United States Fish and Wildlife Service West Virginia Field Office



gai consultants

Pittsburgh Office 385 East Waterfront Drive Homestead, Pennsylvania 15120

January 7, 2022 Project R210388.02

Attention: Project Review Request Ms. Jennifer Norris West Virginia Field Office United States Fish and Wildlife Service 6263 Appalachian Highway Davis, West Virginia 26260-8061

## Migratory Bird Treaty Act and Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act Coordination Ohio Valley Connector Expansion Project, Equitrans, L.P. Wetzel County, West Virginia IPaC Consultation Code #05E2WV00-2021-SLI-1006

Dear Ms. Norris:

Equitrans, L.P. (Equitrans) is seeking a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity from the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) pursuant to Section 7(c) of the Natural Gas Act as amended, authorizing Equitrans to construct and operate the proposed Equitrans Ohio Valley Connector Expansion Project (Project) in Greene County, Pennsylvania (PA); Wetzel County, West Virginia (WV); and Monroe County, Ohio (OH).

The purpose of Project is to meet the needs of current and future customers to serve markets in a timely, cost-effective, efficient, and environmentally sensitive manner that minimizes incremental temporary and permanent impacts.

The scope of facilities is shown on the Project Overview Map (**Attachment 1**) and includes the following proposed pipeline, associated aboveground facilities, access roads, cathodic protection, staging areas, and contractor/laydown yards:

- Addition of two Taurus 70 turbines at the Cygrymus Compressor Station with additional mechanical and electrical equipment to support the horsepower (HP) increase in Greene County, PA.
- Addition of one Mars 100 compressor unit to support the existing Mars 100 compressor unit, at the extant Corona Compressor Station, with supplementary mechanical and electrical equipment to support the HP increase in Wetzel County, WV.
- Addition of one Titan 130 to the two existing Taurus 70 compressor units at the Plasma Compressor Station with additional mechanical and electrical equipment to support the HP increase in Monroe County, OH.
- Approximately 0.5-mile of new 16-inch-diameter natural gas pipeline (H-327) in Greene County, PA.
- Approximately 0.5-mile of new 12-inch-diameter natural gas pipeline (H-328) in Greene County, PA.
- Approximately 3.7 miles of new 24-inch-diameter natural gas pipeline (H-326) in Wetzel County, WV.
- Approximately 129 feet (0.02 mile) of new eight-inch-diameter natural gas pipeline (H-329) in Wetzel County, WV.

- Approximately 0.7-mile of new 16-inch-diameter natural gas pipeline (H-330) in Wetzel County, WV.
- Approximately 0.09-mile of new 16-inch-diameter natural gas pipeline (H-330 Spur) in Wetzel County, WV.
- Approximately 160 feet (0.03-mile) of new 12-inch-diameter natural gas pipeline (Logansport Spur) in Wetzel County, WV.
- One new deep anode groundbed and rectifier for cathodic protection in Greene County, PA.
- Additional new ancillary facilities, such as a valve yard, taps, and internal inspection device (pig) launchers and receivers in Greene County, PA.
- Additional new ancillary facilities, such as mainline valves, valve yards, measuring equipment, and internal inspection device (pig) launchers and receivers in Wetzel County, WV.
- Use of new and existing temporary and permanent access roads, staging/parking areas, and contractor yards in Greene County, PA and Wetzel County, WV.
- Use of existing permanent access road in Monroe County, OH.

### **WV Project Components**

GAI Consultants, Inc. (GAI) is performing environmental services for Equitrans, regarding the Project in Wetzel; County, WV (**Project Location Map – Attachment 2**). Project components in Wetzel County, WV, will include:

- Addition of one Mars 100 compressor unit to support the sole existing Mars 100 compressor unit, at the extant Corona Compressor Station, with supplementary mechanical and electrical equipment to support the HP increase.
- Approximately 3.7 miles of new 24-inch-diameter natural gas pipeline (H-326).
- Approximately 129 feet (0.02 mile) of new eight-inch-diameter natural gas pipeline (H-329).
- Approximately 0.7 mile of new 16-inch-diameter natural gas pipeline (H-330).
- Approximately 0.09 mile of new 16-inch-diameter natural gas pipeline (H-330 Spur).
- Approximately 160 feet (0.03 mile) of new 12-inch-diameter natural gas pipeline (Logansport Spur).
- Additional new ancillary facilities, such as mainline valves (MLVs), valve yards, measuring equipment, and internal inspection device (pig) launchers and receivers.
- New and use of existing temporary and permanent access roads, staging areas, and contractor yards.

## **Previous Agency Consultation**

On September 21, 2021, GAI uploaded electronic shapefiles of the Project locations in WV as part of the Information, Planning, and Conservation (IPaC) review, IPaC Consultation Code # 05E2WV00-2021-SLI-1006. The Project components in WV are within the North Fork Fishing Creek [Hydrologic Unit Code (HUC) #050302010202] and Outlet South Fork Fishing Creek (HUC #050302010203) watersheds. GAI requested technical assistance from the United States Fish and Wildlife Service's (USFWS) WV Field Office regarding Endangered Species Act compliance for Project components in WV on October 21, 2021. GAI is awaiting a response from the WV Field Office of the USFWS with regards to the Endangered Species Act correspondence.

## Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) and Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act (BGEPA) Coordination

GAI, on behalf of Equitrans, would like to provide your office with the Project's proposed strategies to avoid and minimize impacts to migratory birds and Bald and Golden Eagles in accordance with the MBTA (16 U.S.C. 703-712; Ch. 128; July 13, 1918; 40 Stat. 755, as amended) and the BGEPA of 1940 (16 U.S.C. 668-668d, 54 Stat. 250, as amended).

The Project is within the Appalachian Mountains Bird Conservation Region 28 (BCR 28). BCR 28 consists of rugged terrain dominated by deciduous forest types at lower elevations and combinations of pine, hemlock, spruce, and fir at higher elevations. While flatter portions are in agricultural use, most of the region is forested. The vegetation communities in the Project area are utilized by a variety of migratory and non-migratory bird species.

Bird species likely to inhabit the Project area include American Woodcock (*Scolopax minor*), Northern Cardinal (*Cardinalis cardinalis*), Cedar Waxwing (*Bombycilla cedrorum*), Cooper's Hawk (*Accipiter cooperii*), Pileated Woodpecker (*Dryocopus pileatus*), Ruffed Grouse (*Bonasa umbellus*), Wild Turkey (*Meleagris gallopavo*), Eastern Meadowlark (*Sturnella magna*), Mourning Dove (*Zenaida macroura*), American Crow (*Corvus brachyrhynchos*), and Great Blue Heron (*Ardea herodias*).

Priority forest birds include Cerulean Warbler (*Setophaga cerulea*), Black-throated Blue Warbler (*Setophaga caerulescens*), Golden-winged Warbler (*Vermivora chrysoptera*), and Henslow's Sparrow (*Ammodramus henslowii*). A review of the WV Department of Natural Resources indicated public data is not readily available regarding the exact location of bald or golden eagle nests in WV.

## MTBA and BGEPA Protection Measures

Equitrans will implement the following minimization and mitigation measures to minimize impacts to migratory birds during construction and operation of the Project:

- Where practicable, the Project will utilize existing access roads and contractor yards or locate access roads and contractor yards within previously cleared or disturbed areas.
- The Project will co-locate the proposed pipeline with existing infrastructure where feasible.
- In accordance with FERC regulations, Equitrans will not conduct vegetation maintenance over the full width of the permanent right of way (ROW) in wetlands or at waterbodies. A riparian strip at least 25 feet wide, measured from a waterbody's mean high watermark, will be allowed to revegetate with native plant species and will not be maintained.
- The width of the permanent, maintained ROW will be minimized to 50 feet with restrictions imposed by FERC.
- To facilitate periodic pipeline corrosion/leak surveys in wetlands or at waterbodies, a corridor centered on the pipeline up to 10 feet wide will be maintained in an herbaceous state.
- To prevent damage to the pipeline, trees within 15 feet of the pipeline which are greater than 15 feet in height will be selectively cut and removed for the entire length of the permanent ROW.
- No herbicides or pesticides will be used within 100 feet of a wetland or waterbody except as allowed by the applicable land management or state agency.
- The frequency of the vegetation maintenance for the entire length of the ROW will not exceed once every three years except for a 10-foot-wide corridor directly over the centerline, which would be maintained annually as needed.
- Routine vegetation mowing, and clearing will not take place between April 15 to August 1 of any year, thus avoiding the breeding and nesting season for migratory birds.
- Project construction will adhere to Project-specific erosion and sediment control plans.

No Bald or Golden Eagle nests had been identified during Project field review. If eagles are encountered, the Project will adhere to the general migratory bird avoidance measures outlined above, and USFWS avoidance measures specific to eagles. To prevent "take" under the BGEPA, if eagle nests are discovered during Project activities, Equitrans will coordinate with the USFWS to implement and maintain compliance with the BGEPA.

The proposed H-326, H-330, and H-330 Spur pipelines in WV are collocated with existing pipelines for approximately 58.8 percent, 76.8 percent, and 88.9 percent of the proposed alignments, respectively. Equitrans anticipates approximately 48.06 acres of tree clearing for the Project, of which 40.85 acres of tree clearing would occur at WV Project areas. To avoid and minimize impacts to migratory birds because of the Project, Equitrans will implement the clearing of natural or semi-natural habitats (forests, woodlots, reverting fields, fencerows, shrubby areas) to be conducted between September 1 and March 31. Upon completion of construction, disturbance areas will be restored to pre-construction contours and revegetated.

### Conclusion

Equitrans is requesting your comments regarding the Project's proposed avoidance and minimization measures related to the MBTA and BGEPA. Similar letters have been sent to the OH and PA Field Offices of the USFWS.

GAI and Equitrans thank you in advance for your assistance. If you have questions or require further information, contact me at 412.399.5317 or via email at j.broush@gaiconsultants.com.

Sincerely,

GAI Consultants, Inc.

Jennifer Broush

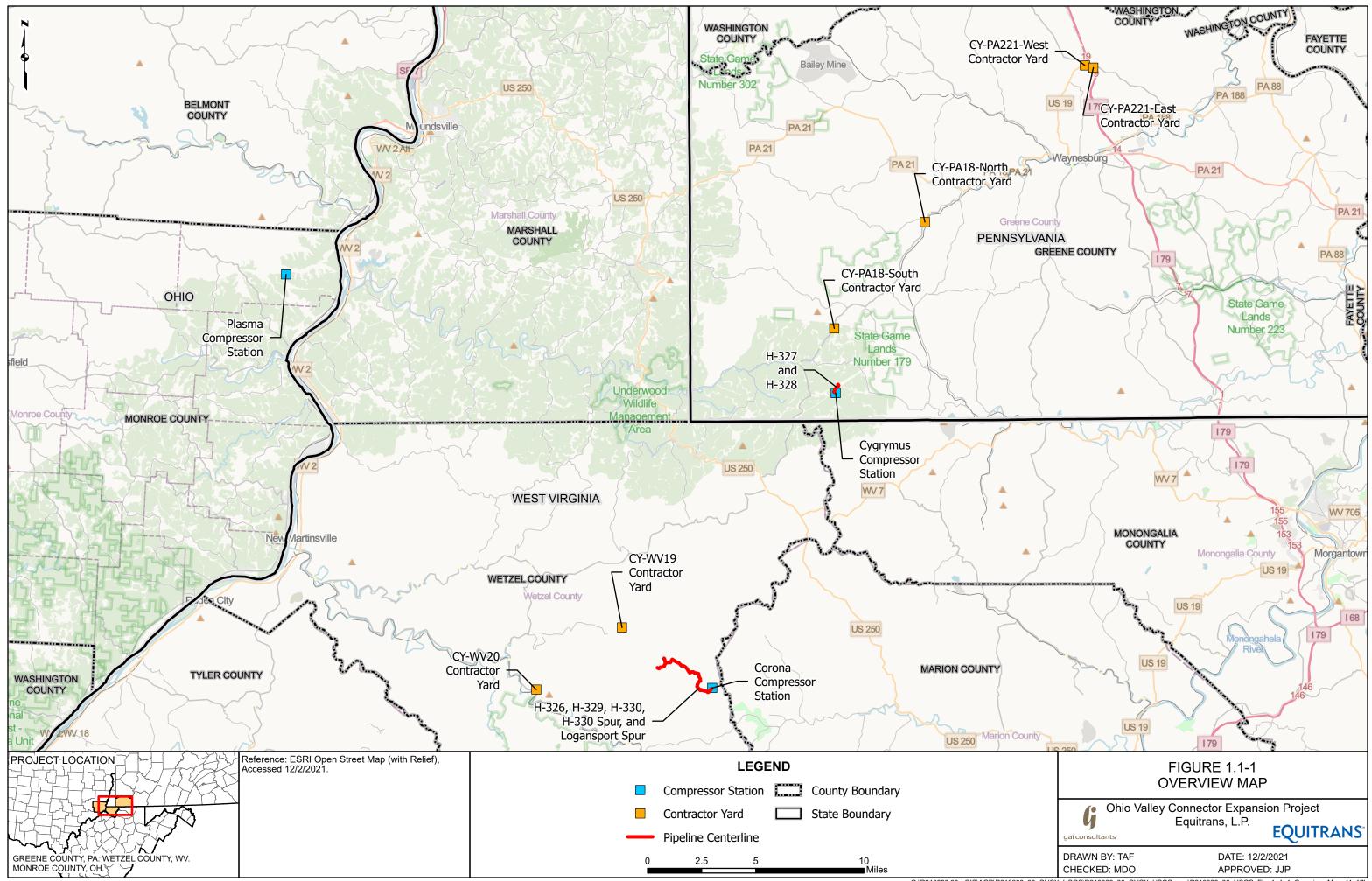
Jennifer C. Broush, MBA Associate/ Director, Environmental and Energy Services

JCB/mms

Attachment: Attachment 1 (Project Overview Map) Attachment 2 (Project Location Map) January 7, 2022 Project R210388.02

## **ATTACHMENT 1**

## PROJECT OVERVIEW MAP

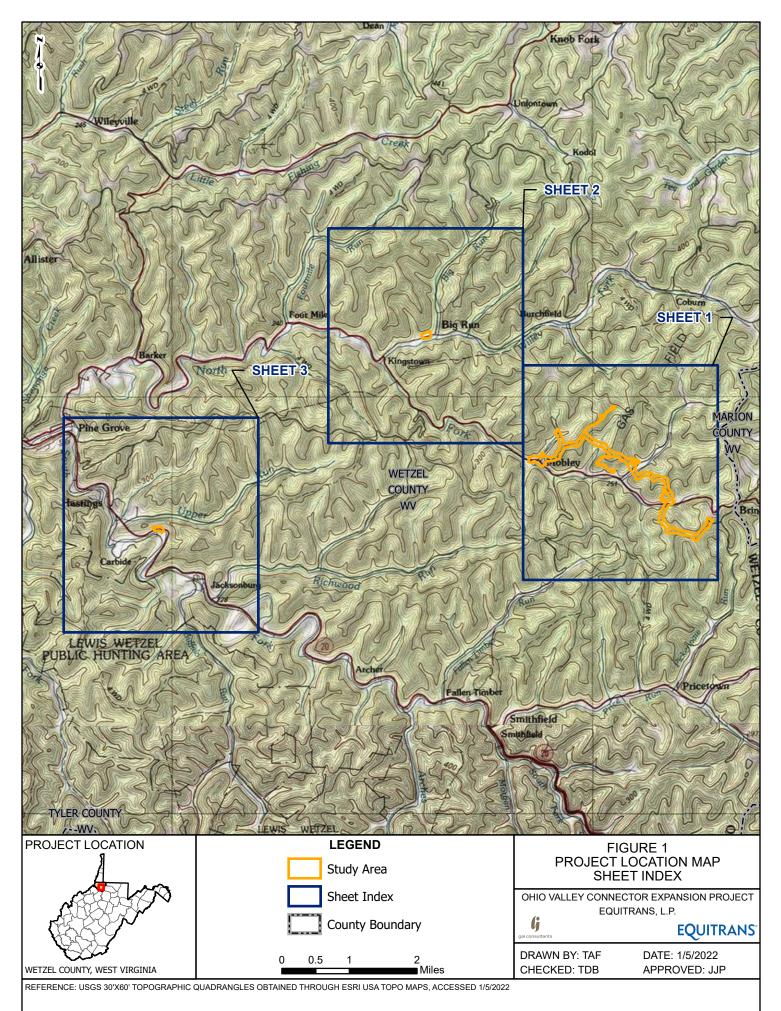


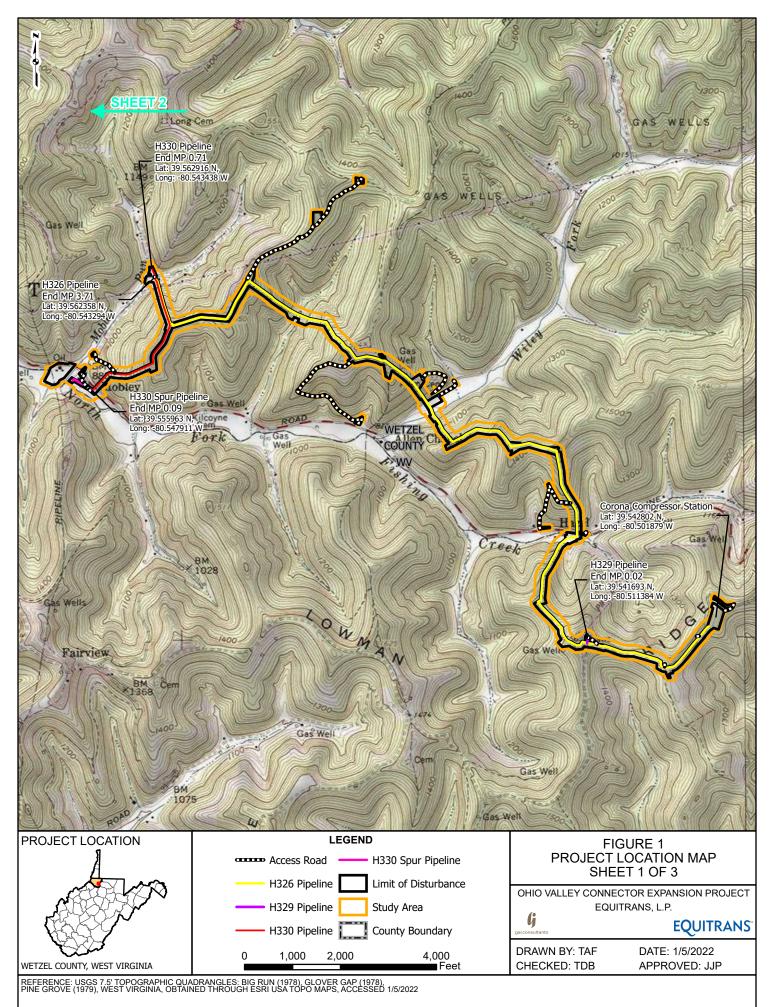
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January 7, 2022 Project R210388.02

