

**ATLANTIC COAST PIPELINE, LLC
ATLANTIC COAST PIPELINE**

and

**DOMINION ENERGY TRANSMISSION, INC.
SUPPLY HEADER PROJECT**

Implementation Plan

EC55 Attachment 1

**Correspondence with the U.S. Fish and
Wildlife Service**

From: Sara Thronson

Sent: Saturday, October 14, 2017 8:58 AM

To: elizabeth_stout@fws.gov; Sumalee Hoskin; Cindy Schulz; 'Paul Phifer'; troy_andersen@fws.gov; Ellis, John

Cc: Pat Robblee; Steve Holden; Maggie Voth; Tracy Brunner; Spencer Trichell; Richard B Gangle; Jennifer C Broush; Kathleen O'Connor

Subject: ACP - Update to NLEB Acres

Liz, Troy, and John,

Staff Recommendation 43 of the Final EIS for the Projects directed Atlantic and Dominion Energy to file the total acreages of occupied and suitable habitat for northern long-eared bat that will be impacted by the Projects upon completion of the 2017 bat surveys. Atlantic's and Dominion Energy's response to this recommendation that was submitted to FERC on October 13, 2017, including an update on the survey results for northern long-eared bat, is provided below. Atlantic anticipates filing reports for recently completed bat surveys in October 2017.

The update to the draft Biological Assessment for the Projects, which was filed as Appendix D of Atlantic's and Dominion Energy's January 27, 2017 Supplemental Filing (FERC Accession Number 20170127-5203), provides information on the identification of suitable and occupied habitat for northern long eared bat in the ACP and SHP project areas. Occupied habitat includes a 150-foot buffer around roost tree locations and a 0.25-mile buffer around hibernacula locations. Suitable habitat includes caves and abandoned mines with large passages and entrances for winter hibernacula and forested areas within the range of the species for summer roosting.

Roost Trees

To date, 37 occupied northern long-eared bat roost trees have been identified as a result of surveys along the proposed pipeline routes. Of these 37 trees, 35 are outside of the proposed ACP or SHP workspace. Two occupied roost trees were identified within the proposed SHP workspace.

Hibernacula

To date, five suitable hibernacula sites have been found to be occupied by northern long-eared bat, including captures at Simmons-Mingo and four sites with positive acoustic detections for northern long-eared bat during fall 2016 surveys. Thirty sites were surveyed in 2015, 2016, and 2017 during the fall swarming season and found to not be occupied by federally listed species. Spring emergence surveys in 2017 confirmed two additional unoccupied sites. An additional four sites have been found to be suitable but were denied access for follow-up survey during the fall swarming season in fall 2017.

Area of Occupied and Suitable Habitat

The area of occupied northern long-eared bat habitat that will be impacted by the Projects is:

- ACP – 3.2 acres, all in West Virginia; and
- SHP – 2.4 acres, all in West Virginia.

The area of northern long-eared bat suitable habitat that will be impacted by the Projects is:

- ACP - 5,781.0 acres total, including 1,598.8 acres in West Virginia, 3,122.9 acres in Virginia, and 1,059.3 acres in North Carolina; and

- SHP - 621.7 acres total, including 29.8 acres in Pennsylvania and 591.9 acres in West Virginia.

Atlantic looks forward to continued coordination with you on this project. Please contact Spencer Trichell at (804)-273-3472 or spencer.trichell@dominionenergy.com, or Sara Thronson at (612) 347-7113 or sara.thronson@erm.com if there are questions.

Thank you, Sara

Sara Thronson

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