Westchester County Streams, Byram River Basin, Flood Risk Management Feasibility Study Fairfield County, Connecticut and Westchester County, New York

Appendix A.3 USFWS Correspondence



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMYNEW YORK DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS

JACOB K. JAVITS FEDERAL BUILDING NEW YORK, N.Y. 10278-0090

REPLY TO ATTENTION OF Environmental Analysis Branch

June 28, 2018

Mr. David Stillwell Field Supervisor U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service New York Field Office 3817 Luker Road Cortland, NY 13045

Dear Mr. Stillwell:

Enclosed is the Draft Integrated Feasibility Report and Environmental Impact Statement (Draft Integrated FR/EIS) for the Byram River Flood Risk Management Feasibility Study located in the Village of Port Chester, Westchester County, NY, and the Town of Greenwich, Fairfield County, CT (Encl. 1).

Per previous coordination with your office (Encl. 2) will conduct a review of the Draft Integrated FR/EIS and provide comments pursuant to the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act.

The District will continue to coordinate with your office as necessary. Should any questions regarding the study arise during your review of the Draft FR/EIS, please contact Ms. Kimberly Rightler at (917) 790-8722.

Sinçerely,

Peter Weppler

Chief, Environmental Analysis Branch

Enclosures

From: <u>Tim Sullivan</u>

To: Rightler, Kimberly CIV USARMY CENAN (US); tim_sullivan@fws.gov
Cc: Brighton, Nancy J CIV USARMY CENAN (US); Anne Secord
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] RE: [EXTERNAL] Byram River Feasibility Study

Date: Thursday, May 3, 2018 10:24:29 AM

Hello Kim,

Thanks for discussing the project with me and offering to send the project report when it is available. My supervisor agrees with our approach to review the EIS at which time we will provide comments under the FWCA, if appropriate. I look forward to reviewing the report and working with you on this project.

Tim

Tim Sullivan
Fish and Wildlife Biologist
US Fish and Wildlife Service
New York Field Office
3817 Luker Road
Cortland, NY 13045

Phone: 607.753.9334

----Original Message-----

From: Rightler, Kimberly CIV USARMY CENAN (US)

[mailto:Kimberly.A.Rightler@usace.army.mil] Sent: Wednesday, May 02, 2018 2:35 PM

To: tim_sullivan@fws.gov

Cc: Brighton, Nancy J CIV USARMY CENAN (US) Subject: [EXTERNAL] Byram River Feasibility Study

Hi Tim,

It was nice talking to you today. Based on our conversation, due to the urbanized setting of the project and the minimal impacts to the river, your office will review and submit comments on the Draft integrated Feasibility Report/Environmental Impact Statement to satisfy compliance with the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act in lieu of preparing a formal FWCA report or Planning Aid Letter.

I will send you a copy of the Draft report when it is released for public/agency review. Your office will also receive an email from my Branch Chief announcing the availability.

If you could just send me a confirmatory email after you talk with your supervisor that this coordination strategy is acceptable, I would appreciate it.

Thank you, Kim



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY

NEW YORK DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS JACOB K. JAVITS FEDERAL BUILDING NEW YORK, N.Y. 10278-0090

ATTENTION OF
Environmental Analysis Branch

June 28, 2018

Mr. Tom Chapman
Field Supervisor
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
New England Field Office
70 Commercial Street, Suite 300
Concord, NH 03301

Dear Mr. Chapman:

Enclosed is the Draft Integrated Feasibility Report and Environmental Impact Statement (Draft Integrated FR/EIS) for the Byram River Flood Risk Management Feasibility Study located in the Village of Port Chester, Westchester County, NY, and the Town of Greenwich, Fairfield County, CT (Encl. 1).

Per previous coordination with your office (Encl. 2) will conduct a review of the Draft Integrated FR/EIS pursuant to Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act.

The project involves the removal and replacement of the Route 1 bridge decks within the Byram Circle in the Town of Greenwich and the Village of Port Chester. Approximately 0.13 acres of mature riparian and upland vegetation will be removed as part of construction.

Based on an official endangered and threatened species list (Encl. 3) obtained by the District, there is a potential occurrence of the northern long-eared bat within the project area. The District will implement a tree clearing restriction from 1 April through 30 September during construction to avoid adverse impacts to this species. Native tree species will be replanted in the disturbed areas once construction is completed.

This letter serves as a request for written concurrence from your office that the proposed project is *not likely to adversely affect* the threatened northern long-eared bat (*Myotis septentrionalis*).

