

**Meeting to discuss City of Austin Water Treatment Plant 4 Transmission Main Project in  
Relation to the Development of a Jollyville Plateau Salamander  
Candidate Conservation Agreement with Assurances**

October 14, 2010

Meeting Participants:

**City of Austin** – Nancy McClintock, David Johns, Chuck Lesniak, Stacie Long  
**U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service** – Alisa Shull, Paige Najvar, Bill Seawell, Steve Cullinan (on conference call from Regional Office)

Meeting Notes:

Background discussed

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) has received a Notice of Intent (NOI) to sue for not using our authorities to adequately protect the Jollyville Plateau salamander (JPS). The Service has also received a petition to list two populations of the JPS and consider emergency listing for these populations as well.

The Service will look at potential impacts from the City of Austin's (City) Water Treatment Plant 4 (WTP4) transmission mains and access shafts in making our determination as to whether or not emergency listing the JPS is warranted.

What is the status of the Candidate Conservation Agreement with Assurances (CCA)?

The City is 1 month behind schedule in the development of the draft CCA. The City is reviewing the draft CCA at this time. The draft CCA is almost complete. The Service does not have a CCA application under review from the City at this time. A draft CCA may be made available to the Service's Austin office for pre-application review possibly by the end of October 2010 or early November 2011. This is pending an "ok" by legal departments involved. The City expects to have a revised version of the draft CCA by the end of October and a complete CCA application in late December 2010 or early January 2011.

The Service's Austin office received an early, incomplete draft CCA on August 23, 2010; however, this document was not reviewed by anyone in the Service's Austin office. Per a September 8, 2010 conversation between Alisa Shull and Paige Najvar of the Service and Nancy McClintock and Chuck Lesniak of the City, the City recommended that the Service's Austin office wait to review a more complete draft of the CCA since it was expected to change considerably from the August 23, 2010 version. The document has been narrowed in scope since the August 23, 2010 version to focus on activities with a possibility of impacting the JPS. Some conservation measures that will be included may not necessarily show up in the section of activities to be covered for incidental take.

Is more public involvement in the CCAA development process being planned?

The City is planning another informal opportunity for public involvement for early November 2010. This will likely involve an open house format that will last about half of a day from the afternoon into the evening. The City is planning to post a summary of the draft CCAA on the web ahead of time along with maps and the proposed conservation program.

WTP4 transmission main and access shafts project

The City of Austin discussed the local geology and springs of the Bull Creek basin, Edwards Plateau, Walnut Formation, and Glen Rose Formation. The City also discussed some aspects of the design for the transmission main project.

The transmission mains will be entirely tunneled. Access shafts for the transmission mains will be approximately 100 to 200 feet in depth from the surface.

Tunneling in the Glen Rose Formation – is expected to take 1.5 years or less. The primary concern with this activity is that some water will be draining into the tunnel. What will the effects be to the springs in this area?

Purpose of the shafts – to get underground and dig the tunnels for the transmission mains. Two kinds of shafts will be constructed:

Working shafts – will be constructed to pull out muck and water

Retrieval shafts – the boring machine will work its way uphill and be pulled out through these shafts.

Shaft at the WTP4 site (retrieval) – this site is entirely located within the Edwards Formation.

Shaft at the 4 points site (working) – there are a number of springs and caves in the area with known karst invertebrate species and JPS locations. This is expected to be particularly deep, between 100 and 200 feet deep, to allow for tunneling below the channel so as not to affect the springs. However, it is located upgradient from known JPS locations. These JPS locations are in fairly close proximity. There will be a lot of attention focused on best management practices (BMPs) at this site.

Shaft at the Park (aka PARD) site (retrieval) – entirely located within the Glen Rose Formation. Due to its location, it is not expected to affect groundwater.

Shaft at the Jollyville site (working) – will be located on the other side of the groundwater divide.

The 4 points shaft site has the greatest potential to disrupt flow to springs known to be occupied by the JPS. One potential conservation measure is to construct “donut rings” around the shafts. These rings would be constructed of permeable material to provide a water route around the shafts. The Park shaft has the least potential for impacts.

What is the status of the City's groundwater assessment?

The City has conducted geotechnical borings along the entire route of the project – 30 borings and approximately 12 piezometers to help determine where the water is located. The City is half way through their groundwater assessment. They have incorporated data from geotechnical borings and historical groundwater data into their design work already.

Plans for upcoming site visit and meeting on October 27, 2010

The City and the Service also discussed plans for an upcoming information site visit and project planners to discuss more details about the project. Steve Cullinan, Chief of the Division of Water Resources in the Service's Regional Office has plans to attend. Therefore, a part of the site visit will involve helping him become familiar with the geology in the Northern Segment of the Edwards Aquifer. The site visit will also include at least two of the proposed shaft sites.