



# Illinois Department of Natural Resources

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

Bruce Rauner, Governor  
Wayne A. Rosenthal, Director

October 5, 2015

Steven Rauch  
Hey and Associates, Inc.  
26575 W. Commerce Dr., Suite 601  
Volo, IL 60073

**RE: CN-Culvert Installation**  
**Project Number(s): 1601713 [Hey #15-0242]**  
**County: Lake**

Dear Mr. Rauch:

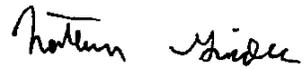
This letter serves as an update to the Department's previous letter dated September 24, 2015 (attached) in which a Blanding's turtle (*Emydoidea blandingii*) survey was requested. The purpose of the survey was to determine potential impacts to the state-endangered Blanding's turtle from a proposed project involving culvert installation to alleviate ponding water that is saturating the railroad embankment located at Section 36, Township 44N, Range 10E, Lake County, IL. The work will require a cofferdam and dewatering of the work area.

A total of 10 search hours were completed by Mr. Tom Anton of The Ecological Consulting Group, LLC during 9/30/15 and 10/1/15. Common species of frogs, turtles and snakes were observed and no Blanding's turtles were documented during the survey effort. Mr. Anton's conclusion was that the habitat is minimally suitable and "the odds of it (Blanding's turtle) being in the immediate impact area (construction zone) is extremely remote. The Department concurs with this finding and has determined that impacts to Blanding's turtles related to the proposed project are unlikely.

However, given aquatic habitat does exist on both sides of the railroad in this location and some species of turtles are reluctant to cross through dark, confined culverts, the Department recommends the consideration of installing gravel or asphalt ramps, or other safe features, in the track to allow the passage of turtles and other wildlife. These structures could be installed approximately every 50 feet throughout potential crossing areas. Please contact the Department for further information on structure design.

The Department has no objection to issuance of a U.S. Army Corps of Engineers permit for the proposed culvert installation. 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 that reads "Nathan Grider". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Nathan Grider  
Impact Assessment Section  
217-785-5500

cc: Melyssa Navis – USACE  
Jeff Mengler – Hey and Associates, Inc.

ATCH: 9/24/15 Department Letter.



# Illinois Department of Natural Resources

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

Bruce Rauner, Governor  
Wayne A. Rosenthal, Director

September 24, 2015

Steven Rauch  
Hey and Associates, Inc.  
26575 W. Commerce Dr., Suite 601  
Volo, IL 60073

**RE: CN-Culvert Installation**  
**Project Number(s): 1601713 [Hey #15-0242]**  
**County: Lake**

Dear Mr. Rauch:

The Illinois Department of Natural Resources has reviewed the above-mentioned project involving culvert installation to alleviate ponding water that is saturating the railroad embankment. The work will require a cofferdam and dewatering of the work area.

Records of the state-endangered Blanding's turtle (*Emydoidea blandingii*) occur in the project area. The record is from 1998 and more current information is needed to determine potential impacts to this species as a result of the project. The Department recommends at least 10 hours of visual search and observation be conducted by a qualified biologist. The lead investigator should hold the appropriate permits from the Department to conduct such activities. The study should be completed before turtles go dormant, which occurs in approximately mid-October. Results of the survey should be submitted to the Department for a final determination of potential project impacts on Blanding's turtle and mitigation measures.

Given these recommendations are adopted, the Department has no objection to issuance of a U.S. Army Corps of Engineers permit.

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 that reads "Nathan Grider".

Nathan Grider  
Impact Assessment Section  
217-785-5500

cc: Melyssa Navis – USACE  
Jeff Mengler – Hey and Associates, Inc.