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Cc: [Clayton, Janet L](#)
Subject: Mountain Valley Pipeline Project: Concurrence Form for Phase 1 Freshwater Mussel Survey Plans
Date: Monday, July 13, 2015 10:28:51 AM
Attachments: [MVPmusselsurvey.pdf](#)

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United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE



West Virginia Field Office
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Concurrence Form for Freshwater Mussel Survey Plans

Contact Name: **Kyle McGill**

Email Address or Fax Number: **kmcgill@envsi.com**

Project: **Mountain Valley Pipeline, Braxton, Doddridge, Fayette, Greenbrier, Harrison, Lewis, Monroe, Nicholas, Summers, Webster, and Wetzel Counties, West Virginia**

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has reviewed the revised survey plan you submitted on **May 20, 2015** and we concur with the proposed survey methods. You propose surveys on the **Little Kanawha River** within a stream reach that could contain federally endangered freshwater mussels.

Should any federally listed freshwater mussels be located during this survey, you should immediately contact this office to determine if additional survey efforts should be completed and further discuss avoidance and minimization measures that could be implemented. This additional information will assist the Service and your client(s) in any consultations conducted under section 7 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (87 Stat. 884, as amended; 16 U. S. C. 1531 *et seq.*). Please note that relocation of federally listed mussels is not authorized.

- ☐ May proceed with Phase II surveys
- ☒ May not proceed with Phase II surveys (applicant did not provide adequate justification that alternative construction methods or locations are not feasible)

We request that the following be provided in the final survey reports:

- 1) Name, permit number, and location (latitude, longitude) of the proposed project;
- 2) A map with the project boundary and survey boundary indicated;
- 3) A description of the results of the survey effort, including the species of mussels located, the number of individuals of each species, and the location of any federally listed mussels;
- 4) The dates that the surveys were conducted, and a description of the habitat conditions found during the survey effort, including visibility, substrate types, water temperatures and depths;
- 5) Photographs of species located and the survey area;
- 6) Copies of field data sheets; and
- 7) Any additional information that may be relevant.

Please be aware that these survey activities require a valid West Virginia Scientific Collectors Permit, which can be acquired from the West Virginia Division of Natural Resources, Elkins Operation Center, Ward Road, Elkins, West Virginia 26241 (contact Barbara Sargent at 304-637-0245). Please provide a copy of your valid permit with your final report. **All federally listed species captured must be reported to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, West Virginia Field Office, within 5 business days.** If you have questions regarding this finding or report requirements, please contact our office at (304) 636-6586 or at the letterhead address.

Biologist

John E. Schmidt, Field Supervisor

Date: 7/9/15

Date: 7/13/15