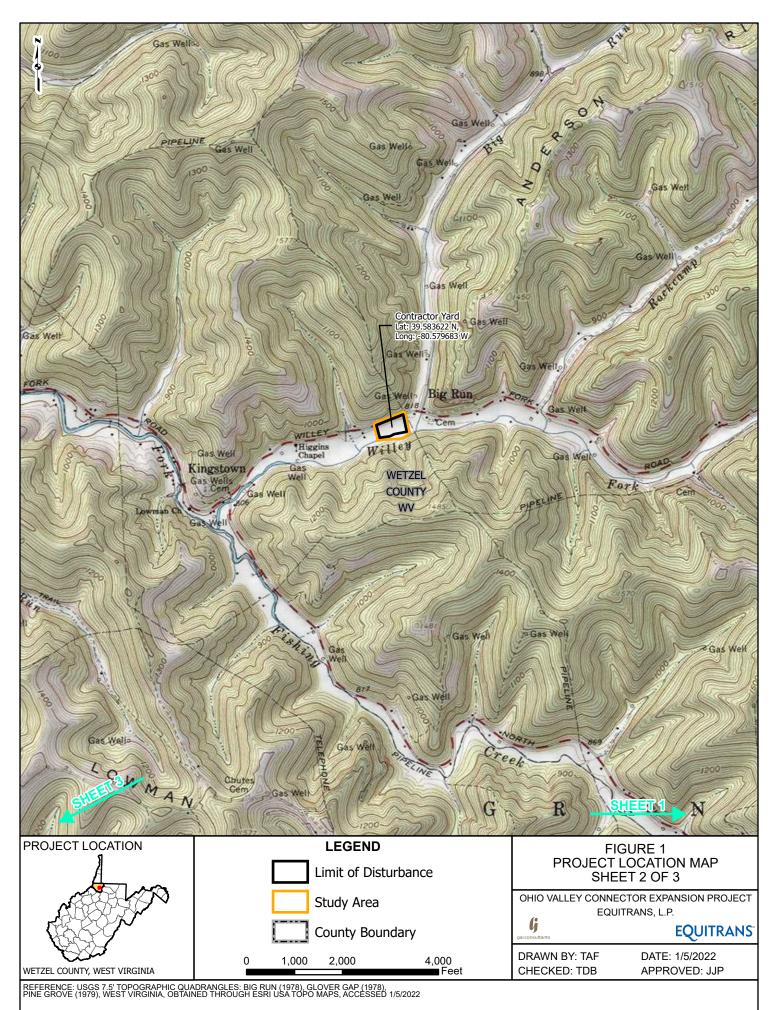
## ATTACHMENT 2

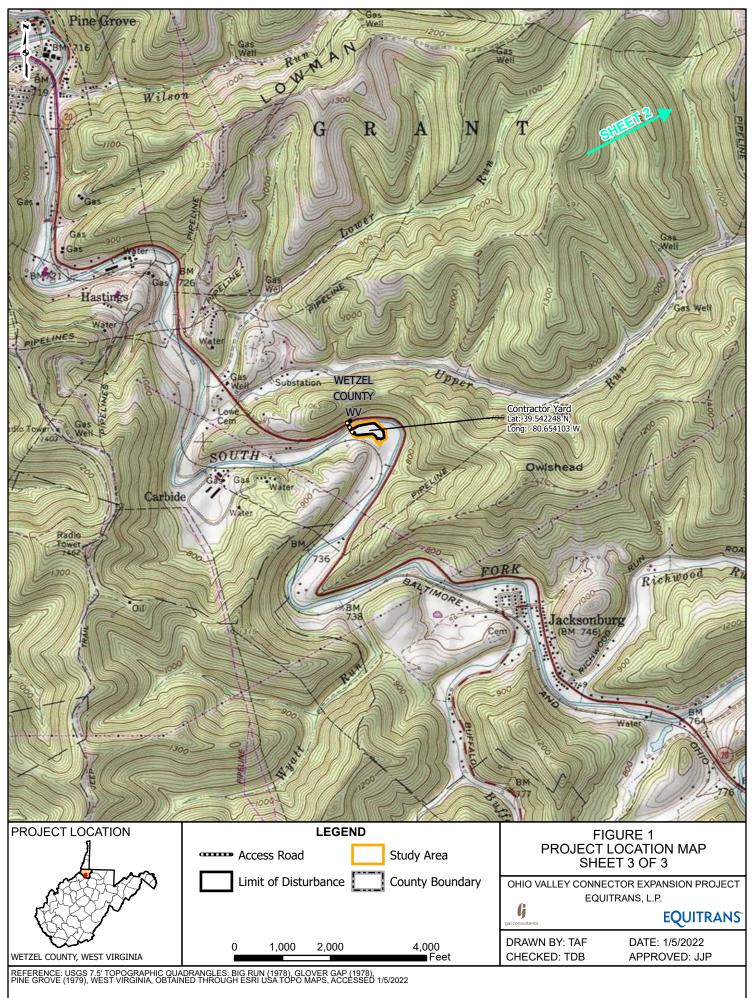
## **PROJECT LOCATION MAP**





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Southpointe Office 6000 Town Center Blvd Suite 300 Canonsburg, Pennsylvania 15317

October 21, 2021

Project R210388.02

Ms. Jennifer Norris West Virginia Field Office United States Fish and Wildlife Service 6263 Appalachian Highway Davis, West Virginia 26260-8061 Attn: Project Review Request

#### Rare, Threatened, or Endangered Species Consultation Ohio Valley Connector Expansion Project, Equitrans, L.P. Wetzel County, West Virginia IPaC Consultation Code # 05E2WV00-2021-SLI-1006

### Dear Ms. Norris:

Equitrans, L.P. (Equitrans) is seeking a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity from the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission pursuant to Section 7(c) of the Natural Gas Act as amended, authorizing Equitrans to construct and operate the proposed Ohio Valley Connector Expansion Project (OVCX) located in Greene County, Pennsylvania (PA), Wetzel County, West Virginia (WV), and Monroe County, Ohio (OH).

The purpose of OVCX is to supply an increased volume of natural gas to the Ohio Valley Connector market through which gas is transported to expanding mid-continent and Gulf Coast markets.

The scope of facilities is shown on the Project Overview Map (**Attachment A**) and currently includes the following proposed pipeline, associated aboveground facilities, access roads, cathodic protection, staging areas, and contractor/laydown yards:

- Approximately 0.5 mile of paralleling 16-inch-diameter natural gas pipeline (H-327) and 12-inchdiameter natural gas pipeline (H-328) in Greene County, PA;
- Approximately 3.8 miles of 24-inch-diameter natural gas pipeline (H-326) in Wetzel County, WV;
- Approximately 0.02 mile of 8-inch-diameter natural gas pipeline (H-329) in Wetzel County, WV;
- Approximately 0.8 mile of 16-inch-diameter natural gas pipeline (H-330) in Wetzel County, WV;
- Approximately 0.03 mile of 12-inch-diameter natural gas pipeline (Logansport Spur) in Wetzel County, WV located within existing gravel and fenced facility area;
- Removal of the existing 3606 compressor and addition of two T-70 turbines at the existing Cygrymus Compressor Station with additional mechanical and electrical equipment to support the HP increase in Greene County, PA;
- One additional M-100 compressor unit at the existing Corona Compressor Station with additional mechanical and electrical equipment to support the HP increase in Wetzel County, WV;
- One additional Titan T130 compressor unit at the existing Plasma Compressor Station with additional mechanical and electrical equipment to support the HP increase in Monroe County, OH;
- One deep well anode groundbed and rectifier for cathodic protection (located within the pipeline easement) in Greene County, PA;
- Additional ancillary facilities, such as a valve yard, taps, and internal inspection device (e.g., pig) launchers and receivers in Greene County, PA;
- Additional ancillary facilities, such as mainline valves (MLVs), valve yards, interconnects, measuring equipment, and internal inspection device (e.g., pig) launchers and receivers in Wetzel County, WV; and,
- New and existing temporary and permanent access roads, staging/ parking areas, and contractor yards in Greene County, PA and Wetzel County, WV.

### **WV Project Components**

GAI Consultants, Inc. (GAI) is performing environmental services for Equitrans, regarding the OVCX located in Wetzel County, WV (**Project Location Map - Attachment B**). In WV, OVCX will include:

- Approximately 3.8 miles of 24-inch-diameter natural gas pipeline (H-326);
- Approximately 0.02 mile of 8-inch-diameter natural gas pipeline (H-329);
- Approximately 0.8 mile of 24-inch-diameter natural gas pipeline (H-330);
- Approximately 0.03 mile of 12-inch-diameter natural gas pipeline (Logansport Spur) located within existing gravel and fenced facility area;
- One additional M-100 compressor unit at the existing Corona Compressor Station with additional mechanical and electrical equipment to support the horsepower increase;
- Additional ancillary facilities, such as mainline valves (MLVs), valve yards, interconnects, measuring equipment, and internal inspection device (e.g., pig) launchers and receivers; and,
- New and existing temporary and permanent access roads, staging areas, and contractor yards.

GAI uploaded electronic shapefiles of the OVCX locations as part of the Information, Planning, and Conservation (IPaC) review on September 21, 2021. The OVCX sites are located within the North Fork Fishing Creek [Hydrologic Unit Code (HUC) #050302010202] and Outlet South Fork Fishing Creek (HUC #050302010203) watersheds.

GAI is requesting technical assistance from the United States Fish and Wildlife Service's (USFWS) WV Field Office regarding Endangered Species Act compliance for OVCX. GAI attained an Official Species List from the USFWS' IPaC System (Attachment C), 05E2WV00-2021-SLI-1006, which identified the following federally-listed species as potentially being located near the OVCX area:

- Indiana bat (Myotis sodalis) Endangered
- Northern long-eared bat (*Myotis septentrionalis*) Threatened
- Clubshell (Pleurobema clava) Endangered
- Snuffbox mussel (*Epioblasma triquetra*) Endangered
- Monarch butterfly (Danaus plexippus) Candidate

### Tree Clearing

The proposed H-326 and H-330 pipelines parallels existing cleared rights-of-way for approximately 0.8 miles. OVCX anticipates approximately 48.06 acres of tree clearing for the total project, of which 40.85 acres of tree clearing would occur at WV project areas. OCVX will implement tree clearing from October 1 to March 31. Disturbance areas will be restored to pre-construction contours and revegetated upon completion of construction. A verification letter for the Programmatic Biological Opinion on the Final 4(d) Rule for the Northern Long-eared Bat and Activities Excepted from Take Prohibitions is provided as **Attachment D**.

#### **Contractor Yards**

Two previously disturbed contractor yards will be utilized for OVCX. Both contractor yards have since been restored and consist of mowed/ maintained field. Topsoil within the contractor yards will be segregated and stockpiled, and geotextile fabric covered with gravel will be installed. Disturbance areas will be restored to pre-construction contours and revegetated upon completion of construction.

#### Conclusion

Equitrans is requesting information and determinations (where applicable) on federally-listed species that may be affected by OVCX within WV, as shown on the Project Location Map (Attachment B). Similar letters have been sent to the USFWS PA and OH Field Offices.

Ms. Jennifer Norris October 21, 2021 R210388.02

GAI and Equitrans thank you in advance for your assistance. If you have any questions or require further information, please feel free to contact me at 412.399.5317 or via email at <u>j.broush@gaiconsultants.com</u>.

Sincerely, GAI Consultants, Inc.

Jennifer Broush Digitally signed by Jennifer Broush DN: cn=Jennifer Broush, o=GAI Consultants, Inc., ou, email=j:broush@gaiconsultants.com, c=US Date: 2021.10.21 08:40:52-04'00'

Jennifer C. Broush, MBA Associate / Director, Environmental and Energy Services

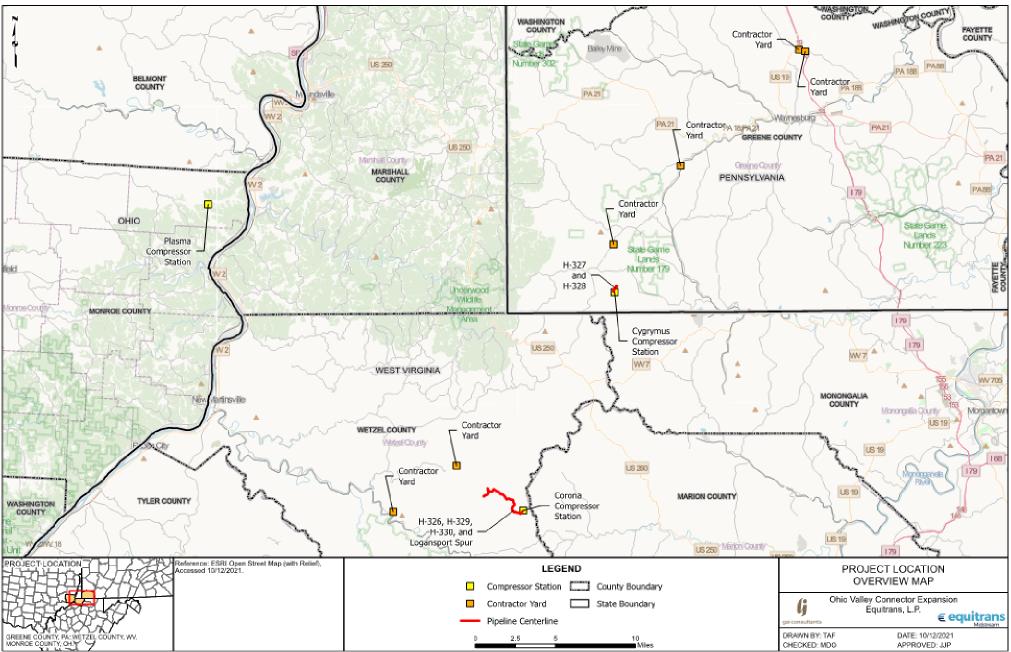
Attachments: Attachment A (Project Overview Map), Attachment B (Project Location Map), Attachment C (IPaC Official Species List), Attachment D (Verification Letter for the Programmatic Biological Opinion on Final 4(d) Rule for the Northern Long-eared Bat and Activities Excepted from Take Prohibitions)