The District will continue to coordinate with your agency as it relates to Federally endangered and threatened species. Should any questions regarding the study arise during your review of the Draft Integrated FR/EIS, please contact Ms. Kimberly Rightler at (917) 790-8722.

Sincerely,

Peter Weppler

Chief, Environmental Analysis Branch

Enclosures



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY

NEW YORK DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS JACOB K. JAVITS FEDERAL BUILDING NEW YORK, N.Y. 10278-0090

ATTENTION OF Environmental Analysis Branch

April 18, 2018

Mr. Tom Chapman Field Supervisor U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service New England Field Office 70 Commercial Street, Suite 300 Concord, NH 03301

Dear Mr. Chapman:

This letter is in reference to correspondence dated March 20, 2018 sent to your office by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New York District (District) requesting to initiate coordination under the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act regarding the Byram River Flood Risk Management Feasibility Study located in the Village of Port Chester, Westchester County, NY, and the Town of Greenwich, Fairfield County, CT (Encl. 1).

Based on a conversation between Mr. David Simmons of your office and Ms. Kimberly Rightler of the District on April 11, 2018, your office has opted not to prepare a FWCA report. Your office will still conduct a review of the project under Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act. This review will occur during the 45 day public and agency comment period of the Draft Integrated Feasibility Report and Environmental Impact Statement (Draft FR/EIS), which is scheduled to be released in June 2018.

The District originally conducted a review of the Information for Planning and Consultation (IPAC) database in November 2017 when preparing the NEPA Scoping document. At the time, the IPAC database indicated the potential presence of northern long-eared bat (*Myotis septentrionalis*) and rufa red knot (*Calidris canutus rufa*) within the project area. However, the District recently obtained an official endangered and threatened species list (Encl. 2) that only indicates the potential occurrence of the northern long-eared bat within the project area. Therefore, the District will only assess potential impacts of the project to northern long-eared bat in the Draft FR/EIS.

The District will continue to coordinate with your agency as it relates to Federally endangered and threatened species. Should any questions regarding the study arise, or if impacts to rufa red knot should still be evaluated in the Draft FR/EIS, please contact Ms. Kimberly Rightler at (917) 790-8722.

Sincerely,

eter Wepple

Chief, Environmental Analysis Branch

Enclosures



United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

New England Ecological Services Field Office 70 Commercial Street, Suite 300 Concord, NH 03301-5094 Phone: (603) 223-2541 Fax: (603) 223-0104

http://www.fws.gov/newengland



April 16, 2018

In Reply Refer To:

Consultation Code: 05E1NE00-2018-SLI-1586

Event Code: 05E1NE00-2018-E-03622

Project Name: Byram River Flood Risk Management Feasibility Study

Subject: List of threatened and endangered species that may occur in your proposed project

location, and/or may be affected by your proposed project

To Whom It May Concern:

The enclosed species list identifies threatened, endangered, proposed and candidate species, as well as proposed and final designated critical habitat, that may occur within the boundary of your proposed project and/or may be affected by your proposed project. The species list fulfills the requirements of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) under section 7(c) of the Endangered Species Act (Act) of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*).

New information based on updated surveys, changes in the abundance and distribution of species, changed habitat conditions, or other factors could change this list. Please feel free to contact us if you need more current information or assistance regarding the potential impacts to federally proposed, listed, and candidate species and federally designated and proposed critical habitat. Please note that under 50 CFR 402.12(e) of the regulations implementing section 7 of the Act, the accuracy of this species list should be verified after 90 days. This verification can be completed formally or informally as desired. The Service recommends that verification be completed by visiting the ECOS-IPaC website at regular intervals during project planning and implementation for updates to species lists and information. An updated list may be requested through the ECOS-IPaC system by completing the same process used to receive the enclosed list.

The purpose of the Act is to provide a means whereby threatened and endangered species and the ecosystems upon which they depend may be conserved. Under sections 7(a)(1) and 7(a)(2) of the Act and its implementing regulations (50 CFR 402 et seq.), Federal agencies are required to utilize their authorities to carry out programs for the conservation of threatened and endangered species and to determine whether projects may affect threatened and endangered species and/or designated critical habitat.

A Biological Assessment is required for construction projects (or other undertakings having similar physical impacts) that are major Federal actions significantly affecting the quality of the human environment as defined in the National Environmental Policy Act (42 U.S.C. 4332(2) (c)). For projects other than major construction activities, the Service suggests that a biological evaluation similar to a Biological Assessment be prepared to determine whether the project may affect listed or proposed species and/or designated or proposed critical habitat. Recommended contents of a Biological Assessment are described at 50 CFR 402.12.

