



# Illinois Department of Natural Resources

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

Bruce Rauner, Governor  
Wayne A. Rosenthal, Director

December 18, 2015

Susan Rowley  
ENCAP, Inc.  
2585 Wagner Court  
DeKalb, IL 60115

**RE: Explorer Pipeline Company - Manhattan Pipeline**  
**Project Number(s): 1603696, 1603700, 1603701, 1603702 1603703, 1603706**  
**County: Will**

Dear Ms. Rowley:

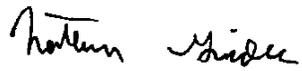
The Illinois Department of Natural Resources has reviewed the above-mentioned projects proposed by Explorer Pipeline Company involving Horizontal Directional Drilling (HDD) of numerous creek crossings in Will County for construction of an approximately 18.6 mile long 24" pipeline and associated facilities in Will County, IL. A recent frack-out event at the Black Walnut Creek, HDD crossing prompted the need for further review of potential impacts to state-listed species in the remaining HDD sites.

The remaining HDD sites include South Branch Forked Creek (1603700, HDD6), Forked Creek (1603701, HDD8), Southern Tributary Prairie Creek (1603703, HDD10), Northern Tributary Prairie Creek, and Prairie Creek (1603706, HDD11A & HDD11B). Some work remains to be completed at the Black Walnut Creek site (1603696, HDD3). Drilling at 1603702 (HDD9), an unnamed tributary to Forked Creek, is complete.

According to the mussel survey completed by EnviroScience (report dated October 9, 2015), no state or federally-listed mussel species were discovered during survey efforts of HDD 6, 8, 10, 11A, and 11B. Additionally, the Department found no evidence of adverse impacts to state-threatened slippershell mussels (*Alasmodonta viridis*) during survey efforts conducted in September, 2015 of Black Walnut Creek following the frack-out event (HDD3).

Based on the above information, the Department has determined that adverse impacts to state-listed mussel species in the remaining HDD crossing sites are unlikely. However, The Department recommends strict adherence to the "Site Specific Response and Clean-Up Plans," as well notifying all agencies on the "HDD Inadvertent Return Contact Sheet" immediately following a release. Please follow-up with contacting this office at 217-785-5500 or 217-524-0501 the following business day if a release occurs.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment. 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 style with a large initial 'N'.

Nathan Grider  
Impact Assessment Section  
217-785-5500

cc: Ron Abrant, USACE  
Keith Hickey, IEPA  
Roger Callaway, IEPA