October 21, 2021 R210388.02

## ATTACHMENT A

## PROJECT OVERVIEW MAP

gaiconsultants.com



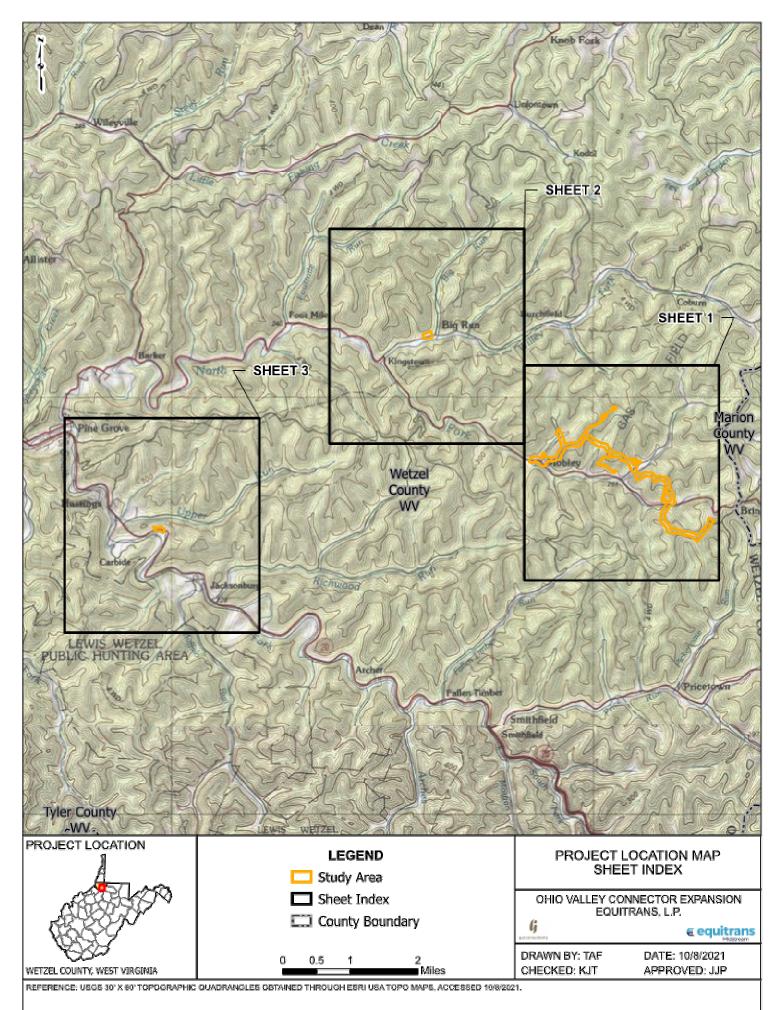
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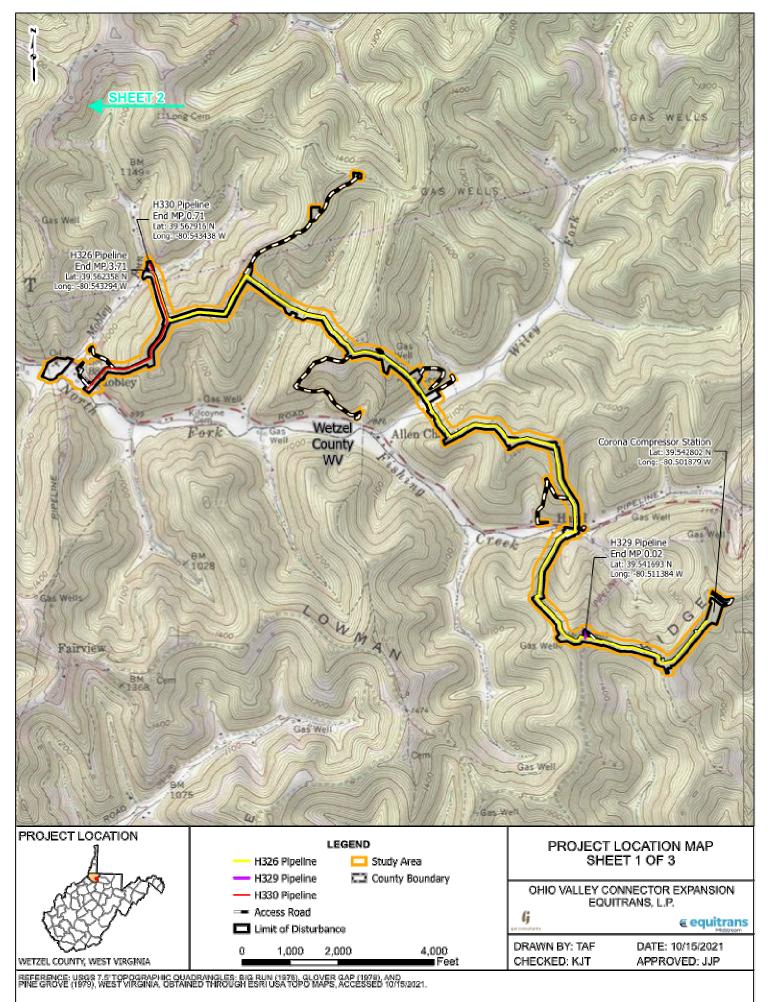
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## ATTACHMENT B

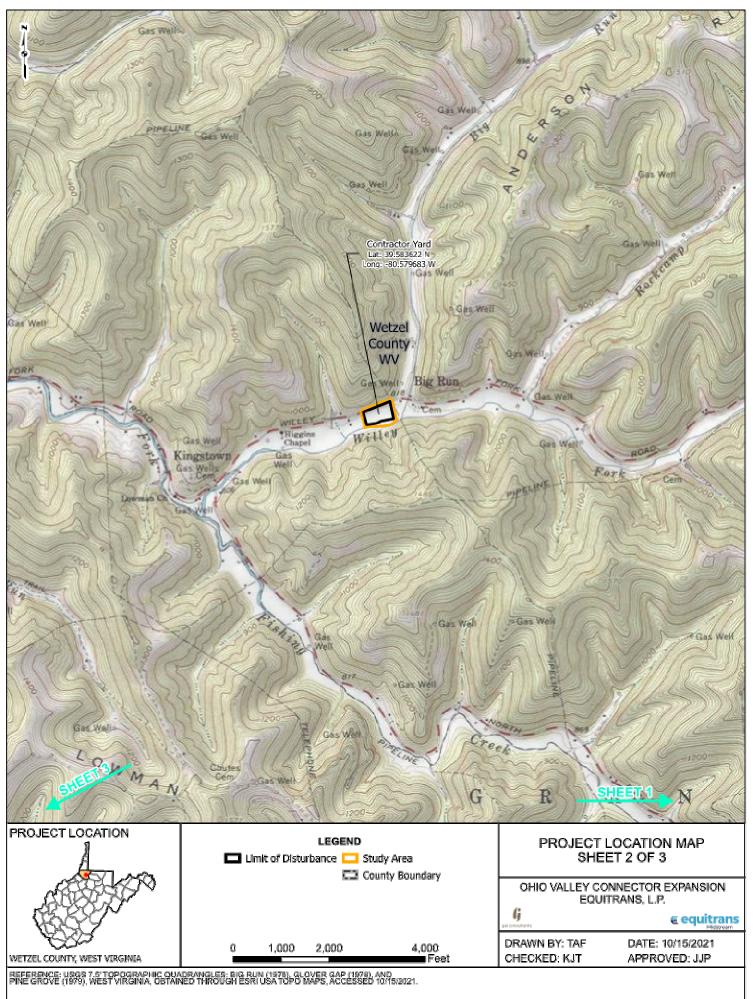
## PROJECT LOCATION MAP

gaiconsultants.com

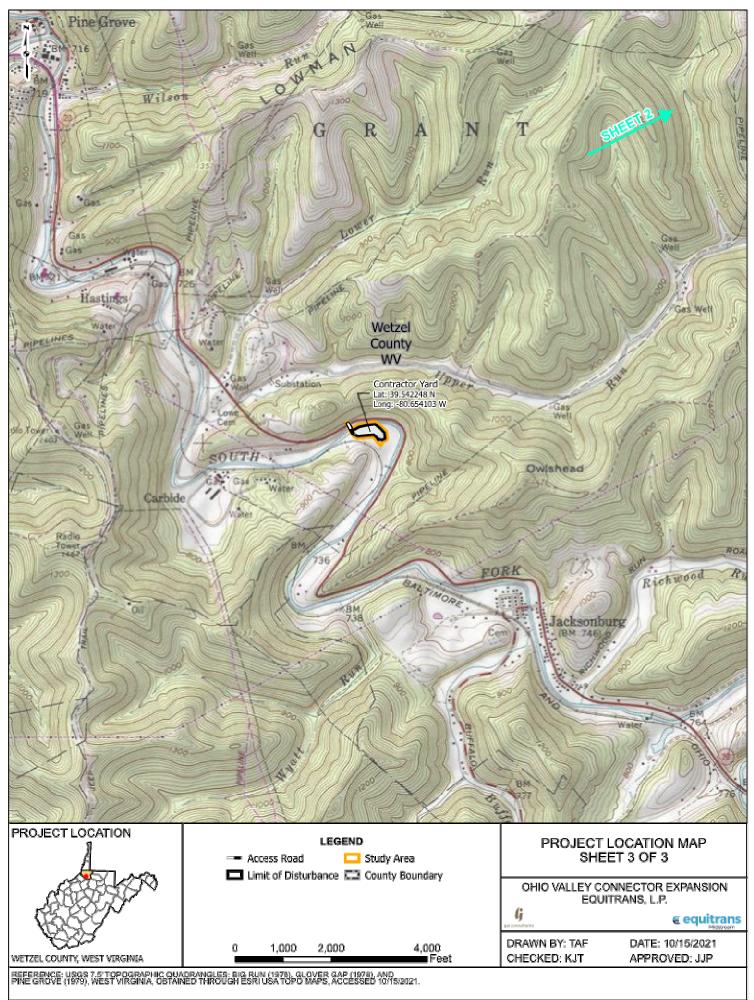




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October 21, 2021 R210388.02

## ATTACHMENT C

**IPaC OFFICIAL SPECIES LIST** 



# United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE West Virginia Ecological Services Field Office 90 Vance Drive Elkins, WV 26241-9475 Phone: (304) 636-6586 Fax: (304) 636-7824 http://www.fws.gov/westvirginiafieldoffice/



September 21, 2021

In Reply Refer To: Consultation Code: 05E2WV00-2021-SLI-1006 Event Code: 05E2WV00-2021-E-02795 Project Name: 2021 Equitrans Expansion West Virginia

Subject: List of threatened and endangered species that may occur in your proposed project location or may be affected by your proposed project

To Whom It May Concern:

The enclosed species list identifies threatened, endangered, and proposed species, designated critical habitat, and candidate species that may occur within the boundary of your proposed project and/or may be affected by your proposed project. The species list fulfills the requirements of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) under section 7(c) of the Endangered Species Act (ESA) of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*). This list can also be used to determine whether listed species may be present for projects without federal agency involvement.

If the official species list you receive identifies any listed, proposed, or candidate species as potentially occurring in the proposed project area, then further section 7 consultation under the ESA is required with the Fish and Wildlife Service. Please submit a project review request to the West Virginia Field Office. To find out what information needs to be submitted with your project review request go to this link: <u>http://www.fws.gov/westvirginiafieldoffice/projectreview.html</u>

# Please include the Consultation Tracking Number in the header of this letter with any request for consultation or correspondence about your project that you should submit to our office.

New information based on updated surveys, changes in the abundance and distribution of species, changed habitat conditions, or other factors could change this list. Please feel free to contact us if you need more current information or assistance regarding the potential impacts to federally proposed, listed, and candidate species and federally designated and proposed critical habitat. Please note that under 50 CFR 402.12(e) of the regulations implementing section 7 of the ESA, the accuracy of this species list should be verified after 90 days. This verification can be completed formally or informally as desired. The Service recommends that verification be completed by visiting the ECOS-IPaC site at regular intervals during project planning and

implementation for updates to species lists and information. An updated list may be requested through the ECOS-IPaC system by completing the same process used to receive the enclosed list.

Please be aware that bald and golden eagles are protected under the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act (16 U.S.C. 668 *et seq.*), and projects affecting these species may require development of an eagle conservation plan (<u>http://www.fws.gov/windenergy/</u> <u>eagle\_guidance.html</u>). For information on bald and golden eagles in your project area please contact the West Virginia Division of Natural Resources, Natural Heritage Program at P.O. Box 67 Elkins, WV 26241, or call 304-637-0245.

Additionally, wind energy projects should follow the Service's wind energy guidelines (<u>http://www.fws.gov/windenergy/</u>) for minimizing impacts to migratory birds and bats.

Guidance for minimizing impacts to migratory birds for projects including communications towers (e.g., cellular, digital television, radio, and emergency broadcast) can be found at: <u>http://www.fws.gov/migratorybirds/CurrentBirdIssues/Hazards/towers/towers.htm; http://www.towerkill.com; http://www.fws.gov/migratorybirds/CurrentBirdIssues/Hazards/towers/currentBirdIssues/Hazards/towers/comtow.html; and <u>http://www.fws.gov/westvirginiafieldoffice/PDF/</u>Communication%20Tower%20Letter%20(1).pdf</u>

We appreciate your concern for threatened and endangered species. The Service encourages Federal agencies to include conservation of threatened and endangered species into their project planning to further the purposes of the ESA.

Attachment(s):

Official Species List

# **Official Species List**

This list is provided pursuant to Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act, and fulfills the requirement for Federal agencies to "request of the Secretary of the Interior information whether any species which is listed or proposed to be listed may be present in the area of a proposed action".

This species list is provided by:

West Virginia Ecological Services Field Office 90 Vance Drive Elkins, WV 26241-9475 (304) 636-6586

## **Project Summary**

Consultation Code:05E2WV00-2021-SLI-1006Event Code:Some(05E2WV00-2021-E-02795)Project Name:2021 Equitrans Expansion West VirginiaProject Type:TRANSMISSION LINEProject Description:Wetzel County, WVProject Location:

Approximate location of the project can be viewed in Google Maps: <u>https://www.google.com/maps/@39.553686750000054,-80.51890852614585,14z</u>



Counties: Wetzel County, West Virginia

## **Endangered Species Act Species**

There is a total of 5 threatened, endangered, or candidate species on this species list.

Species on this list should be considered in an effects analysis for your project and could include species that exist in another geographic area. For example, certain fish may appear on the species list because a project could affect downstream species. Note that 4 of these species should be considered only under certain conditions.

IPaC does not display listed species or critical habitats under the sole jurisdiction of NOAA Fisheries<sup>1</sup>, as USFWS does not have the authority to speak on behalf of NOAA and the Department of Commerce.

See the "Critical habitats" section below for those critical habitats that lie wholly or partially within your project area under this office's jurisdiction. Please contact the designated FWS office if you have questions.

1. <u>NOAA Fisheries</u>, also known as the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), is an office of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration within the Department of Commerce.

## Mammals

NAME	STATUS
<ul> <li>Indiana Bat Myotis sodalis</li> <li>There is final critical habitat for this species. The location of the critical habitat is not available. This species only needs to be considered under the following conditions: <ul> <li>All activities in this location should consider potential effects to this species. This project is within known summer foraging and roosting areas. Please contact the WVFO.</li> <li>All activities in this location should consider potential effects to this species. This project is not within a known-use area, but potentially occupied habitat may exist. Please contact the WVFO for additional consultation.</li> </ul> </li> <li>Species profile: <a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/5949">https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/5949</a></li> </ul>	Endangered
<ul> <li>Northern Long-eared Bat Myotis septentrionalis</li> <li>No critical habitat has been designated for this species.</li> <li>This species only needs to be considered under the following conditions: <ul> <li>No known hibernacula or maternity roost trees occur within the action area. Any 'take' that may occur incidental to this project is not prohibited under the final 4(d) rule. Please submit a Streamlined 4(d) Rule Consultation form to the WVFO.</li> <li>Species profile: <u>https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9045</u></li> </ul> </li> </ul>	Threatened

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NAME	STATUS
Clubshell <i>Pleurobema clava</i>	Endangered
Population: Wherever found; Except where listed as Experimental Populations	C
No critical habitat has been designated for this species.	
This species only needs to be considered under the following conditions:	
<ul> <li>This project occurs within a watershed known to support this species. Review the project</li> </ul>	
design guidelines for more information about next steps and contacting the WVFO.	
Species profile: <u>https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/3789</u>	
General project design guidelines:	
https://ecos.fws.gov/ipac/project/EQDOHMR36JDQBPQ3QTQDSZJM7A/documents/	
<u>generated/6454.pdf</u>	
Snuffbox Mussel <i>Epioblasma triquetra</i>	Endangered
No critical habitat has been designated for this species.	
This species only needs to be considered under the following conditions:	
<ul> <li>This project occurs within a watershed known to support this species. Review the project</li> </ul>	
design guidelines for more information about next steps and contacting the WVFO.	
Species profile: <u>https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/4135</u>	
General project design guidelines:	
https://ecos.fws.gov/ipac/project/EQDOHMR36JDQBPQ3QTQDSZJM7A/documents/	
<u>generated/6466.pdf</u>	
Insects	
NAME	STATUS
Monarch Butterfly <i>Danaus plexippus</i>	Candidate

Monarch Butterfly *Danaus plexippus* No critical habitat has been designated for this species.

