



## United States Department of the Interior

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In Reply Refer To:

05/20/2025 20:18:33 UTC

Project code: 2025-0099377

Project Name: Swanberg Property Wellfield and Chemical Feed Pump Station

Federal Nexus: no

Federal Action Agency (if applicable):

**Subject:** Technical assistance for 'Swanberg Property Wellfield and Chemical Feed Pump Station'

Dear Nolan Davis:

This letter records your determination using the Information for Planning and Consultation (IPaC) system provided to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) on May 20, 2025, for 'Swanberg Property Wellfield and Chemical Feed Pump Station' (here forward, Project). This project has been assigned Project Code 2025-0099377 and all future correspondence should clearly reference this number. **Please carefully review this letter. Your Endangered Species Act (Act) requirements are not complete.**

### Ensuring Accurate Determinations When Using IPaC

The Service developed the IPaC system and associated species' determination keys in accordance with the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (ESA; 87 Stat. 884, as amended; 16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.) and based on a standing analysis. All information submitted by the Project proponent into IPaC must accurately represent the full scope and details of the Project. **Failure to accurately represent or implement the Project as detailed in IPaC or the Northern Long-eared Bat and Tricolored Bat Range-wide Determination Key (Dkey), invalidates this letter.**

### Determination for the Northern Long-Eared Bat and Tricolored Bat

Based on your IPaC submission and a standing analysis completed by the Service, you determined the proposed Project will have the following effect determinations:

Species	Listing Status	Determination
Northern Long-eared Bat ( <i>Myotis septentrionalis</i> )	Endangered	May affect
Tricolored Bat ( <i>Perimyotis subflavus</i> )	Proposed Endangered	May affect

## Other Species and Critical Habitat that May be Present in the Action Area

The IPaC-assisted determination key for the northern long-eared bat and tricolored bat does not apply to the following ESA-protected species and/or critical habitat that also may occur in your Action area:

- Monarch Butterfly *Danaus plexippus* Proposed Threatened

You may coordinate with our Office to determine whether the Action may cause prohibited take of the species listed above.

## Conclusion

Further coordination with the Service is voluntary for those species with a determination of “May Affect.” A “May Affect” determination in this key indicates that the project, as entered, is not consistent with the questions in the key. Not all projects that reach a “May Affect” determination are anticipated to result in adverse impacts to listed species. Through the technical assistance process, the Service might be able to provide information that either indicates incidental take is not reasonably certain to occur, or the Service might be able to provide recommendations that enable the project to be conducted in a way that avoids the likelihood of incidentally taking listed bats. Please contact our New England Ecological Services Field Office for more information. The Service has developed interim voluntary guidance for non-federal actions involving forest habitat modification that may affect the northern long-eared bat. Review the guidance posted here for more information for NLEB: <https://www.fws.gov/species/northern-long-eared-bat-myotis-septentrionalis> and TCB: <https://www.fws.gov/species/tricolored-bat-perimyotis-subflavus>

Federal agencies must consult with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service under section 7(a)(2) of the Endangered Species Act (ESA) when an action *may affect* a listed species. Tricolored bat is proposed for listing as endangered under the ESA, but not yet listed. For actions that may affect a proposed species, agencies cannot consult, but they can *confer* under the authority of section 7(a)(4) of the ESA. Such conferences can follow the procedures for a consultation and be adopted as such if and when the proposed species is listed. Should the tricolored bat be listed, agencies must review projects that are not yet complete, or projects with ongoing effects within the tricolored bat range that previously received a NE or NLAA determination from the key to confirm that the determination is still accurate. Projects that receive a may affect determination for tricolored bat through the key, should contact the appropriate Ecological Services Field Office if they want to conference on this species.

**Action Description**

You provided to IPaC the following name and description for the subject Action.

**1. Name**

Swanberg Property Wellfield and Chemical Feed Pump Station

**2. Description**

The following description was provided for the project 'Swanberg Property Wellfield and Chemical Feed Pump Station':

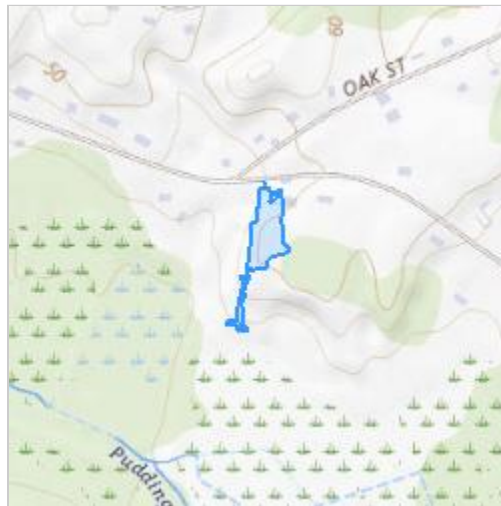
The scope of work includes construction of a wellfield composed of three new drinking water supply wells and pumps which will be accessed via an existing gravel

driveway on site. Additionally, this work will include an approximately 30' x 30' new chemical feed station building. To support the proposed building, the work will

also include site grading, retaining wall, driveway and a parking area for Water Department employees. Additionally the scope will include the installation of drainage infrastructure to mitigate proposed site impacts, new utility service connections to support the pump station building, and restoration of landscaped areas.

