



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 14, 2014

Kirsten Brown
Rock Island USACE
P.O. Box 2004

Rock Island, IL 61204 2004

RE: NRG Energy, Maintenance Dredging
Project Number(s): 1501358 (USACE P-2014-829)
County: Hancock

Dear Ms. Brown:

This letter is in reference to the above mentioned project involving maintenance dredging of a man-made channel at NRG Energy in Pekin, Illinois. The natural resource review provided by EcoCAT indicates the state-endangered turtle, Smooth Softshell (*Apalone mutica*), may be present in the project area. 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.

To mitigate potential impacts, the Department recommends a survey be conducted by a qualified biologist to determine if the Smooth Softshell is utilizing the proposed dredge and disposal areas. The principle investigator should acquire proper permits from the Department to conduct such work. A survey proposal should be sent to the Department for concurrence on methods. Results of the survey should be sent to the Department for final review and determination on potential impacts to this species. If possible, The Department recommends the Smooth Softshell survey be a condition of the USACE permit.

Please note that this review by the IDNR Office of Realty and Environmental Planning does not preclude permit decisions made by the IDNR Office of Water Resources under the Illinois Rivers, Lakes, and Streams Act.

Please contact me if you have questions regarding this review.

Nathan Grider
Division of Ecosystems and Environment
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