Species profile: <u>https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9743</u>

## **Critical habitats**

THERE ARE NO CRITICAL HABITATS WITHIN YOUR PROJECT AREA UNDER THIS OFFICE'S JURISDICTION.

October 21, 2021 R210388.02

## ATTACHMENT D

VERIFICATION LETTER FOR THE PROGRAMMATIC BIOLOGICAL OPINION ON FINAL 4(D) RULE FOR THE NORTHERN LONG-EARED BAT AND ACTIVITIES EXCEPTED FROM TAKE PROHIBITIONS



# United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE West Virginia Ecological Services Field Office 90 Vance Drive Elkins, WV 26241-9475 Phone: (304) 636-6586 Fax: (304) 636-7824 http://www.fws.gov/westvirginiafieldoffice/



September 21, 2021

In Reply Refer To: Consultation code: 05E2WV00-2021-TA-1006 Event Code: 05E2WV00-2021-E-02796 Project Name: 2021 Equitrans Expansion West Virginia

Subject: Verification letter for the '2021 Equitrans Expansion West Virginia' project under the January 5, 2016, Programmatic Biological Opinion on Final 4(d) Rule for the Northern Long-eared Bat and Activities Excepted from Take Prohibitions.

Dear William Lieb:

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) received on September 21, 2021 your effects determination for the '2021 Equitrans Expansion West Virginia' (the Action) using the northern long-eared bat (*Myotis septentrionalis*) key within the Information for Planning and Consultation (IPaC) system. This IPaC key assists users in determining whether a Federal action is consistent with the activities analyzed in the Service's January 5, 2016, Programmatic Biological Opinion (PBO). The PBO addresses activities excepted from "take"<sup>[1]</sup> prohibitions applicable to the northern long-eared bat under the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (ESA) (87 Stat.884, as amended; 16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.).

Based upon your IPaC submission, the Action is consistent with activities analyzed in the PBO. The Action may affect the northern long-eared bat; however, any take that may occur as a result of the Action is not prohibited under the ESA Section 4(d) rule adopted for this species at 50 CFR §17.40(o). Unless the Service advises you within 30 days of the date of this letter that your IPaC-assisted determination was incorrect, this letter verifies that the PBO satisfies and concludes your responsibilities for this Action under ESA Section 7(a)(2) with respect to the northern long-eared bat.

Please report to our office any changes to the information about the Action that you submitted in IPaC, the results of any bat surveys conducted in the Action area, and any dead, injured, or sick northern long-eared bats that are found during Action implementation. If the Action is not completed within one year of the date of this letter, you must update and resubmit the information required in the IPaC key.

This IPaC-assisted determination allows you to rely on the PBO for compliance with ESA Section 7(a)(2) <u>only</u> for the northern long-eared bat. It **does not** apply to the following ESA-protected species that also may occur in the Action area:

- Clubshell Pleurobema clava Endangered
- Indiana Bat Myotis sodalis Endangered
- Monarch Butterfly Danaus plexippus Candidate
- Snuffbox Mussel Epioblasma triquetra Endangered

If the Action may affect other federally listed species besides the northern long-eared bat, a proposed species, and/or designated critical habitat, additional consultation between you and this Service office is required. If the Action may disturb bald or golden eagles, additional coordination with the Service under the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act is recommended.

<sup>[1]</sup>Take means to harass, harm, pursue, hunt, shoot, wound, kill, trap, capture, or collect, or to attempt to engage in any such conduct [ESA Section 3(19)].

## **Action Description**

You provided to IPaC the following name and description for the subject Action.

## 1. Name

2021 Equitrans Expansion West Virginia

## 2. Description

The following description was provided for the project '2021 Equitrans Expansion West Virginia':

## Wetzel County, WV

Approximate location of the project can be viewed in Google Maps: <u>https://www.google.com/</u> <u>maps/@39.553686750000054,-80.51890852614585,14z</u>



## **Determination Key Result**

This Federal Action may affect the northern long-eared bat in a manner consistent with the description of activities addressed by the Service's PBO dated January 5, 2016. Any taking that may occur incidental to this Action is not prohibited under the final 4(d) rule at 50 CFR §17.40(o). Therefore, the PBO satisfies your responsibilities for this Action under ESA Section 7(a)(2) relative to the northern long-eared bat.

## Determination Key Description: Northern Long-eared Bat 4(d) Rule

This key was last updated in IPaC on May 15, 2017. Keys are subject to periodic revision.

This key is intended for actions that may affect the threatened northern long-eared bat.

The purpose of the key for Federal actions is to assist determinations as to whether proposed actions are consistent with those analyzed in the Service's PBO dated January 5, 2016.

Federal actions that may cause prohibited take of northern long-eared bats, affect ESA-listed species other than the northern long-eared bat, or affect any designated critical habitat, require ESA Section 7(a)(2) consultation in addition to the use of this key. Federal actions that may

affect species proposed for listing or critical habitat proposed for designation may require a conference under ESA Section 7(a)(4).

# **Determination Key Result**

This project may affect the threatened Northern long-eared bat; therefore, consultation with the Service pursuant to Section 7(a)(2) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (87 Stat.884, as amended; 16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.) is required. However, based on the information you provided, this project may rely on the Service's January 5, 2016, *Programmatic Biological Opinion on Final 4(d) Rule for the Northern Long-Eared Bat and Activities Excepted from Take Prohibitions* to fulfill its Section 7(a)(2) consultation obligation.

## **Qualification Interview**

- 1. Is the action authorized, funded, or being carried out by a Federal agency? *Yes*
- 2. Have you determined that the proposed action will have "no effect" on the northern longeared bat? (If you are unsure select "No")

No

3. Will your activity purposefully Take northern long-eared bats?

No

4. [Semantic] Is the project action area located wholly outside the White-nose Syndrome Zone?

## Automatically answered No

5. [Semantic] Is the project action area located within 0.25 miles of a known northern longeared bat hibernaculum?

Note: The map queried for this question contains proprietary information and cannot be displayed. If you need additional information, please contact your State wildlife agency

## Automatically answered

No

6. [Semantic] Is the project action area located within 150 feet of a known occupied northern long-eared bat maternity roost tree?

Note: The map queried for this question contains proprietary information and cannot be displayed. If you need additional information, please contact your State wildlife agency

Automatically answered No

## **Project Questionnaire**

If the project includes forest conversion, report the appropriate acreages below. Otherwise, type '0' in questions 1-3.

1. Estimated total acres of forest conversion:

40

2. If known, estimated acres of forest conversion from April 1 to October 31

0

3. If known, estimated acres of forest conversion from June 1 to July 31

0

## If the project includes timber harvest, report the appropriate acreages below. Otherwise, type '0' in questions 4-6.

4. Estimated total acres of timber harvest

0

5. If known, estimated acres of timber harvest from April 1 to October 31

0

6. If known, estimated acres of timber harvest from June 1 to July 31

0

# If the project includes prescribed fire, report the appropriate acreages below. Otherwise, type '0' in questions 7-9.

7. Estimated total acres of prescribed fire

0

8. If known, estimated acres of prescribed fire from April 1 to October 31

0

9. If known, estimated acres of prescribed fire from June 1 to July 31

0

# If the project includes new wind turbines, report the megawatts of wind capacity below. Otherwise, type '0' in question 10.

10. What is the estimated wind capacity (in megawatts) of the new turbine(s)?

0

United States Fish and Wildlife Service Ohio Field Office



Pittsburgh Office 385 East Waterfront Drive Homestead, Pennsylvania 15120

January 7, 2022 Project R210388.05

Attention: Project Review Request Ms. Patrice Ashfield U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Ohio Ecological Services Office 4625 Morse Road, Suite 104 Columbus, Ohio 43230

### Migratory Bird Treaty Act and Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act Consultation Ohio Valley Connector Expansion Project, Equitrans, L.P. Monroe County, Ohio IPaC Consultation Code #03E15000-2021-SKI-2416

Dear Ms. Ashfield:

Equitrans, L.P. (Equitrans) is seeking a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity from the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) pursuant to Section 7(c) of the Natural Gas Act as amended, authorizing Equitrans to construct and operate the proposed Equitrans Ohio Valley Connector Expansion Project (Project) in Greene County, Pennsylvania (PA); Wetzel County, West Virginia (WV); and Monroe County, Ohio (OH).

The purpose of Project is to meet the needs of current and future customers to serve markets in a timely, cost-effective, efficient, and environmentally sensitive manner that minimizes incremental temporary and permanent impacts.

The scope of facilities is shown on the Project Overview Map (**Attachment 1**) and includes the following proposed pipeline, associated aboveground facilities, access roads, cathodic protection, staging areas, and contractor/laydown yards:

- Addition of two Taurus 70 turbines at the Cygrymus Compressor Station with additional mechanical and electrical equipment to support the horsepower (HP) increase in Greene County, PA.
- Addition of one Mars 100 compressor unit to support the existing Mars 100 compressor unit, at the extant Corona Compressor Station, with supplementary mechanical and electrical equipment to support the HP increase in Wetzel County, WV.
- Addition of one Titan 130 to the two existing Taurus 70 compressor units at the Plasma Compressor Station with additional mechanical and electrical equipment to support the HP increase in Monroe County, OH.
- Approximately 0.5-mile of new 16-inch-diameter natural gas pipeline (H-327) in Greene County, PA.
- Approximately 0.5-mile of new 12-inch-diameter natural gas pipeline (H-328) in Greene County, PA.
- Approximately 3.7 miles of new 24-inch-diameter natural gas pipeline (H-326) in Wetzel County, WV.
- Approximately 129 feet (0.02 mile) of new eight-inch-diameter natural gas pipeline (H-329) in Wetzel County, WV.

- Approximately 0.7-mile of new 16-inch-diameter natural gas pipeline (H-330) in Wetzel County, WV.
- Approximately 0.09-mile of new 16-inch-diameter natural gas pipeline (H-330 Spur) in Wetzel County, WV.
- Approximately 160 feet (0.03-mile) of new 12-inch-diameter natural gas pipeline (Logansport Spur) in Wetzel County, WV.
- One new deep anode groundbed and rectifier for cathodic protection in Greene County, PA.
- Additional new ancillary facilities, such as a valve yard, taps, and internal inspection device (pig) launchers and receivers in Greene County, PA.
- Additional new ancillary facilities, such as mainline valves, valve yards, measuring equipment, and internal inspection device (pig) launchers and receivers in Wetzel County, WV.
- Use of new and existing temporary and permanent access roads, staging/parking areas, and contractor yards in Greene County, PA and Wetzel County, WV.
- Use of existing permanent access road in Monroe County, OH.

### **OH Project Components**

GAI Consultants, Inc. (GAI) is performing environmental services for Equitrans, regarding the Project in Monroe County, OH (**Project Location Map – Attachment 2**). Project components in Monroe County, OH, will include:

- Addition of one Titan 130 to the two existing Taurus 70 compressor units at the existing Plasma Compressor Station with additional mechanical and electrical equipment to support the HP increase.
- Use of an existing permanent access road.

The proposed modifications at the Plasma Compressor Station will be confined to the existing station's graded and previously disturbed limits and will not include tree-clearing or the disturbance of stream or wetland habitat.

### **Previous Agency Consultation**

On September 21, 2021, GAI uploaded electronic shapefiles of the Project locations in OH as part of the Information, Planning, and Conservation (IPaC) review, IPaC Consultation Code # 03E15000-2021-SLI-2416. The Project components in OH are within the Stillhouse Run-Ohio River (Hydrologic Unit Code #050302011001) watershed. GAI had requested technical assistance from the United States Fish and Wildlife Service's (USFWS) OH Ecological Field Office regarding Endangered Species Act compliance for Project components in OH on October 21, 2021. On November 23, 2021 the OH Ecological Field Office of the USFWS indicated that due to the project type, size, location, and the proposed implementation of seasonal tree cutting (clearing of trees  $\geq$ 3 inches diameter at breast height between October 1 and March 31) to avoid impacts to the endangered Indiana bat (*Myotis sodalis*) and threatened northern long-eared bat (*Myotis septentrionalis*), the service does not anticipate adverse effects to any other federally endangered, threatened, or proposed species, or proposed or designated critical habitat.

# Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) and Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act (BGEPA) Coordination

GAI, on behalf of Equitrans, would like to provide your office with the Project's proposed strategies to avoid and minimize impacts to migratory birds and Bald and Golden Eagles in accordance with the MBTA (16 U.S.C. 703-712; Ch. 128; July 13, 1918; 40 Stat. 755, as amended) and the BGEPA of 1940 (16 U.S.C. 668-668d, 54 Stat. 250, as amended).

The Project is within the Appalachian Mountains Bird Conservation Region 28 (BCR 28). BCR 28 consists of rugged terrain dominated by deciduous forest types at lower elevations and combinations of pine,

hemlock, spruce, and fir at higher elevations. While flatter portions are in agricultural use, most of the region is forested. The vegetation communities in the general Project area are utilized by a variety of migratory and non-migratory bird species; however, it is not anticipated that the Project limits would provide suitable habitat for migratory and non-migratory bird species.

Bird species likely to inhabit the area around the Project include American Woodcock (*Scolopax minor*), Northern Cardinal (*Cardinalis cardinalis*), Cedar Waxwing (*Bombycilla cedrorum*), Cooper's Hawk (*Accipiter cooperii*), Pileated Woodpecker (*Dryocopus pileatus*), Ruffed Grouse (*Bonasa umbellus*), Wild Turkey (*Meleagris gallopavo*), Eastern Meadowlark (*Sturnella magna*), Mourning Dove (*Zenaida macroura*), American Crow (*Corvus brachyrhynchos*), and Great Blue Heron (*Ardea herodias*).

Priority forest birds include Cerulean Warbler (*Setophaga cerulea*), Black-throated Blue Warbler (*Setophaga caerulescens*), Golden-winged Warbler (*Vermivora chrysoptera*), and Henslow's Sparrow (*Ammodramus henslowii*). Based on review of the OH Department of Natural Resources, public data is not readily available regarding the exact location of Bald or Golden Eagle nests in OH.

### **MTBA and BGEPA Protection Measures**

Equitrans will implement the following minimization and mitigation measures to minimize impacts to migratory birds during construction and operation of the Project:

- Where practicable, the Project will utilize existing access roads and contractor yards or locate access roads and contractor yards within previously cleared or disturbed areas.
- The Project will co-locate the proposed pipeline with existing infrastructure where feasible.
- In accordance with FERC regulations, Equitrans will not conduct vegetation maintenance over the full width of the permanent right of way (ROW) in wetlands or at waterbodies. A riparian strip at least 25 feet wide, measured from a waterbody's mean high watermark, will be allowed to revegetate with native plant species and will not be maintained.
- The width of the permanent, maintained ROW will be minimized to 50 feet with restrictions imposed by FERC.
- To facilitate periodic pipeline corrosion/leak surveys in wetlands or at waterbodies, a corridor centered on the pipeline up to 10 feet wide will be maintained in an herbaceous state.
- To prevent damage to the pipeline, trees within 15 feet of the pipeline which are greater than 15 feet in height will be selectively cut and removed for the entire length of the permanent ROW.
- No herbicides or pesticides will be used within 100 feet of a wetland or waterbody except as allowed by the applicable land management or state agency.
- The frequency of the vegetation maintenance for the entire length of the ROW will not exceed once every three years except for a 10-foot-wide corridor directly over the centerline, which would be maintained annually as needed.
- Routine vegetation mowing, and clearing will not take place between April 15 to August 1 of any year, thus avoiding the breeding and nesting season for migratory birds.
- Project construction will adhere to Project-specific erosion and sediment control plans.

No Bald or Golden Eagle nests had been identified during Project field review. If eagles are encountered, the Project will adhere to the general migratory bird avoidance measures outlined above, and USFWS avoidance measures specific to eagles. To prevent "take" under the BGEPA, if eagle nests are discovered during Project activities, Equitrans will coordinate with the USFWS to implement and maintain compliance with the BGEPA.

