

MAR-18-2005 FRI 02:53 PM S Engineering - STL FAX NO: 48456667 P: 02/04  
MAR-18-2005 13:17 FROM: US FISH & WILDLIFE S 6189979185 TO: 13198456667 P: 2/4

# United States Department of the Interior

## FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

Marion Illinois Suboffice (ES)

USFWS Route 148

Marion IL 62959

(618) 997-7344

March 18, 2005

Ms. Jennifer Sunley  
SCI Engineering, Inc  
1602 Jeffco Boulevard  
Arnold, Missouri 63010

Dear Ms. Sunley:

This is in reference to your February 14, 2005, letter requesting comments from the Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) pertaining to the proposed construction of a residential subdivision and commercial developments with associated roadways and infrastructure on an approximately 192-acre site located in Monroe County, Illinois. These comments are provided under the authority of and in accordance with the provisions of the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act (48 Stat. 401, as amended, 16 U.S.C. 661 et seq.), and the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended.

To facilitate compliance with Section 7(c) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended, Federal agencies are required to obtain from the Service information concerning any species listed or proposed to be listed, which may be present in the area of a proposed action. Therefore, we are furnishing you the following list of species that have ranges that include the concerned area.

<u>Classification</u>	<u>Common Name (Scientific Name)</u>	<u>Habitat</u>
Endangered	Illinois cave amphipod ( <i>Gammarus ucherandyei</i> )	Cave & streams
Endangered	Gray bat ( <i>Myotis grisescens</i> )	Caves, feeding rivers/ reservoirs adjacent to forests
Endangered	Indiana bat ( <i>Myotis sodalis</i> )	Caves, mines, small stream corridors with well developed riparian woods, upland and bottomland forests

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Ms Jennifer Sunley

<u>Classification</u>	<u>Common Name (Scientific Name)</u>	<u>Habitat</u>
Endangered	Least tern ( <i>Sterna antillarum</i> )	Bare alluvial and dredge spoil islands
Threatened	Bald eagle ( <i>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</i> )	Breeds and winters along major rivers and large reservoirs
Endangered	Pallid sturgeon ( <i>Scaphirhynchus platus</i> )	Rivers

There is no designated critical habitat in the project area of this type. Suitable habitat for the gray bat, bald eagle, least tern, and pallid sturgeon is not known to occur within the project area.

The Illinois cave amphipod is listed as endangered in Mahone and St. Clair Counties, Illinois. It is currently known to occur in only a few cave streams of the Illinois sinkhole plain in south-eastern Illinois. The contamination of groundwater is probably the greatest threat to this species. The proposed subdivision is within the Illinois sinkhole plain. Several cave systems and their groundwater recharge areas exist in the vicinity of this project. Specifically the Annular and Pauler Springs recharge areas, which have known populations of the Illinois cave amphipod, are approximately 2 miles to the west. However, groundwater within the project area does not drain into the Annular or Pauler systems, nor any other recharge area known to contain populations of the Illinois cave amphipod. Therefore, we would concur that the proposed development is not likely to adversely affect the Illinois cave amphipod.

The endangered Indiana bat has been noted as occurring in several Illinois counties. Potential habitat for this species occurs statewide; therefore, Indiana bats are considered to potentially occur in any area with forested habitat. Indiana bats migrate seasonally between winter hibernacula and summer roosting habitats. Winter hibernacula include caves and abandoned mines. Females emerge from hibernation in late March or early April to migrate to summer roosts. Females form nursery colonies under the loose bark of trees (dead or alive) and/or cavities, where each female gives birth to a single young in June or early July. A maternity colony may include from one to 100 individuals. A single colony may utilize a number of roost trees during the summer, typically a primary roost tree and several alternates. Some males remain in the area near the winter hibernacula during the summer months, but others disperse throughout the range of the species and roost individually or in small numbers in the same types of trees as females. The species or size of tree does not appear to influence whether Indiana bats utilize a tree for roosting provided the appropriate bark structure is present. However, the use of a particular tree does appear to be influenced by weather conditions, such as temperature and precipitation.

