

RE: [EXTERNAL] Mussel Study Plan for the Ridgeline Pipeline Project

Pelren, David <david_pelren@fws.gov>

Mon 9/26/2022 2:11 PM

To: Adams, Joshua <Joshua.Adams@stantec.com>

Cc: Sikula, Nicole R <nicole_sikula@fws.gov>; Gus McLachlan <gus.mclachlan@enbridge.com>; Benefiel, Jeffrey <Jeff.Benefiel@stantec.com>; Casey, Justin <Justin.Casey@stantec.com>; Haider, Jessica <Jess.Haider@stantec.com>; Fleece, Cody <Cody.Fleece@stantec.com>; Tennessee ES, FWS <tennesseeES@fws.gov>; Sikula, Nicole R <nicole_sikula@fws.gov>; Ford, Anthony <anthony_ford@fws.gov>; Liz Hamrick <ecburton@tva.gov>; Amacker, Todd Michael <tmamacker@tva.gov>

Mr. Josh Adams

Stantec Consulting Services, Inc.

Josh –

We have reviewed the mussel study plan that you provided for the Ridgeline gasline project. We understand that eDNA samples were collected during June 2022 in order to provide foundational data for preparation of this plan. The survey would be initiated this fall, and the plan involves use of traditional methods for sampling of seven small stream sites. EDNA would be collected at larger waterbody sites (i.e., five sites at reservoir embayments and a large river) in conjunction with methods suitable for the habitats.

We approve of the plan as provided for the purpose of documenting presence / likely absence of threatened and endangered mussel species. As noted during the meeting at our office on September 22, 2022, the Tennessee Valley Authority will provide biological information in support of further evaluation of the need to survey for mussels at the proposed crossing site adjacent to the Kingston plant. Upon review of that information, we will discuss the extent of survey needs at the site.

Feel free to contact me if need for revision of the plan becomes apparent or for further discussion.

David Pelren
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Ecological Services
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
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From: Adams, Joshua <Joshua.Adams@stantec.com>**Sent:** Thursday, September 8, 2022 8:02 AM**To:** Pelren, David <david_pelren@fws.gov>

Cc: Sikula, Nicole R <nicole_sikula@fws.gov>; Gus McLachlan <gus.mclachlan@enbridge.com>; Benefiel, Jeffrey <Jeff.Benefiel@stantec.com>; Casey, Justin <Justin.Casey@stantec.com>; Haider, Jessica <Jess.Haider@stantec.com>; Fleece, Cody <Cody.Fleece@stantec.com>

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Dave,

Please find attached the survey plan for the mussel surveys we are planning on initiating this fall.

Josh Adams

Natural Resource Team Lead, Terrestrial Wildlife Technical Lead, Principal

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