



## 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 29, 2015

Ryan Burling  
SPACECO Inc Morris  
224 1/2 N Liberty St  
Morris, IL 60450

**RE: Site Plan Morris**  
**Project Number(s): 1604671**  
**County: Grundy**

Dear Mr. Burling:

This letter concerns the Endangered Species Consultation for the project noted above, located in Grundy County, Township 33 North, Range 7 East, Section 3. This project was submitted for consultation in accordance with 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 project consists of a parking lot expansion and a new warehouse building between 50000 and 100000 square feet.

The Department has completed its review of the project and determined that the resources identified by EcoCAT in the vicinity are likely to be affected. In fact, the proposed action will result in the complete destruction of Third Avenue Prairie.

The **Third Avenue Prairie** is a high quality natural community and natural community restorations site (Category I) that is listed on the Illinois Natural Area Inventory (INAI). This significant natural area is a mesic black soil prairie that once was Illinois' largest natural community. Presently, such prairie is dramatically reduced due to land development and is among the rarest natural communities in Illinois. One hundred and twenty native prairie plant species have been recorded from the Third Avenue Prairie site.

While plant species are the property of the landowner, it would be beneficial to conserve the prairie's genetic material. The Department recommends seed collection, translocation, or stockpiling and replacing the surface soils containing the seed bank. Although Grundy County does not have a Forest Preserve District, there may be Park Districts, Municipal Park Systems, Forest Preserve Districts in neighboring counties, Soil & Water Conservation Districts, or secondary schools, community colleges, or other conservation or educational institutions in the vicinity interested in receiving plant and soil materials (the soil insects, fungi, and micro-

organisms are equally rare and valuable) to establish or enhance their own efforts at natural area restoration and conservation.

Also, the state and federally endangered **Indiana Bat (*Myotis sodalist*)** and **Northern Long-eared Bat (*Myotis septentrionalis*)** may be in the vicinity of the project. To avoid potential impacts to these species, the Department recommends:

- No trees should be removed except between the dates of October 1 and April 1.
- If construction time occurs outside of the recommended timeframe, the Department recommends a survey be performed for these species within the tree removal area. The results of the survey should be forwarded to the Department. Please note, any survey that will actually capture or handle endangered or threatened species requires personnel doing so to hold Scientific Collection Permits under Part 520 and Part 1070 of the Department's Rules.
- If species are present, please contact IDNR at 217-784-4730.

Consultation under 17 Ill. Adm. Code Part 1075 is completed. In accordance with 17 Ill. Adm. Code 1075.40(h), please notify the Department of your decision regarding these recommendations.

This consultation is valid for two years unless new information becomes available that was not previously considered; the proposed action is modified; or additional species, essential habitat, 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 reflects the information existing in the Illinois Natural Heritage Database at the time of the project submittal, 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, you 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,

Natalia Jones  
Impact Assessment Section  
217-785-5500  
natalia.jones@illinois.gov