Equitrans anticipates approximately 48.06 acres of tree clearing for the Project, of which no tree clearing is proposed at the Project components in OH. To avoid and minimize impacts to migratory birds because of the Project, Equitrans will implement the clearing of natural or semi-natural habitats (forests, woodlots,

reverting fields, fencerows, shrubby areas) to be conducted between September 1 and March 31. Upon completion of construction, disturbance areas will be restored to pre-construction contours and revegetated.

### Conclusion

Equitrans is requesting your comments regarding the Project's proposed avoidance and minimization measures related to the MBTA and BGEPA. Similar letters have been sent to the WV and PA Field Offices of the USFWS.

GAI and Equitrans thank you in advance for your assistance. If you have questions or require further information, contact me at 412.399.5317 or via email at j.broush@gaiconsultants.com.

Sincerely,

GAI Consultants, Inc.

Jennifer Broush

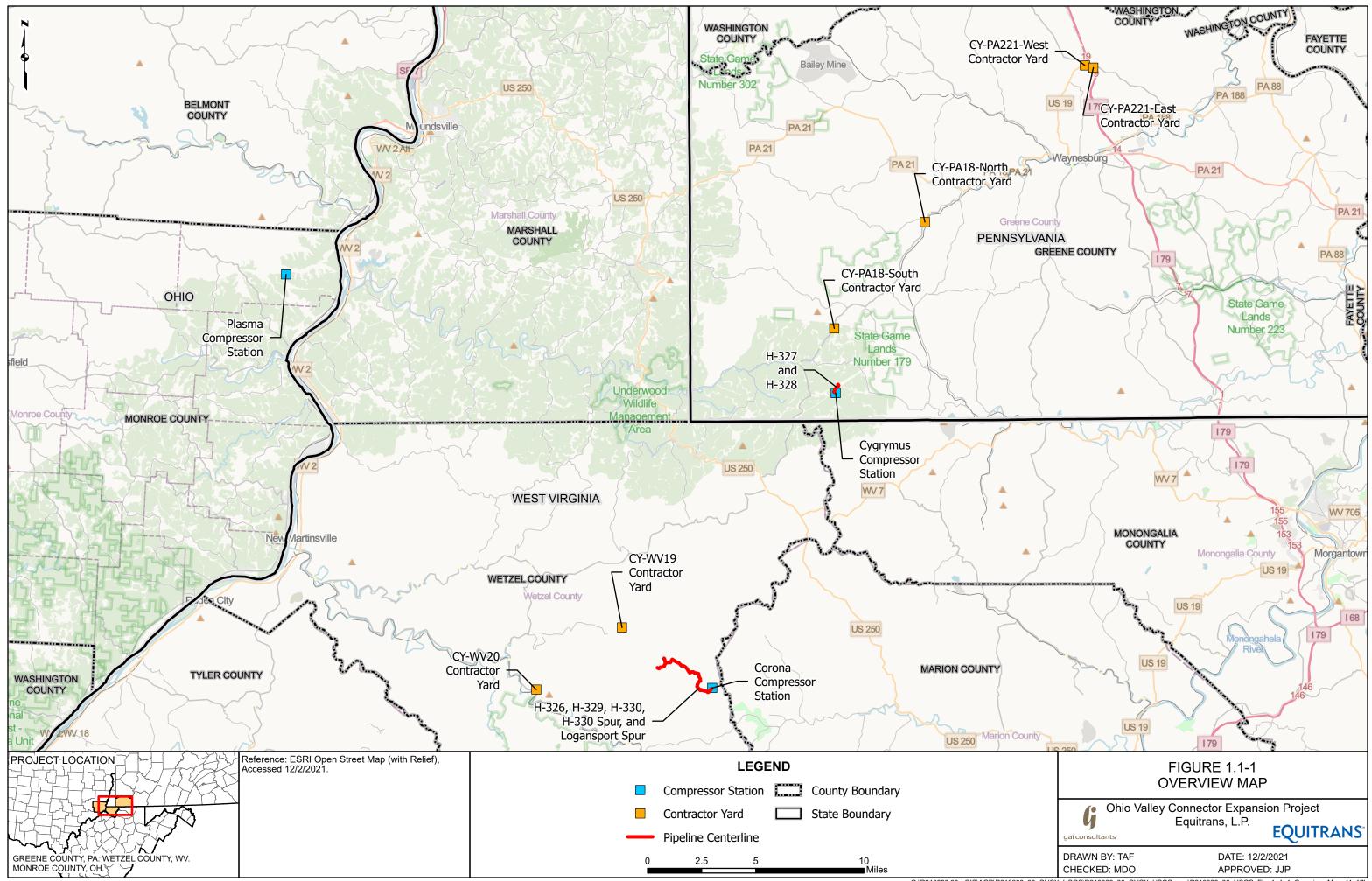
Jennifer C. Broush, MBA Associate/ Director, Environmental and Energy Services

JCB/mms

Attachment: Attachment 1 (Project Overview Map) Attachment 2 (Project Location Map) January 7, 2022 Project R210388.05

### **ATTACHMENT 1**

### PROJECT OVERVIEW MAP

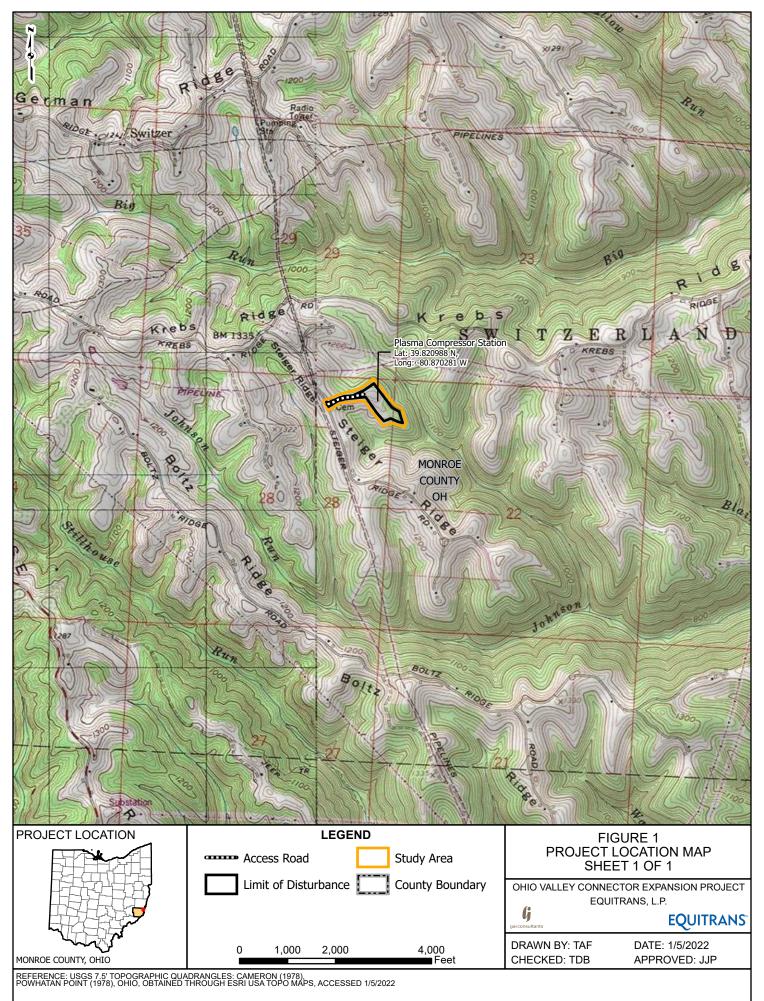


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January 7, 2022 Project R210388.05

### ATTACHMENT 2

### **PROJECT LOCATION MAP**



### Lauren A. Vermilion

From: Sent: To: Subject: Jennifer Broush Tuesday, November 23, 2021 10:22 AM Lauren A. Vermilion; Jason Palonis Fwd: Ohio Valley Connector Expansion Project (Equitrans) Monroe County Ohio

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Ohio, FW3" <ohio@fws.gov>
Date: November 23, 2021 at 10:10:42 AM EST
To: Jennifer Broush <j.broush@gaiconsultants.com>
Subject: Ohio Valley Connector Expansion Project (Equitrans) Monroe County Ohio

EXERCISE CAUTION: This is an External Email Message! \*\*Think before clicking on links, opening attachments, or responding\*\*



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Ecological Services Office 4625 Morse Road, Suite 104 Columbus, Ohio 43230 (614) 416-8993 / Fax (614) 416-8994



TAILS# 03E15000-2021-TA-2416

Dear Ms. Broush,

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) has received your recent correspondence requesting information about the subject proposal. We offer the following comments and recommendations to assist you in minimizing and avoiding adverse impacts to threatened and endangered species pursuant to the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq), as amended (ESA).

<u>Federally Threatened and Endangered Species</u>: Due to the project type, size, location, and the proposed implementation of seasonal tree cutting (clearing of trees  $\geq$ 3 inches diameter at breast height between October 1 and March 31) to avoid impacts to the endangered Indiana bat (*Myotis sodalis*) and threatened northern long-eared bat (*Myotis septentrionalis*), we do not anticipate adverse effects to any other federally endangered, threatened, or proposed species, or proposed or designated critical habitat. Should the project design change, or additional information on listed or proposed species or their critical habitat become available, or if new information reveals effects of the action that were not previously considered, coordination with the Service should be initiated to assess any potential impacts.

<u>Section 7 Coordination</u>: If there is a federal nexus for the project (e.g., federal funding provided, federal permits required to construct), then no tree clearing should occur on any portion of the project area until consultation under section 7 of the ESA, between the Service and the federal

action agency, is completed. We recommend the federal action agency submit a determination of effects to this office, relative to the Indiana bat and northern long-eared bat, for our review and concurrence. This letter provides technical assistance only and does not serve as a completed section 7 consultation document.

<u>Stream and Wetland Avoidance</u>: Over 90% of the wetlands in Ohio have been drained, filled, or modified by human activities, thus is it important to conserve the functions and values of the remaining wetlands in Ohio (<u>https://epa.ohio.gov/portals/47/facts/ohio\_wetlands.pdf</u>). We recommend avoiding and minimizing project impacts to all wetland habitats (e.g., forests, streams, vernal pools) to the maximum extent possible in order to benefit water quality and fish and wildlife habitat. Additionally, natural buffers around streams and wetlands should be preserved to enhance beneficial functions. If streams or wetlands will be impacted, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers should be contacted to determine whether a Clean Water Act section 404 permit is required. Best management practices should be used to minimize erosion, especially on slopes. Disturbed areas should be mulched and revegetated with native plant species. In addition, prevention of non-native, invasive plant establishment is critical in maintaining high quality habitats.

Thank you for your efforts to conserve listed species and sensitive habitats in Ohio. We recommend coordinating with the Ohio Department of Natural Resources due to the potential for the proposed project to affect state listed species and/or state lands. Contact Mike Pettegrew, Acting Environmental Services Administrator, at (614) 265-6387 or at mike.pettegrew@dnr.state.oh.us.

If you have questions, or if we can be of further assistance in this matter, please contact our office at (614) 416-8993 or <u>ohio@fws.gov</u>.

Sincerely,

Patrice Ashfield Field Office Supervisor



Southpointe Office 6000 Town Center Blvd Suite 300 Canonsburg, Pennsylvania 15317

October 21, 2021

Ms. Patrice Ashfield Ohio Ecological Services Field Office United States Fish and Wildlife Service 4625 Morse Road, Suite 104 Columbus, Ohio 43230-8355

#### Rare, Threatened, or Endangered Species Consultation Ohio Valley Connector Expansion Project, Equitrans, L.P. Monroe County, Ohio IPaC Consultation Code # 03E15000-2021-SLI-2416

### Dear Ms. Ashfield:

Equitrans, L.P. (Equitrans) is seeking a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity from the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission pursuant to Section 7(c) of the Natural Gas Act as amended, authorizing Equitrans to construct and operate the proposed Ohio Valley Connector Expansion Project (OVCX) located in Greene County, Pennsylvania (PA), Wetzel County, West Virginia (WV), and Monroe County, Ohio (OH).

The purpose of OVCX is to supply an increased volume of natural gas to the Ohio Valley Connector market through which gas is transported to expanding mid-continent and Gulf Coast markets.

The scope of facilities is shown on the Project Overview Map (**Attachment A**) and currently include the following proposed pipeline, associated aboveground facilities, access roads, cathodic protection, staging areas, and contractor/laydown yards:

- Approximately 0.5 mile of paralleling 16-inch-diameter natural gas pipeline (H-327) and 12-inchdiameter natural gas pipeline (H-328) in Greene County, PA;
- Approximately 3.8 miles of 24-inch-diameter natural gas pipeline (H-326) in Wetzel County, WV;
- Approximately 0.02 mile of 8-inch-diameter natural gas pipeline (H-329) in Wetzel County, WV;
- Approximately 0.8 miles of 16-inch-diameter natural gas pipeline (H-330) in Wetzel County, WV;
- Approximately 0.03 mile of 12-inch-diameter natural gas pipeline (Logansport Spur) in Wetzel County, WV located within existing gravel and fenced facility area;
- Removal of the existing 3606 compressor and addition of two T-70 turbines at the existing Cygrymus Compressor Station with additional mechanical and electrical equipment to support the HP increase in Greene County, PA;
- One additional M-100 compressor unit at the existing Corona Compressor Station with additional mechanical and electrical equipment to support the HP increase in Wetzel County, WV;
- One additional Titan T130 compressor unit at the existing Plasma Compressor Station with additional mechanical and electrical equipment to support the HP increase in Monroe County, OH;
- One deep well anode groundbed and rectifier for cathodic protection (located within the pipeline easement) in Greene County, PA;
- Additional ancillary facilities, such as a valve yard, taps, and internal inspection device (e.g., pig) launchers and receivers in Greene County, PA;
- Additional ancillary facilities, such as mainline valves (MLVs), valve yards, interconnects, measuring equipment, and internal inspection device (e.g., pig) launchers and receivers in Wetzel County, WV; and,
- New and existing temporary and permanent access roads, staging/ parking areas, and contractor yards in Greene County, PA and Wetzel County, WV.

### **Ohio Project Components**

GAI Consultants, Inc. (GAI) is performing environmental services for Equitrans, regarding OVCX located in Monroe County, Ohio (**Project Location Map - Attachment B**). In Ohio, OVCX will include one additional Titan T130 compressor unit at the existing Plasma Compressor Station with additional mechanical and electrical equipment to support the HP increase.

GAI uploaded electronic shapefiles of OVCX locations as part of the Information, Planning, and Conservation (IPaC) review on September 21, 2021. The OVCX sites are located within the Stillhouse Run-Ohio River (Hydrologic Unit Code #050302011001) watershed.

GAI is requesting technical assistance from the United States Fish and Wildlife Service's (USFWS) Ohio Ecological Services Field Office regarding Endangered Species Act compliance for OVCX. GAI attained an Official Species List from the USFWS' IPaC System (**Attachment C**), 03E15000-2021-SLI-2416, which identified the following federally-listed species as potentially being located near the OVCX area:

- Indiana bat (Myotis sodalis) Endangered
- Northern long-eared bat (Myotis septentrionalis) Threatened
- Monarch butterfly (Danaus plexippus) Candidate

#### **Vegetation and Tree Clearing**

OVCX anticipates approximately 48.06 acres of tree clearing for the total project, none of which would occur at OH project areas. OCVX will implement tree clearing from October 1 to March 31 for portions of the project within PA and WV.

The proposed modifications at the Plasma Compressor Station will be confined to the existing station's graded and previously disturbed limits and will not include tree-clearing or the disturbance of stream or wetland habitat.

#### Conclusion

Equitrans is requesting information and determinations (where applicable) on federally-listed species that may be affected by OVCX, as shown on the Project Location Map (Attachment B). Similar letters have been sent to the USFWS PA and WV Field Offices.

GAI and Equitrans thank you in advance for your assistance. If you have any questions or require further information, please feel free to contact me at 412.399.5317 or via email at j.broush@gaiconsultants.com.

Sincerely, GAI Consultants, Inc.

