

From: [Riedel, Ashley D](#)
To: [Bartlett, Alex](#)
Cc: [Assenza, Adam](#); [Wolff, Mikenna](#)
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] Docket No. FD 36406, Port Authority of Kansas City - Request for Information and Comment
Date: Tuesday, May 18, 2021 12:57:05 PM

Hi Alex,

I've reviewed the documents you provided regarding the proposed rail line in Kansas City and after comparing our records, the species list provided by IPaC (which includes the Gray Bat *Myotis grisescens*, Indiana Bat *Myotis sodalis*, Northern Long-eared Bat *Myotis septentrionalis*, and Pallid Sturgeon *Scaphirhynchus albus*) appears to be accurate.

The habitat of the area does not appear to be adequate for the Western prairie-fringed orchid, of which there are no records within the project area.

Although red knots migrate through Missouri, records of sightings in the state are sparse and do not occur within the project area. In addition, red knots generally migrate in fall and spring in large flocks that are fairly easy to see, and thus avoid. These large flocks usually depart rest sites a few hours before sunrise when construction activities are likely to begin; therefore, they are not likely to be impacted by the project.

Given that no caves are disturbed, the gray bat is also not likely to be impacted by the project.

The impacts to the Indiana and northern long-eared bats will depend on tree felling activities and timelines, as well as site survey findings. Once a site visit has been conducted and you know the number of trees to be felled, we'll need to know how many trees at the site exhibit suitable roosting characteristics before we can proceed with a determination for those species.

Per the Official Species List provided by IPaC, suitable roosting site characteristics include "potential roosts (i.e., live trees and/or snags =5 inches diameter at breast height (dbh) for Indiana bat, and =3 inches dbh for northern long-eared bat, that have exfoliating bark, cracks, crevices, and/or hollows), as well as linear features such as fencerows, riparian forests, and other wooded corridors. These wooded areas may be dense or loose aggregates of trees with variable amounts of canopy closure. Tree species often include, but are not limited to, shellbark or shagbark hickory, white oak, cottonwood, and maple. Individual trees may be considered suitable habitat when they exhibit the characteristics of a potential roost tree and are located within 1,000 feet (305 meters) of other forested/wooded habitat"

In addition, records of pallid sturgeon do exist in the area. Therefore, we'll also need to know how close activities will take place to the Missouri River and Blue River, and what best management practices will be utilized before we can provide a determination for that species.

I hope this is helpful. Please let me know if you have any additional questions or concerns.

Very Respectfully,
Ashley D. Riedel
Fish and Wildlife Biologist, USFWS
Missouri Ecological Services Field Office
101 Park Deville Drive, Suite A
Columbia, MO 65203
573-234-2132 ext. 404*

*Teleworking - please email to schedule a call.

From: Bartlett, Alex <Alex.Bartlett@icf.com>
Sent: Friday, May 7, 2021 3:27 PM
To: Riedel, Ashley D <ashley_riedel@fws.gov>
Cc: Assenza, Adam <Adam.Assenza@stb.gov>; Wolff, Mikenna <Mikenna.Wolff@icf.com>
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] Docket No. FD 36406, Port Authority of Kansas City - Request for Information and Comment

Hi Ashley,

Attached is the letter from STB OEA dated 4/23/21 and the completed project evaluation form. Please note that project details relating to the limits of construction are unknown at this time. As a result, we're not able to definitively respond to the Decision Tree for Indiana Bat Consultations but have erred on the side of caution and indicated tree removal as a possibility.

We look forward to working with you as well! Please do not hesitate to reach-out with any questions.

Thanks!



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From: Riedel, Ashley D <ashley_riedel@fws.gov>
Sent: Friday, May 7, 2021 8:33 AM
To: Bartlett, Alex <Alex.Bartlett@icf.com>
Cc: Assenza, Adam <Adam.Assenza@stb.gov>
Subject: Fw: [EXTERNAL] Docket No. FD 36406, Port Authority of Kansas City - Request for Information and Comment

Good Morning Alex!

I will be reviewing your request for consultation on the proposed rail line in Kansas City. Could you complete the attached project review form and resend the associated documents you originally sent to Karen?

Thank you for your interest in the conservation of threatened and endangered species. I look forward to working with you!

Very Respectfully,
Ashley D. Riedel
Fish and Wildlife Biologist, USFWS
Missouri Ecological Services Field Office
101 Park Deville Drive, Suite A
Columbia, MO 65203



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*Teleworking - please email to schedule a call.

From: Bartlett, Alex <Alex.Bartlett@icf.com>

Sent: Friday, April 23, 2021 10:50 AM

To: Herrington, Karen <karen_herrington@fws.gov>

Cc: Assenza, Adam <Adam.Assenza@stb.gov>; Wolff, Mikenna <Mikenna.Wolff@icf.com>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] Docket No. FD 36406, Port Authority of Kansas City - Request for Information and Comment

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Greetings,

On behalf of the Surface Transportation Board's (STB) Office of Environmental Analysis (OEA), I am writing you to request your review of the attached documentation relating to an application by the Port Authority of Kansas City (Port KC) to construct and operate approximately 1.7 miles of new rail line (proposed rail line). The proposed rail line would connect the Missouri River and the Missouri River Terminal (MRT) to an interchange point with the Kansas City Terminal Railway Company (KCT) in Kansas City, Missouri. Following your review, please provide information from your agency on resources that could be affected by the proposed rail line, as well as any related permits and/or approvals.

The attached letter begins the process by which OEA will assess the potential environmental and cultural effects of the proposed rail line. Currently, the consultation period is 30 days and thus we kindly request your response by May 24, 2021.

Should you have any questions, please contact myself or OEA's Project Manager, Adam Assenza (Adam.Assenza@stb.gov).

Regards,

Alex

Project Manager, ICF, third-party consultant for OEA.



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