

BUREAU OF FORESTRY

February 10, 2012

**PNDI Number: 21672**

**Sherry Slocum**

**Jim Kooser**

**URS Corporation Great Lakes**

3950 Sparks Dr. SE

Grand Rapids, MI 49546

FAX: 616-574-8542 (hard copy WILL NOT follow)

Re: Bluestone Gathering System Phase II & III  
Harford, Harmony, Jackson, Lenox, New Milford and Thompson Townships, Susquehanna County

Dear Ms. Slocum & Mr. Kooser,

Thank you for your submission of the Pennsylvania Natural Diversity Inventory (PNDI) Environmental Review Large Project Number **21672** for review. PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources screened this project for potential impacts to species and resources of concern under DCNR's responsibility, which includes plants, terrestrial invertebrates, natural communities, and geologic features only.

**Project History**

The Bluestone Gathering System Phase II was first received in our office under PNDI number 20978 on October 26, 2010. The project was then modified a year later under PNDI number 21278. An updated version was then received and reviewed and surveys were requested. The table below summarizes our responses and dates:

PNDI Number	Location	Survey Requested for:	Conservation Measure for:	Date
20978		Andromeda polifolia, Carex disperma, Galium trifidum, Phragmites australis spp americanus	Astragalus canadensis	9/6/10
21278	Northern terminus to MP 14	Andromeda polifolia, Carex disperma, C. lasiocarpa, Galium trifidum, Phragmites australis spp. americanus	Astragalus canadensis, Stellaria borealis	4/13/11
21278	MP 16 - MP 19	Galium trifidum		4/13/11
21278	MP 22 - MP 24	Galium trifidum		4/13/11
21278-2	Phase II Corridor Update	Andromeda polifolia, Carex disperma, C. lasiocarpa, Galium trifidum, Phragmites australis spp. americanus, Potamogeton oakesianus, Ribes triste, Viola renifolia, Viola selkirkii	Astragalus canadensis, Stellaria borealis	6/8/11
21278-3	Phase III Corridor update	Galium trifidum		6/8/11
21672-2	Phase II Corridor Update	Andromeda polifolia, Carex disperma, C. lasiocarpa, Galium trifidum, Phragmites australis spp. americanus, Potamogeton oakesianus, Ribes triste, Viola renifolia, Viola selkirkii	Astragalus canadensis, Stellaria borealis	12/1/11
21672-3	Phase III Corridor Update	Galium trifidum		12/1/11

**No Impact Anticipated as per Survey and Mitigation**

PNDI records indicated species or resources of concern are located in the vicinity of the project. Surveys were conducted by Gomez and Sullivan Engineers, PC and URS biologists on Phase II & Phase III corridor of the Blues-

**conserve**

**sustain**

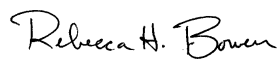
**enjoy**

tone Gathering System from 9/26/2011-10/30/2011. On the Phase II pipeline, two species of special concern were found during the survey effort: 13 occurrences of *Galium trifidum* and two of *Viola renifolia*. Two populations of *G. trifidum* will be avoided through the use of horizontal directional drilling (including the most robust population), and one population of *V. renifolia* lies outside of the limits of disturbance. The rest of the populations will be disturbed. On Phase III pipeline, one population of *Galium trifidum* will be impacted. URS has suggested segregation of topsoils during excavation and replacing them in their proper depth order as a mitigation technique. While we agree with this suggestion we also request monitoring for the disturbed populations. This monitoring effort on Phases II and III will provide information about how these species respond to disturbance and whether segregation of topsoils is an effective means of mitigation and will inform our decisions in the future. Therefore, DCNR has determined that no lasting impact is anticipated to occur to species of special concern under our jurisdiction as a result of this project.

This response represents the most up-to-date summary of the PNDI data files and is valid for one (1) year from the date of this letter. An absence of recorded information does not necessarily imply actual conditions on-site. Should project plans change or additional information on listed or proposed species become available, this determination may be reconsidered. Should the proposed work continue beyond the period covered by this letter, please resubmit the project to this agency as an "Update" (including an updated PNDI receipt, project narrative and accurate map).

This finding applies to impacts to DCNR only. To complete your review of state and federally-listed threatened and endangered species and species of special concern, please be sure the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, PA Game Commission, and the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission have been contacted regarding this project as directed by the online PNDI ER Tool found at [www.naturalheritage.state.pa.us](http://www.naturalheritage.state.pa.us).

Sincerely,



Rebecca H. Bowen, Environmental Review Manager FOR Chris Firestone, Wild Plant Program Mgr.  
Ph: 717-772-0258 ~ [c-rbowen@pa.gov](mailto:c-rbowen@pa.gov)

## Wade, Sara

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**From:** Bowen, Rebecca H [<mailto:c-rbowen@pa.gov>]  
**Sent:** Friday, February 10, 2012 2:44 PM  
**To:** 'Jim Kooser'  
**Cc:** Slocum, Sherry  
**Subject:** RE: Bluestone Gathering System PNDI 21278

Hello,

Attached are the No Impact as per mitigation letter from DCNR as well as the monitoring form for phases II and III. I realized I had an earlier PNDI number on the previous documents. This refers to the most up to date alignment we've received. Thanks!

Rebecca Bowen  
DCNR/BOF  
717-772-0258  
[c-rbowen@pa.gov](mailto:c-rbowen@pa.gov)

**Sara Wade, J.D.**  
*Environmental Specialist*

27777 Franklin Road, Suite 2000  
Southfield, MI 48034  
Tel: 248.204.5900  
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*Please consider the environment before printing this email.*



# Pennsylvania Natural Diversity Inventory

## Project Planning & Environmental Review Form

This form provides site information necessary to perform an Environmental Review for special concern species and resources listed under the Endangered Species Act of 1973, the Wild Resource Conservation Act, the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat code or the Pennsylvania Game and Wildlife Code.

