



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 31, 2016

Alicia Knapp
Walnut Ridge Wind, LLC
PO Box 657
Des Moines, IA 50306 0657

RE: Walnut Ridge Wind, LLC Electric Transmission Line
Project Number(s): 1701789
County: Bureau

Dear Ms. Knapp:

This letter concerns the Endangered Species Consultation for the project noted above, located in Bureau County, Township 18 North, Range 7 East, Sections 1, 12, 13, 18, 19, 30. 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 project consists of construction of an overhead electrical transmission line in Walnut, IL.

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.

Maternity colonies of the state- and federally-listed endangered **Northern Long-eared Bat** (*Myotis septentrionalis*) are known to occur within 0.4 miles of the project area. To avoid potential impacts to this species, the Department recommends:

- No trees should be removed between the dates of April 1 and October 14.
- If construction time occurs outside of the recommended timeframe, the Department recommends a potential roost tree survey be performed for these species within the tree removal area. The results of the survey should be forwarded to the Department. Please note, any survey activity that will actually capture or handle endangered or threatened species requires personnel doing so to hold Scientific Collection Permits under Part 520 and Part 1070 of the Department's Rules.
- If the species is present, please contact IDNR at 815-313-9306 or 217-557-0483.

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

cc: Keith Shank, Acting Chief, Division of Ecosystems & Environment, IDNR
Russel Blogg, District Heritage Biologist, IDNR