

THIRDROCK CONSULTANTS

2514 Regency Road, Suite 104
Lexington, Kentucky 40503

Ph: 859-977-2000
Fax: 859-977-2001

TRANSPORTATION CASE
DIVISION OF
ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS
JUN 17 9 12 AM '04

June 16, 2004

David Waldner
KYTC Environmental Analysis
Station: W5-22-02, 200 Mero Street
Frankfort, KY 40622

Re: *Item Nos. 01-115.00 & 01-115.10
Widening and Relocation of US 60
Ballard and McCracken Counties*

Dear Mr. Waldner:

Enclosed is the coordination letter from the United States Fish and Wildlife Service for the above-referenced project. We completed and submitted the Biological component for a categorical exclusion for this project in April 2004.

If you have any questions or comments, please contact me at your convenience.

Sincerely,



Gerry Fister
gfister@thirdrockconsultants.com

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United States Department of the Interior
FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
3761 GEORGETOWN ROAD
FRANKFORT, KY 40601

June 14, 2004

Mr. Gerry Fister
Third Rock Consultants
2514 Regency Road, Suite 104
Lexington, Kentucky 40503

Subject: FWS #04-0738, Widening and Relocation of US 60
Ballard and McCracken Counties, Kentucky
KTC Item No. 01-115.00 & 01-115.10

Dear Mr. Fister:

Thank you for your correspondence of March 24, 2004, regarding the proposed widening and relocation of one section of US 60 (approx. 3.7 miles) and widening of another section (approx. 1.6 miles) from two lanes to four lanes in Ballard and McCracken Counties, Kentucky. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) personnel have reviewed the information submitted, and we offer the following comments.

In accordance with the provision of the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act, the Service has reviewed the project with regards to the effects the proposed action may have on wetlands and other related aquatic resources. We recommend that project plans be developed to avoid impacting wetland areas and reserve the right to review any required federal or state permits at the time of public notice issuance. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers should be contacted to assist you in determining if wetlands are present or if a permit is required for this activity.

In general, we are concerned that aspects of the proposed project that will require soil disturbance(s) may accelerate erosion and sedimentation in streams, resulting in adverse effects to the aquatic environment. The use of heavy equipment to move earth and existing vegetation disrupts natural drainage patterns and exposes large areas of disturbed soil to erosion. Excessive sedimentation can clog stream channels and contribute to increased flooding. It can also increase water temperatures and cause oxygen demands that can damage or destroy fish and invertebrate populations. Deposition of sediment on the channel bottom also degrades aquatic habitat by filling in substrate cavities, burying demersal eggs, and smothering bottom organisms. In addition, turbidity, as induced by accelerated erosion and sedimentation, results in further damage to aquatic systems. Increased particulate matter suspended in the water column may drive fish from the polluted area by irritating the gills, concealing forage, and/or destroying vegetation that may be essential for spawning and cover habitat for particular species. Turbidity also degrades water quality by reducing light penetration, pH and oxygen levels, and the buffering capacity of the water. Degraded water quality may continue far downstream from the point where the erosion occurs.

Prevention of excessive sedimentation can occur only through application of Best Management Practices during daily construction activities. Rigid application of construction erosion control standards can preclude most sedimentation problems. In some cases, however, additional measures will need to be taken by on-site inspectors and construction representatives that are trained in erosion and sediment control methods. We request that consideration be given to having an inspector on-site during all construction activities to ensure that work areas are stabilized on a daily or regular basis.

According to our records, one federally listed species may occur in the vicinity of the proposed project area. This information is being provided to aid in determining the impacts the proposed project may have on protected species. This information was derived from known occurrences and areas where the species has a high possibility of occurring. Records are updated continually and may be different from the following. This information should be used only as a guideline, not as the final authority.

<u>Common Name</u>	<u>Scientific Name</u>	<u>Federal Status</u>
Indiana bat	<i>Myotis sodalis</i>	endangered


Indiana bat - Summer habitat requirements for the Indiana bat are largely unknown. This species utilizes floodplain and riparian forests for both summer foraging and roosting habitat; however, other habitats are often used as well. Indiana bats typically roost under exfoliating bark, or in cavities of dead and live trees, and in snags (i.e., dead trees or dead portions of live trees). For hibernation, the Indiana bat prefers limestone caves, sandstone rockshelters, and abandoned underground mines with stable temperatures of 39 to 46 degrees F and humidity above 74 percent but below saturation. Project-related activities that may impact this species include, but are not limited to, logging and clearing practices which include the removal of trees greater than six inches in diameter at breast height and clearing of forested riparian corridors. You should coordinate with this office if the proposed project involves tree clearing activities between April 1 and October 15 and if the clearing would involve trees that are either 6 inches in diameter at breast height or have exfoliating bark.

As stated previously, should the proposed project require alteration of habitat that coincides with the habitat required for the species listed above, an on-site inspection or survey of the area must be conducted to determine if listed species are present or occur seasonally. Surveys should be done by qualified personnel and be conducted during the appropriate time of day and or year to ensure confidence in survey results. Please notify this office with the results of any surveys and an analysis of the "effects of the action," as defined by 50 CFR 402.02 on any listed species including consideration of direct, indirect, and cumulative effects.

Surveys would not be necessary if sufficient site-specific information was available that showed: (1) that there is no potentially suitable habitat within the project area or its vicinity or (2) that the species would not be present within the project area or its vicinity due to site-specific factors. Please provide us with a written explanation or justification if either or both of these would apply to the proposed project.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this proposed action. If you have any questions regarding the information that we have provided, please contact Phil DeGarmo at (502) 695-0468.

Sincerely,

for 
Virgil Lee Andrews, Jr.
Field Supervisor