### Applicant Information

Name: Bluestone Pipeline Company Of Pennsylvania, Llc  
Address: One Energy Plaza, Detroit, Michigan 48226  
Phone Number: 313-235-3263 Fax Number: 313-235-1045

### Contact Person Information - if different from applicant

Name: Sherry Slocum, Urs Corporation Great Lakes  
Address: 3950 Sparks Dr Se, Grand Rapids, Mi 49546  
Phone Number: 616-560-5245 Fax Number: 616-574-8542

### Project Information

Project Name: Bluestone Gathering System  
Project Location: See Attached  
Project Center Point - Latitude: N/A Longitude: N/A  
Municipality: See Attached County: Susquehanna  
 Attach a copy of a U.S.G.S. 7 1/2 Minute Quadrangle Map with Project Boundaries clearly marked.  
U.S.G.S. Quad Name: See Attached  
Are GIS files of the project available and would you share them if requested?  Yes  No

### Project Description

#### Proposed Project Activity (including ALL earth disturbance areas and current conditions)

See Attached

Total Acres of Property: Tbd Acreage to be Impacted: Tbd

1. Will the entire project occur in or on an existing building, parking lot, driveway, road, maintained road shoulder, street, runway, paved area, railroad bed, or maintained lawn? Yes  No
2. Are there any waterways or waterbodies (intermittent or perennial rivers, streams, creeks, tributaries, lakes or ponds) in or near the project area, or on the land parcel? If so, how many feet away is the project? Yes  Tbd Feet No
3. Are wetlands located in or within 300 feet of the project area? Yes  No  If No, is this the result of a wetland delineation? See Attached

If you have a "PNDI Project Environmental Review Receipt" with potential impacts, please send a receipt copy, this completed form, and a USGS Quad Map to the agency/agencies noted on the receipt. If you are unable to generate a PNDI Receipt because you do not have Internet access, complete this form, attach a USGS Quad Map, and send them to your local DEP or County Conservation District. For review of a "Large Project," please send form and map to all the agencies listed below. See page 2 for more information.

#### Dept. of Conservation and Natural Resources

Bureau of Forestry, Ecological Services Section  
400 Market St., PO Box 8552  
Harrisburg, PA 17105  
fax: 717-772-0271

#### PA Fish and Boat Commission

Natural Diversity Section  
450 Robinson Lane  
Bellefonte, PA 16823  
no faxes please

#### PA Game Commission

Bureau of Land Management  
2001 Elmerton Avenue  
Harrisburg, PA 17110-9797  
fax: 717-787-6957

#### US Fish and Wildlife Service

Endangered Species Biologist  
315 South Allen St., Suite 322  
State College, PA 16801  
no faxes please

# How to Use the PNDI Project Planning & Environmental Review Form

## How do I access the PNDI Environmental Review Tool?

Visit [www.naturalheritage.state.pa.us](http://www.naturalheritage.state.pa.us). Click on “PNDI Project Planning and Environmental Review” on the bottom left corner of the homepage to access the tool. Follow this link to access the ER Tool and for step-by-step instructions on using the ER Tool, FAQ’s and access to an electronic version of the PNDI Form.

## When do I use this form?

### **1. Before conducting the PNDI online search**

The Applicant can complete the PNDI Form and submit it to the person conducting the online PNDI Project Planning and Environmental Review Tool search. This person performing the search could be someone from DEP, the County Conservation Districts, or a consultant. Alternatively, if the Applicant plans to conduct the PNDI online search his or herself—a search form is not needed prior to the PNDI online search.

### **2. After conducting the PNDI online search**

If your PNDI Project Environmental Review Receipt has “Potential Impacts,” DEP and the jurisdictional agencies require that you submit additional information to the agencies noted on the Receipt for further review. Please send a copy of the PNDI Receipt, a completed PNDI Form, and a USGS 7.5 minute quadrangle map with project boundaries delineated on the map to the agencies referenced on your PNDI Receipt.

### **3. If your Project is a “Large Project”**— too large/long to search on the online system

Projects are considered “Large Projects” when the ENTIRE project is:

- Linear/Large Projects that exceed map limits: approximately 2-2.84 miles depending on browser size
- Projects that will not fit on 1:24,000 scale map. Project Maximums: 1024 x 768 browsers: 2625 acres; 15,000 feet long x 7600 feet wide; approximately 2.84 miles 800 x 600 browsers: 1050 acres; 11,000 feet long x 4000 feet wide; approximately 2 miles
- Township-wide, Countywide or Statewide Projects. Examples: Act 537 Sewage Plans, Wind Farms, Roadway Improvements exceeding map limits above.

For “Large Project” review, please forward a completed PNDI Form and a USGS 7.5 minute quadrangle with project boundaries and quad name marked on the map to DCNR, PFBC, PGC, and USFWS (contact information on page 1 of form). Due to system limitations and agency requirements, projects should not be submitted piecemeal. The entire project area including roads and infrastructure should be submitted as a single unit.

