

From: [Valerie Clarkston](#)
To: [Lennon, Tiernan \(tiernan_lennon@fws.gov\)](#)
Cc: [mneylon@egt.com](#); [Sparks, Sean](#); [Taina Pankiewicz](#); [Daniel Judy](#)
Subject: Mountain Valley Pipeline - Eagle Nest Surveys
Date: Tuesday, October 13, 2015 8:54:15 AM
Attachments: [MVP_20150505_USFWS_WV_TLennon_Eagles_phone.pdf](#)

Hi Tiernan,

Based on discussions during the 9/10/2015 meeting and our phone conversation from earlier this spring (attached), I have identified the following major river systems crossed by MVP and which necessitate surveys for bald eagle nests:

- Meadow River
- Green River
- Indian Creek

Searches are scheduled during leaf-off (late October through November) to increase nest detectability. According to the National Bald Eagle Management Guidelines, "Nest sites typically include at least one perch with a clear view of the water where eagles usually forage". Thus, searches for eagle nests will extend perpendicularly away from the river to points on the landscape (i.e., nearest ridge top) where the river is assumed to no longer be visible. The width of the survey corridor will be 300 feet, but biologists will use binoculars to scan areas extending beyond the corridor. All nests located within the survey corridor will be photographed and GPS coordinates recorded. If land access is granted, biologists will GPS and photograph nests occurring outside of the designated survey corridor. Results will be summarized in a report and submitted to your office for review.

Please advise if you concur with these proposed methods and survey areas or request that major river systems in other counties be included in this effort.

Thanks,

Valerie



Valerie Clarkston
Scientist

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TELEPHONE / PERSONAL CONVERSATION REPORT

PROJECT NAME:	Mountain Valley Pipeline Project
MVP TEAM CALLER:	Valerie Clarkston
CONVERSATION WITH:	Tiernan Lennon
AGENCY:	USFWS Elkins Field Office
EMAIL ADDRESS:	Tiernan_Lennon@fws.gov
PHONE NUMBER:	304-636-6586
SUBJECT:	Eagle Surveys & NLEB
DATE AND TIME:	5/5/2015 at 3 PM

SUMMARY OF CONVERSATION:

Tiernan was returning Valerie's call regarding additional surveys for bald and golden eagles in WV. Tiernan indicated that additional surveys for eagles would not need to occur along the entire length of the Project in WV, but would need to be focused within eagle nest buffers recently developed by Liz Stout. Tiernan stated these buffers are not yet ready for release, but she expects them to be distributed to interested parties in the near future. Based on a physical map of these buffers and the counties crossed by MVP, Tiernan indicated surveys for eagle nests will likely be limited to Greenbrier, Summers, and Monroe counties – especially in areas the Projects intersects major river systems.

During the phone conversation, Tiernan forwarded Valerie the link to the USFWS Bald Eagle Management Guidelines and Conservation Measures (<http://www.fws.gov/northeast/ecologicalservices/eagleguidelines/constructionnesting.html>) and asked that these be used in the event that nests or eagles are documented within the Project area.

Since she had Tiernan on the line, Valerie asked how many NLEBs per mile USFWS is requiring to be radio-tagged and tracked. Tiernan indicated that the unofficial amount would be 2 bats for every 3 miles with preference given to females. Valerie asked if mist net KM blocks could be eliminated during the summer if they fall within 1.5 miles of a newly documented NLEB roost. Tiernan replied and said yes since the area within 1.5 miles of a roost would be considered known habitat, there would be no need to mist net. Instead, a detailed habitat assessment and subsequent conservation plan would need to be completed and submitted.

Contact Signature: _____