



Illinois Department of Natural Resources

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

Bruce Rauner, Governor
Wayne A. Rosenthal, Director

March 9, 2016

Tim Meeks
708 Roosevelt Road
Walkerton, IN 46574

RE: Romeoville Metra Train Station
Project Number(s): 1605600 [1604505]
County: Will

Dear Mr. Meeks:

The Illinois Department of Natural Resources has reviewed the above-mentioned project involving construction of the new Romeoville Metra Train Station. Pursuant to the Fish & Wildlife Coordination Act, the Department provides the following comments:

Records of the state and federally-endangered Hine's emerald dragonfly (*Somatochlora hineana*) and leafy prairie clover (*Dalea foliosa*) as well as state-endangered Blanding's turtle and Butler's quillwort (*Isoetes butleri*) exist in the project area. The state and federally-threatened northern long-eared bat (*Myotis septentrionalis*) may also occur in the project area. The Long Run Seep Nature Preserve also occurs approximately 3500' south of the project footprint; however, adverse impacts appear to be unlikely to this site.

To avoid impacts to state-listed species, the Department recommends the following measures be implemented:

Blanding's Turtle

- Install exclusionary fencing by March 15 and maintain it through October 31 or until the project is complete. Be sure the fence is trenched into the ground to prevent turtles from entering construction areas and access roads. Inspect the fencing daily to ensure it remains properly installed and to check the species are not present;
- All on-site personnel involved in the project, including construction staff, should be educated on how to recognize this species. Color photos (of adults and juveniles), educational materials, and a plan for responding to potential encounters should be discussed in a training session and at the preconstruction site meeting(s);
- Routinely inspect the project areas before work begins to assure no turtles will be crushed by vehicles and other equipment.

- This species may try to traverse parking lots during station operation, especially during the nesting season. Installation of 6” exclusionary curbing around the entire parking is recommended to discourage turtles and other small wildlife from entering parking lots and being crushed by vehicles.
- Maintenance crews working at the station should also be educated about this species and instructed to check areas before mowing or operating other equipment to avoid harm.
- If Blanding’s turtles are observed during construction or station operation, contact Dan Kirk, IDNR District Heritage Biologist, at 630-553-1372 immediately if the turtle is at risk of harm. Do not attempt to handle the turtle without the proper permits to do so.

State-Listed plants

Records for the state-endangered Butler’s quillwort and state and federally-endangered leafy prairie clover occur immediately south of the project boundary. Pursuant to the *Illinois Endangered Species Protection Act* [520 ILCS 10/], state-listed plants belong to the landowner and their fate resides with the landowners conservation decisions. However, express written permission from the landowner should be obtained from construction companies/crews to “take” listed plants to comply with the *Illinois Endangered Species Protection Act*. Regardless, the department recommends the area be surveyed by a qualified biologist for these species and conservation measures are employed to mitigate impacts. Such measures may include seed collection and/or translocation to appropriate habitat, as well as surface soil conservation, which may contain the seed bank. The Department also recommends consultation with the US Fish and Wildlife Service concerning federally-listed leafy prairie clover.

Hine’s Emerald Dragonfly

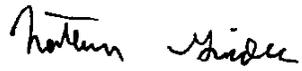
The Department recommends consulting with Kris Lah, US Fish and Wildlife Service’s Hine’s Emerald Dragonfly Specialist on impacts to this species. Please copy the Department on the correspondences. If “take” of this species is possible, the Department would recommend you apply for Incidental Take Authorization from the state.

Bats

The proposed plans call for some tree clearing to be completed. To avoid impacts to the northern long-eared bat, the Department recommends no tree clearing from April 1 through October 14. If this cannot be accommodated, the Department recommends a bat habitat assessment be completed and further coordination with the Department on the results.

The Department requests notification if these recommendations will be accommodated. Please note that this review is separate and distinct from any other action or regulatory authority of the Department. This 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 that reads "Nathan Grider". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Nathan Grider
Impact Assessment Section
217-785-5500

cc: Stasi Brown, USACE
Kris Lah, USFWS
Shawn Cirton, USFWS
Maggie Cole, IDNR
Kim Roman, INPC