



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 15, 2016

Steven Rauch
Hey & Associates Inc.
26575 W. Commerce Dr., Suite 601
Volo, IL 60073

RE: Tower Lakes Dredging and Kelsey Road Disposal Site Restoration
Project Number(s): 1605540 [15-0309]
County: Lake

Dear Mr. Rauch:

The Illinois Department of Natural Resources has reviewed the above-mentioned project involving dredging at Tower Lakes, Lake County, IL. Pursuant to the Fish & Wildlife Coordination Act, the Department provides the following comments:

The natural resource review identified protected resources in the area. The Department reviewed this information and determined that some potential exists for the state-endangered Blanding's turtle (*Emydoidea blandingii*) to occur in the project area.

To avoid and minimize impacts to this species, the Department recommends the following measures be implemented:

1. Educate and inform construction crews and on-site personnel about Blanding's turtles before work begins. Distribute photos (adult and juvenile) of the species and discuss the site management plan for responding to encounters in preconstruction site meetings. If a turtle is encountered on site, inform crews to immediately stop construction in the surrounding area and contact the Department's Heritage Biologist, Brad Semel, at 630/399-3242, *keeping in mind it is a criminal act to handle a listed species without appropriate permits.*
2. Exclusionary silt fencing should be installed to prevent turtles from entering the construction areas. Daily inspections should occur for the first two weeks and then be maintained weekly throughout the construction period to ensure the exclusionary fencing has been properly installed (dug into the ground) and to check if any turtles are present on either side of the fence. Trenches or excavations should be covered at night to avoid trapping wildlife and inspected each morning.

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.

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, slightly slanted style.

Nathan Grider
Impact Assessment Section
217-785-5500

cc: Melyssa Navis - USACE