

United States Department of the Interior

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service Chesapeake Bay Field Office 177 Admiral Cochrane Drive Annapolis, MD 21401 410/573 4575



Online Certification Letter

Today's date:

Project:

Dear Applicant for online certification:

Thank you for using the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) Chesapeake Bay Field Office online project review process. By printing this letter in conjunction with your project review package, you are certifying that you have completed the online project review process for the referenced project in accordance with all instructions provided, using the best available information to reach your conclusions. This letter, and the enclosed project review package, completes the review of your project in accordance with the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531-1544, 87 Stat. 884), as amended (ESA). This letter also provides information for your project review under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (P.L. 91-190, 42 U.S.C. 4321-4347, 83 Stat. 852), as amended. A copy of this letter and the project review package must be submitted to this office for this certification to be valid. This letter and the project review package will be maintained in our records.

Based on this information and in accordance with section 7 of the Endangered Species Act (87 Stat. 884, as amended; 16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.), we certify that except for occasional transient individuals, no federally listed endangered or threatened species are known to exist within the project area. Therefore, no Biological Assessment or further section 7 consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is required. Should project plans change, or if additional information on the distribution of listed or proposed species becomes available, this determination may be reconsidered.

This response relates only to federally protected threatened or endangered species under our jurisdiction. For additional information on threatened or endangered species in Maryland, you should contact the Maryland Wildlife and Heritage Division at (410) 260-8573. For information in Delaware you should contact the Delaware Division of Fish and Wildlife, Wildlife Species Conservation and Research Program at (302) 735-8658. For information in the District of Columbia, you should contact the National Park Service at (202) 339-8309.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service also works with other Federal agencies and states to minimize loss of wetlands, reduce impacts to fish and migratory birds, including bald eagles, and restore habitat for wildlife. Information on these conservation issues and how development projects can avoid affecting these resources can be found on our website (www.fws.gov/chesapeakebay)

We appreciate the opportunity to provide information relative to fish and wildlife issues, and thank you for your interest in these resources. If you have any questions or need further assistance, please contact Chesapeake Bay Field Office Threatened and Endangered Species program at (410) 573-4527.

Sincerely,

Genevieve LaRouche Field Supervisor