## PNDI Form Definitions

**Applicant:** Person that owns the property or is proposing the project or activity

**Contact Person:** Person to receive response if different than applicant (e.g. Consultant)

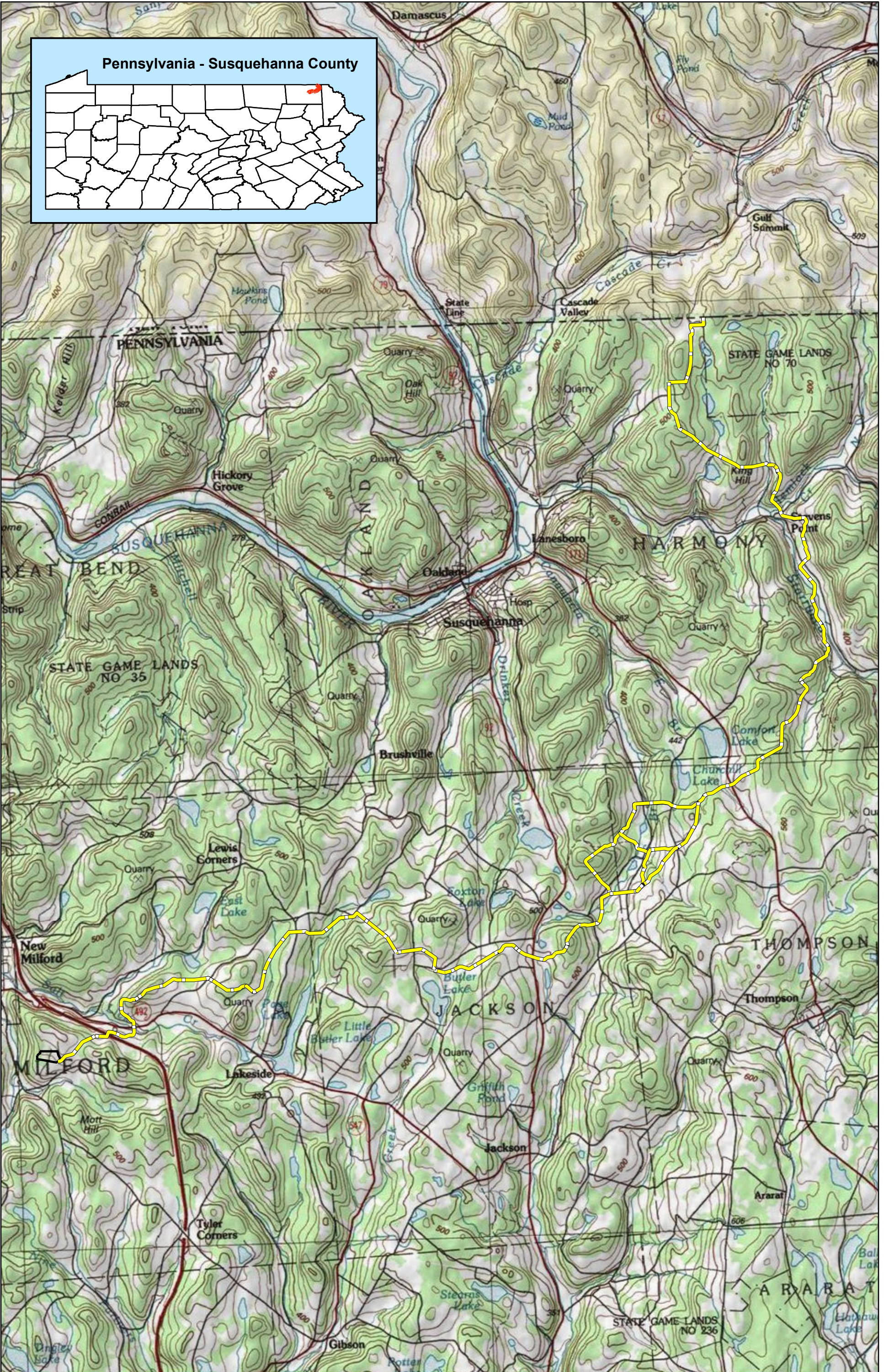
**Project Name:** Descriptive title of project (e.g. Twin Pines Subdivision, Miller Bridge Replacement)

**Project Location:** Description of actual location (e.g. Intersection of Smith and Clay Rd., Latitude & Longitude)

**Proposed Activity:** Include ALL earth disturbance activities for project (e.g. for a timber sale—include stream crossings, cutting areas and new roadway accesses). Also include Current Conditions (e.g. housing, farmland, current land cover), and how Construction/Maintenance Activity is to be accomplished

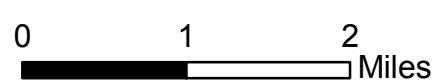
**Total Acres of Property:** Entire site acreage (e.g. timber sale property—including road access (200 acres))

**Acreage to be Impacted:** Disturbance acreage (e.g. timber sale—if the property is 200 acres, but only 100 acres will be disturbed, for example: cutting on 90 acres, a road impacting 10 acres); include all temporary and permanent activities



**Phase II Project Location Map**  
 Bluestone Gathering System  
 Susquehanna County, PA

- Legend**
- Proposed Pipeline
  - CDP Site



## Wade, Sara

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**From:** Slocum, Sherry  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 08, 2012 2:34 PM  
**To:** Wade, Sara  
**Subject:** FW: Bluestone Phase II Final Route; USFWS#2012-0261

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**From:** [Pamela Shellenberger@fws.gov](mailto:Pamela_Shellenberger@fws.gov) [[mailto:Pamela\\_Shellenberger@fws.gov](mailto:Pamela_Shellenberger@fws.gov)]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 01, 2012 2:03 PM  
**To:** Slocum, Sherry  
**Subject:** Bluestone Phase II Final Route; USFWS#2012-0261

Sherry,

This email is in regards to your email of February 1, 2012, outlining a finalized pipeline route. The total amount of forest acres proposed to be impacted is approximately 145.42 acres. Therefore, comments in our letter of December 28, 2011 still apply. You have indicated that you would like to clear trees between November 15-March 31. Using this time of year restriction will minimize impacts to potential Indiana bats using the forest trees for roosting and foraging because they are assumed to be hibernating during this time. If you cannot fell all trees before March 31, mist-net surveys should be completed on the remaining forest lands. By use of the time of year restriction or mist-net surveys, this project is not likely to adversely affect the Indiana bat.

Additionally, cutting trees during this time will reduce impacts to migratory birds that may be in the project area.

Please accept this email as our official response.  
Thank you,

Pamela Shellenberger  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
315 South Allen Street  
State College, PA 16803  
814-234-4090 x241  
814-234-0748 (f)  
<http://fws.gov/northeast/pafo/index.html>

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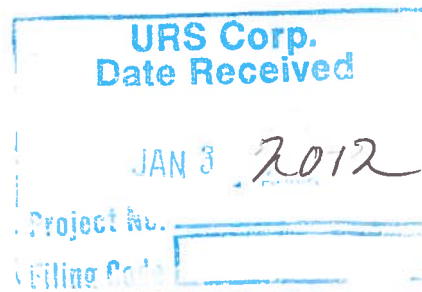
# United States Department of the Interior



FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE  
Pennsylvania Field Office  
315 South Allen Street, Suite 322  
State College, Pennsylvania 16801-4850

December 28, 2011

Sherry Slocum  
URS Corporation  
27777 Franklin Road  
Suite 20000  
Southfield, MI 48034



RE: USFWS Project #2012-0177

Dear Ms. Slocum:

This responds to your e-mail of December 21, 2011, which addressed information requested by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service relating to the area affected by DTE Pipeline Company, proposed Bluestone Gathering System Phase III project located in Susquehanna County, Pennsylvania. The following comments are provided pursuant to the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (87 Stat. 884, as amended; 16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*) to ensure the protection of endangered and threatened species and the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA, 16 U.S.C. 703-712; Ch. 128; July 13, 1918; 40 Stat. 755, as amended) to ensure the protection of migratory bird species.

