



Illinois Department of Natural Resources

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

Bruce Rauner, Governor
Wayne A. Rosenthal, Director

November 23, 2015

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

RE: Cotton Creek Storm Sewer
Project Number(s): 1602621 [Hey #15-0077]
County: McHenry

Dear Mr. Rauch:

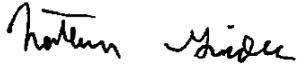
The Illinois Department of Natural Resources has reviewed the above-mentioned project involving installation of a new storm sewer to replace the existing storm sewer which is failing and not properly draining the storm water basins of Cotton Creek School. The work is proposed to be completed during the winter of 2015/2016.

The Cotton Creek Marsh Nature Preserve exists immediately downstream of the project and the project is within the Class III Ground Water area, which contributes to the Nature Preserve. Records of the state-endangered Blanding's turtle (*Emydoidea blandingii*) also exist in the project vicinity. Pursuant to the Fish & Wildlife Coordination Act, the Department provides the following comments:

- The Department recommends strict adherence to soil and erosion control BMP's to protect the Nature Preserve downstream.
- Equipment should be washed before entering the work site to prevent the transfer of non-native and invasive species into the Nature Preserve.
- The disturbed area should be seeded with a native plant mix suitable for the habitat type.
- Work should be completed between October 15 and March 31, when Blanding's turtles are hibernating to avoid impacts to this species.
- No excavation should occur within permanent water features without further surveys and consultation as this is the likely place for Blanding's turtles to be hibernating during the winter. Also, no permanent water features should be drawn down during the winter as the turtles may be exposed to freezing conditions and killed. The Department understands that no work is proposed within permanent water features at this time.

The Department has no objection to issuance of a U.S. Army Corps of Engineers permit. Please note that this review is separate and distinct from any other action or regulatory authority of the Department. The Illinois Nature Preserves Commission has been copied on this correspondence and may provide additional comments regarding the proposed project.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment. 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, slightly slanted style.

Nathan Grider
Impact Assessment Section
217-785-5500

cc: Julie Rimbault, USACE
Steven Byers, INPC
Valerie Njapa, INPC