



# 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 #1508584**

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 #1508584 covers a route segment whose western end lies in the unincorporated village of Plato Center in Kane County. EcoCAT indicated this segment may be in the vicinity of breeding areas for the State-listed endangered **Yellow-Headed Blackbird**, *Xanthocephalus xanthocephalus*, and the State-listed threatened **Least Bittern**, *Ixobrychus exilis*.

In fact, this segment is 0.7 miles from the wetlands where this habitat occurs, but neither species has been observed and reported from that location since July 2000. Regardless, intervening residential development renders it unlikely that construction of or the existence of the power line would adversely modify the suitability of this habitat in any way. *Consequently, the Department offers no recommendations concerning this segment.*

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