## Indiana bat

The project is within the range of the Indiana bat (*Myotis sodalis*), a species that is federally listed as endangered. According to our review of the project information provided, it appears that approximately 129.02-acres of forest habitat will be affected by the proposed project. Land-clearing associated with the project may result in the death or injury of roosting Indiana bats if tree-cutting is conducted during the time of year when bats may be present (*i.e.*, April 1 to September 30). Due to the potential for Indiana bats to occur within the project area, the Service recommends that measures be implemented to avoid killing or injuring them. This can be accomplished by carrying out tree-cutting activities from October 15 to March 31, during which time bats are hibernating or concentrated near their hibernacula. This seasonal restriction on tree cutting applies to trees that are greater than or equal to 5 inches in diameter at breast height (d.b.h). Where possible, retain shagbark hickory trees, dead and dying trees, and large diameter trees (greater than 12 inches d.b.h.) to serve as roost trees for bats. Where possible, also retain forested riparian corridors and forested wetlands.

If you are unable to adopt the tree-cutting restrictions detailed above, an Indiana bat survey should be conducted by a qualified surveyor (list enclosed) in accordance with the enclosed *Mist Netting Guidelines*. Survey results should be submitted to the Fish and Wildlife Service for review and comment. Should Indiana bats be found during the survey, further consultation with the Service will be necessary.



Please advise this office as to whether you intend to conduct bat surveys, or assume bats are present and implement a seasonal restriction on tree-cutting.

### Assessment of Risks to Migratory Birds

The Fish and Wildlife Service is the principal Federal agency charged with protecting and enhancing populations and habitat of migratory bird species. The Migratory Bird Treaty Act prohibits the taking, killing, possession, transportation, and importation of migratory birds, their eggs, parts, and nests, except when specifically authorized by the Department of the Interior. While the MBTA has no provision for authorizing incidental take, the Service recognizes that some birds may be killed even if all reasonable measures to avoid take are implemented. Unless the take is authorized, it is not possible to absolve individuals, companies or agencies from liability (even if they implement avian mortality avoidance or similar conservation measures). However, the Office of Law Enforcement focuses on those individuals, companies, or agencies that take migratory birds with disregard for their actions and the law, especially when conservation measures have been developed but are not properly implemented.

The potential exists for avian mortality from habitat destruction and alteration within the project boundaries. Site-specific factors that should be considered in project siting to avoid and minimize the risk to birds include avian abundance; the quality, quantity and type of habitat; geographic location; type and extent of bird use (*e.g.* breeding, foraging, migrating, etc.); and landscape features.

We offer the following recommendations to avoid and minimize impacts to migratory birds within and around the project area:

1. Due to the difficulty in assessing the entire project site for all bird nests, we recommend that the clearing of natural or semi-natural habitats (*e.g.*, forests, woodlots, reverting fields, fencerows, shrubby areas) and any maintenance activities following construction (*e.g.*, mowing) be carried out between September 1 and March 31, which is outside the nesting season for most native bird species. Without undertaking specific analysis of breeding species and their respective nesting seasons on the project site, implementation of this seasonal restriction will avoid take of most breeding birds, their nests, and their young (*i.e.*, eggs, hatchlings, fledglings).
2. Minimize land and vegetation disturbance during project design and construction. To reduce habitat fragmentation, co-locate roads, fences, lay down areas, staging areas, and other infrastructure in or immediately adjacent to already-disturbed areas (*e.g.*, existing roads, pipelines, agricultural fields) and cluster development features (*e.g.*, buildings, roads) as opposed to distributing them throughout land parcels. Where this is not possible, minimize roads, fences, and other infrastructure.
3. Avoid permanent habitat alterations in areas where birds are highly concentrated. Examples of high concentration areas for birds are wetlands, State or Federal refuges, Audubon Important Bird Areas, private duck clubs, staging areas, rookeries, leks, roosts, and riparian areas. Avoid establishing sizable structures along known bird migration pathways or known daily movement flyways (*e.g.*, between roosting and feeding areas).

4. To conserve area-sensitive species, avoid fragmenting large, contiguous tracts of wildlife habitat, especially if habitat cannot be fully restored after construction. Maintain contiguous habitat corridors to facilitate wildlife dispersal. Where practicable, concentrate construction activities, infrastructure, and man-made structures (*e.g.*, buildings, cell towers, roads, parking lots) on lands already altered or cultivated, and away from areas of intact and healthy native habitats. If not feasible, select fragmented or degraded habitats over relatively intact areas.
  
5. Develop a habitat restoration plan for the proposed site that avoids or minimizes negative impacts on vulnerable wildlife. Use only plant species that are native to the local area for revegetation of the project area.

No field inspection of the project area has been conducted by this office. Consequently, this letter is not to be construed as addressing potential Service concerns under the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act.

*To avoid potential delays in reviewing your project, please use the above-referenced USFWS project tracking number in any future correspondence regarding this project.*

If you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact Pamela Shellenberger of my staff at 814-234-4090.

