



155 East Broad Street
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Columbus, Ohio, 43215

o: 614-222-1330
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August 11, 2020

Ms. Tanowa M. Troupe
Ohio Power Siting Board
PUCO Docketing Division
180 East Broad Street, 11th Floor
Columbus, OH 43215-3716

Re: Case No. 16-253-GA-BTX
US Fish and Wildlife Service Concurrence on Bat Study

Dear Ms. Troupe:

Duke Energy Ohio, Inc., is filing, herewith, the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) concurrence on the Central Corridor Pipeline bat study.

Please contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Emily A. Olive, CP
Paralegal

Olive, Emily A.

From: Lane, Steve
Sent: Tuesday, August 11, 2020 2:28 PM
To: Kingery, Jeanne W.
Cc: Olive, Emily A.; Olberding, James H; Frank, Mike/CIN
Subject: FW: Duke Energy's Central Corridor Pipeline Extension Project in Hamilton County, Ohio (Reference Survey #20-029).

Jeanne,

USFWS concurrence on T&E bat study included below, to be filed to project docket.

Associated report to be sent to OPSB Staff is attached.

Thanks,
Steve

From: Adam Mann <A.Mann@gaiconsultants.com>
Sent: Tuesday, August 11, 2020 2:08 PM
To: Frank, Mike/CIN <Mike.Frank@jacobs.com>; Lane, Steve <Steve.Lane@duke-energy.com>; Olberding, James H <James.Olberding@duke-energy.com>
Cc: Leah Jackson <L.Jackson@gaiconsultants.com>; Jason Duffey <J.Duffey@gaiconsultants.com>; Priya Kudlu <P.Kudlu@gaiconsultants.com>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Fwd: Duke Energy's Central Corridor Pipeline Extension Project in Hamilton County, Ohio (Reference Survey #20-029).

***** CAUTION! EXTERNAL SENDER *** STOP & THINK! Do you know and trust this sender? Were you expecting this email? Are grammar and spelling correct? Does the content make sense? If suspicious, then do not click links, open attachments or enter your ID or password.**

See concurrence email from USFWS below.

From: Ohio, FW3 <ohio@fws.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, August 11, 2020, 1:36 PM
To: Adam Mann
Cc: nathan.reardon@dnr.state.oh.us; Parsons, Kate; sarah.stankavich@dnr.state.oh.us; Boyer, Angela
Subject: Duke Energy's Central Corridor Pipeline Extension Project in Hamilton County, Ohio (Reference Survey #20-029).

EXTERNAL E-MAIL MESSAGE



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Ecological Services Office
4625 Morse Road, Suite 104
Columbus, Ohio 43230
(614) 416-8993 / Fax (614) 416-8994



TAILS# 03E15000-2016-TA-1706

EVENT# 03E15000-2020-E-03140

Dear Mr. Mann,

We have received your summer bat survey report for the subject project. The survey was conducted following current U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) guidelines. No Indiana bats (*Myotis sodalis*) were detected, demonstrating probable absence of Indiana bats in the project area. Currently, the Service has no known hibernacula or maternity roost records for northern long-eared bat (*Myotis septentrionalis*) in the vicinity of the project. Therefore, the 4(d) rule for the northern long-eared bat could be applied (see: <http://www.fws.gov/midwest/endangered/mammals/nleb/index.html>). Tree clearing on the project site at any time of the year is unlikely to result in adverse impacts to Indiana bats and will not result in any unauthorized incidental take of northern long-eared bats. Negative Indiana bat summer surveys are valid for five years. Therefore, **no tree clearing should occur on the site after March 31, 2025** without further coordination with this office.

If there is a federal nexus for the project (e.g., federal funding provided, federal permits required to construct), no tree clearing should occur on any portion of the project area until consultation under section 7 of the Endangered Species Act, between the Service and the federal action agency, is completed. We recommend that the federal action agency submit a determination of effects to this office, relative to the Indiana bat and northern long-eared bat, for our review and concurrence.

Due to the project type, size, and location, we do not anticipate adverse effects to any other federally endangered, threatened, proposed, or candidate species. Should the project design change, or during the term of this action, additional information on listed or proposed species or their critical habitat become available, or if new information reveals effects of the action that were not previously considered, consultation with the Service should be initiated to assess any potential impacts.

This letter provides technical assistance only and does not serve as a completed section 7 consultation document. If project plans change, if portions of the proposed project were not evaluated, or if additional information on listed or proposed species or their critical habitat becomes available, it is our recommendation that you reinitiate coordination with this office. We recommend that the project be coordinated with the Ohio Department of Natural Resources due to the potential for the project to affect state listed species and/or state lands. Contact Mike Pettegrew, Acting Environmental Services Administrator, at (614) 265-6387 or at mike.pettegrew@dnr.state.oh.us.

If you have questions, or if we can be of further assistance in this matter, please contact our office at (614) 416-8993 or ohio@fws.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Patrice M. Ashfield". The signature is highly stylized and cursive, with a large initial "P" and a long, sweeping underline.

Patrice M. Ashfield
Field Office Supervisor

cc: Nathan Reardon, ODNR-DOW
Kate Parsons, ODNR-DOW