



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 25, 2014

Jim Burke
Hutchison Engineering, Inc.
1801 W. Lafayette Ave.
Jacksonville, IL 62650

**RE: City of Beardstown, Side Channel Rock Dikes and Dredging
Office of Water Resources Permit Application
Project Number(s): 1412134 (OWR S20140126)
County: Cass**

Dear Mr. Burke:

This letter is in reference to the above mentioned Office of Water Resources (OWR) permit application for maintenance dredging and construction of rock riprap dikes along the access channel from the Illinois River to the Beardstown Marina at approximate River Mile 88.9. OWR consults with the Office of Realty and Environmental Planning in accordance with Title 17 *Illinois Administrative Code* Part 1075, the *Illinois Endangered Species Protection Act* [520 ILCS 10/11], the *Illinois Natural Areas Preservation Act* [525 ILCS 30/17], and the *Illinois State Agency Historic Resources Preservation Act* [20 ILCS 3420/4].

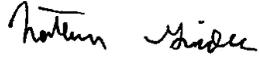
The project was reviewed for cultural resource impacts and was determined to be in compliance with the Illinois State Agency Historic Resources Preservation Act.

The Natural Heritage Database contains several recent records of the state-endangered smooth softshell turtle (*Apalone mutica*) in the project vicinity. This turtle is known to nest on sandbars or similar habitat from approximately late May through July. Hatchlings emerge from the nests from approximately August through late September. The turtle hibernates through the cold season under water buried under the substrate.

Appropriate nesting habitat for this species appears to exist along the access channel where the rock dikes and dredging is proposed. It is unclear if the turtle may be present in the proposed dredge spoil disposal area. Further, dredging and construction activities during the cold season when the turtle is hibernating may impact this species. The Department recommends a survey be conducted by a qualified biologist to determine if the turtle is present or nesting in the project area. Results of the survey should be forwarded to the Department. Consultation will remain open pending further information.

Please contact me at 217-524-0501 if you have questions regarding this review.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Nathan Grider". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'N'.

Nathan Grider
Biologist
Impact Assessment, OREP

cc: Mike Diedrichsen, IDNR – OWR
Steve Patterson, City of Beardstown - Mayor
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Rock Island District
IEPA, BOW, Water Pollution Control, Permit Section, Facility Evaluation