Sincerely,



Clinton Riley  
Field Office Supervisor

Enclosures

## Federally Listed, Proposed, and Candidate Species in Pennsylvania

(revised January 20, 2011)

<u>Common Name</u>	<u>Scientific Name</u>	<u>Status<sup>1</sup></u>	<u>Distribution (Counties and/or Watersheds)</u>
<b>MAMMALS</b>			
Indiana bat	<i>Myotis sodalis</i>	E	<u>Hibernacula</u> : Armstrong, Beaver, Blair, Centre, Fayette, Huntingdon, Lawrence, Luzerne, Mifflin and Somerset Co. <u>Maternity sites</u> : Adams, Armstrong, Bedford, Berks, Blair, Greene, Washington, and York Counties. Potential winter habitat state-wide in caves or abandoned mines. Potential summer habitat state-wide in forests or wooded areas.
<b>BIRDS</b>			
Piping plover	<i>Charadrius melodus</i>	E	Designated critical habitat on Presque Isle (Erie Co.). Migratory. No nesting in PA since 1950s, but recent colonization attempts at Presque Isle
<b>REPTILES</b>			
Bog turtle	<i>Clemmys (Glyptemys) muhlenbergii</i>	T	Adams, Berks, Bucks, Carbon, Chester, Cumberland, Delaware, Lancaster, Lebanon, Lehigh, Monroe, Montgomery, Northampton, Schuylkill and York Co.  <i>Historically found in Crawford, Mercer and Philadelphia Co.</i>
Eastern massasauga rattlesnake	<i>Sistrurus catenatus catenatus</i>	C	Butler, Crawford, Mercer and Venango Co.  <i>Historically found in Allegheny and Lawrence Co.</i>
<b>MUSSELS</b>			
Clubshell	<i>Pleurobema clava</i>	E	Allegheny River (Armstrong, Clarion, Forest, Venango, Warren); Conneaut Outlet (Crawford); Conneauttee Creek (Crawford); French Creek (Crawford, Erie, Mercer, Venango); LeBoeuf Creek (Erie); Muddy Creek (Crawford); Shenango River (Mercer)  <i>Has not been found recently in 13 streams of historical occurrence in Butler, Beaver, Fayette, Greene, Indiana, Lawrence, and Westmoreland Co.</i>
Dwarf wedgemussel	<i>Alasmidonta heterodon</i>	E	Delaware River (Monroe, Pike, Wayne Co.).  <i>Has not been found recently in streams of historical occurrence in the Delaware River watershed (Bucks, Carbon, Chester, Philadelphia) or Susquehanna River watershed (Lancaster)</i>
Northern riffleshell	<i>Epioblasma torulosa rangiana</i>	E	Allegheny River (Armstrong, Clarion, Forest, Venango, Warren); Conewango Creek (Warren); French Creek (Crawford, Erie, Mercer, Venango); LeBoeuf Creek (Erie); Muddy Creek (Crawford)  <i>Has not been found recently in streams of historical occurrence, including Shenango River (Lawrence)</i>

<u>Common Name</u>	<u>Scientific Name</u>	<u>Status</u> <sup>1</sup>	<u>Distribution (Counties and/or Watersheds)</u>
Rabbitsfoot	<i>Quadrula cylindrica cylindrica</i>	C	Allegheny River (Armstrong, Clarion, Forest, Venango, Warren); Conneauttee Creek (Venango); French Creek (Crawford, Erie, Mercer, Venango); LeBoeuf Creek (Erie); Muddy Creek (Crawford); Shenango River (Crawford, Mercer)
Rayed bean	<i>Villosa fabalis</i>	PE	Allegheny River (Armstrong, Clarion, Forest, Venango, Warren); Cussewago Creek (Crawford); French Creek (Crawford, Erie, Mercer, Venango); LeBoeuf Creek (Erie); Muddy Creek (Crawford)  <i>Potentially extant in Shenango River (Crawford, Mercer) and Woodcock Creek (Venango)</i>  <i>Has not been found recently in 5 streams of historical occurrence in Armstrong, Lawrence, Mercer and Warren Co.</i>
Sheepnose	<i>Plethobasus cyphus</i>	PE	Allegheny River (Forest and Venango Co.).  <i>Has not been found recently in streams of historical occurrence, including: Allegheny River (Armstrong); Beaver River (Lawrence); Monongahela River (Washington); Ohio River (Allegheny and Beaver)</i>
Snuffbox	<i>Epioblasma triquetra</i>	PE	Allegheny River (Armstrong, Clarion, Venango), Conneaut Outlet (Crawford); Cussewago Creek (Crawford); Dunkard Creek (Greene); French Creek (Crawford, Erie, Mercer, Venango); LeBoeuf Creek (Erie); Little Mahoning Creek (Indiana); Muddy Creek (Crawford); Shenango and Little Shenango River (Mercer); West Branch French Creek (Erie)
<b>FISH</b>			
Atlantic sturgeon <sup>2</sup>	<i>Acipenser oxyrinchus oxyrinchus</i>	C	Delaware River and other Atlantic coastal waters
Shortnose sturgeon <sup>2</sup>	<i>Acipenser brevirostrum</i>	E	Delaware River and other Atlantic coastal waters
<b>PLANTS</b>			
Northeastern bulrush	<i>Scirpus ancistrochaetus</i>	E	Adams, Bedford, Blair, Cambria, Carbon, Centre, Clinton, Columbia, Cumberland, Dauphin, Franklin, Fulton, Huntingdon, Lackawanna, Lehigh, Lycoming, Mifflin, Monroe, Perry, Snyder, Tioga, and Union Co.  <i>Historically found in Northampton Co.</i>
Small-whorled pogonia	<i>Isotria medeoloides</i>	T	Centre, Chester and Venango Co.  <i>Historically found in Berks, Greene, Monroe, Montgomery and Philadelphia Co.</i>

<sup>1</sup> E = Endangered; T = Threatened; PE = Proposed for listing as Endangered; C = Candidate

<sup>2</sup> Atlantic sturgeon and shortnose sturgeon are under the jurisdiction of the National Marine Fisheries Service

**U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE**  
**Pennsylvania Field Office**

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**QUALIFIED INDIANA BAT SURVEYORS**

The following list includes persons known by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to have the skills and experience to conduct surveys for Indiana bats. Any individuals handling or conducting surveys for Indiana bats must first obtain a permit from the Pennsylvania Game Commission. All Indiana bat captures must be reported in writing to the Service and Commission within 72 hours. Indiana bat surveys will be overseen by a qualified surveyor, who will be present in the field at all times during the investigation. Mist-net surveys should be carried out in accordance with the Service's *Indiana Bat Mist Netting Guidelines*. If any Indiana bats are captured during mist-netting, a surveyor with bat telemetry experience should be prepared to place a transmitter on the bat(s) to identify roost trees and foraging habitat. Various sampling techniques, including mist-netting, Anabat detection, radio-telemetry, harp-trapping and hibernacula surveys, are used to detect and monitor bats. Some individuals on this list may not be qualified to conduct all types of sampling.