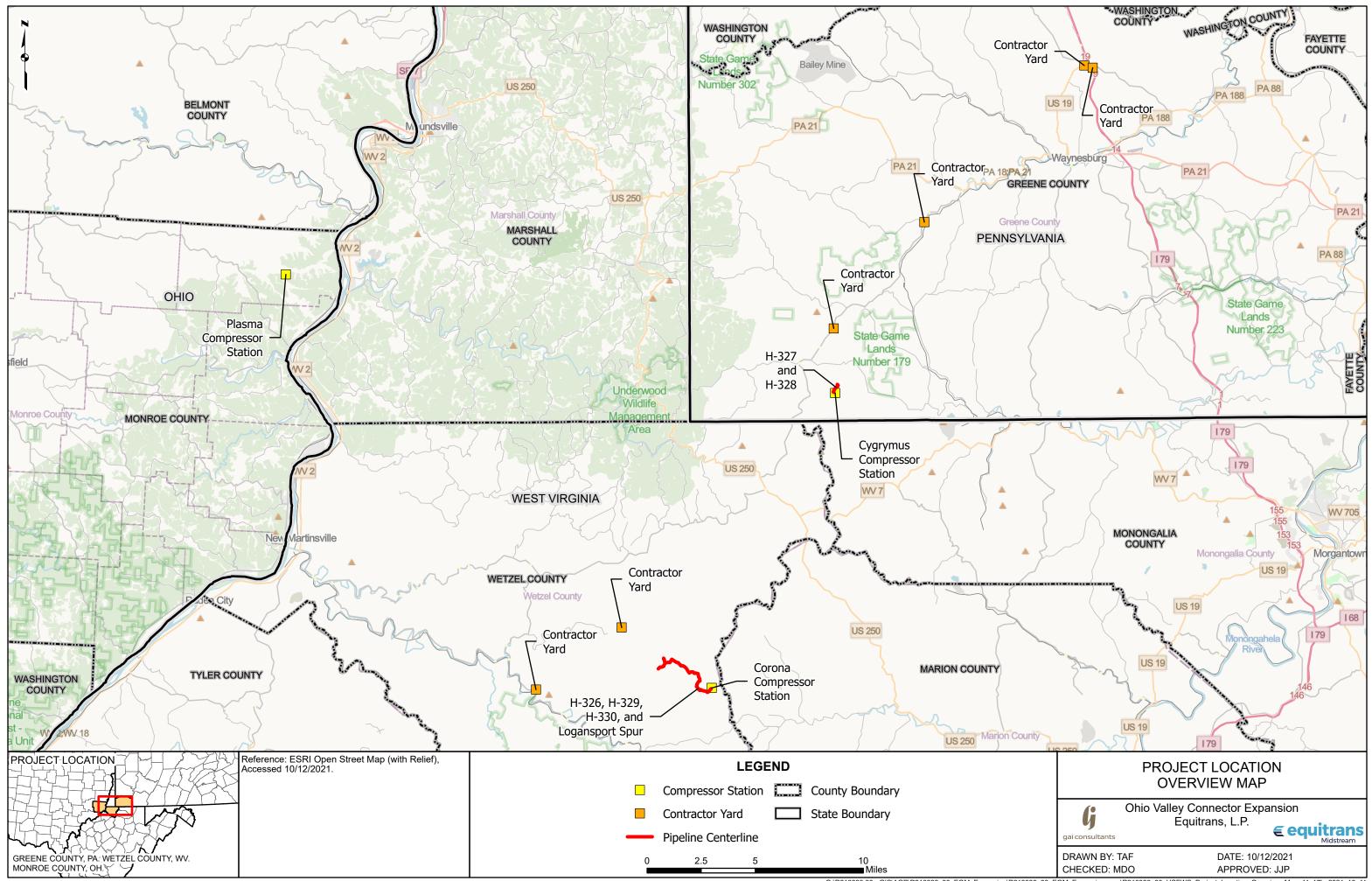
Jennifer Broush Digitally signed by Jennifer Broush DN: cn=Jennifer Broush, o=GAI Consultants, Inc., ou, email=jbroush@gaiconsultants.com, c=US Date: 2021.10.21 08:40:52-04'00'

Jennifer C. Broush, MBA Associate / Director, Environmental and Energy Services

Attachments: Attachments: Attachment A (Project Overview Map), Attachment B (Project Location Map), Attachment C (IPaC Official Species List)

### ATTACHMENT A

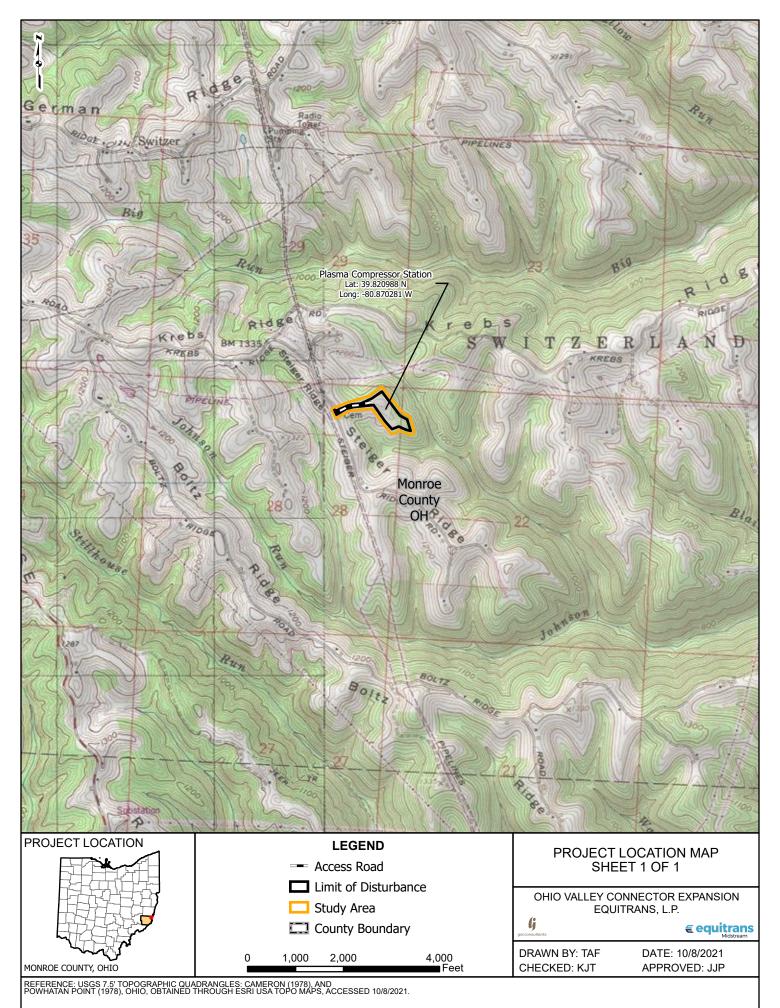
### PROJECT OVERVIEW MAP



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### ATTACHMENT B

### PROJECT LOCATION MAP



### ATTACHMENT C

IPaC OFFICIAL SPECIES LIST



# United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE Ohio Ecological Services Field Office 4625 Morse Road, Suite 104 Columbus, OH 43230-8355 Phone: (614) 416-8993 Fax: (614) 416-8994



In Reply Refer To: Consultation Code: 03E15000-2021-SLI-2416 Event Code: 03E15000-2021-E-03393 Project Name: 2021 Equitrans Expansion Ohio September 21, 2021

Subject: List of threatened and endangered species that may occur in your proposed project location or may be affected by your proposed project

To Whom It May Concern:

The enclosed species list identifies threatened, endangered, proposed and candidate species, as well as proposed and final designated critical habitat, that may occur within the boundary of your proposed project and/or may be affected by your proposed project. The species list fulfills the requirements of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) under section 7(c) of the Endangered Species Act (Act) of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*).

New information based on updated surveys, changes in the abundance and distribution of species, changed habitat conditions, or other factors could change this list. Please feel free to contact us if you need more current information or assistance regarding the potential impacts to federally proposed, listed, and candidate species and federally designated and proposed critical habitat. Please note that under 50 CFR 402.12(e) of the regulations implementing section 7 of the Act, the accuracy of this species list should be verified after 90 days. This verification can be completed formally or informally as desired. The Service recommends that verification be completed by visiting the ECOS-IPaC website at regular intervals during project planning and implementation for updates to species lists and information. An updated list may be requested through the ECOS-IPaC system by completing the same process used to receive the enclosed list.

The purpose of the Act is to provide a means whereby threatened and endangered species and the ecosystems upon which they depend may be conserved. Under sections 7(a)(1) and 7(a)(2) of the Act and its implementing regulations (50 CFR 402 *et seq.*), Federal agencies are required to utilize their authorities to carry out programs for the conservation of threatened and endangered species and to determine whether projects may affect threatened and endangered species and/or designated critical habitat.

A Biological Assessment is required for construction projects (or other undertakings having similar physical impacts) that are major Federal actions significantly affecting the quality of the human environment as defined in the National Environmental Policy Act (42 U.S.C. 4332(2)

(c)). For projects other than major construction activities, the Service suggests that a biological evaluation similar to a Biological Assessment be prepared to determine whether the project may affect listed or proposed species and/or designated or proposed critical habitat. Recommended contents of a Biological Assessment are described at 50 CFR 402.12.

If a Federal agency determines, based on the Biological Assessment or biological evaluation, that listed species and/or designated critical habitat may be affected by the proposed project, the agency is required to consult with the Service pursuant to 50 CFR 402. In addition, the Service recommends that candidate species, proposed species and proposed critical habitat be addressed within the consultation. More information on the regulations and procedures for section 7 consultation, including the role of permit or license applicants, can be found in the "Endangered Species Consultation Handbook" at:

### http://www.fws.gov/endangered/esa-library/pdf/TOC-GLOS.PDF

**Migratory Birds**: In addition to responsibilities to protect threatened and endangered species under the Endangered Species Act (ESA), there are additional responsibilities under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) and the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act (BGEPA) to protect native birds from project-related impacts. Any activity, intentional or unintentional, resulting in take of migratory birds, including eagles, is prohibited unless otherwise permitted by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (50 C.F.R. Sec. 10.12 and 16 U.S.C. Sec. 668(a)). For more information regarding these Acts see http://www.fws.gov/migratorybirds/ RegulationsandPolicies.html.

The MBTA has no provision for allowing take of migratory birds that may be unintentionally killed or injured by otherwise lawful activities. It is the responsibility of the project proponent to comply with these Acts by identifying potential impacts to migratory birds and eagles within applicable NEPA documents (when there is a federal nexus) or a Bird/Eagle Conservation Plan (when there is no federal nexus). Proponents should implement conservation measures to avoid or minimize the production of project-related stressors or minimize the exposure of birds and their resources to the project-related stressors. For more information on avian stressors and recommended conservation measures see http://www.fws.gov/migratorybirds/CurrentBirdIssues/Hazards/BirdHazards.html.

In addition to MBTA and BGEPA, Executive Order 13186: *Responsibilities of Federal Agencies to Protect Migratory Birds*, obligates all Federal agencies that engage in or authorize activities that might affect migratory birds, to minimize those effects and encourage conservation measures that will improve bird populations. Executive Order 13186 provides for the protection of both migratory birds and migratory bird habitat. For information regarding the implementation of Executive Order 13186, please visit http://www.fws.gov/migratorybirds/AboutUS.html.

We appreciate your concern for threatened and endangered species. The Service encourages Federal agencies to include conservation of threatened and endangered species into their project planning to further the purposes of the Act. Please include the Consultation Code in the header of this letter with any request for consultation or correspondence about your project that you submit to our office.

3

### Attachment(s):

Official Species List

# **Official Species List**

This list is provided pursuant to Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act, and fulfills the requirement for Federal agencies to "request of the Secretary of the Interior information whether any species which is listed or proposed to be listed may be present in the area of a proposed action".

This species list is provided by:

**Ohio Ecological Services Field Office** 4625 Morse Road, Suite 104 Columbus, OH 43230-8355 (614) 416-8993

### **Project Summary**

Consultation Code:03E15000-2021-SLI-2416Event Code:Some(03E15000-2021-E-03393)Project Name:2021 Equitrans Expansion OhioProject Type:TRANSMISSION LINEProject Description:Monroe County, OhioProject Location:Version County, Ohio

Approximate location of the project can be viewed in Google Maps: <u>https://www.google.com/maps/@39.820874700000005,-80.87015029068134,14z</u>



Counties: Monroe County, Ohio

### **Endangered Species Act Species**

There is a total of 3 threatened, endangered, or candidate species on this species list.

Species on this list should be considered in an effects analysis for your project and could include species that exist in another geographic area. For example, certain fish may appear on the species list because a project could affect downstream species.

IPaC does not display listed species or critical habitats under the sole jurisdiction of NOAA Fisheries<sup>1</sup>, as USFWS does not have the authority to speak on behalf of NOAA and the Department of Commerce.

See the "Critical habitats" section below for those critical habitats that lie wholly or partially within your project area under this office's jurisdiction. Please contact the designated FWS office if you have questions.

1. <u>NOAA Fisheries</u>, also known as the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), is an office of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration within the Department of Commerce.

### Mammals

NAME	STATUS
Indiana Bat <i>Myotis sodalis</i> There is <b>final</b> critical habitat for this species. The location of the critical habitat is not available. Species profile: <u>https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/5949</u>	Endangered
Northern Long-eared Bat <i>Myotis septentrionalis</i> No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: <u>https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9045</u>	Threatened
Insects	
NAME	STATUS
Monarch Butterfly Danaus plexippus No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: <u>https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9743</u>	Candidate

### **Critical habitats**

THERE ARE NO CRITICAL HABITATS WITHIN YOUR PROJECT AREA UNDER THIS OFFICE'S JURISDICTION.

Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources



### BUREAU OF FORESTRY

January 20, 2022

**PNDI Number: 743054** Version: Final\_1; 10/20/21

Angela Lundy GAI Consultants 385 E. Waterfront Drive Homestead, PA 15120 Email: a.lundy@gaiconsultants.com (hard copy will not follow)

### **Re:** Ohio Valley Connector Expansion, Botanical Report Greene County, PA

Dear Ms. Lundy,

Thank you for submitting a botanical report for Pennsylvania Natural Diversity Inventory (PNDI) Environmental Review Receipt Number 743054 (Final\_1). PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources screened this project for potential impacts to species and resources under DCNR's responsibility, which includes plants, terrestrial invertebrates, natural communities, and geologic features only.

### No Impact Anticipated per Survey (with Avoidance and Minimization Measures)

PNDI records indicate species or resources under DCNR's jurisdiction are located in the vicinity of the project. DCNR requested a botanical survey for Elliott's beardgrass (*Andropogon gyrans*; proposed PA Rare) on October 26, 2021. A survey was conducted by GAI Consultants on November 23, 2021.

Populations of three recently delisted species were identified within the project area: cranefly orchid (*Tipularia discolor*), puttyroot orchid (*Aplectrum hyemale*), and sourwood (*Oxydendrum arboreum*), No avoidance, minimization, or mitigation is requested; however, please voluntarily reduce impacts wherever possible if the opportunity arises.

One population of Elliott's beardgrass was documented within the temporary limit-of-disturbance (LOD) of the proposed right-of-way and within the proposed additional extra workspace (EWS). To minimize impacts to this population, Equitrans removed the EWS from the project plan and will implement topsoil segregation where the population occurs within the temporary LOD in an effort to preserve the seed bank. Equitrans will also install high visibility fencing to avoid accidental impacts to the remaining population while the project is under construction.

Based on these avoidance and minimization measures, DCNR has determined that no impact is likely. No further coordination with our agency is needed for this project.

### **Recommended Voluntary Actions:**

- Use a conservative approach to project design that minimizes permanent and temporary disturbances to soil and native vegetation. This will conserve habitat and limit opportunities for invasive plants.
- Clean boot treads, tools, construction equipment, and vehicles thoroughly (especially the undercarriage and wheels) before they are brought on site. This will remove invasive plant seeds and invasive earthworms/cocoons that may have been picked up at other worksites.

