



Illinois Department of Natural Resources

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

Bruce Rauner, Governor
Wayne A. Rosenthal, Director

January 13, 2016

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

RE: Settlers Ridge to Prestbury Watermain Improvements Project
Project Number(s): 1604597
County: Kane

Dear Ms. Rowley:

The Illinois Department of Natural Resources has reviewed the above-mentioned project involving installation of a watermain near Sugar Grove, IL. Pursuant to the Fish & Wildlife Coordination Act, the Department provides the following comments:

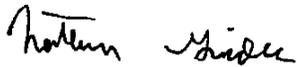
Records for the state and federally-threatened northern long-eared bat (*Myotis septentrionalis*) and state-endangered Blanding's turtle (*Emydoidea blandingii*) exist in the project vicinity.

- The Department recommends strict adherence to soil and erosion control BMP's to protect water quality in receiving streams.
- If tree clearing is necessary, no trees should be felled between April 1 and September 30 to avoid impacts to the state and federally-threatened northern long-eared bat.
- All on-site personnel should be educated about Blanding's turtles and be instructed to contact the Department immediately if they are encountered in the project area. Fliers with photos of adult and juvenile Blanding's turtles, and life-history information, should be distributed to personnel. The flier should also contain contact information for the Department (Dan Kirk, Natural Heritage Division, 630-553-1372).
- Exclusionary fencing should be installed around the work area, trenched into the ground, and inspected daily for Blanding's turtles. Excavations should be inspected daily for trapped wildlife and safely covered overnight. Soil or other potential turtle nesting medium stockpiles should also have exclusionary fencing installed around the perimeter to discourage turtle nesting and potential harm.
- The Department recommends horizontal directional drilling (HDD) under Blackberry Creek to avoid potential impacts to the state-threatened slippershell mussel (*Alasmidonta viridis*). A frac-out contingency plan should be in place to minimize potential impacts to Blackberry Creek. Please report any frac-out events to the Department immediately.

Note: State-listed species may not be handled without the appropriate permits pursuant to the Illinois Endangered Species Protection Act.

Please note that this review is separate and distinct from any other action or regulatory authority of the Department. The review does not satisfy consultation requirements under Title 17 *Illinois Administrative Code* Part 1075.

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 style with a large initial 'N'.

Nathan Grider
Impact Assessment Section
217-785-5500

cc: Kimberly Kubiak, USACE