance in the vicinity of a registered reserve:

- No work shall occur within the reserve and there shall be no impact to the reserve, including no changes to current hydrology;
- Locate staging areas away from the reserve boundary.
- Power-wash any equipment that will be used for the road work **before** bringing it onsite to reduce the chance of introducing invasive plant species into the Land and Water Reserve.
- Monitor all erosion control measures to ensure they are working properly and keeping all siltation out of the reserve.

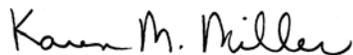
The consultation will remain open until we have had the opportunity to review final plans.

### **Wetland Review**

It is currently anticipated that there will be 0.2 acres of wetland impact. Because of the presence of the listed species, mitigation under the Interagency Wetland Policy Act will be 5½:1. Per Part 1090.60, an alternatives analysis must be conducted before the Department can approve a wetland impact determination and a wetland compensation plan.

Please contact me if you have questions.

Sincerely,



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Division of Ecosystems and Environment  
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cc: Jeffrey L. Bushur, Hanson Professional Services Inc.