This information is not to be construed as an endorsement of individuals or firms by the Service or any of its employees. Persons not on this list, but who have documented experience in conducting scientific studies of, or successful searches for, Indiana bats may submit their qualifications to the Service for review. The submission must include documentation that the requestor has experience successfully locating and identifying Indiana bats in their hibernacula and their summer habitat. Additions to and deletions from this list are at the sole discretion of the Service. This list is subject to revision at any time without prior notice.

---

Chris Sanders, Matt Hopkins,  
Chelsea Albertson & Keith  
Christenson  
Sanders Environmental, Inc.  
322 Borealis Way  
Bellefonte, PA 16823  
814-659-8257 (c)  
[sanders@batgate.com](mailto:sanders@batgate.com)

John Chenger, Kevin Rhome,  
Janet Tyburec, Aimee Haskew &  
Todd Sinander  
Bat Conservation & Management  
220 Old Stone House Road  
Carlisle, PA 17015  
717-241-2228  
814-442-4246 (c)  
[jchenger@batmanagement.com](mailto:jchenger@batmanagement.com)

Virgil Brack, Jr., Dale Sparks,  
Jason Duffey, Adam Mann, Jack  
Basiger, Erin Basiger, David  
Jeffcott & Lisa Winhold  
Environmental Solutions &  
Innovations  
4525 Este Avenue  
Cincinnati, OH 45232  
513-451-1777

Mark Gumbert, Price Sewell &  
Chris Leftwich  
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PO Box 73  
Paint Lick, KY 40461  
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# INDIANA BAT MIST NETTING GUIDELINES

## RATIONALE

A typical mist net survey is an attempt to determine presence or probable absence of the species, it does not provide sufficient data to determine population size or structure. Following these guidelines will standardize procedures for mist netting. It will help maximize the potential for capture of Indiana bats at a minimum acceptable level of effort. Although the capture of bats confirms their presence, failure to catch bats does not absolutely confirm their absence. Netting effort as extensive as outlined below usually is sufficient to capture Indiana bats. However, there have been instances in which additional effort was necessary to detect the presence of the species.

## NETTING SEASON

May 15 - August 15

These dates define acceptable limits for documenting the presence of summer population of Indiana bats, especially maternity colonies. Several captures, including adult females and young of the year, indicate that a nursery colony is active in the area. Outside these dates, even when Indiana bats are caught, data should be carefully interpreted: If only a single bat is captured, it may be a transient or migratory individual.

## EQUIPMENT

Mist nets - Use the finest, lowest visibility mesh commercially available:

1. In the past, this was 1 ply, 40 denier monofilament - denoted 40/1
2. Currently, monofilament is not available and the finest on the market is 2 ply, 50 denier nylon - denoted 50/2
3. Mesh of approximately  $1 \frac{1}{2}$  ( $1 \frac{1}{4}$  -  $1 \frac{3}{4}$ ) in (~38 mm)

Hardware - No specific hardware is required. There are many suitable systems of ropes and/or poles to hold the nets. See NET PLACEMENT below for minimum net heights, habitats, and other netting requirements that affect the choice of hardware. The system of Gardner, *et al.* (1989) has met the test of time.

## NET PLACEMENT

Potential travel corridors such as streams or logging trails typically are the most effective places to net. Place the nets approximately perpendicular across the corridor. Nets should fill the corridor from side to side and from stream (or ground) level up to the overhanging canopy. A typical set is seven meters high consisting of three or more nets "stacked" on top one another and up to 20 m wide. (Different width nets may be purchased and used as the situation dictates.)

Occasionally it may be desirable to net where there is no good corridor. Take caution to get the nets up into the canopy. The typical equipment described in the section above may be inadequate for these situations, requiring innovation on the part of the observers.



## RECOMMENDED NET SITE SPACING:

Stream corridors - one net site per km of stream.

Non-corridor land tracts - two net sites per square km of forested habitat  
(= 1 net site for every 123 acres of forested habitat)

## MINIMUM LEVEL OF EFFORT

Netting at each site should consist of:

At least four net-nights (unless bats are caught sooner) (one net set up for one night = one net-night)

A minimum of two net locations at each site (at least 30m apart, especially in linear habitat such as a stream corridor)

A minimum of two nights of netting

Sample Period: begin at sunset; net for at least 5 hr

Each net should be checked approximately every 20 min

No disturbance near the nets, other than to check nets and remove bats

## WEATHER CONDITIONS

Severe weather adversely affects capture of bats. If Indiana bats are caught during weather extremes, it is probably because they are at the site and active despite inclement weather. On the other hand, if bats are not caught, it may be that there are bats at the site but they may be inactive due to the weather. Negative results combined with any of the following weather conditions throughout all or most of a sampling period are likely to require additional netting:

- Precipitation
- Temperatures below 10°C
- Strong winds (Use good judgement: moving nets are more likely to be detected by bats.)

## MOONLIGHT

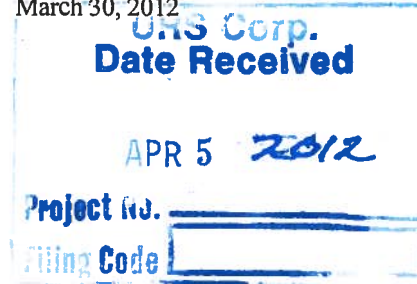
There is some evidence that small myotis bats avoid brightly lit areas, perhaps as predator avoidance. It is typically best to set nets under the canopy where they are out of the moon light, particularly when the moon is ½-full or greater.



