



Illinois Department of Natural Resources

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

Pat Quinn, Governor
Marc Miller, Director

August 6, 2013

Patti A. Gregory
Farnsworth Group Inc.
2709 McGraw Drive
Bloomington, IL 61704 6011

RE: Fieldstone II - Savoy, IL
Project Number(s): 1400816 [0130768]
County: Champaign

Dear Ms. Gregory:

This letter concerns the Endangered Species Consultation for the Fieldstone Subdivision in Savoy, Champaign County. This project was submitted for consultation in accordance with the *Illinois Endangered Species Protection Act* [520 ILCS 10/11], and the *Illinois Natural Areas Preservation Act* [525 ILCS 30/17].

The project will consist of a single family housing development with sewer, water and other common municipal utilities. The northeastern portion of the parcel is already developed and the current project will develop the southeastern portion of the parcel.

The Department has reviewed the project and determined that the action could have an adverse impact on the State-threatened Franklin's Ground Squirrel [*Spermophilus franklinii*], which likely uses the railroad right-of-way that is adjacent to the western border of the parcel. To minimize these impacts, the Department recommends, and the developer has agreed to, the following measures.

- Keep the area west of the construction site (approximately 600 feet between the railroad ROW and the currently proposed construction) mowed if it does not continue to be cropped. The Franklin's Ground Squirrel (FGS) is 8-12 inches long and prefers grass short enough to allow it to stand on its hind legs and see over the vegetation—about 6-10-inch tall herbaceous vegetation. Keep the vegetation at no taller than five inches to deter FGS from using the site.
- Dig-in a silt fence around the construction site to discourage Franklin's Ground Squirrel from moving into the area; do not allow any staging outside of the silt fence.
- Store top soil on the east side of the construction site, and avoid stockpiling soil for extended periods. Franklin's Ground Squirrels are known to colonize dirt piles.

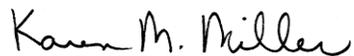
This consultation is only for the Second Phase (eastern portion) of the subdivision development. The Department advises you to submit the western half of the development as soon as plans are complete. Work on the western side of the parcel could result in a violation of the IL Endangered Species Protection Act if an illegal take of the Franklin's Ground Squirrel occurs. The Department may recommend you seek an Incidental Take Authorization before that work commences. The ITA process can take an average of six months to complete.

Consultation under 17 Ill. Adm. Code Part 1075 is terminated. 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.

Sincerely,



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Division of Ecosystems and Environment
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