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To: [ERs, FWS HQ](#); [Green, Frankie A](#); [Willis, Christine](#)
Cc: [Tennessee ES, FWS](#); [Sikula, Nicole R](#)
Subject: ER22/401 Ridgeline project Scoping comments FERC Docket PF22-7-000
Date: Wednesday, October 26, 2022 12:39:00 PM

I provided these comments (in italics below) to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission through its online eFiling system on October 19, 2022:

*"These comments are provided on behalf of the Fish and Wildlife Service's Tennessee Ecological Services Field Office (TNFO) regarding scoping for the Ridgeline gasline project (FERC Docket PF22-7-000). Representatives of Enbridge are in ongoing coordination with the TNFO to address potential impacts to federally listed fish, mussels, bats, and plants. A search of the Fish and Wildlife Service's Information for Planning and Consultation database was initially conducted for the proposed project area, and the following list of species that may be impacted by the project was compiled: spotfin chub (*Erimonax monachus*), Alabama lampmussel (*Lampsilis virescens*), Cumberland bean (*Villosa trabalis*), Cumberlandian combshell (*Epioblasma brevidens*), dromedary pearlymussel, (*Dromus dromas*), fanshell (*Cyprogenia stegaria*), finereyed pigtoe (*Fusconaia cuneolus*), orangefoot pimpleback (*Plethobasus cooperianus*), pink mucket (*Lampsilis abrupta*), ring pink (*Obovaria retusa*), rough pigtoe (*Pleurobema plenum*), spectaclecase (*Cumberlandia monodonta*), turgid blossom (*Epioblasma turgidula*), gray bat (*Myotis grisescens*), Indiana bat (*Myotis sodalis*), Northern long-eared bat (*Myotis septentrionalis*), Short's bladderpod (*Physaria globosa*), Cumberland rosemary (*Conradina verticillata*), white fringeless orchid (*Platanthera integrilabia*), and Virginia spiraea (*Spiraea virginiana*).*

*Enbridge has enlisted the assistance of consulting biologists, who are conducting species' presence/probable absence surveys, including current surveys of caves for possible use by bats during the hibernation season. Note that the northern long-eared bat has been proposed for a revision in status from threatened to endangered, and application of the 4(d) rule that is currently in effect for the species would become void upon that change. In addition, potential impacts by this project to the tricolored bat (*Perimyotis subflavus*) are being considered. This species is being evaluated for federal listing as endangered, and that listing determination will likely be completed prior to initiation of the Ridgeline project. We recommend that FERC fully address potential impacts to each of the species discussed above."*

The TNFO has no further comments to offer at this time regarding the Ridgeline Expansion Project. Feel free to contact me for further information.

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