Finally, the water main work includes the installation of hydrants, gate valves, test pitting as outlined within these specifications and shown on the project plans.

The approximate location of the project can be viewed in Google Maps: <https://www.google.com/maps/@42.09087295,-70.77774120975806,14z>



## DETERMINATION KEY RESULT

Based on the answers provided, the proposed Action is consistent with a determination of “may affect” for a least one species covered by this determination key.

## QUALIFICATION INTERVIEW

1. Does the proposed project include, or is it reasonably certain to cause, intentional take of listed bats or any other listed species?

**Note:** Intentional take is defined as take that is the intended result of a project. Intentional take could refer to research, direct species management, surveys, and/or studies that include intentional handling/encountering, harassment, collection, or capturing of any individual of a federally listed threatened, endangered or proposed species?

*No*

2. Is the action area wholly within Zone 2 of the year-round active area for northern long-eared bat and/or tricolored bat?

**Automatically answered**

*No*

3. Does the action area intersect Zone 1 of the year-round active area for northern long-eared bat and/or tricolored bat?

**Automatically answered**

*No*

4. Does any component of the action involve leasing, construction or operation of wind turbines? Answer 'yes' if the activities considered are conducted with the intention of gathering survey information to inform the leasing, construction, or operation of wind turbines.

**Note:** For federal actions, answer ‘yes’ if the construction or operation of wind power facilities is either (1) part of the federal action or (2) would not occur but for a federal agency action (federal permit, funding, etc.).

*No*

5. Is the proposed action authorized, permitted, licensed, funded, or being carried out by a Federal agency in whole or in part?

*No*

6. [Semantic] Is the action area located within 0.5 miles of a known bat hibernaculum? Note: The map queried for this question contains proprietary information and cannot be displayed. If you need additional information, please contact your State wildlife agency.

**Automatically answered**

*No*

7. Does the action area contain any winter roosts or caves (or associated sinkholes, fissures, or other karst features), mines, rocky outcroppings, or tunnels that could provide habitat for hibernating bats?

No

8. Does the action area contain (1) talus or (2) anthropogenic or naturally formed rock shelters or crevices in rocky outcrops, rock faces or cliffs?

No

9. Will the action cause effects to a bridge?

**Note:** Covered bridges should be considered as bridges in this question.

No

10. Will the action result in effects to a culvert or tunnel at any time of year?

No

11. Are trees present within 1000 feet of the action area?

**Note:** If there are trees within the action area that are of a sufficient size to be potential roosts for bats answer "Yes". If unsure, additional information defining suitable summer habitat for the northern long-eared bat and tricolored bat can be found in Appendix A of the USFWS' Range-wide Indiana Bat and Northern long-eared bat Survey Guidelines at: <https://www.fws.gov/media/range-wide-indiana-bat-and-northern-long-eared-bat-survey-guidelines>.

Yes

12. Does the action include the intentional exclusion of bats from a building or structure?

**Note:** Exclusion is conducted to deny bats' entry or reentry into a building. To be effective and to avoid harming bats, it should be done according to established standards. If your action includes bat exclusion and you are unsure whether northern long-eared bats or tricolored bats are present, answer "Yes." Answer "No" if there are no signs of bat use in the building/structure. If unsure, contact your local Ecological Services Field Office to help assess whether northern long-eared bats or tricolored bats may be present. Contact a Nuisance Wildlife Control Operator (NWCO) for help in how to exclude bats from a structure safely without causing harm to the bats (to find a NWCO certified in bat standards, search the Internet using the search term "National Wildlife Control Operators Association bats"). Also see the White-Nose Syndrome Response Team's guide for bat control in structures.

No

13. Does the action involve removal, modification, or maintenance of a human-made structure (barn, house, or other building) **known or suspected to contain roosting bats**?

No

14. Will the action cause construction of one or more new roads open to the public?

For federal actions, answer 'yes' when the construction or operation of these facilities is either (1) part of the federal action or (2) would not occur but for an action taken by a federal agency (federal permit, funding, etc.).

No

15. Will the action include or cause any construction or other activity that is reasonably certain to increase average night-time traffic permanently or temporarily on one or more existing roads? **Note:** For federal actions, answer 'yes' when the construction or operation of these facilities is either (1) part of the federal action or (2) would not occur but for an action taken by a federal agency (federal permit, funding, etc.). .

