



Illinois Department of Natural Resources

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

Pat Quinn, Governor
Marc Miller, Director

June 6, 2012

Brady Smith
Menard Electric Cooperative
14300 State Highway 97
P.O. Box 200
Petersburg, IL 62675-0200

RE: MEC Brush Spraying
IDNR Project #1211618, 1211623, 1211627, 1211640, 1211641, 1211644, and
1211701
Mason and Cass County

Dear Mr. Smith:

This letter concerns the Endangered Species Consultation for herbicide application at various sites in Mason and Cass Counties. This project was submitted for consultation in accordance with the *Illinois Endangered Species Protection Act* [520 ILCS 10/11], *Illinois Natural Areas Preservation Act* [525 ILCS 30/17], and Title 17 *Illinois Administrative Code Part 1075*.

This letter addresses consultation for the sites listed below. The cooperative has agreed to no-spray zones at these sites because protected resources occur there. Vegetation at these sites will be mechanically controlled and the location of the no-spray sites will be clearly marked at the site or on maps.

The cooperative has also agreed to coordinate all vegetation control with the IL Nature Preserves Commission for the site adjacent to Revis Hill Prairie Nature Preserve.

MEC Brush Spraying Location M\$ Map 2-23 (IDNR # 1211618). The state-threatened Illinois Chorus Frog occurs in the vicinity and herbicides are known to adversely affect amphibians.

MEC Brush Spraying Location M2 Map 5-9 (IDNR# 1211623). Site is adjacent to Sand Ridge State Forest. The state-threatened Regal Fritillary butterfly occurs in the vicinity and the concern is for the butterflies and their host plants. The no-spray area could be limited to the east-west segment and the first ½ mile of the north-south segment.

MEC Brush Spraying Location M2 Map 5-11 (IDNR #1211627). The state-threatened Regal Fritillary butterfly occurs in the vicinity and the concern is for the butterflies and their host plants.

MEC Brush Spraying Location K5 Map 17-29 (IDNR#1211640). Concern is for the W. B. Wallace Woods INAI site. The no-spray zone could be limited to the first 3,000 feet from the south end of the polygon as submitted to EcoCAT.

MEC Brush Spraying Location K6 Map 17-26 (IDNR #1211641) has numerous listed species and is adjacent to the Revis Hill Prairie Nature Preserve. This will be a no-spray zone and any vegetation control, including mechanical control, will be coordinated with Kelly Neal of the IL Nature Preserves Commission (kelly.neal@illinois.gov). Nature preserves are protected by law and no adverse impact is allowed.

MEC Brush Spraying Location K2 Map 34-8 (IDNR #1211644). The state-threatened pale false foxglove occurs in the project footprint.

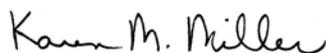
MEC Brush Spraying Location M8 Map 5-3 (IDNR #1211701). The sites is within Sand Ridge State Forest. The state-threatened Regal Fritillary butterfly occurs in the vicinity and the concern is for the butterflies and their host plants. The state-threatened Illinois Chorus Frog also occurs in the vicinity and herbicides are known to adversely affect amphibians.

Consultation under *17 Ill. Adm. Code Part 1075* is terminated. However, if any of the following conditions develop, consultation shall be reopened: new information becomes available that was not previously considered; additional species, essential habitat, or Natural Areas are identified in the vicinity of the action; or the action is modified. Because the consultation is for an IEPA NPDES pesticide permit, the consultation is good for the duration of the permit.

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,



Karen M. Miller
Division of Ecosystems and Environment
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