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P.O. Box	8552, Harrisburg, PA 1	7015-8552 717-787-	-3444 (fax) 717-772-02	71
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- Use clean project materials (e.g., weed-free straw) or materials native to the worksite to avoid introducing invasive species from contaminated sources.
- Revegetate or cover disturbed soil and stockpiles quickly to discourage the germination of invasive plants. Implement proper erosion control practices to stabilize soil and reduce runoff.
- Do not use seed mixes that include invasive species. More information about invasive plants in Pennsylvania can be found at the following link: <u>http://www.dcnr.pa.gov/Conservation/WildPlants/InvasivePlants/Pages/default.aspx</u>
- Use habitat appropriate seed mixes. For example, use a riparian seed mix when reseeding along a waterway. The *Bureau of Forestry Planting & Seeding Guidelines* can be found at the following link for recommendations: <u>http://www.docs.dcnr.pa.gov/cs/groups/public/documents/document/dcnr\_20031083.pdf</u>
- Use native plants for landscaping, revegetation, and stormwater management. Do not use nonnative invasive species. Reduce the area of lawn and impermeable surfaces to the fullest extent practicable in favor of native gardens or habitat restoration (e.g., forest, meadow, wetland, etc.). More information about lawn conversion can be found at the following link: <a href="https://www.dcnr.pa.gov/Conservation/Water/LawnConversion/Pages/default.aspx">https://www.dcnr.pa.gov/Conservation/Water/LawnConversion/Pages/default.aspx</a>
- Plant forest buffers where trees were historically present along streams, wetlands, and bodies of water. Buffers should be a minimum of 35 feet in width (ideally at least 100 feet in width). Where trees are not appropriate (e.g., powerline rights-of-way), buffer with native shrubs and herbaceous plants. More information about riparian buffers can be found at the following link: <a href="https://www.dcnr.pa.gov/Conservation/Water/RiparianBuffers/Pages/default.aspx">https://www.dcnr.pa.gov/Conservation/Water/RiparianBuffers/Pages/default.aspx</a>
- Manage rights-of-way for diverse native plant communities and wildlife (e.g., monarch butterfly). In seed mixes, include wildflowers that have overlapping bloom periods and provide forage for pollinators throughout the growing season. Avoid blanket herbicide applications; instead, spot-treat undesirable tall woody vegetation and invasive weeds. Where mowing is necessary, reduce frequency to once every few years during the dormant season (i.e., after first frost in late fall and before bird nesting in early spring), leaving some refugia for overwintering wildlife.
- Monitor for invasive plants before, during, and after project activities and promptly control any identified infestations. Frequent monitoring allows for early detection and rapid response.

This response represents the most up-to-date review of the PNDI data files and is valid for two (2) years only. If project plans change or more information on listed or proposed species becomes available, our determination may be reconsidered. Should the proposed work continue beyond the period covered by this letter and a permit has not been acquired, please resubmit the project to this agency as an "Update" (including an updated PNDI receipt, project narrative, description of project changes and accurate map). As a reminder, this finding applies to potential impacts under DCNR's jurisdiction only. Visit the PNHP website for directions on contacting the Commonwealth's other resource agencies for environmental review.

Should you have any questions or concerns, please contact Jason Ryndock, Ecological Information Specialist, by phone (717-705-2822) or via email (c-jryndock@pa.gov).

Sincerely

Brug Portinisinshi

Greg Podniesinski, Section Chief Natural Heritage Section

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sustain enjoy

P.O. Box 8552, Harrisburg, PA 17015-8552 717-787-3444 (fax) 717-772-0271

dcnr.state.pa.us

From:	Ryndock, Jason <c-jryndock@pa.gov></c-jryndock@pa.gov>
Sent:	Thursday, November 4, 2021 4:57 PM
То:	Hunter Lieb
Cc:	Jennifer Broush; Jason Palonis; Debias, Erin
Subject:	Re: [External] Elliot's beardgrass Survey

**EXERCISE CAUTION: This is an External Email Message!** 

\*\*Think before clicking on links, opening attachments, or responding\*\*

Hunter,

That sounds like a good plan. Elliot's beardgrass should be identifiable. Looking forward to your report.

Thanks,

**Jason Ryndock** | Ecological Information Specialist PA Department of Conservation & Natural Resources Bureau of Forestry | Natural Heritage Section 400 Market Street, PO Box 8552 | Harrisburg, PA 17105 Phone: 717-705-2822 | E-mail: <u>c-jryndock@pa.gov</u>

From: Hunter Lieb <<u>H.Lieb@gaiconsultants.com</u>>
Sent: Thursday, November 4, 2021 2:17 PM
To: Ryndock, Jason <<u>c-jryndock@pa.gov</u>>
Cc: Jennifer Broush <<u>j.broush@gaiconsultants.com</u>>; Jason Palonis <<u>J.Palonis@gaiconsultants.com</u>>;
Debias, Erin <<u>EDebias@equitransmidstream.com</u>>
Subject: [External] Elliot's beardgrass Survey

**ATTENTION:** This email message is from an external sender. Do not open links or attachments from unknown sources. To report suspicious email, forward the message as an attachment to <u>CWOPA SPAM@pa.gov</u>. Jason,

Equitrans and GAI appreciate your reply regarding the Ohio Valley Connector Expansion Project. In response to your letter, we are planning to conduct a presence/absence survey for Elliot's beardgrass within two weeks of today's date along the H327/H328 pipeline ROW by a qualified biologist following DCNR protocols. We are anticipating that this species will be readily identifiable, barring harsh weather events which could damage existing inflorescences.

Please let us know if you have questions or comments regarding this methodology.

We appreciate PA DCNR's continued review of the Project and look forward to future correspondence with your office.

Best regards,

#### W. Hunter Lieb

**Environmental Specialist** 

**GAI Consultants**, 6000 Town Center Blvd., Suite 300, Canonsburg, PA 15317 **T** 724.873.3545 **D** 412.399.5127 **M** 724.263.7345

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### GAI Consultants

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From:	Hunter Lieb
Sent:	Thursday, November 4, 2021 2:17 PM
То:	Ryndock, Jason
Cc:	Jennifer Broush; Jason Palonis; EDebias@equitransmidstream.com
Subject:	Elliot's beardgrass Survey

Jason,

Equitrans and GAI appreciate your reply regarding the Ohio Valley Connector Expansion Project. In response to your letter, we are planning to conduct a presence/absence survey for Elliot's beardgrass within two weeks of today's date along the H327/H328 pipeline ROW by a qualified biologist following DCNR protocols. We are anticipating that this species will be readily identifiable, barring harsh weather events which could damage existing inflorescences.

Please let us know if you have questions or comments regarding this methodology.

We appreciate PA DCNR's continued review of the Project and look forward to future correspondence with your office.

Best regards,

W. Hunter Lieb Environmental Specialist

**GAI Consultants**, 6000 Town Center Blvd., Suite 300, Canonsburg, PA 15317 **T** 724.873.3545 **D** 412.399.5127 **M** 724.263.7345

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From:	Ryndock, Jason <c-jryndock@pa.gov></c-jryndock@pa.gov>
Sent:	Tuesday, October 26, 2021 12:07 PM
То:	Hunter Lieb
Subject:	Ohio Valley Connector Expansion (PNDI-743054)
Attachments:	31179_Andropogon gyrans.pdf; 743054_Greene_Survey_jar.pdf

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Hi William,

A survey request letter is attached. The survey should only be conducted at the H327/H328 pipeline project area (sheet 1 of project location map). Elliott's beardgrass was documented within the right-of-way that crosses this project area but is outside the proposed limit-of-disturbance. Additional populations may be within the project area. The element occurrence report for the beardgrass population is also attached.

If you have any questions or concerns, just let me know.

Thanks,

**Jason Ryndock** | Ecological Information Specialist PA Department of Conservation & Natural Resources Bureau of Forestry | Natural Heritage Section 400 Market Street, PO Box 8552 | Harrisburg, PA 17105 Phone: 717-705-2822 | E-mail: <u>c-jryndock@pa.gov</u>



### BUREAU OF FORESTRY

October 26, 2021

**PNDI Number: 743054** Version: Final\_1; 10/20/21

William Lieb GAI Consultants 6000 Town Center Blvd, Suite 300 Canonsburg, PA 15317 Email: h.lieb@gaiconsultants.com (hard copy will not follow)

### **Re:** Ohio Valley Connector Expansion Greene County, PA

Dear Mr. Lieb,

Thank you for the submission of the Pennsylvania Natural Diversity Inventory (PNDI) Environmental Review Receipt Number **743054** (Final\_1). PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources screened this project for potential impacts to species and resources under DCNR's responsibility, which includes plants, terrestrial invertebrates, natural communities, and geologic features only.

### **Potential Impact Anticipated**

PNDI records indicate species or resources under DCNR's jurisdiction are located in the project vicinity. Based on a detailed PNDI review, DCNR determined potential impacts to the following threatened or endangered species or species of special concern.

Scientific Name	Common Name	PA Current Status	PA Proposed Status
Andropogon gyrans	Elliott's beardgrass	Not Listed	Rare

### **Survey Request**

DCNR requests a survey for the following species within the proposed H327/H328 project area:

- Andropogon gyrans (Elliott's beardgrass): documented in a maintained right-of-way; prefers dry fields and open woods; flowers September October, seed heads persistent
- ✓ A botanical survey for the above species should be conducted by a qualified botanist at the appropriate time of year. Please submit the resulting report to our office for review. Contact our office prior to the survey for detailed information about the species or for a list of qualified surveyors.
- ✓ Your botanist should carefully review the new DCNR Botanical Survey Protocols available at <u>https://conservationexplorer.dcnr.pa.gov/content/survey-protocols</u>. These protocols are recommended to ensure that all necessary information is collected and that survey reports are prepared properly. It is the expectation of DCNR that these protocols will be followed when conducting surveys for species under our jurisdiction.
- ✓ All target and non-target state-listed species found during the botanical survey should be reported to our office. Please submit a completed Botanical Field Survey Form for each occurrence or population identified: <u>http://www.gis.dcnr.state.pa.us/PNDI/2015%20Field%20Survey%20Form.pdf</u>. Mitigation measures and monitoring may be requested if state-listed species are found on or adjacent to the site.
- ✓ If preferred habitat does not exist on site, a survey may not be necessary. Please submit a habitat assessment report which describes the current land cover, habitat types, and species found on site.

This response represents the most up-to-date review of the PNDI data files and is valid for two (2) years only. If project plans change or more information on listed or proposed species becomes available, our determination may be reconsidered. Should the proposed work continue beyond the period covered by this letter and a permit has not been acquired, please resubmit the project to this agency as an "Update" (including an updated PNDI receipt, project narrative, description of project changes and accurate map). As a reminder, this finding applies to potential impacts under DCNR's jurisdiction only. Visit the PNHP website for directions on contacting the Commonwealth's other resource agencies for environmental review.

Should you have any questions or concerns, please contact Jason Ryndock, Ecological Information Specialist, by phone (717-705-2822) or via email (c-jryndock@pa.gov).

Sincerely

Bray Portinisinshi

Greg Podniesinski, Section Chief Natural Heritage Section

# **Element Occurrence Report**

EO ID 3	1179	Subna	tional Scientific Name	Andro	pogon gyrans	L		Shape	e_ID	460924
				Sum	mary					
	n Code Scientific Name Common Name		<i>dropogon gyrans</i> ott's Beardgrass		Nation Subnation	US PA		Global Rank ational Rank		
FLCODE D			C000	Identi EO Numl			Field Off	ïce Number		
ELCODE_B ID Confirme		PMPOA0	000	EO Num	ber 539		Field Off	ice Number		
Element										
El	ement Subnation	al ID	15497		Protection St	tatus	Ν	Data Se	ensitive E	lement
Data Sensitiv Data Sensitiv Data Sensitiv	e Category	No								
Precision_B	CD									
Parent EO	rent EO ID		Parent EO Shap	oe ID	Pa	rent EO	Number			
				Site/Dir	ections					
Sites <u>Sit</u>	te ID		Name						<u>Auto-c</u>	alculated
	rvey Site Name W 3.7Km SE of N	New Free	port							
2006-07	-21: Coordinates	39d 44' 3	8.34" N, -80d 23' 22.69"	W, unknown da	atum (U06BRE01)	).				
				Loca	tors					
Latitude South		94438N North		Longitud East	e	080232	3W West			
County										
Gre Local Jurisd					<u>State</u> PA		<u>Nation</u> US			
<u>Nan</u> 309 Mapsheet	<u>me</u> 910 GILMORE TV	WP								
Ma	<b>psheet Code</b> )80-F4		<u>Mapsheet Name</u> Hundred		<u>Margin Number</u>	<u>Dot N</u>	Number	<u>Ten Ten</u>		
Township/Ra	ange/Section									
Tov	wn Range S	Section	<u>Meridian</u>	TRS Note	2					
	<u>itershed</u> )20005 - Lower M	Ionongah	ela							
Physiograph	ic Province vsiographic Provi									
				Марј	ping					

# **Element Occurrence Report**

<b>EO ID</b> 311	.79	Subnational Scientifi	c Name	Andropogon	gyrans		Shape_ID	460924
Representat	ion Accuracy							
	tion Accuracy							
_	on Accuracy (							
EO Develop	ment Details							
	Distance Used	I 2 Kilom	neters	Separation Di	stance Type	Custom		
Separation				-				
EO Specific	ations Version	n Used						
Reason for	Creating a Ne	ew EO						
EO Represe	entation –							
EO Represe	entation Edited	d N						
EO Represe	entation Edited	d Comments						
			Re	presentation Ex	xtent			
Confidence Ext	tent							
Additional	Inventory Ne	eeded ———						
Additiona	l Inventory No	eeded N						
Additiona	l Inventory No	eeded Comments						
-Multi-Juris	dictional –							
Multi-Juris				Multi-Juri	sdictional Spati	al Rep		
Multi-Juris	diction Collab	o Comments						
				Sources Featu	res			
Source	Descrip	tor Locator	Conceptual	Uncertainty	Uncertainty	Unit	Location Use	Digitizing
Feature ID			Feature Type	Туре	Distance		Class	Base
63993	2006-07-21;	U06BROW 3.7Km SE of	Polygon	Delimited				
Survey Type			S	urvey Informat	ion			
Survey Type <u>Surve</u>	ey Type			EO SI	<u>irvey Note</u>			
				<u></u>	<u> </u>			
Surveyor <u>Surve</u>	evor							
	er, L; 2006							
Kudle Survey Date	er, P; 2006	2006-07-21						
Last Observati		2006-07-21 2006-07-21: 300-400 plan	to growing in 4	First Observa		2006-07-21	01)	
EO Data		2006-07-21: 300-400 plan	us growing in :	sou square yard	area (see si_id 6	5393) (UU6BRE	<i>J</i> 1 <i>)</i> .	

	l	Elemen	t Occurrence	Report		
EO ID 31179	Subnational Scientifi	ic Name	Andropogon gyrans		Shape_ID	460924
Contacts						
Contact ID	Individual Name	Instituti	on Name	EO Contact Note	2	
Monitoring Needs Comme Research Needs Comment						
			EO Rank			
EO Rank Factor Surv	yey Data ————					
Condition of EO			om pipeline ROW, which owing and cutting (U06BI		h herbicide in some a	reas and
Condition Rating Size of EO Landscape Context	2006-07-21: As (Euthamia gram	sociated spec ninifolia), but	growing in 500 square yar ies include early goldenro terfly weed (Asclepias tub ine (Lycopodium) (U06BI	d (Solidago juncea), gr erosa), deer-tongue wit	-	I
EO Rank	E - Verified extant (viabil	<u> </u>		gin Subrank		
EO Rank Date EO Rank Comments	2006-07-21					
EO Rank Specifications Vo	ersion Used					
ЕО Туре			Description			
General Description	2006-07-21: North side of grass-leaved goldenrod (E (Panicum clandestinum),	Euthamia grar		Asclepias tuberosa), de		
Min. Elevation	1,156.17 feet	352.4	0 meters			
Max. Elevation Observed Area	1,156.17 feet acres	352.4	0 meters hectares			
Sosci veu Area	acres		Protection			
U.S. Endangered Species A State Interpreted USESA COSEWIC Status			EO Interpreted	USESA Status		
Provincial Interp COSEWIC Sta			EO Interpreted	COSEWIC Status		
More Land Protection Comments		More Pr	otection	TNO	C involvement	
			MA/Ownership			
Managed Area <u>MA ID</u> <u>Manag</u>	ed Area Name		<u>Manag</u>	ed Area Type	<u>Contained</u>	<u>Auto-calculated</u>
More Management Management Comments Ownership	2006-07-21: Careful not t	o herbicide p	lants - minimize mowing a	and cutting around plan	ts (U06BRE01).	
<u>Owner Type</u> Unknown	<u>Owner Name</u>			<u>Owner Note</u>		
Owner Comments OwnerInfo_BCD	Ν					
		•	Additional Topics	• • •		
General Comments Additonal Topics Fopic Keywords <u>Kevwords</u>	This species might, or mig	ght not, be ree	cently adventive in SW Pe	nnsylvania per Steve G	rund (U06BRE01).	
			Documentation			
Boundaries						

Elen	ent Occurrence Report	
Subnational Scientific Name	Andropogon gyrans	<b>Shape_ID</b> 460924
	-	
<u>n</u>		
	Version/QC	
USPAHPW e E. Szoszorek E. Szoszorek	Version Date Transcription Date	6/27/2019 12:00:00AM 6/27/2019 12:00:00AM
eszoszorek	Paper Mapping Date Digital Mapping Date	6/27/2019 8:33:22PM
Incomplete	Data QC By Map QC By	
	Other Spatial Attributes	
4812.3500	Y Coordinate	85380.0500
-80 39 80 39 55 439 17 17 12 31 12 26 24 41 24 41 W 47		
	Subnational Scientific Name Full Citation Brewer, Larry and Priy, on July 17 - 21, 2006 at Greene County. USPAHPW e E. Szoszorek E. Szoszorek eszoszorek Incomplete 4812.3500 Att -80 39. 802 394 552 439 17 ce 23 31. 12. 268 247 412 W	Full Citation         Brewer, Larry and Priya Kudler. 2006. Botanical field survey for envir on July 17 - 21, 2006 at proposed pipeline ROW in Hundred and Holb Greene County.         L       Version/QC         uspect       Version/QC         e       USPAHPW         e       E. Szoszorek         E. Szoszorek       Version Date         ranscription Date         g       Paper Mapping Date         Digital Mapping Date         Digital Mapping Date         Data QC By         Incomplete       Data QC By         Map QC By         1         ce       23 - AW         31.0317053973         12.558105015         2680 - 39080-F4         2472 - PAGREE         4126 - 30910 GILMORE TWP

# **Element Occurrence Report**

EO ID 31179	Subnational Scientific Name	Andropogon gyrans	Shape_ID	460924
Record Create User	eszoszorek	Record Create Date	6/27/2019 8:33:22PM	
Last Modified By	sklugman	Last Modified Date	12/8/2020 9:10:38PM	
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Last Received Date		Last Received Status		
Last Data Exchange		Last Succeeded Date		



October 21, 2021

Project R210388.03

### PNDI Receipt #743054 State Agency: Rare, Threatened, and Endangered Species Consultation Ohio Valley Connector Expansion Project, Equitrans, L.P. Greene County, Pennsylvania

To Whom It May Concern:

Equitrans, L.P. (Equitrans) is seeking a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity from the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) pursuant to Section 7(c) of the Natural Gas Act (NGA) as amended, authorizing Equitrans to construct and operate the proposed Ohio Valley Connector Expansion Project (OVCX) located in Greene County, Pennsylvania (PA), Wetzel County, West Virginia (WV), and Monroe County, Ohio (OH).

