



# Illinois Department of Natural Resources

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

Bruce Rauner, Governor  
Wayne A. Rosenthal, Director

February 23, 2015

Eric Knight  
TranSystems  
2400 Pershing Rd.  
Suite 400  
Kansas City, MO

**RE: Fill for BNSF Railway Expansion, Plum River Floodway**  
**Project Number(s): 1508212 [S20140325]**  
**County: Carroll**

Mr. Knight:

This letter is in reference to the above mentioned project submitted for consultation regarding an Office of Water Resources permit application. The natural resource review provided by EcoCAT identified protected resources in the vicinity of the proposed action. State-listed threatened and endangered species potentially occurring in the project area are as follows:

<b>Species</b>	<b>Status (* also federally-listed)</b>
Blanding's turtle ( <i>Emydoidea blandingii</i> )	Endangered
Indiana bat ( <i>Myotis sodalis</i> )	Endangered*
Least bittern ( <i>Ixobrychus exilis</i> )	Threatened
Loggerhead shrike ( <i>Lanius ludovicianus</i> )	Endangered
Northern long-eared bat ( <i>Myotis septentrionalis</i> )	Proposed as threatened*
Yellow-headed blackbird ( <i>Xanthocephalus xanthocephalus</i> )	Endangered

Upon review, it appears that appropriate wetland habitat may exist within the project area for the state-listed Blanding's turtle, least bittern, and yellow-headed blackbird. The Department recommends a survey be conducted by a qualified biologist to determine if these species are present in the project area and have the potential to be adversely impacted.

Further, vegetation within the railroad right-of-way may also support populations of the state-listed loggerhead shrike and the northern long-eared bat, which is proposed for listing as state-threatened and federally-endangered as early as April, 2015. The state and federally-endangered Indiana bat also has the potential to occur in Carrol County. Given the need to clear some vegetation in the right-of-way to facilitate the project, the Department recommends a survey be conducted by a qualified biologist to determine if these species are present in the project area and have the potential to be adversely impacted.

Survey proposals should be forwarded to the Department for concurrence before conducting any field work. Also, Scientific Collectors Permits will be required from the Department to conduct

such surveys. Please contact Teri Turner (teri.turner@illinois.gov) for more information on the required permits.

Consultation with the Office of Realty and Environmental Planning will remain open pending the results of the requested surveys and the archaeological survey requested by Mr. Harold Hassen of this office in a letter dated February 18, 2015.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Nathan Grider". The signature is written in a cursive, somewhat stylized font.

Nathan Grider  
Office of Realty and Environmental Planning  
217-524-0501

Cc: Jerry Bishoff – IDNR, OWR  
Teri Turner – IDNR, ORC  
James Kelly – USACE, Rock Island  
Jon Duyvejonck - USFWS