No

16. Will the action include or cause any construction or other activity that is reasonably certain to increase the number of travel lanes on an existing thoroughfare?

For federal actions, answer 'yes' when the construction or operation of these facilities is either (1) part of the federal action or (2) would not occur but for an action taken by a federal agency (federal permit, funding, etc.).

No

17. Will the proposed Action involve the creation of a new water-borne contaminant source (e.g., leachate pond, pits containing chemicals that are not NSF/ANSI 60 compliant)?

**Note:** For information regarding NSF/ANSI 60 please visit <https://www.nsf.org/knowledge-library/nsf-ansi-standard-60-drinking-water-treatment-chemicals-health-effects>

No

18. Will the proposed action involve the creation of a new point source discharge from a facility other than a water treatment plant or storm water system?

No

19. Will the action include drilling or blasting?

No

20. Will the action involve military training (e.g., smoke operations, obscurant operations, exploding munitions, artillery fire, range use, helicopter or fixed wing aircraft use)?

No

21. Will the proposed action involve the use of herbicides or other pesticides other than herbicides (e.g., fungicides, insecticides, or rodenticides)?

No

22. Will the action include or cause activities that are reasonably certain to cause chronic or intense nighttime noise (above current levels of ambient noise in the area) in suitable summer habitat for the northern long-eared bat or tricolored bat during the active season?

Chronic noise is noise that is continuous or occurs repeatedly again and again for a long time. Sources of chronic or intense noise that could cause adverse effects to bats may include, but are not limited to: road traffic; trains; aircraft; industrial activities; gas compressor stations; loud music; crowds; oil and gas extraction; construction; and mining.

**Note:** Additional information defining suitable summer habitat for the northern long-eared bat and tricolored bat can be found in Appendix A of the USFWS' Range-wide Indiana Bat and Northern long-eared bat Survey Guidelines at: <https://www.fws.gov/media/range-wide-indiana-bat-and-northern-long-eared-bat-survey-guidelines>.

No

23. Does the action include, or is it reasonably certain to cause, the use of permanent or temporary artificial lighting within 1000 feet of suitable northern long-eared bat or tricolored bat roosting habitat?

**Note:** Additional information defining suitable summer habitat for the northern long-eared bat and tricolored bat can be found in Appendix A of the USFWS' Range-wide Indiana Bat and Northern long-eared bat Survey Guidelines at: <https://www.fws.gov/media/range-wide-indiana-bat-and-northern-long-eared-bat-survey-guidelines>.

No

24. Will the action include tree cutting or other means of knocking down or bringing down trees, tree topping, or tree trimming?

Yes

25. Will the proposed action occur exclusively in an already established and currently maintained utility right-of-way?

No

26. Does the action include emergency cutting or trimming of hazard trees in order to remove an imminent threat to human safety or property? See hazard tree note at the bottom of the key for text that will be added to response letters

**Note:** A "hazard tree" is a tree that is an immediate threat to lives, public health and safety, or improved property.

No

27. Does the project intersect with the 0- 9.9% forest density category?

**Automatically answered**

No

28. Does the project intersect with the 10.0- 19.9% forest density category map?

**Automatically answered**

No

29. Does the project intersect with the 20.0- 29.9% forest density category map?

**Automatically answered**

No

30. Does the project intersect with the 30.0- 100% forest density category map?

**Automatically answered**

Yes

31. Will the action cause trees to be cut, knocked down, or otherwise brought down across an area greater than 100 acres in total extent?

No

32. Will the proposed action result in the use of prescribed fire?

**Note:** If the prescribed fire action includes other activities than application of fire (e.g., tree cutting, fire line preparation) please consider impacts from those activities within the previous representative questions in the key. This set of questions only considers impacts from flame and smoke.

No

33. Does the action area intersect the northern long-eared bat species list area?

**Automatically answered**

Yes

34. [Semantic] Is the action area located within 0.5 miles of radius of an entrance/opening to any known NLEB hibernacula? **Note:** The map queried for this question contains proprietary information and cannot be displayed. If you need additional information, please contact your State wildlife agency.

**Automatically answered**

No

35. [Semantic] Is the action area located within 0.25 miles of a culvert that is known to be occupied by northern long-eared or tricolored bats? **Note:** The map queried for this question contains proprietary information and cannot be displayed. If you need additional information, please contact your State wildlife agency.

**Automatically answered**

No

36. [Semantic] Is the action area located within 0.25 miles of a culvert that is known to be occupied by northern long-eared or tricolored bats?

**Automatically answered**

No



37. [Semantic] Is the action area located within 150 feet of a documented northern long-eared bat roost site?

