



## 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

February 24, 2015

Mr. Brien Sheahan, Chairman  
527 E. Capitol St.  
Springfield IL 62701

**RE: Grand Prairie Gateway 345-kV Transmission Line  
Endangered Species Consultation Program  
EcoCAT Review #1508579**

Dear Chairman Sheahan:

The Department has received from Stantec, on behalf of Commonwealth Edison, a submission for the purpose of consultation between the Department and the Commission pursuant to the *Illinois Endangered Species Protection Act* [520 ILCS 10/11], the *Illinois Natural Areas Preservation Act* [525 ILCS 30/17], and Title 17 *Illinois Administrative Code Part 1075*.

EcoCAT Review #1508579 covers a 2.5-mile route segment which parallels Bahr Road east of the Village of Burlington in Kane County. EcoCAT indicated this segment may be in the vicinity of a nest of the State-listed endangered **Swainson's Hawk**, *Buteo swainsoni*. In fact, the western end of this segment is within one mile of the nest location of one of only two known breeding pairs of this species in Illinois. The power line itself will present a collision hazard to Hawks within the foraging radius of this nest, which may extend as far as ten miles from the nest in any direction.

The Department understands the nest sites of this pair have been clearly identified by the applicant and will be avoided by the applicant during construction. *However, consideration should be given to marking the constructed line with bird diverters to minimize the risk of collisions with the power line.*

This consultation is valid for two years unless new information becomes available which was not previously considered; or the proposed action is substantially modified; or additional species, essential habitats, 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 primarily reflects the information existing in the Illinois Natural Heritage Database at the time of this consultation, 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, the applicant must comply with the applicable statutes and regulations. Also, note that closing consultation does not imply IDNR's authorization or endorsement of the proposed action. Please contact me if you have questions regarding this review.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Keith M. Shank". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "K" and "S".

Keith M. Shank  
Division of Ecosystems and Environment  
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cc: Brian Bub, Stantec