



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 13, 2015

Megan Briggs
Christopher B. Burke Engineering, Ltd.
9575 W. Higgins Road, Suite 600
Rosemont, IL 60018

RE: ComEd GRID Stony Island & 116th Street
Project Number(s): 1509338 [040532.005852]
County: Cook

Dear Applicant:

The Illinois Department of Natural Resources has reviewed the above-mentioned project proposed by ComED. The Project will reconductor an existing electrical line and replace two leaning poles.

Records of state-listed wetland birds occur in the vicinity of the proposed project. These species include the black tern, Black-crowned night heron, common moorhen, least bittern, little blue heron, yellow-crowned night heron, and yellow-headed blackbird. The Department recommends strict adherence to Avian Protection Plan guidelines to mitigate potential impacts to these species. Also, the Department recommends no disturbance activities be conducted in wetlands during April 1st through July 31st to avoid the nesting season of these birds.

Also, records of the state-listed Blanding's turtle exist in the project vicinity. To avoid impacts to this species, the Department recommends the following:

- Educate personnel working on site about the Blanding's Turtle.
- Excavations should be covered at the end of each work day. Before starting each work day, excavations should be routinely inspected to ensure no turtles (or other amphibians and reptiles) have become trapped within them.
- Inspect areas for wildlife ahead of moving equipment to avoid harm.
- If Blanding's turtles are encountered, contact the Forest Preserve Conservation District or IDNR at 630/553-1372.

Lastly, records of the state-listed Franklin's ground squirrel exist in the project vicinity. This species only spends about 10 percent of its time above ground and can be found in habitats comprising fields, hedgerows, marsh edges, forest-field edges, and along roadsides and railroad

rights-of-way. The Department recommends a qualified biologist search these habitat types for possible burrows if equipment will be required. Crews should be educated about this species and remain vigilant. Please contact the Department for further consultation if evidence of this species exists in the impact area.

Given these recommendations are adopted, the Department has no objections to the issuance of a U.S. Army Corps of Engineers permit. Please notify the Department if you plan to accommodate these recommendations or proceed as originally planned.

Please note that this review does not preclude permit decisions made by the IDNR Office of Water Resources under the Illinois Rivers, Lakes, and Streams Act.

Please contact me if you have any questions regarding this review.

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

Nathan Grider
Impact Assessment Section
217-785-5500

cc: Kimberly Kubiak – USACE, Chicago District