If a Federal agency determines, based on the Biological Assessment or biological evaluation, that listed species and/or designated critical habitat may be affected by the proposed project, the agency is required to consult with the Service pursuant to 50 CFR 402. In addition, the Service recommends that candidate species, proposed species and proposed critical habitat be addressed within the consultation. More information on the regulations and procedures for section 7 consultation, including the role of permit or license applicants, can be found in the "Endangered Species Consultation Handbook" at:

http://www.fws.gov/endangered/esa-library/pdf/TOC-GLOS.PDF

Please be aware that bald and golden eagles are protected under the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act (16 U.S.C. 668 *et seq.*), and projects affecting these species may require development of an eagle conservation plan (http://www.fws.gov/windenergy/eagle_guidance.html). Additionally, wind energy projects should follow the wind energy guidelines (http://www.fws.gov/windenergy/) for minimizing impacts to migratory birds and bats.

Guidance for minimizing impacts to migratory birds for projects including communications towers (e.g., cellular, digital television, radio, and emergency broadcast) can be found at: http://www.fws.gov/migratorybirds/CurrentBirdIssues/Hazards/towers/towers.htm; http://www.towerkill.com; and http://www.fws.gov/migratorybirds/CurrentBirdIssues/Hazards/towers/comtow.html.

We appreciate your concern for threatened and endangered species. The Service encourages Federal agencies to include conservation of threatened and endangered species into their project planning to further the purposes of the Act. Please include the Consultation Tracking Number in the header of this letter with any request for consultation or correspondence about your project that you submit to our office.

Attachment(s):

Official Species List

Official Species List

This list is provided pursuant to Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act, and fulfills the requirement for Federal agencies to "request of the Secretary of the Interior information whether any species which is listed or proposed to be listed may be present in the area of a proposed action".

This species list is provided by:

New England Ecological Services Field Office

70 Commercial Street, Suite 300 Concord, NH 03301-5094 (603) 223-2541

This project's location is within the jurisdiction of multiple offices. Expect additional species list documents from the following offices, and expect that the species and critical habitats in each document reflect only those that fall in the office's jurisdiction:

Long Island Ecological Services Field Office

340 Smith Road Shirley, NY 11967-2258 (631) 286-0485

New York Ecological Services Field Office

3817 Luker Road Cortland, NY 13045-9385 (607) 753-9334

Project Summary

Consultation Code: 05E1NE00-2018-SLI-1586

Event Code: 05E1NE00-2018-E-03622

Project Name: Byram River Flood Risk Management Feasibility Study

Project Type: LAND - FLOODING

Project Description: Plan will involve raising the Route 1 bridge decks at the Putnam Circle in

order to provide flood risk management related to fluvial flood events.

Project Location:

Approximate location of the project can be viewed in Google Maps: https://www.google.com/maps/place/41.01241244391962N73.65861297589493W



Counties: Fairfield, CT | Westchester, NY

Endangered Species Act Species

There is a total of 1 threatened, endangered, or candidate species on this species list.

Species on this list should be considered in an effects analysis for your project and could include species that exist in another geographic area. For example, certain fish may appear on the species list because a project could affect downstream species.

IPaC does not display listed species or critical habitats under the sole jurisdiction of NOAA Fisheries¹, as USFWS does not have the authority to speak on behalf of NOAA and the Department of Commerce.

See the "Critical habitats" section below for those critical habitats that lie wholly or partially within your project area under this office's jurisdiction. Please contact the designated FWS office if you have questions.

1. <u>NOAA Fisheries</u>, also known as the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), is an office of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration within the Department of Commerce.

Mammals

NAME STATUS

Northern Long-eared Bat Myotis septentrionalis

Threatened

No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9045

Critical habitats

THERE ARE NO CRITICAL HABITATS WITHIN YOUR PROJECT AREA UNDER THIS OFFICE'S JURISDICTION.



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY

NEW YORK DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS JACOB K. JAVITS FEDERAL BUILDING NEW YORK, N.Y. 10278-0090

REPLY TO ATTENTION OF Environmental Analysis Branch

April 18, 2018

Mr. David Stillwell Field Supervisor U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service New York Field Office 3817 Luker Road Cortland, NY 13045

Dear Mr. Stillwell:

This letter is in reference to the Byram River Flood Risk Management Feasibility Study being conducted by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New York District (District). Your office was copied on correspondence dated March 20, 2018 sent by the District to the New England Field Office requesting to initiate coordination under the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act (FWCA) (Encl. 1).

