



# Illinois Department of Natural Resources

One Natural Resources Way Springfield, Illinois 62702-1271  
www.dnr.illinois.gov

Bruce Rauner, Governor  
Wayne A. Rosenthal, Acting Director

January 23, 2015

Josh L. Auxier, P.E.  
Midwest Engineering Associates, Inc.  
140 E. Washington Street

East Peoria, IL 61611

**RE: Bridge Reconstruction: Bridge W 78.0 Freeport  
Project Number(s): 1506840 [20140098, 1506839]  
County: Winnebago**

Dear Mr. Auxier:

This letter is in reference to the above project you recently submitted for consultation on behalf of Chicago Central & Pacific Railroad Company involving replacement of a railroad bridge in an oxbow of the Kishwaukee River. Disturbances will include heavy equipment operation to demolish the existing bridge, reconstruction of the bridge, and a temporary structure or causeway to access the project area in the oxbow during the project.

The natural resource review provided by EcoCAT identified protected resources in the vicinity of the proposed action. Several recent records (2010-2012) exist within and in close proximity to the oxbow for the state-endangered Blanding's turtle (*Emydoidea blandingii*). Given the scope of the project and high likelihood of "take" occurring as defined by the *Illinois Endangered Species Protection Act* [520 ILCS 10/11], the Department recommends you seek Incidental Take Authorization (ITA) for the Blanding's turtle from the Department's Office of Resource Conservation. Please contact Jenny Skufca (jenny.skufca@illinois.gov.) for all matters pertaining to ITA.

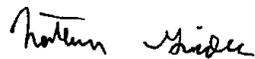
Also, please be advised that biological surveys conducted to study project impacts on the Blanding's turtle will require a Scientific Collectors Permit, as well as a permit to handle state-listed species. Please contact Teri Turner (teri.turner@illinois.gov) for more information on these permits.

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 regarding this review.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Nathan Grider". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Nathan Grider  
Division of Ecosystems and Environment  
217-785-5500

cc: Jenny Skufca - IDNR, Endangered Species Program