

EI-17797



Pennsylvania Fish & Boat Commission

Division of Environmental Services

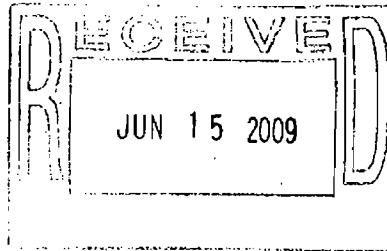
Natural Diversity Section

450 Robinson Lane

Bellefonte, PA 16823-9620

(814) 359-5239 Fax: (814) 359-5175

June 11, 2009



IN REPLY REFER TO
SIR # 31701

SANDRA BASEHORE
SKELLY AND LOY
449 EISENHOWER BOULEVARD, SUITE 300
HARRISBURG, PA 17111

RE: **Species Impact Review (SIR) - Rare, Candidate, Threatened and Endangered Species
FINANCE DOCKET NO. 35116, RJ CORMAN RAILROAD CO., BEECH CREEK BRANCH LINE -
CONSTRUCTION AND OPERATION - BETWEEN WALLACETON AND GORTON, PA;
ALTERNATIVE ROUTE EVALUATION
CLEARFIELD, CENTRE Counties, Pennsylvania**

This responds to your inquiry about a Pennsylvania Natural Diversity Inventory (PNDI) Internet Database search "potential conflict" or a threatened and endangered species impact review. These projects are screened for potential conflicts with rare, candidate, threatened or endangered species under Pennsylvania Fish & Boat Commission jurisdiction (fish, reptiles, amphibians, aquatic invertebrates only) using the Pennsylvania Natural Diversity Inventory (PNDI) database and our own files. These species of special concern are listed under the Endangered Species Act of 1973, the Wild Resource Conservation Act, and the Pennsylvania Fish & Boat Code (Chapter 75), or the Wildlife Code. The absence of recorded information from our files does not necessarily imply actual conditions on site. Future field investigations could alter this determination. The information contained in our files is routinely updated. A Species Impact Review is valid for one year only.

X **NO ADVERSE IMPACTS EXPECTED FROM THE PROPOSED PROJECT**

X Except for occasional transient species, rare, candidate, threatened or endangered species under our jurisdiction are not known to exist in the vicinity of the project area. Therefore, no biological assessment or further consultation regarding rare species is needed with the Commission. Should project plans change, or if additional information on listed or proposed species becomes available, this determination may be reconsidered.

 An element occurrence of a rare, candidate, threatened, or endangered species under our jurisdiction is known from the vicinity of the proposed project. However, given the nature of the proposed project, the immediate location, or the current status of the nearby element occurrence(s), no adverse impacts are expected to the species of special concern.

If you have any questions regarding this review, please contact the biologist indicated below:

<u> </u> Doug Fischer	814-359-5195	<u>X</u>	Jim Chestney	814-359-5239
<u> </u> Nevin Welte	814-359-5234	<u> </u>	Bob Morgan	814-359-5129

I am enclosing a copy of our "SIR Request Form", which is to be used for all future species impact review requests. Please make copies of the attached form and use with all **future** project reviews. Thank you in advance for your cooperation and attention to this important matter of species conservation and habitat protection.

SIGNATURE: Christopher A. Urban DATE: June 11, 2009

Christopher A. Urban
Chief, Natural Diversity Section

Our Mission:

www.fish.state.pa.us

To protect, conserve and enhance the Commonwealth's aquatic resources and provide fishing and boating opportunities.