



Illinois Department of Natural Resources

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Bruce Rauner, Governor
Wayne A. Rosenthal, Director

March 23, 2016

Mr. Vince Hamer
Bureau of Design and Environment
Natural Resources Unit
Illinois Department of Transportation
2300 South Dirksen Parkway
Springfield, IL 62674

Re: IL 71 Starved Rock Slope Repair
Sequence Number: 19720
Project Number(s): 1606031
Alternate Project Number(s):
County: LaSalle County

Dear Mr. Hamer:

This letter concerns the Endangered Species Consultation for the **IL 71 Starved Rock Slope Repair**, located in **LaSalle County**. 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 proposed action involves: "Slope failure repair inside of Starved Rock State Park."

E&T Review

The following protected resources occur in the vicinity of the project area and proposed action:

Indiana Bat, *Myotis sodalis*
Starved Rock - East INAI
Starved Rock State Park

To minimize or avoid potential adverse impacts, the Department recommends the measures described below be included as commitments in the NRR.

Recommendation: This project is in the vicinity of a record for the State-listed endangered Indiana Bat (*Myotis sodalis*). This species is also a Federally-listed endangered species. It is possible that migrating individual bats may pass through the project area, forage along the river, and be present in trees that are within the project's footprint. Where similar suitable habitat is present, it should be assumed the Northern Long-Eared Bat (*Myotis septentrionalis*) could also be present. Therefore, the Department recommends tree to be cut within the project area shall be clearly flagged and/or marked and **shall not** be cut between April 1 - October 14.

Recommendation: The Department recommends the Illinois Department of Transportation coordinate with Russ Blogg, IDNR District Heritage Biologist, and Terry Novak, IDNR Starved Rock Site Superintendent, regarding replanting seed mixtures and fill dirt sourcing.

Recommendation: The Department recommends strict adherence to best management practices for erosion and sedimentation control should be used to minimize the possibility of any adverse impacts to Starved Rock State Park, Starved Rock - East INAI, listed species, and wetlands in the vicinity of this project action.

The IDNR Comprehensive Environmental Review Process (CERP) has been completed and the project approved, to include IDNR Cultural Resources sign off. The effective date of the CERP document is March 21, 2016.

The Department concurs with the commitments made by IDOT per the NRR Memo dated March 23, 2016. Consultation under 17 Ill. Adm. Code Part 1075 is terminated. Consultation for Part 1075 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,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sheldon R. Fairfield". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name being the most prominent.

Sheldon R. Fairfield
Impact Assessment Section
Division of Ecosystems & Environment
Phone: (217) 782-0031

cc: Rich Lewis, IDNR – Impact Assessment/CERP Program
Russ Blogg, IDNR – District Heritage Biologist
Kerry Novak IDNR – Site Superintendent