# Pennsylvania Fish & Boat Commission

Division of Environmental Services  
Natural Diversity Section  
450 Robinson Lane  
Bellefonte, PA 16823-9620  
(814) 359-5237

March 30, 2012



**IN REPLY REFER TO**  
SIR# 36244

URS CORPORATION  
SHERRY SLOCUM  
3950 SPARKS DRIVE SE  
GRAND RAPIDS, MI 49546

**RE: Tertiary Species Impact Review (SIR) – Rare, Candidate, Threatened and Endangered Species  
BLUESTONE GATHERING SYSTEM-PHASE II  
ROUTE REVISIONS REVIEWED MARCH 22, 2012  
From NY State Line to 0.5 miles SE of New Milford, SUSQUEHANNA County, Pennsylvania**

Dear Ms. SLOCUM:

I have reviewed the map and material accompanying your recent correspondence, which concerns the above-referenced project. Based on records maintained in the Pennsylvania Natural Diversity Inventory (PNDI) database and Pennsylvania Fish & Boat Commission (PFBC) files, the timber rattlesnake (*Crotalus horridus*, PA candidate) is known from the vicinity of the proposed project site.

You sent the results of a timber rattlesnake habitat assessment conducted on the project area by Randy Stechert. During that assessment, multiple habitat locations were discovered and you have shown their locations in your submitted project mapping. The pipeline has since been rerouted to avoid direct impacts to the habitats identified. I therefore concur that the pipeline will not directly impact any hibernacula habitats; however, it will pass in close proximity to potentially occupied habitat.

If the work is to be conducted out of the active season of the timber rattlesnake, then I do not anticipate any adverse impacts to this species of special concern. However, if work is to be conducted from April 15-October 15, then I recommend that you take the following precautions to safeguard workers and rattlesnakes along the portion of the pipeline north of SR 171:

1. A PFBC approved timber rattlesnake biologist who has the proper permits (Scientific Collector's Permit), and the proper skills to handle this venomous species should be on-site prior to and during construction.
2. The PFBC approved timber rattlesnake biologist should be on-site prior to and during construction activities, during the above time frame, to inspect and clear the area (including staging areas and access roads) of timber rattlesnakes and to capture and remove any rattlesnakes that may interfere with work activities. Note: After the biologist has "cleared" the area of rattlesnakes, silt fences or other timber rattlesnake exclusion fencing may be installed depending on the size of the project. If fencing is used, Curlex or similar types of control netting should not be used due to potential entrapment of snakes within this material.

**Our Mission:**

[www.fishandboat.com](http://www.fishandboat.com)

*To protect, conserve and enhance the Commonwealth's aquatic resources and provide fishing and boating opportunities.*

3. Timber rattlesnakes observed on-site are to be measured, sexed, and the habitat characterized where the snake was found. All captured snakes should be released within close proximity (under 100 meters) of the capture site if possible. Rattlesnake captures and relocations are to be documented by photographs, habitat descriptions, in addition to being mapped and labeled accordingly. The biologist is to submit a report to this office (Natural Diversity Section) following the completion of the project documenting all of the activity and herpetofauna encountered.
4. Workers responsible for implementing this project should be advised that timber rattlesnakes may be encountered and that avoidance is the best means of minimizing risks to personal safety. It is suggested a procedure be implemented for timber rattlesnake encounters and workers are to be advised that the timber rattlesnake is a state protected species and is not to be harmed. Killing of timber rattlesnakes is prohibited by the Commission pursuant to Chapter 79.6. subsection 2102 (b) of the fishing and boating regulations.

**Provided that any future reroutes of this alignment, minor revisions to access roads, or addition of temporary workspaces are within 500 feet of the large project area submitted in your recent correspondence, then further review of these project changes is not necessary.** If you have any questions regarding this response, please contact Kathy Gipe at (814-359-5186) and refer to the SIR number at the top of this letter. Thank you for your cooperation and attention to this matter of endangered species conservation and habitat protection.

Sincerely,



Christopher A. Urban, Chief  
Natural Diversity Section

CAU/KDG/kn

PENNSYLVANIA FISH & BOAT COMMISSION  
Division of Environmental Services  
Natural Diversity Section  
450 Robinson Lane  
Bellefonte, PA 16823-9620

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QUALIFIED TIMBER RATTLESNAKE SURVEYORS

The following list includes persons known to the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission whom possess skills and have experience in properly searching for and finding timber rattlesnakes (*Crotalus horridus*) and in identifying their critical habitat. This information is not to be construed as an endorsement of individuals or firms by the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission or any of its employees. Persons not on this list but who have documented experience in conducting scientific studies of, or successful searches for, timber rattlesnakes and their critical habitat may submit their qualifications to the Natural Diversity Section for review and possible inclusion as a recognized biologist/surveyor. Each person added to or deleted from this list shall be at the sole discretion of the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission. This list is subject to revision at any time without prior notice. Any individuals handling, collecting, or otherwise removing timber rattlesnakes from their natural habitat, even if on a temporary basis for relocation, must first obtain a Scientific Collector's Permit from the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission. All permitted collector's encounters with timber rattlesnakes must be reported in writing to the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission's Natural Diversity Section.

---

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Pennsylvania Fish & Boat Commission, Natural Diversity Section  
Timber Rattlesnake Habitat Assessment Form (revised 02/11/10)

**Project Information**

Project/Property Name: \_\_\_\_\_ SIR# \_\_\_\_\_

Project Type/Description: \_\_\_\_\_

Project Size\* (acreage): \_\_\_\_\_

Applicant/Landowner Name: \_\_\_\_\_

County: \_\_\_\_\_ Quad: \_\_\_\_\_ Township/Municipality: \_\_\_\_\_

\* Attach a copy of topographic map and a site sketch showing survey site and natural features identified.

