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February 21, 2014

Via Electronic Filing

Ms. Barcy McNeal
Administration/Docketing
Public Utilities Commission of Ohio
180 East Broad Street, 11th Floor
Columbus, OH 43215-3793

**Re: Dominion East Ohio Construction Notice for Group 5 Line 2925
Ohio Power Siting Board Case No. 14-2925-GA-BNR**

Dear Ms. McNeal:

In compliance with Condition No. 4 of the Staff Report, issued February 20, 2014, attached for filing is a copy of the February 17, 2014 correspondence from the Ohio Department of Natural Resources providing comment and recommendations for this project along with a list of approved Herpetologists.

If you have any questions please call at the number listed above.

Sincerely

Sally W. Bloomfield

Attachments

Cc: Ed Steele (w/Attachments)



Ohio Department of Natural Resources

JOHN R. KASICH, GOVERNOR

JAMES ZEHRINGER, DIRECTOR

Office of Real Estate
Paul R. Baldrige, Chief
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February 20, 2014

Tara Miletti
Dominion Resources Services, Inc.
320 Springside Drive, Suite 320
Akron, Ohio 44333

Re: 14-054; The East Ohio Gas Company, Ohio Endangered Species Consultation, Group 5, Line 2925

Project: The project involves the replacement of approximately 5,100 feet of 8-inch diameter natural gas pipeline with 12-inch diameter natural gas pipeline along the existing Line 2925.

Location: The project is located in the City of Green, Franklin Township, Summit County, Ohio.

The Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) has completed a review of the above referenced project. These comments were generated by an inter-disciplinary review within the Department. These comments have been prepared under the authority of the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act (48 Stat. 401, as amended; 16 U.S.C. 661 et seq.), the National Environmental Policy Act, the Coastal Zone Management Act, Ohio Revised Code and other applicable laws and regulations. These comments are also based on ODNR's experience as the state natural resource management agency and do not supersede or replace the regulatory authority of any local, state or federal agency nor relieve the applicant of the obligation to comply with any local, state or federal laws or regulations.

Fish and Wildlife: The Division of Wildlife (DOW) has the following comments.

The DOW recommends that impacts to wetlands and other water resources be avoided and minimized to the fullest extent possible, and that best management practices be utilized to minimize erosion and sedimentation.

The project is within the range of the spotted turtle (*Clemmys guttata*), a state threatened species. This species prefers fens, bogs and marshes, but is also known to inhabit wet prairies, meadows, pond edges, wet woods, and the shallow sluggish waters of small streams and ditches. Due to the location, and that there are wetlands along the project route, and within the vicinity of the project route, the DOW recommends that a habitat suitability survey be conducted along the project route to determine if the spotted turtle is likely to occur on site. The survey must be done by a professional herpetologist approved by the DOW. If necessary, a presence/absence survey may be required. Please submit the results of any habitat suitability survey and any subsequent presence/absence survey to Nathan Reardon, Compliance Coordinator, at nathan.reardon@dnr.state.oh.us.

The project is within the range of the Indiana bat (*Myotis sodalis*), a state and federally endangered species. The following species of trees have relatively high value as potential Indiana bat roost trees: Shagbark hickory (*Carya ovata*), Shellbark hickory (*Carya laciniosa*), Bitternut hickory (*Carya cordiformis*), Black ash (*Fraxinus nigra*), Green ash (*Fraxinus pennsylvanica*), White ash (*Fraxinus americana*), Shingle oak (*Quercus imbricaria*), Northern red oak (*Quercus rubra*), Slippery elm (*Ulmus rubra*), American elm (*Ulmus americana*), Eastern cottonwood (*Populus deltoides*), Silver maple (*Acer saccharinum*), Sassafras (*Sassafras albidum*), Post oak (*Quercus stellata*), and White oak (*Quercus alba*). Indiana bat habitat consists of suitable trees that include dead and dying trees with exfoliating bark, crevices, or cavities in upland areas or riparian corridors and living trees with exfoliating bark, cavities, or hollow areas formed from broken branches or tops. If suitable trees occur within the project area, these trees should be conserved. If suitable habitat occurs on the project area and trees must be cut, cutting must occur between October 1 and March 31. If suitable trees must be cut during the summer months, a net survey must be conducted between June 15 and July 31, prior to cutting. Net surveys shall incorporate either two net sites per square kilometer of project area with each net site containing a minimum of two nets used for two consecutive nights, or one net site per kilometer of stream within the project limits with each net site containing a minimum of two nets used for two consecutive nights. The DOW appreciates EOG's commitment to seasonal tree clearing between October 1 and March 31 to reduce any potential impacts to the Indiana bat.

The project is within the range of the black bear (*Ursus americanus*), a state endangered species, and the bobcat (*Lynx rufus*), a state threatened species. Due to the mobility of these species, this project is not likely to impact these species.

The project is within the range of the elfin skimmer (*Nannothemis bella*), a state endangered dragonfly, the racket-tailed emerald (*Dorocordulia libera*), a state endangered dragonfly, and the chalk-fronted corporal (*Ladona julia*), a state endangered dragonfly. Due to the location, this project is not likely to impact these species.

The project is within the range of the Iowa darter (*Etheostoma exile*), a state endangered species. Due to the location, this project is not likely to impact this species.

The ODNR Natural Heritage Database has no records for rare or endangered species at this project site. We are unaware of any unique ecological sites, geologic features, animal assemblages, scenic rivers, state wildlife areas, nature preserves, parks or forests, national wildlife refuges or other protected natural areas within the project area. Our inventory program does not provide a complete survey of Ohio wildlife, and relies on information supplied by many individuals and organizations. Therefore, a lack of records for any particular area is not a statement that rare species or unique features are absent from that area.

ODNR appreciates the opportunity to provide these comments. Please contact John Kessler at (614) 265-6621 if you have questions about these comments or need additional information.

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Summary: Correspondence of Dominion East Ohio in Compliance with OPSB Staff Report electronically filed by Teresa Orahoad on behalf of Sally Bloomfield