



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 27, 2015

Ms. Kristin Marie Russo
Burns & McDonnell
1431 Opus Place, Suite 400
Downers Grove, IL 60515

**RE: Magellan-Wayne Easement Maintenance, Wayne, DuPage County
Endangered Species Consultation Program
EcoCAT Review #1604428**

Dear Ms. Russo:

The Department has received your submission for this project for the purposes of consultation pursuant to the *Illinois Endangered Species Protection Act* [520 ILCS 10/11], the *Illinois Natural Areas Preservation Act* [525 ILCS 30/17], and Title 17 *Illinois Administrative Code* Part 1075.

The entire parcel delineated in your submission lies within an occurrence record for the State-listed endangered **Blanding's Turtle**, *Emydoidea blandingii*. While this particular record dates from 1994, it is part of a much larger habitat complex with numerous records of this species up to and including 2015. As you may be aware, this species nests farther from the water than any other North American aquatic turtle species, and demonstrates a high degree of fidelity to nesting sites.

Vegetation management along the easement may consist of mechanical tree and brush removal and/or treatment of vegetation with herbicides. To minimize the potential of encounters with this species, *the Department recommends that mechanical management occur during the winter months when the species is not present in terrestrial areas*. Because chemical management requires plants which are actively growing, turtles may be present when herbicides are applied. *The Department recommends that such chemicals be applied with back-pack sprayers, which avoids the use of vehicles which might crush turtles or their nests*.

Other protected resources listed by EcoCAT are either not actually in the vicinity of this proposed action or are unlikely to be adversely affected by it, with the exception of the **Black-Billed Cuckoo**, *Coccyzus erythrophthalmus*. This migratory bird may be nesting and rearing young in shrubs and trees from May through August. To avoid prohibited taking of this species, *the Department recommends that no mechanical or chemical management occur during this period.*

Consultation on the part of the Department is closed, unless Burns & McDonnell desires additional information or advice related to this proposal. You should notify the Department of your decision regarding these recommendations, whether you will:

- Proceed with the action as originally proposed;
- Modify the action per Department recommendations (please specify which measures if not all will be required); or
- Forgo the action.

This consultation is valid for two years unless new information becomes available which was not previously considered; or the proposed action is modified; or additional species, essential habitats, 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 primarily reflects the information existing in the Illinois Natural Heritage Database at the time of this consultation, 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, the applicant 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.

Sincerely,



Keith M. Shank
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