



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 2, 2014

Adam Fox
Benton & Associates, Inc.
1970 West Lafayette Avenue
Jacksonville, IL 62650

Gary Bingenheimer
IEPA
1021 N. Grand Ave. East
Springfield, IL 62794

RE: Taylorville - Water Treatment Plant and Supply Improvements
IDNR Project # 1410864
Christian County

Dear Mr. Fox and Mr. Bingenheimer:

This letter concerns consultation for rehabilitation of an existing pump station and construction of a new raw water transmission main. 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] (Title 17 *Illinois Administrative Code Part 1075*); and for a wetland review under the *Interagency Wetland Policy Act* [20 ILCS 830] (*17 Ill. Adm. Code Part 1090*).

Because the project is in the planning and design stage, the final route has not been finalized. The Department recommends that the project be resubmitted for consultation before construction begins.

Consultation

The preliminary route is likely to have an adverse impact on the state-listed threatened Blazing Star (*Liatris scariosa var. nieuwlandii*) which has been documented in the southern half of the route. The Department recommends that a plant survey be conducted along the final route before construction begins. If the plant is determined to be present within the final route, it should be avoided as much as possible, with populations fenced off to avoid trampling. If avoidance is not feasible, it would be beneficial to conserve the genetic material, including translocation, seed collection, or stockpiling and replacing the surface soils containing the seed bank.

Also, please note that Section 3 of the *Illinois Endangered Species Protection Act* states that it is unlawful to take plants on the Illinois List without the express written permission of the

landowner. Take means, in reference to plants and plant products, to collect, pick, cut, dig up, kill, destroy, bury, crush, or harm in any manner.

Wetland Review

The Illinois Wetland Inventory indicates that there are wetlands within the project polygon submitted to EcoCAT. The wetland impacts from a water transmission line installation are generally considered minimal. The Interagency Wetland Policy Act classifies wetland impacts as minimal if the affected wetland is located within a maintained road right-of-way **or** the area is zoned and utilized in its entirety for R1, R2, C1, C2, I1, I2 or other developed categories, **and** each of the following construction conditions exist.

Construction conditions:

- The trench width is less than 10 feet.
- Erosion control measures meet either
 - the specifications in the "Green" book for erosion control in construction sites, or
 - the requirements of the NPDES Construction Site Activities permit.
- Any wetland tree removal is less than 4" dbh.
- Soil stockpiles and construction equipment are stored outside of the wetland.

Mitigation for minimal impacts is 1:1. For example, if the wetland is a drainage ditch with cattails and 10 feet are disturbed to install a water main, the 10 feet of the ditch must be restored to the original contour with cattails re-established.

1:1 mitigation requirements:

1. Grade and contour the disturbed area to its original conditions within 30 days of project completion.
2. Reseed the area within seven days of completing step 1.
3. Restore any other pre-existing wetland condition.

Please notify the Department if these conditions cannot be incorporated into the construction plans or if the final project will not meet the construction conditions. If so, a wetland delineation and mitigation may be required.

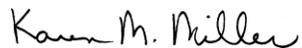
In accordance with 17 Ill. Adm. Code 1075.40(h), please notify the Department of your decision regarding these recommendations.

The consultation under 17 Ill. Adm. Code Part 1075 and 1090 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 regarding this review.

Sincerely,

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

Karen M. Miller
Division of Ecosystems and Environment
Phone (217) 785-5500