**Assessment Site Information** [Areas within and at least 300 feet around the entire project area need to be assessed.]

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Time: \_\_\_\_\_

Site ID\*\*: \_\_\_\_\_

Latitude: \_\_\_\_\_ N Longitude: \_\_\_\_\_ W

Map Datum Used: \_\_\_\_\_

Assessment Size\*\* (acreage): \_\_\_\_\_

\*\* The surveyor should use his/her judgement on the size of the area that a single assessment encompasses. **Additional assessment forms should be used to accurately describe and evaluate large contiguous areas by utilizing a separate form for separate habitat areas within the project boundaries. Each separate area assessed should be assigned a Site ID name that is referenced to the overall site sketch.**

**Weather Conditions** (Note: Assessment cannot be conducted in snow cover.)

Air temperature (°F) \_\_\_\_\_ % Cloud Cover \_\_\_\_\_

**Habitat Description**

General description: \_\_\_\_\_

Level of remoteness/nearby disturbance (roads, homes, buildings, utility right-of-ways, etc.): \_\_\_\_\_

Topographical description: \_\_\_\_\_

Slope (Degrees) \_\_\_\_\_

Aspect \_\_\_\_\_ (compass orientation, i.e., direction hillside faces)

Ground Cover:

% rocky ground cover: \_\_\_\_\_

% rocky ground cover that receives direct sunlight: \_\_\_\_\_

List size range and shape of rocks (round, flat, etc.): \_\_\_\_\_

Are there rock outcrops or ledges present? \_\_\_\_\_

Are boulder fields, and/or talus/scree slopes present? \_\_\_\_\_

Are flat gestation slabs present? \_\_\_\_\_

Project Name \_\_\_\_\_

Site ID # \_\_\_\_\_ (con't)

Vegetative Composition:

% Tree Canopy Cover \_\_\_\_\_

Dominant species present in and surrounding the described habitat:

Trees: \_\_\_\_\_

Shrubs: \_\_\_\_\_

Other plant species of note: \_\_\_\_\_

**Species Observations**

Were herpetofauna species or their signs (e.g., sheds, scat, "forms") observed on-site (include timber rattlesnake observations)? If so, what species and how many?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Additional Comments/Observations:** (use additional sheets if necessary)

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**INVESTIGATOR'S OPINION**

In your opinion, is there timber rattlesnake critical habitat? Yes  or No   
If Yes, what timber rattlesnake critical habitat occurs in this area? See below.

Hibernaculum/Den      Yes  or No   
Gestation/Birthing      Yes  or No

**I certify that to the best of my knowledge, all of the information provided herein is accurate and complete.**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Investigator's Name (print)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Investigator's Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

**Reporting. The following items need to be submitted for review:**

- (1) Timber rattlesnake habitat assessment form.
- (2) A project narrative/description, exact project location, equipment to be used in earth moving activities
- (3) Color photographs of surveyed area showing: general panorama, rocky areas, and specimens observed.
- (4) Site sketch showing the location and direction of photos taken.
- (5) Topographic map showing location of area surveyed, the identified potential habitat delineated, the proposed project and associated boundaries.

Please mail these items to:

**Natural Diversity Section  
PA Fish & Boat Commission  
450 Robinson Lane  
Bellefonte, PA 16823**



Division of Environmental  
Planning and Habitat  
Protection  
717-783-5957

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA  
**Pennsylvania Game Commission**  
2001 ELMERTON AVENUE  
HARRISBURG, PA 17110-9797

*"To manage all wild birds, mammals and their habitats  
for current and future generations."*

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WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT.....717-787-5529  
INFORMATION & EDUCATION.....717-787-6286  
WILDLIFE PROTECTION.....717-783-6526  
WILDLIFE HABITAT  
MANAGEMENT.....717-787-6818  
REAL ESTATE DIVISION.....717-787-6568  
AUTOMATED TECHNOLOGY  
SERVICES.....717-787-4076

[www.pgc.state.pa.us](http://www.pgc.state.pa.us)

July 25, 2012

**PGC ID Number: 201201230501**

Ms. Sherry Slocum  
URS Corporation Great Lakes  
27777 Franklin Road, Suite 2000  
Smithfield, MI 48034  
[Sherry\\_Slocum@URSCorp.com](mailto:Sherry_Slocum@URSCorp.com)

Re: Bluestone Pipeline Company of Pennsylvania, LLC – Bluestone Gathering System, Phase II  
(Revised)  
State Game Lands No. 70  
Large Project PNDI Review  
Harmony, Thompson, Jackson & New Milford Townships, Susquehanna County, PA

Dear Ms. Slocum,

Thank you for submitting your Pennsylvania Natural Diversity Inventory (PNDI) Large Project Environmental Review request. The Pennsylvania Game Commission (PGC) screened this project once again for potential impacts to species and resources of concern under PGC responsibility, which includes birds and mammals only.

**No Impact Anticipated – PNDI Species**

PNDI records indicate that no known occurrences of species or resources of concern under PGC jurisdiction occur in the vicinity of the project. Therefore, the above-referenced project is not expected to impact any birds or mammals of concern, and no further PNDI coordination with the PGC is necessary for this project at this time.

This response represents the most up-to-date summary of the PNDI data files and is valid for two (2) years from the date of this letter. An absence of recorded information does not necessarily imply actual conditions on site. Should project plans change or additional information on listed or proposed species become available, this determination may be reconsidered

Should the proposed work continue beyond the period covered by this letter, please resubmit the project to the PGC at the following address as an “Update” (including an updated PNDI receipt, project narrative and accurate map):

PA Game Commission  
Bureau of Wildlife Habitat Management  
Division of Environmental Planning & Habitat Protection

2001 Elmerton Avenue  
Harrisburg, PA 17110-9797

If the proposed work has not changed and no additional information concerning listed species is found, the project will be cleared for PNDI requirements by the PGC for an additional 2 years.

This finding applies to impacts to birds and mammals only. To complete your review of state and federally-listed threatened and endangered species and species of special concern, please be sure that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, and/or the PA Fish and Boat Commission have been contacted regarding this project as directed by the online PNDI ER Tool found at [www.naturalheritage.state.pa.us](http://www.naturalheritage.state.pa.us).

A portion of the proposed project is located adjacent to State Game Lands No. 70. Please contact Mr. Peter Sussenbach, Land Management Supervisor, at 570-675-1143 to discuss your project if you anticipate any adverse impacts to State Game Lands.

Please be sure to include the above-referenced PGC ID Number on any future correspondence with the PGC regarding this project.

Sincerely,



Nathan P. Havens  
Division of Environmental Planning & Habitat Protection  
Bureau of Wildlife Habitat Management  
Phone: 717-787-4250, Extension 3606  
Fax: 717-787-6957  
e-Mail: nhavens@pa.gov

A PNHP Partner



NPH/nph

cc: Sussenbach  
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