Illinois Department of
Natural Resources
One Natural Resources Way Springfield, Illinois 62702-1271
www.dnr.illinois.gov
Bruce Rauner, Governor
Wayne A. Rosenthal, Director

August 09, 2016

Harrison Meyer
Manhard Consulting
700 Springer Drive
Lombard, IL 60148

RE: Chapel Hill and IL Route 120
Project Number(s): 1700203
County: McHenry

Dear Mr. Meyer:

This letter concerns the Endangered Species Consultation for the project noted above, located in McHenry County, Township 45 North, Range 8 East, Sections 25, 36. 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.

Project is at the northwest corner of Chapel Hill Road and IL Route 120. The proposed improvements include a gas station convenience store and retail.

The Department has completed its review of the project and determined that, with the exception below, the resources identified by EcoCAT in the vicinity are unlikely to be affected.

The state-endangered **Blanding's Turtle** *(Emydoidea blandingii)* is known to occur in the vicinity of the project area. These turtles hibernate in wetlands and, depending on the temperature, generally emerge in the spring with upland nesting occurring in June. They may travel up to one mile in their search for nesting habitat. To minimize impact to this species the Department recommends:

- Educate personnel working on site about the Blanding's Turtle. Post photos of juvenile and adult Blanding's at a central location.
- Install exclusionary silt fence by the end of March and maintain it through October (if needed) to prevent turtles from entering the construction area.
- Conduct daily inspections during construction to ensure that exclusionary fencing is properly installed (dug into the ground) and to check if turtles are present.
- Trenches should be covered at the end of each work day. Before starting each work day, trenches and excavations should be routinely inspected to ensure no turtles (or other amphibians and reptiles) have become trapped within them.
- If Blanding's turtles are encountered, crews should stop work immediately, allow the turtle to move out of the way and contact IDNR at 815-675-2386 ext. 216 or 217-557-0483.

- Exclusionary 6-inch curbing around entire parking lot areas should be incorporated into project plans to prevent any turtles from entering parking lots and being crushed by vehicles.

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