

Equitrans, L.P.  
Equitrans Expansion Project  
Docket No. CP16-13-000  
Supplemental Materials Submitted October 31, 2016

## **Attachment H**

# **Correspondence between Pennsylvania DCNR and Equitrans**

October 4, 2016

**PNDI Number: 22453**

**Dale W. Sparks**  
**Environmental Solutions & Innovations, Inc.**  
4525 Este Avenue  
Cincinnati, OH 45232  
Email: dsparks@environmentalsi.com (hard copy will not follow)

**Re: Equitrans Expansion Project**  
**Allegheny, Washington, and Greene Counties, PA**

Dear Mr. Sparks,

Thank you for the submission of your field survey for Pennsylvania Natural Diversity Inventory (PNDI) Environmental Review Receipt Number 22453 for review. PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources screened this project for potential impacts to species and resources under DCNR's responsibility, which includes plants, terrestrial invertebrates, natural communities, and geologic features only.

**No Impact Anticipated per Survey**

PNDI records indicate species or resources under DCNR's jurisdiction are located in the vicinity of the project. DCNR requested a botanical survey for blue false-indigo (*Baptisia australis*; proposed PA Threatened), white trout-lily (*Erythronium albidum*; proposed PA Rare), purple rocket (*Iodanthus pinnatifidus*; PA Endangered), rock skullcap (*Scutellaria saxatilis*; proposed PA Endangered), crane-fly orchid (*Tipularia discolor*; PA Rare), and snow trillium (*Trillium nivale*; PA Rare) on June 22, 2015.

Surveys were conducted by Lawrence Brewer and an assistant during the 2016 field season. One population of nodding rattlesnake-root (*Prenanthes crepidinea*) was documented within the anticipated limit-of-disturbance. Although previously considered PA Endangered, this species was proposed to be delisted and has been added to our Watch List. Therefore, no mitigation or monitoring is requested for this occurrence. DCNR recommends that the population be avoided or transplanted to suitable habitat adjacent to the project site; however, this action is voluntary. Two populations of golden-seal (*Hydrastis canadensis*; PA Vulnerable) were also documented on site. Avoidance or transplanting is strongly recommended, but not required.

No other species of concern were identified during the required survey. **Therefore, DCNR has determined that no impact is likely. No further coordination with our agency is needed for this project.**

**DCNR recommends the following steps to help prevent the spread of invasive species:**

- The area of disturbance should be minimized to the fullest extent that would allow for construction. This will help to lessen the area of soil and vegetation disturbance associated with this project.
- If possible, please clean boot treads, construction equipment, and vehicles thoroughly (especially the undercarriage and wheels) before they are brought on site. This will remove invasive plant seeds and invasive earthworms/cocoons that may have been picked up at other sites.
- Do not transport unsterilized leaves, mulch, compost, or soil to the site from another location. Avoid using seed mixes that include invasive plant species (e.g. crown vetch) to re-vegetate the area. Please also use weed-free straw or

may mix when possible. More information about invasive species in Pennsylvania can be found at the following link: <http://www.dcnr.state.pa.us/conservation/science/invasivespecies/index.htm>

This response represents the most up-to-date review of the PNDI data files and is valid for two (2) years only. If project plans change or more information on listed or proposed species becomes available, our determination may be reconsidered. Should the proposed work continue beyond the period covered by this letter, please resubmit the project to this agency as an "Update" (including an updated PNDI receipt, project narrative and accurate map). As a reminder, this finding applies to potential impacts under DCNR's jurisdiction only. Visit the PNHP website for directions on contacting the Commonwealth's other resource agencies for environmental review.

**Should you have any questions or concerns, please contact Jason Ryndock, Ecological Information Specialist, by phone (717-705-2822) or via email ([c-jryndock@pa.gov](mailto:c-jryndock@pa.gov)).**

Sincerely



Greg Podnieszinski, Section Chief  
Natural Heritage Section