The purpose of OVCX is to supply an increased volume of natural gas to the Ohio Valley Connector (OVC) market through which gas is transported to expanding mid-continent and Gulf Coast markets.

On behalf of Equitrans, GAI Consultants, Inc. (GAI) is submitting additional project information to the Pennsylvania (PA) Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR), the PA Game Commission (PGC), and PA Fish and Boat Commission (PFBC) as it relates to the OVCX located in Center, Gilmore, and Jackson Townships in Greene County, PA. In PA, the OVCX will include:

- Approximately 0.5 mile of paralleling 16-inch-diameter natural gas pipeline (H-327) and 12-inchdiameter natural gas pipeline (H-328);
- Removal of the existing 3606 compressor and addition of two T-70 turbines at the existing Cygrymus Compressor Station with additional mechanical and electrical equipment to support the HP increase;
- One deep well anode groundbed and rectifier for cathodic protection (located within the pipeline easement);
- Additional ancillary facilities, such as a valve yard, taps, and internal inspection device (e.g., pig) launchers and receivers; and,
- New and existing temporary and permanent access roads, staging areas, and contractor yards.

OVCX is anticipated to require approximately 7.22 acres of tree-clearing in PA. Equitrans intends to clear trees from October 1 through March 31. Four contractor yards will be utilized for OVCX, of which three of the yards are existing, graveled contractor yards. The fourth yard is abandoned residential land that consists of grass species (lawn) and landscape trees. Topsoil within the new contractor yard will be segregated and stockpiled, and geotextile fabric covered with gravel will be installed. Upon completion of construction, the new contractor yard will be returned to pre-construction contours and revegetated.

Results of the PNDI Receipt #743054 indicated that the project was considered a "Large Project" and that further review was required from all agencies due the distance being greater than 10 miles from the proposed pipelines to the contractor yards. Equitrans is requesting information concerning the potential for occurrence of state-listed threatened and endangered species, their critical habitat, or significant biological or geological features within study area of OVCX, as shown on the Project Location Map (Attachment 1).

GAI and Equitrans thank you in advance for your assistance. If you have any questions or require further information, please feel free to contact me at 412.399.5317 or via email at j.broush@gaiconsultants.com.

Sincerely, GAI Consultants, Inc.

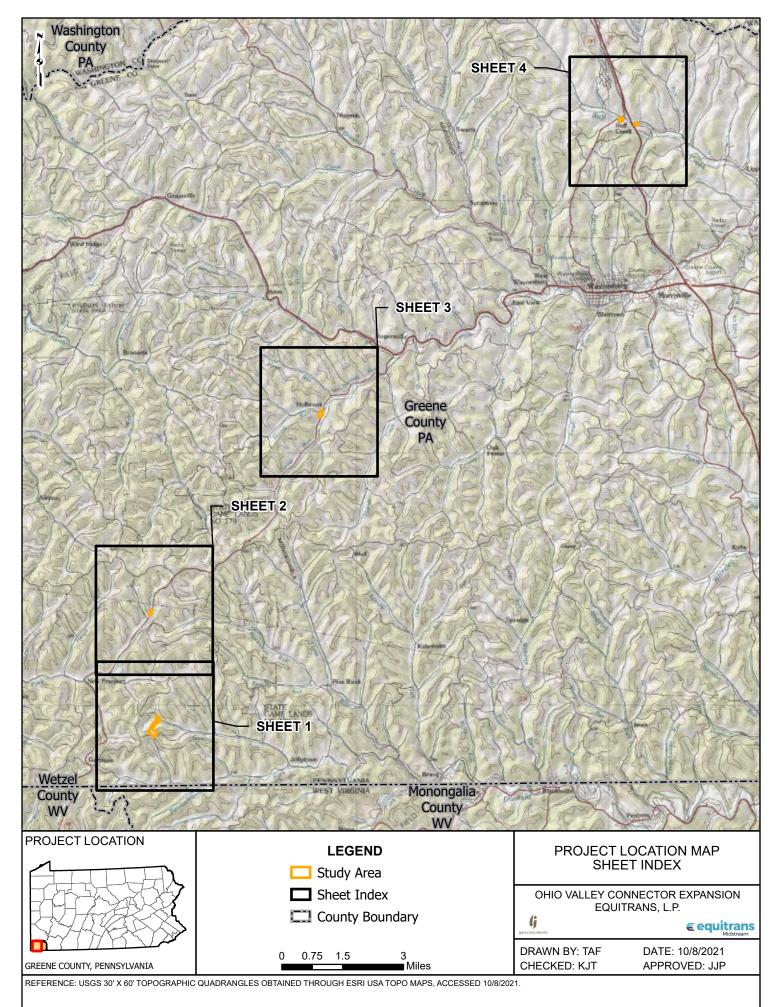


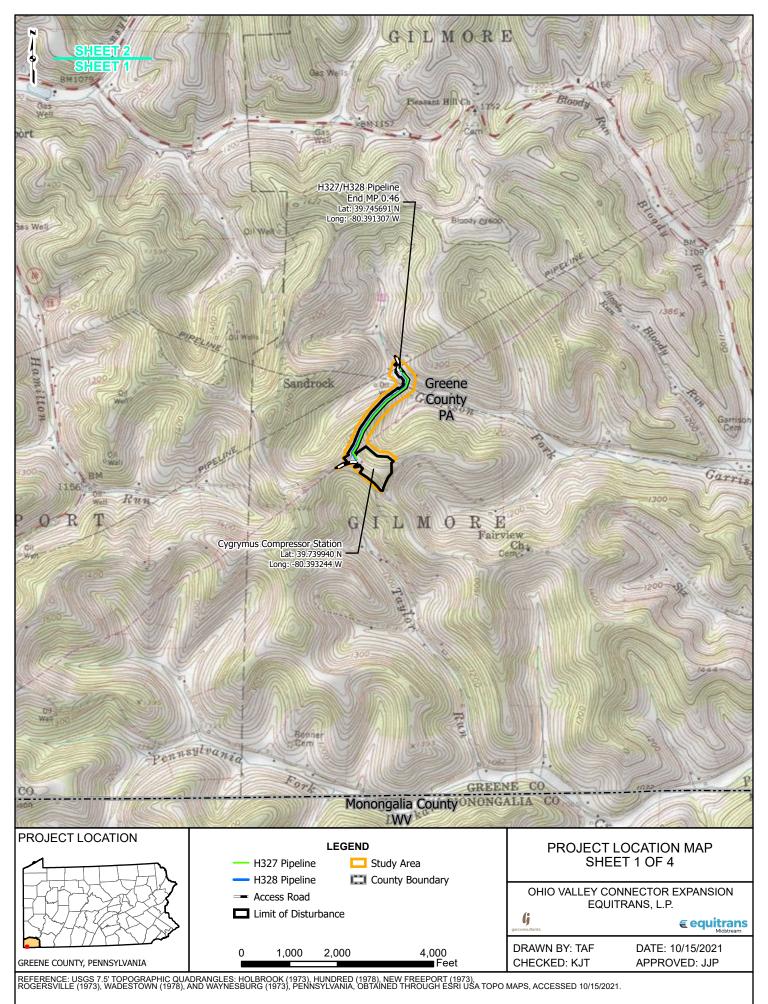
Jennifer C. Broush, MBA Associate / Director, Environmental and Energy Services

Attachment: Attachment 1 (Project Location Map)

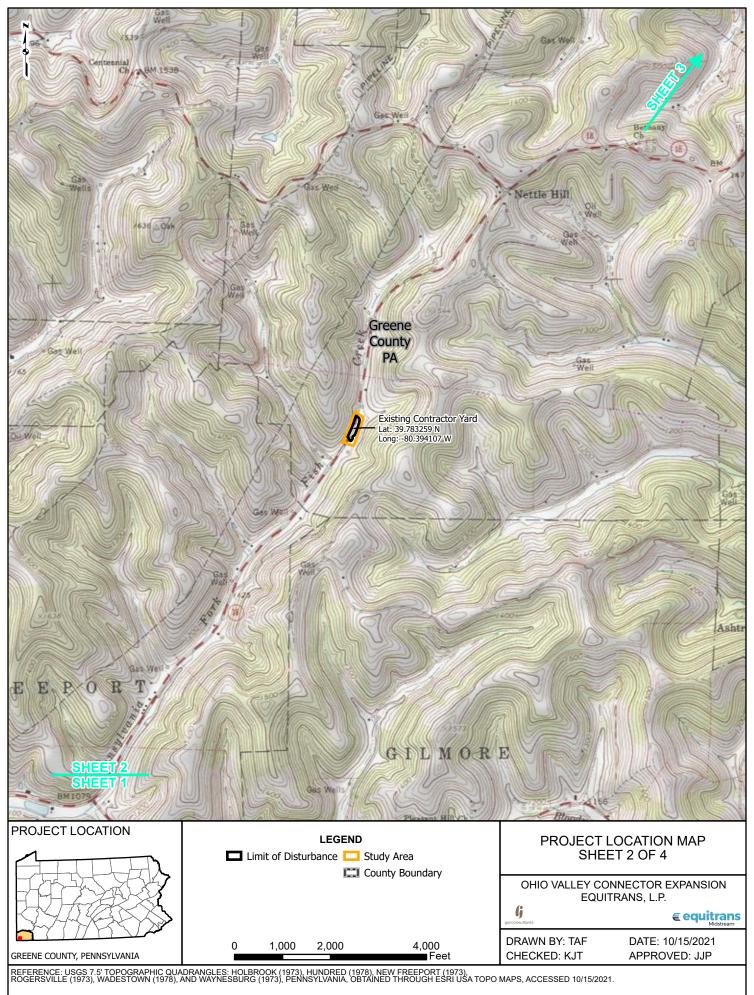
### **ATTACHMENT 1**

### **PROJECT LOCATION MAP**

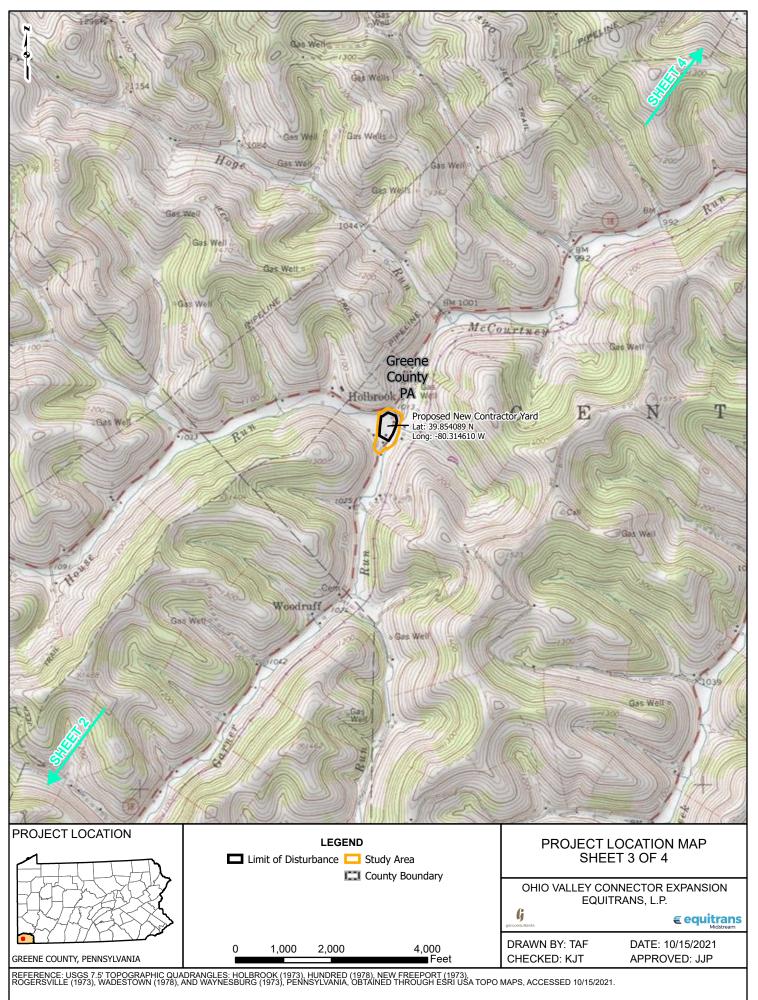




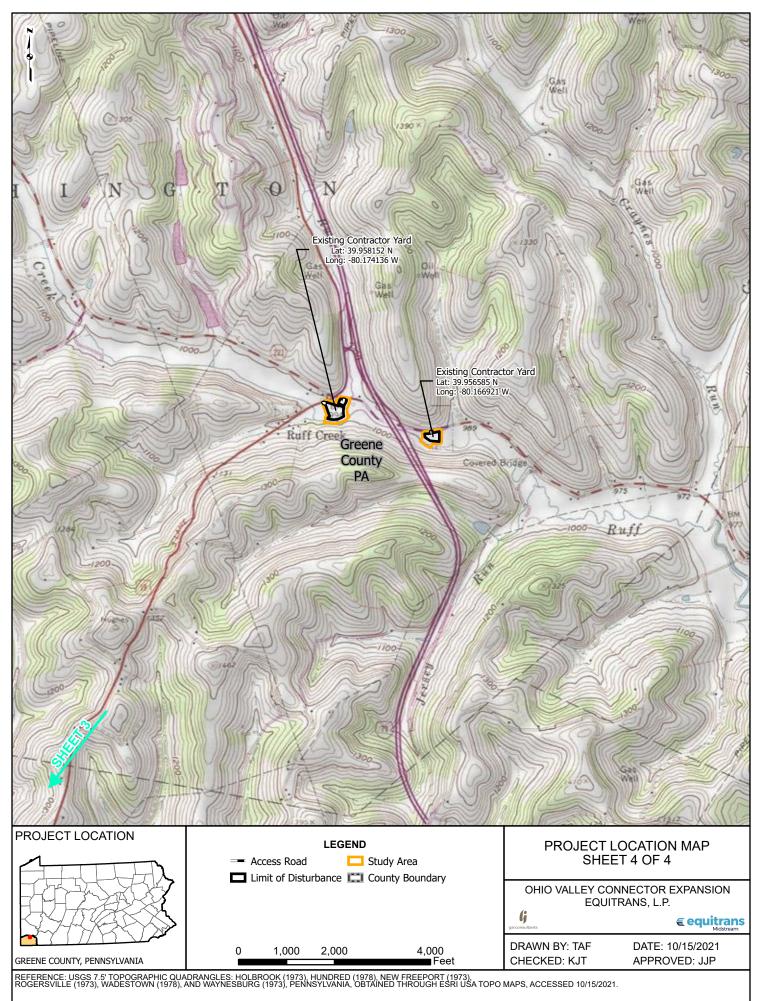
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