
From: Dohoney, Courtney
Sent: Thursday, May 22, 2014 2:59 PM
To: Anthony Tur (anthony_tur@fws.gov); Tur, Maria; David Keddell; Carol Henderson; Mike Marchand; Timmermann, Timothy (Timmermann.Timothy@epa.gov); Staats, William (William.Staats@wildlife.nh.gov); Kilborn, Jillian
Cc: Kent Sharp; Travis Beck; Caroline McHugh; Belin, Daniel; Meegan, Sean; Callaghan, Caitlin; Mills, Brian
Subject: Northern Pass EIS Alternatives
Attachments: Excerpt from the Northern Pass EIS Scoping Report Alternatives Addendum.pdf

All,

As you may be aware, earlier this month DOE released an Alternatives Addendum to the existing Scoping Report for the Northern Pass Transmission Line Project Environmental Impact Statement. Based on this addendum, the SE Group Team will be conducting targeted field surveys for alternatives 2.4a, 2.4b, 2.5a, 2.5b, and 2.6a, and 2.6b where public roadway access can be obtained. Descriptions and maps of these alternatives are provided in the attachment, which is an excerpt of the full Scoping Report Alternatives Addendum that can be found on DOE's website [here](#). Resource surveys for these alternatives are proposed to include:

- **Wetland/Habitat Cover Type Surveys:** This effort will consist of targeted surveys with wetland and stream features delineated, consistent with the 2013 Northern Pass EIS Work Plan for Wetlands, Waterbodies, and Vernal Pools, when encountered. Habitat cover types will be recorded during the surveys to provide an understanding of the ecological communities represented by each alternative. Observed wildlife will also be recorded.
- **Mobile Bat Acoustic Surveys:** Using AnaBat acoustic monitoring detectors mounted on the vehicle, the SE Group Team will drive the length of each alternative twice during the summer maternity season to collect acoustic data to determine the presence/probable absence of the federally listed Indiana bat and proposed listed northern long-eared bat within the alternatives.
- **Vegetation Surveys:** Based on the methodology established for the 2013 vegetation survey effort, the SE Group Team will conduct a desktop landscape analysis to identify habitats within the alternatives ROWs that could contain federally and state-listed plants. After identification of these target locations, field surveys within the road ROWs will be conducted for the targeted T&E plant species.
- **Mussel Surveys:** Similar to the mussel survey effort for 2013, the SE Group Team will conduct a habitat assessment and qualitative or semi-quantitative mussel survey at locations where the alternative ROWs would cross waterbodies with the potential to support the following species: dwarf wedgemussel, brook floater, and/or eastern pearlshell.
- **Aerial Eagle and Osprey Nest Surveys:** An aerial survey for eagle and osprey nests was conducted along the road of the entire alternative ROWs with particular attention to locations where roads crossed significant water features that could support Bald Eagle or Osprey nests.

We are providing this information as a means to solicit any feedback you may have related to the collection of field data for these alternatives. We have assumed that e-mail correspondence is the most efficient way to present the alternatives given the onset of the summer field season. However, if you would prefer to discuss the alternatives and proposed surveys on a conference call or an in-person meeting, please let us know and we will be more than happy to accommodate that request. Consistent with our two week notification window, we are planning on mobilizing in the field the week of June 9th.

Thanks,
Courtney

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