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Ms. Jennifer Sunley

During the summer, the Indiana bat frequents the corridors of small streams with well-developed riparian woods, as well as mature lowland and upland forests. It forages for insects along stream corridors, within the canopy of floodplain and upland forests, over clearings with early successional vegetation (old fields), along the borders of crop lands, along wooded fence rows and over farm ponds and in pastures. However, although Indiana bats will forage over small openings, they generally prefer forested areas. To avoid impacting this species, tree clearing activities should not occur during the period of April 1 to September 30. If it is necessary to clear trees during this time frame, mist net surveys may be necessary to determine if Indiana bats are present.

Provided the tree clearing restriction for the Indiana bat is adhered to, the Service would concur that the proposed project is not likely to adversely affect any known federally listed threatened or endangered species. This precludes the need for further action on this project as required under Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended. Should this project be modified or the above mentioned condition not be incorporated, or new information indicate listed or proposed species may be affected, consultation or additional coordination with this office, as appropriate, should be initiated.

Construction and development activities that impact streams or wetlands and create impervious surfaces will increase the amount of runoff from the site and will likely result in increased sediment entering the tributary systems from erosion and increased local flooding. In addition, storm water runoff from the site will likely introduce a variety of chemicals (i.e., petroleum products, fertilizers, herbicides, etc.) to waterways. As such, the proposed development is likely to degrade the water quality in the area and therefore is likely to have significant long-term adverse impacts on fish and wildlife resources in the area. We recommend the use of stormwater retention basins to retain all stormwater runoff from the site.

Provided proper construction and conservation measures are utilized and the above listed recommendations are incorporated into the project plans, the proposed construction should not cause any significant long-term adverse impacts to fish and wildlife resources in the project area. If there is full compliance with appropriate federal laws, regulations, rules, Executive Orders, etc., the Service has no objection to the proposed activity.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on the proposed development and information regarding threatened and endangered species. Please contact Mike Thomas of my staff at (618) 997-3344, ext. 345, should you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Joyce A. Collins  
Assistant Field Supervisor

cc: IDNR (Rattig, Tocio)



Rod R. Blagojevich, Governor  
William C. Burke, Director

February 15, 2007

Ms. Joyce Collins  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife  
8588 Route 148  
Marion, IL 62959

**NO OBJECTION**  
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service  
Marion, Illinois

*Joyce A. Collins* 3/27/07  
Asst. Supervisor Date

Dear Ms. Collins:

The Waterloo school district, located in the County of Monroe, is applying for mitigation funds to construct a tornado safe area, with emergency backup generator, within a new school within the Waterloo school district. The safe area will protect students and staff in the event of a severe windstorm or tornado. It will also be designed to resist seismic events. In order to be eligible for federal mitigation funds, an environmental review in the form of a categorical exclusion (CATEX) must be completed for this project.

This project is an addendum to a larger construction project planned for the Waterloo school, which has been granted environmental clearance (please see the attached materials for more detail).

I would like to request that your agency review the enclosed documents for the project area listed below to identify any potential adverse impacts on the environment with which your agency may be concerned as a result of the safe area project. The project area is as follows (and is also described in the attached materials):

In the City of Waterloo, east of Old Red Bud Road, continuing west across South Market Street and South Illinois Route 3.

- 11-Mo-0683, Section: 31 - Township: 2S - Range: 9W
- 11-Mo-0716, Section: 36 - Township: 2S - Range: 10W
- 11-Mo-0717, Section: 36 - Township: 2S - Range: 10W
- 11-Mo-0836, Section: 31 - Township: 2S - Range: 9W
- 11-Mo-0947, Section: 36 - Township: 2S - Range: 10W
- 11-Mo-1044, Section: 31 - Township: 2S - Range: 9W
- 11-Mo-1045, Section: 31 - Township: 2S - Range: 9W
- 11-Mo-1046, Section: 31 - Township: 2S - Range: 9W
- 11-Mo-1047, Section: 31 - Township: 2S - Range: 9W
- 11-Mo-1048, Section: 31 - Township: 2S - Range: 9W
- 11-Mo-1049, Section: 31 - Township: 2S - Range: 9W

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MARION, ILLINOIS  
SUB-OFFICE

Please respond in writing to Ron Davis, State Hazard Mitigation Officer, Illinois Emergency Management Agency, 1035 Outer Park Drive, Springfield, IL 62704. Your expeditious review of these documents is appreciated. Please call me at (217) 782-8719 if you have any questions regarding this request.

Sincerely,



Ron Davis  
State Hazard Mitigation Officer, IEMA