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**From:** Mills, Brian <Brian.Mills@hq.doe.gov>  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 23, 2017 12:29 PM  
**To:** Caroline McHugh; Belin, Daniel; Travis Beck; Kent Sharp  
**Cc:** Smith, Julie A (OE); Callaghan, Caitlin; Lawrence, Christopher; Mills, Brian  
**Subject:** FW: Data for the Northern Pass EA

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Completed

-----Original Message-----

From: David Simmons [[mailto:David\\_Simmons@fws.gov](mailto:David_Simmons@fws.gov)]  
Sent: Thursday, March 23, 2017 1:55 PM  
To: Mills, Brian <[Brian.Mills@hq.doe.gov](mailto:Brian.Mills@hq.doe.gov)>  
Cc: Tom Chapman <[tom\\_chapman@fws.gov](mailto:tom_chapman@fws.gov)>  
Subject: Data for the Northern Pass EA

Hi Brian,

I am writing in response to letters you sent our office on November 30, 2016, and February 9, 2017; and a subsequent phone conversation on February 16, 2017. One of the primary subjects of these communications was the biological assessment (BA) the Department of Energy (DOE) is preparing for the Northern Pass project. We understand that acoustic surveys of the project area for species of bats listed under the Endangered Species Act detected calls that may have been made by Indiana bats. This was an understandably surprising result, given the species is not known to occur in New Hampshire, and some have questioned whether DOE should include these survey results in the BA. As you know, Federal agencies need to use the best scientific and commercial data available to fulfill the requirements of Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act. The bat survey data is available; therefore, we recommend that DOE include and evaluate the data in the BA. That said, the DOE should consider the quality of all data presented in the BA and use that evaluation to determine if, and how, the proposed action would affect species considered in the BA. We are available to discuss the content of this email or any other aspect of the consultation at your convenience and look forward to working with the DOE to advance and finalize this consultation. Regards,

David

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David Simmons

Endangered Species Program Supervisor

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