The New England Field Office has opted not to prepare a FWCA report. However, their office will still conduct a review of the project pursuant to Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act. Based on an official endangered and threatened species list obtained from their office, the northern long-eared bat may potentially occur within the project area. This species is under the jurisdiction of the New England Field Office (Encl. 2).

The District also obtained an official endangered and threatened species list from your office (Encl. 3). No endangered or threatened species under your jurisdiction have been identified as potentially occurring within the project area.

The District would like to confirm whether your office would like to prepare a FWCA report.

The District will be preparing a Draft integrated Feasibility Report and Environmental Impact Statement (Draft FR/EIS) and is anticipating releasing it for public and agency review in June 2018. Should your office want to prepare a FWCA report, the Draft FR/EIS will be used as the coordination vehicle for its development.

Should any questions regarding the study arise, or if your office would be interested in preparing a FWCA report for the project, please contact Ms. Kimberly Rightler at (917) 790-8722.

Sincerely,

eter Wepple

Chief, Environmental Analysis Branch

Enclosures



United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

New York Ecological Services Field Office 3817 Luker Road Cortland, NY 13045-9385

Phone: (607) 753-9334 Fax: (607) 753-9699 http://www.fws.gov/northeast/nyfo/es/section7.htm



April 16, 2018

In Reply Refer To:

Consultation Code: 05E1NY00-2018-SLI-1772

Event Code: 05E1NY00-2018-E-05405

Project Name: Byram River Flood Risk Management Feasibility Study

Subject: List of threatened and endangered species that may occur in your proposed project

location, and/or may be affected by your proposed project

To Whom It May Concern:

The enclosed species list identifies threatened, endangered, proposed and candidate species, as well as proposed and final designated critical habitat, that may occur within the boundary of your proposed project and/or may be affected by your proposed project. The species list fulfills the requirements of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) under section 7(c) of the Endangered Species Act (ESA) of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*). This list can also be used to determine whether listed species may be present for projects without federal agency involvement. New information based on updated surveys, changes in the abundance and distribution of species, changed habitat conditions, or other factors could change this list.

Please feel free to contact us if you need more current information or assistance regarding the potential impacts to federally proposed, listed, and candidate species and federally designated and proposed critical habitat. Please note that under 50 CFR 402.12(e) of the regulations implementing section 7 of the ESA, the accuracy of this species list should be verified after 90 days. This verification can be completed formally or informally as desired. The Service recommends that verification be completed by visiting the ECOS-IPaC site at regular intervals during project planning and implementation for updates to species lists and information. An updated list may be requested through the ECOS-IPaC system by completing the same process used to receive the enclosed list. If listed, proposed, or candidate species were identified as potentially occurring in the project area, coordination with our office is encouraged. Information on the steps involved with assessing potential impacts from projects can be found at: http://www.fws.gov/northeast/nyfo/es/section7.htm

Please be aware that bald and golden eagles are protected under the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act (16 U.S.C. 668 *et seq.*), and projects affecting these species may require development of an eagle conservation plan (http://www.fws.gov/windenergy/

<u>eagle_guidance.html</u>). Additionally, wind energy projects should follow the Services wind energy guidelines (<u>http://www.fws.gov/windenergy/</u>) for minimizing impacts to migratory birds and bats.

Guidance for minimizing impacts to migratory birds for projects including communications towers (e.g., cellular, digital television, radio, and emergency broadcast) can be found at: http://www.fws.gov/migratorybirds/CurrentBirdIssues/Hazards/towers/towers.htm; http://www.fws.gov/migratorybirds/CurrentBirdIssues/Hazards/towers/comtow.html.

We appreciate your concern for threatened and endangered species. The Service encourages Federal agencies to include conservation of threatened and endangered species into their project planning to further the purposes of the ESA. Please include the Consultation Tracking Number in the header of this letter with any request for consultation or correspondence about your project that you submit to our office.

Attachment(s):

Official Species List

Official Species List

This list is provided pursuant to Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act, and fulfills the requirement for Federal agencies to "request of the Secretary of the Interior information whether any species which is listed or proposed to be listed may be present in the area of a proposed action".

