



# 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 28, 2016

Stephen Chu, PWS  
CH2M  
4263 Glenmore Rd  
Rockton, IL 61072

**RE: 14Volo1-1, 14Volo1-6, and 14Volo1-7 Dig Sites and Associated Accesses**  
**Project Number(s): 1606016 [1604865]**  
**County: DuPage**

Dear Mr. Chu:

The Illinois Department of Natural Resources has reviewed the above-mentioned project involving excavation and view/repair of potential anomalies along a natural gas pipeline. Pursuant to the Fish & Wildlife Coordination Act, the Department provides the following comments:

Records of the state-endangered Blanding's turtle (*Emydoidea blandingii*) and short-eared owl (*Asio flammeus*) exist in the project vicinity. To avoid impacts to these species the Department recommends the following measures be implemented:

### **Blanding's Turtle**

- Try to complete the work before March 15 when the turtles become more active. If not possible, 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.
- If this species is identified within the construction area, crews should stop work immediately and allow the species to move out of the way or contact Dan Kirk, IDNR District Heritage Biologist, at 630-553-1372.

### **Short-Eared Owl**

This ground nesting bird may be present year-round in Illinois and the habitat type in the project area appears to be favorable for this species. The Department recommends no work on the

project during the nesting season of this species (March 15<sup>th</sup> through June 30<sup>th</sup>). If this cannot be accommodated, surveys will be needed by a qualified biologist and further coordination with the Department to determine potential impacts.

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, appearing to read "Nathan Grider". The signature is written in a cursive style with some loops and flourishes.

Nathan Grider  
Impact Assessment Section  
217-785-5500

cc: Ron Abrant, USACE