

East Tn Ridgeline USFWS Coordination Meeting

Project/File: 172677408
 Date/Time: January 19, 2022 / 10:30 AM Central
 Location: USFWS Cookeville Field Office, Cookeville, TN
 Next Meeting: TBD
 Attendees: David Pelren, USFWS (DP), Nicole Sikula, USFWS (NS), Robbie Sykes, USFWS (RS), Elizabeth Hambrick, TVA (EH), Gus McLachlan, Enbridge (GM), Josh Adams, Stantec (JA), James Kiser, Stantec (JK), Jeff Benefiel, Stantec (JB)
 Absentees: N/A
 Distribution: USFWS, TVA, Enbridge, Stantec

Item	Action
Project Overview- GM Enbridge exploring building ~125mile long, 30in diameter natural gas pipeline to the Kingston Power plant as TVA explores a fuel alternative for coal. Approximately 118 miles will be collocated with Enbridge's existing 3100 line built in the 1950s. To date, wetland and stream as well as cultural surveys have been initiated along the proposed route. FERC will be the lead federal agency and the goal is to prefile with FERC this spring, followed by a formal filing in mid 2023. In addition to the new pipeline, Enbridge is looking at options near Hartsville to construct a new compressor station which will be powered by a collocated solar facility. Goal of this meeting is to initiate early communication to try to reduce the chance of surprises as the project progresses.	None
USFWS- NS USFWS does not want to delay progress and doesn't want surprises either, it is likely the project should plan for Formal Consultation depending on the results of the field surveys. Formal Consultation would allow for more flexibility and should consider species that may be listed prior to construction	Stantec Meet with DP to discuss species records for survey planning
FERC Process- GM Once prefilling occurs, FERC will setup a prefilling with Enbridge and applicable federal agencies	None
Routing/Avoidance- GM, RS RS- Appears that majority of route on existing ROW, how much tree clearing anticipated?	

<p>GM- Work on existing ROW will need at least 50 additional feet of ROW, Reroutes and off ROW will need 80-100ft. Actual amount of clearing TBD</p> <p>DP- Is season clearing or other avoidance measures (e.g. boring) doable</p> <p>GM- Seasonal clearing may be doable and HDD or boring of some features is also possible</p> <p>NS- Informal coordination would be more restrictive as far as avoidance measures, Formal consultation would be less restrictive based on results of survey- calculating take (formal) will provide more flexibility. Also, informal may lead to need to reconsult if route, listings, other variables change. If 'take' is exceeded during formal, will have to reconsult- avoid 'jeopardy'</p> <p>GM- FERC looks for developer to reduce Environmental impacts where possible</p> <p>NS- Possible to analyze worst case knowing that not all will be impacted</p> <p>Click or tap here to enter text.</p>	
<p>Species Specific Information</p> <p>JA- Began to go through species list, USFWS offered to have a call to go through species records and develop official list</p> <p>NS- In regards to bats USFWS is reviewing record buffers but want some flexibility and will be looking at habitat configuration/quality in addition to known records. Asked DP about conducting summer surveys. [more discussion needed and prior to any surveys for rare bats, a survey plan will need to be approved per conditions in Section 10 Federal Recovery Permit].</p> <p>DP- Suggested looking at impacted acreage</p> <p>NS- Negative survey results are good for 5 years, but positive survey results don't expire. Negative surveys in known buffer won't remove the known location. By collecting recent data Enbridge would bring best available information to the table for consultation purposes.</p> <p>GM- FERC will likely be looking for surveys</p> <p>EH- TVA will be using Programmatic Biological Opinion for bats and will avoid the known listed plant population. Wants to know what conservation measures everybody was considering, so they can also be consistent.</p> <p>JA- Not ready to commit to conservation measures (CM) until what we are looking at as far as impacts to listed species. Need to complete required surveys prior to talking about CM's.</p>	<p>JA to Follow up with DP for meeting</p> <p>NS to follow up with MBTA information</p> <p>NS to follow up with dealing with species which might be listed prior to project completion</p>

DP/NS- Some CMs to be considered, seasonal clearing for bats, no open trenching for larger stream crossings for aquatics. Should conduct targeted surveys (habitat assessments, mist-net/acoustics, etc) to determine potential effects.

NS- Will have MBTA clearing restrictions as well- there is now a regional USFWS MBTA specialist in Cookeville office

DP- Additional fall clearing restrictions for bat hibernacula possible, need to consider water quality impacts from winter clearing as well

GM- FERC will hold project to clearing restrictions for MBTA

NS- Can potentially avoid bat clearing restrictions by going through formal consultation and calculating 'take'- no take available for MBTA

JA- Need to discuss survey methods and level of effort in regards to aquatics and bats, will set up meeting with USFWS to discuss known records

NS- USFWS will provide official species list

RS- doesn't appear to be that many aquatic records, mainly along Emory River and smaller streams near Kingston. Wanted to know how streams would be crossed

GM- Stream crossing methods not developed yet, likely combination of methods

RS- Rare plant: Bladderpod near Cumberland River.

LH – They know of rare plant along one of their [TVA] utility lines, but not within project corridor near Clarkrange. It is the white-fringeless orchid.

JA- Possible to use alternative survey methods for species screening, e.g. eDNA as a screening tool for streams and mussels

NS- USFWS ok with eDNA as a screening tool but need to submit survey plan to USFWS prior to conducting work for approval

JA- How to handle species potentially to be listed in coming years

NS- Build in conservation measures- will look into how to handle this, most likely conferencing opinion or other document that can be removed from BA if necessary [NS- later followed up with an email discussing how to do this type of conferencing].

GM- Does service have eagle nest information?

LH- Dave Henry with TWRA has a good data base

RS- USFWS also has Eagle nest database

JA- Will need gray bat cave info as well

DP- Will provide	
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The meeting adjourned at 12:00 PM Central.

The foregoing is considered to be a true and accurate record of all items discussed. If any discrepancies or inconsistencies are noted, please contact the writer immediately.

Sincerely,

Joshua Adams

Principal

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Attachment: [Attachment]