



# Illinois Department of Natural Resources

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

Bruce Rauner, Governor  
Wayne A. Rosenthal, Director

March 2, 2015

Grace Nelson  
IDNR-Office of Water Resources-Springfield  
One Natural Resources Way  
Springfield, IL 62702 1271

**RE: Replacement of the Existing Prairie Hill Road Bridge**  
**Project Number(s): 1508507 [S20140257]**  
**County: Winnebago**

Dear Ms. Nelson:

This letter is in reference to the above project proposed by the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT), which will require an Office of Water Resources (OWR) permit. The natural resource review provided by EcoCAT identified protected resources that may be in the vicinity of the proposed action. These resources include the state-threatened gravel chub (*Erimystax x-punctatus*), state-endangered lake sturgeon (*Acipenser fulvescens*) and state-threatened plant, kitten tails (*Besseyia bulli*).

The Department is particularly concerned about the gravel chub due to records of this species occurring within the project footprint. This office recommends a condition be added to the OWR permit that no instream work occur from March 15 to May 30 to protect the spawning season of this species.

The Department recommends the project area be surveyed for the kitten tails plant prior to construction. Mitigation efforts should be initiated if the plant has the potential to be negatively impacted; such as seed collection, transplanting, and saving/restoring topsoil. If applicable, written permission should be obtained from landowners if the plant is to be "taken" in order to maintain compliance with the *Illinois Endangered Species Protection Act* [520 ILCS 10/11].

Trees will likely need to be removed to facilitate this project. The Department recommends no tree clearing occur from April 1 through November 15 to mitigate impacts to the state and federally-endangered Indiana bat (*Myotis sodalis*) and northern long-eared bat (*Myotis septentrionalis*), which is proposed for state and federal-listing as early as April, 2015.

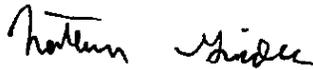
The project was also reviewed for cultural resource impacts and was determined to be in compliance with the Illinois State Agency Historic Resources Preservation Act.

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: Sheldon Fairfield – IDNR, OREP  
Susan Hargrove – IDOT, BDE  
Mark Nardini – IDOT