
Re: [EXTERNAL] Lampwrights (Docket No. FD 36833) - Surface Transportation Board Request for Comment

From Ernst, Emily E <emily_ernst@fws.gov>

Date Tue 7/1/2025 9:32 AM

To bfox@vhb.com <bfox@vhb.com>

Cc cmcgovern@vhb.com <cmcgovern@vhb.com>; Webster, Elizabeth <Elizabeth.Webster@stb.gov>; Mamuscia, Jodie <Jodie_Mamuscia@fws.gov>

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Hi Blake,

Apologies for the late response from the USFWS PA Field Office - our review process is running closer to 60 days due to availability of staff.

I've reviewed the area where you're proposing to construct and operate the new rail. It appears it is near to known northern long-eared bat hibernacula. If tree clearing/trimming will be needed to implement this project, it is generally recommended to avoid the summer occupancy period and complete tree clearing/trimming from October 1 - March 31 while bats are hibernating and not roosting in trees.

Additional information about northern long-eared bats and possible impacts due to development projects can be found in the consultation technical assistance for development projects guidance document found here: <https://www.fws.gov/media/consultation-technical-assistance-development-projects>.

I also highly recommend utilizing the Service's information for planning and consultation (IPaC) tool (<https://ipac.ecosphere.fws.gov/>) for screening this project for effects to northern long-eared bats. The Northern Long-eared Bat and Tricolored Bat Determination Key (<https://www.fws.gov/media/nleb-and-tcb-determination-key-standing-analysis>) is fully published for use in screening projects.

Let me know if you have any further questions in regards to endangered species impacts of this project.

Emily Ernst

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From: Ernst, Emily E <emily_ernst@fws.gov> on behalf of IR1 ESPenn <IR1_ESPenn@fws.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, July 1, 2025 9:16 AM
To: Ernst, Emily E <emily_ernst@fws.gov>
Subject: Fw: [EXTERNAL] Lampwrights (Docket No. FD 36833) - Surface Transportation Board Request for Comment

From: Blake Fox <bfox@vhb.com>
Sent: Friday, April 25, 2025 2:45 PM
To: Blake Fox <bfox@vhb.com>
Cc: Christina McGovern <cmcgovern@vhb.com>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Lampwrights (Docket No. FD 36833) - Surface Transportation Board Request for Comment

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On behalf of the Surface Transportation Board's Office of Environmental Analysis (OEA), VHB (OEA's third party contractor) is sending the attached letter to inform you about a proposed freight rail line project in Elk and Jefferson Counties, PA. OEA requests your input on this project. We look forward to hearing from you.