



## BUREAU OF FORESTRY

March 16, 2011

PNDI Number: 20406, 19648, 20163

Surface Transportation Board  
395 E Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20423

Attn. Danielle Gosselin  
Section of Environmental Analysis  
Environmental Filing FD 35116

Re: Supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Statement  
R.J. Corman Railroad Company Construction and Operation Exemption  
Clearfield and Centre Counties

Dear Ms. Gosselin,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the R.J. Corman Railroad Company project in Centre and Clearfield Counties.

Previously, DCNR had requested presence/absence survey for the local road upgrade alternative as habitat assessments identified suitable habitat for six species of concern. Botanical surveys were also requested for the new railroad alternative. Since then, we have learned that the local road alternative has been dropped from consideration. As a reminder, if this portion of the project becomes viable again, our concerns still stand.

Botanical survey reports were received for the new railroad alternative, conducted by Skelly & Loy. All potential impacts to species of special concern under DCNR's jurisdiction were cleared except for *Sparganium angrocladum*, in a letter dated February 4, 2010. The letter also requested a follow-up survey for this species since potential habitat was found and identification was not conclusive. Since then Skelly & Loy biologists have revisited the area and determined that *S. angrocladum* was not found in the project area but recommended that surveys be conducted prior to earth disturbance according to a report dated October 13, 2010. DCNR agrees with this suggestion, as previously stated in our November 29, 2010 letter.

Our office is pleased to note that this item has been included as a mitigation measure in Chapter 7 of the SDEIS. DCNR does not have additional comments or concerns regarding this project regarding impacts to species of special concern under our jurisdiction.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rebecca H. Bowen". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Rebecca H. Bowen, Environmental Review Manager FOR Chris Firestone, Wild Plant Program Mgr.  
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c.c. Sara Nicholas, DCNR Policy office  
Seth Cassell, DCNR Bureau of Forestry, Office of Communications and Interpretation  
Robert G. Merrill, DCNR Bureau of Forestry, District Forester for Moshannon State Forest.

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