Note: The map queried for this question contains proprietary information and cannot be displayed. If you need additional information, please contact your State wildlife agency. Have you contacted the appropriate agency to determine if your action is within 150 feet of any documented northern long-eared bat roosts?

Note: A document with links to Natural Heritage Inventory databases and other state-specific sources of information on the locations of northern long-eared bat roosts is available here. Location information for northern long-eared bat roosts is generally kept in state natural heritage inventory databases – the availability of this data varies by state. Many states provide online access to their data, either directly by providing maps or by providing the opportunity to make a data request. In some cases, to protect those resources, access to the information may be limited.

**Automatically answered**

No

38. Is suitable summer habitat for the northern long-eared bat present within 1000 feet of project activities?

If unsure, answer "Yes."

**Note:** Additional information defining suitable summer habitat for the northern long-eared bat and tricolored bat can be found in Appendix A of the USFWS' Range-wide Indiana Bat and Northern long-eared bat Survey Guidelines at: <https://www.fws.gov/media/range-wide-indiana-bat-and-northern-long-eared-bat-survey-guidelines>.

Yes

39. Has a presence/probable absence summer bat survey targeting the northern long-eared bat following the Service's [Range-wide Indiana Bat and Northern Long-Eared Bat Survey Guidelines](#) been conducted within the project area?

No

40. Are any of the trees proposed for cutting or other means of knocking down, bringing down, topping, or trimming suitable for northern long-eared bat roosting (i.e., live trees and/or snags  $\geq 3$  inches dbh that have exfoliating bark, cracks, crevices, and/or cavities)?

**Note:** Additional information defining suitable summer habitat for the northern long-eared bat and tricolored bat can be found in Appendix A of the USFWS' Range-wide Indiana Bat and Northern long-eared bat Survey Guidelines at: <https://www.fws.gov/media/range-wide-indiana-bat-and-northern-long-eared-bat-survey-guidelines>.

Yes

41. Will any tree cutting/trimming or other knocking or bringing down of trees occur during the **Summer Occupancy season** for northern long-eared bats in the action area? **Note:** Bat activity periods for your state can be found in Appendix L of the Service's Range-wide Indiana Bat and Northern long-eared Bat Survey [Guidelines](#).

Yes

42. Does the action area intersect the tricolored bat species list area?

**Automatically answered**

Yes

43. [Semantic] Is the action area located within 0.5 miles of radius of an entrance/opening to any known tricolored bat hibernacula? **Note:** The map queried for this question contains proprietary information and cannot be displayed. If you need additional information, please contact your State wildlife agency.

**Automatically answered**

No

44. [Semantic] Is the action area located within 0.25 miles of a culvert that is known to be occupied by northern long-eared or tricolored bats? **Note:** The map queried for this question contains proprietary information and cannot be displayed. If you need additional information, please contact your State wildlife agency.

**Automatically answered**

No

45. Is suitable summer habitat for the tricolored bat present within 1000 feet of project activities?  
(If unsure, answer ""Yes."" )

**Note:** If there are trees within the action area that may provide potential roosts for tricolored bats (e.g., clusters of leaves in live and dead deciduous trees, Spanish moss (*Tillandsia usneoides*), clusters of dead pine needles of large live pines) answer ""Yes."" For a complete definition of suitable summer habitat for the tricolored bat, please see Appendix A in the [Service's Range-wide Indiana Bat and Northern long-eared Bat Survey Guidelines](#).

Yes

46. Do any of the trees proposed for cutting or other means of knocking down, bringing down, topping, or trimming provide potential roosts for tricolored bats (e.g., clusters of leaves in live and dead deciduous trees, Spanish moss (*Tillandsia usneoides*), clusters of dead pine needles of large live pine trees)?

**Note:** Additional information defining suitable summer habitat for the northern long-eared bat and tricolored bat can be found in Appendix A of the USFWS' Range-wide Indiana Bat and Northern long-eared bat Survey Guidelines at: <https://www.fws.gov/media/range-wide-indiana-bat-and-northern-long-eared-bat-survey-guidelines>.

Yes

47. Will any tree cutting/trimming or other knocking or bringing down of trees be conducted during the Pup Season for tricolored bat?

**Note:** Bat activity periods for your state can be found in Appendix L of the [Service's Range-wide Indiana Bat and Northern long-eared Bat Survey Guidelines](#).

Yes

48. Do you have any documents that you want to include with this submission?

No

## PROJECT QUESTIONNAIRE

Enter the extent of the action area (in acres) from which trees will be removed - round up to the nearest tenth of an acre. For this question, include the entire area where tree removal will take place, even if some live or dead trees will be left standing.

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## **IPAC USER CONTACT INFORMATION**

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