This species list is provided by:

New York Ecological Services Field Office

3817 Luker Road Cortland, NY 13045-9385 (607) 753-9334

This project's location is within the jurisdiction of multiple offices. Expect additional species list documents from the following offices, and expect that the species and critical habitats in each document reflect only those that fall in the office's jurisdiction:

Long Island Ecological Services Field Office

340 Smith Road Shirley, NY 11967-2258 (631) 286-0485

New England Ecological Services Field Office

70 Commercial Street, Suite 300 Concord, NH 03301-5094 (603) 223-2541

Project Summary

Consultation Code: 05E1NY00-2018-SLI-1772

Event Code: 05E1NY00-2018-E-05405

Project Name: Byram River Flood Risk Management Feasibility Study

Project Type: LAND - FLOODING

Project Description: Plan will involve raising the Route 1 bridge decks at the Putnam Circle in

order to provide flood risk management related to fluvial flood events.

Project Location:

Approximate location of the project can be viewed in Google Maps: https://www.google.com/maps/place/41.01241244391962N73.65861297589493W



Counties: Fairfield, CT | Westchester, NY

Endangered Species Act Species

There is a total of 0 threatened, endangered, or candidate species on this species list.

Species on this list should be considered in an effects analysis for your project and could include species that exist in another geographic area. For example, certain fish may appear on the species list because a project could affect downstream species.

IPaC does not display listed species or critical habitats under the sole jurisdiction of NOAA Fisheries¹, as USFWS does not have the authority to speak on behalf of NOAA and the Department of Commerce.

See the "Critical habitats" section below for those critical habitats that lie wholly or partially within your project area under this office's jurisdiction. Please contact the designated FWS office if you have questions.

1. <u>NOAA Fisheries</u>, also known as the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), is an office of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration within the Department of Commerce.

Critical habitats

THERE ARE NO CRITICAL HABITATS WITHIN YOUR PROJECT AREA UNDER THIS OFFICE'S JURISDICTION.



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY

NEW YORK DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS JACOB K. JAVITS FEDERAL BUILDING NEW YORK, N.Y. 10278-0090

REPLY TO ATTENTION OF Environmental Analysis Branch

March 20, 2018

Mr. Tom Chapman Field Supervisor U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service New England Field Office 70 Commercial Street, Suite 300 Concord, NH 03301

Dear Mr. Chapman:

The Army Corps of Engineers (Corps), New York District (District) has been conducting a Feasibility Study to implement flood risk management measures within the Byram River in the Village of Port Chester, Westchester County, NY and the Town of Greenwich, Fairfield County, CT.

For some background, the District formulated a total of five flood risk management (FRM) alternatives for evaluation. A preliminary screening analysis identified two alternatives to be advanced for further evaluation. One of the alternatives advanced, known as Alternative 5, includes the removal and replacement of the Route 1 bridge decks within the Byram Circle in the Town of Greenwich.

A Notice of Intent to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement was published in November 22, 2017 and a National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Scoping Meeting was held on November 16, 2018. In addition, there was a 30 day NEPA Scoping Period from November 16, 2018 through December 15, 2018. As part of the NEPA Scoping, Scoping Document was prepared and is enclosed for your information (Encl. 1). Please note that the District received a "no comment" response from Mr. David Simmons of your office on 8 December 2017 during the 30 NEPA Scoping Period (Encl. 2). Subsequent of the NEPA Scoping Period, further analysis identified Alternative 5 as the Tentatively Selected Plan which is plan with the highest net benefits.

The District will be preparing a Draft integrated Feasibility Report and Environmental Impact Statement and is anticipating releasing it for public and agency review in June 2018. The Draft FR/EIS will be used as the primary coordination vehicle for the preparation of the FWCA.

Enclosed with this letter for your is a Scope of Work to develop the Coordination Act Report (CAR) (Encl. 3). Please review the SOW and provide a time and cost estimate for your services. The District will coordinate with your agency closely,

to assist in your preparation of the report. Should any questions arise, or additional information is needed, please contact Ms. Kimberly Rightler at (917) 790-8722.

Sincerely,

Peter Weppler

Chief, Environmental Analysis Branch

Enclosures

Cc: D. Stillwell, USFWS New York Field Office

Rightler, Kimberly CIV USARMY CENAN (US)

From: Dube, Jeannine < jeannine_dube@fws.gov>

Sent: Friday, December 8, 2017 2:43 PM

To: CENAN-Byram-River

Cc: Stephanie Nash; Raddant, Andrew; Lazinsky, Diane; Kathleen Chiang; David Simmons

Subject: [EXTERNAL] ER 17/0539-NOI, Byram River Basin Flood Risk Management Study

David Simmons of the New England Field Office has requested that I submit a no comment on the subject ER.

Jeannine Dube

--

Secretary
New England Field Office
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
70 Commercial St., Suite 300
Concord, NH 03301
603-223-2541

[&]quot;And in the end, the love you take is equal to the love you make." Paul McCartney