



Illinois Department of Natural Resources

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Bruce Rauner, Governor
Wayne A. Rosenthal, Director

December 4, 2015

Mr. Matthew Reeder
Mackie Consultants
9575 West Higgins Road, Suite 500
Rosemont, IL 60018-4919

RE: Westleigh Farms Subdivision, Lake Forest, Lake County
Endangered Species Consultation Program
EcoCAT Review #1604639

Dear Mr. Reeder:

The Department has reviewed your submission for the purpose 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.

With one exception, the proposed action is not in the vicinity of the protected resources listed in the EcoCAT Report. However, the project is in the vicinity of a record for the federally-listed and state-listed threatened **Northern Long-Eared Bat** (aka Northern Long-Eared Myotis; Northeastern Myotis), *Myotis septentrionalis*. Further, the parcel appears to contain trees providing suitable summer roosting habitat, as well as a water body which likely provides important food resources for this species.

The Northern Long-Eared Bat uses woodlands only between the dates of April 1 and October 1 in Northern Illinois; outside those dates the bats are located in winter hibernation sites. The Department offers the following recommendations.

Recommendation #1: In order to minimize the loss of summer roosting habitat, existing trees on the site greater than three inches in diameter at breast height (dbh) should be preserved to the extent possible, preferably providing canopy connections to similar woodlands off-site. It is

most likely that maternity colonies will be located in more extensive woodlands nearby, but the project site likely provides important foraging territory supporting such colonies.

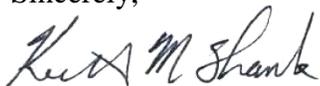
Recommendation #2: In order to avoid prohibited incidental taking of this species, trees which must be removed should be removed prior to April 1 or after October 1, when bats are not present. Prior to removing any trees of suitable size between April 1 and October 1, when bats may be present, a mist-net survey is recommended to ascertain which bat species are present. If a listed species is then identified, no trees may be removed until required federal and state permits are acquired, or until after October 1. Because the time required for permit issuance is far lengthier than a few months, it is usually best to plan on tree removal when bats are certain to be absent.

Consultation on the part of the Department is closed, unless your client or the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency desires additional information or advice related to this proposal. 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 closure of consultation 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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