



Department of Energy
Washington, DC 20585

February 9, 2017

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

SUBJECT: Proposed Northern Pass Transmission Line Project

Dear Mr. Chapman:

This letter is to continue consultation under Section 7(a)(2) of the Endangered Species Act (ESA) for the Northern Pass Transmission Line Project (Project) and specifically relates to data collected on the Northern long-eared bat (*Myotis septentrionalis*).

This communication is a follow up to a request we made on November 30, 2016 concerning results of a meeting held in your office on May 24, 2016 between contractors for the US Department of Energy (DOE), US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) staff, and contractors for Northern Pass Transmission (NPT).

The purpose of that meeting was to discuss the content of the Biological Assessment (BA) being prepared by the DOE to assess the effects of the proposed Project on federally endangered and/or threatened species and any corresponding critical habitat. In this meeting and in several follow-up phone conversations USFWS requested that DOE include data collected by NPT contractors related to listed bat species in the BA. The DOE stipulated that these data could be included if they were formally evaluated and accepted by USFWS.

We asked on November 30, 2016, that you review and formally accept, in writing, the data collected by NPT contractors on the Northern long-eared bat for inclusion in the BA.

DOE would like to have a path forward on this consultation effort. Please feel free to contact me directly at any time at Brian.Mills@hq.DOE.gov, by phone at (202) 586-8267, or by fax at (202) 586-8008. We look forward to hearing from you.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brian Mills".

Brian Mills
Office of Electricity Delivery and
Energy Reliability
U.S. Department of Energy