



# 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 17, 2015

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

**RE: Ameren, Illinois River Transmission Line, Herleman - Meredosia Segment**  
**Project Number(s): 1602607, OWR S20150172**  
**County: Morgan**

Dear Ms. Coyne:

This letter is in reference to the above project recently submitted for consultation regarding the Office of Water Resources (OWR) permit application S20150172. The project involves the construction of transmission line towers in the floodway of the Illinois River, including temporary access roads and staging areas. The project is known as the Herleman - Meredosia Segment of the proposed transmission line.

The Department previously reviewed the Herleman - Meredosia Segment of this project and made recommendations to mitigate impacts to protected resources in a letter dated May 9, 2014 (EcoCAT #1411059). AMEC Environment & Infrastructure, Inc., on behalf of Ameren, accepted the recommendation in a letter dated July 8, 2014, including seeking Incidental Take Authorization (ITA) for the state-threatened regal fritillary butterfly (*Speyeria idalia*) and Illinois chorus frog (*Pseudacris illinoensis*). The ITA has not yet been executed with the Department.

The Department has determined that construction of the proposed temporary access road will likely result in "take" of the regal fritillary butterfly and Illinois chorus frog. "Take," as defined by the Illinois Endangered Species Protection Act [520 ILCS 10/2], means, in reference to animals and animal products, to harm, hunt, shoot, pursue, lure, wound, kill, destroy, harass, gig, spear, ensnare, trap, capture, collect, or to attempt to engage in such conduct.

In accordance with the consultation provisions of the Illinois Endangered Species Protection Act [520 ILCS 10/11(b)], "*such state or local agency [IDNR/OWR] shall be deemed to have complied with its obligations under the "Illinois Endangered Species Act," provided the agency action shall not result in the killing or injuring of any Illinois listed animal species, or provided that authorization for taking a listed species has been issued under Section 4, 5, or 5.5 of this Act.*" Therefore, this office recommends the permit action be held in abeyance or be issued with

a condition requiring execution of the ITA between the Department and Ameren for the regal fritillary butterfly and Illinois chorus frog.

Lastly, The Department recommends Ameren strictly follow the mitigation recommendations for all other protected resources potentially occurring in the project area as described in the previous correspondences dated May 9, 2014 and July 8, 2014.

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.



Nathan Grider  
Division of Ecosystems and Environment  
217-785-5500

cc: Stephen Altman – Hanson Professional Services, Inc.  
Bruce Callaway – Ameren Transmission Company  
Jenny Skufca – IDNR, ORC