



United States Department of the Interior



FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
Virginia Ecological Services Field Office
6669 SHORT LANE
GLOUCESTER, VA 23061
PHONE: (804)693-6694 FAX: (804)693-9032
URL: www.fws.gov/northeast/virginiafield/

Consultation Tracking Number: 05E2VA00-2014-SLI-1012

February 05, 2014

Project Name: NAO-13-0373

Subject: List of threatened and endangered species that may occur in your proposed project location, and/or may be affected by your proposed project.

To Whom It May Concern:

The enclosed species list identifies threatened, endangered, proposed and candidate species, as well as proposed and final designated critical habitat, that may occur within the boundary of your proposed project and/or may be affected by your proposed project. The species list fulfills the requirements of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) under section 7(c) of the Endangered Species Act (Act) of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*).

New information based on updated surveys, changes in the abundance and distribution of species, changed habitat conditions, or other factors could change this list. Please feel free to contact us if you need more current information or assistance regarding the potential impacts to federally proposed, listed, and candidate species and federally designated and proposed critical habitat. Please note that under 50 CFR 402.12(e) of the regulations implementing section 7 of the Act, the accuracy of this species list should be verified after 90 days. This verification can be completed formally or informally as desired. The Service recommends that verification be completed by visiting the ECOS-IPaC website at regular intervals during project planning and implementation for updates to species lists and information. An updated list may be requested through the ECOS-IPaC system by completing the same process used to receive the enclosed list.

The purpose of the Act is to provide a means whereby threatened and endangered species and the ecosystems upon which they depend may be conserved. Under sections 7(a)(1) and 7(a)(2) of the Act and its implementing regulations (50 CFR 402 *et seq.*), Federal agencies are required to utilize their authorities to carry out programs for the conservation of threatened and endangered species and to determine whether projects may affect threatened and endangered species and/or designated critical habitat.

A Biological Assessment is required for construction projects (or other undertakings having

similar physical impacts) that are major Federal actions significantly affecting the quality of the human environment as defined in the National Environmental Policy Act (42 U.S.C. 4332(2)(c)). For projects other than major construction activities, the Service suggests that a biological evaluation similar to a Biological Assessment be prepared to determine whether the project may affect listed or proposed species and/or designated or proposed critical habitat. Recommended contents of a Biological Assessment are described at 50 CFR 402.12.

If a Federal agency determines, based on the Biological Assessment or biological evaluation, that listed species and/or designated critical habitat may be affected by the proposed project, the agency is required to consult with the Service pursuant to 50 CFR 402. In addition, the Service recommends that candidate species, proposed species and proposed critical habitat be addressed within the consultation. More information on the regulations and procedures for section 7 consultation, including the role of permit or license applicants, can be found in the "Endangered Species Consultation Handbook" at:

<http://www.fws.gov/endangered/esa-library/pdf/TOC-GLOS.PDF>

Please be aware that bald and golden eagles are protected under the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act (16 U.S.C. 668 *et seq.*), and projects affecting these species may require development of an eagle conservation plan (http://www.fws.gov/windenergy/eagle_guidance.html). Additionally, wind energy projects should follow the wind energy guidelines (<http://www.fws.gov/windenergy/>) for minimizing impacts to migratory birds and bats.

Guidance for minimizing impacts to migratory birds for projects including communications towers (e.g., cellular, digital television, radio, and emergency broadcast) can be found at: <http://www.fws.gov/migratorybirds/CurrentBirdIssues/Hazards/towers/towers.htm>; <http://www.towerkill.com>; and <http://www.fws.gov/migratorybirds/CurrentBirdIssues/Hazards/towers/comtow.html>.

We appreciate your concern for threatened and endangered species. The Service encourages Federal agencies to include conservation of threatened and endangered species into their project planning to further the purposes of the Act. Please include the Consultation Tracking Number in the header of this letter with any request for consultation or correspondence about your project that you submit to our office.

Attachment



United States Department of Interior
Fish and Wildlife Service

Project name: NAO-13-0373

Official Species List

Provided by:

Virginia Ecological Services Field Office
6669 SHORT LANE
GLOUCESTER, VA 23061
(804) 693-6694
<http://www.fws.gov/northeast/virginiafield/>

Consultation Tracking Number: 05E2VA00-2014-SLI-1012

Project Type: Fill

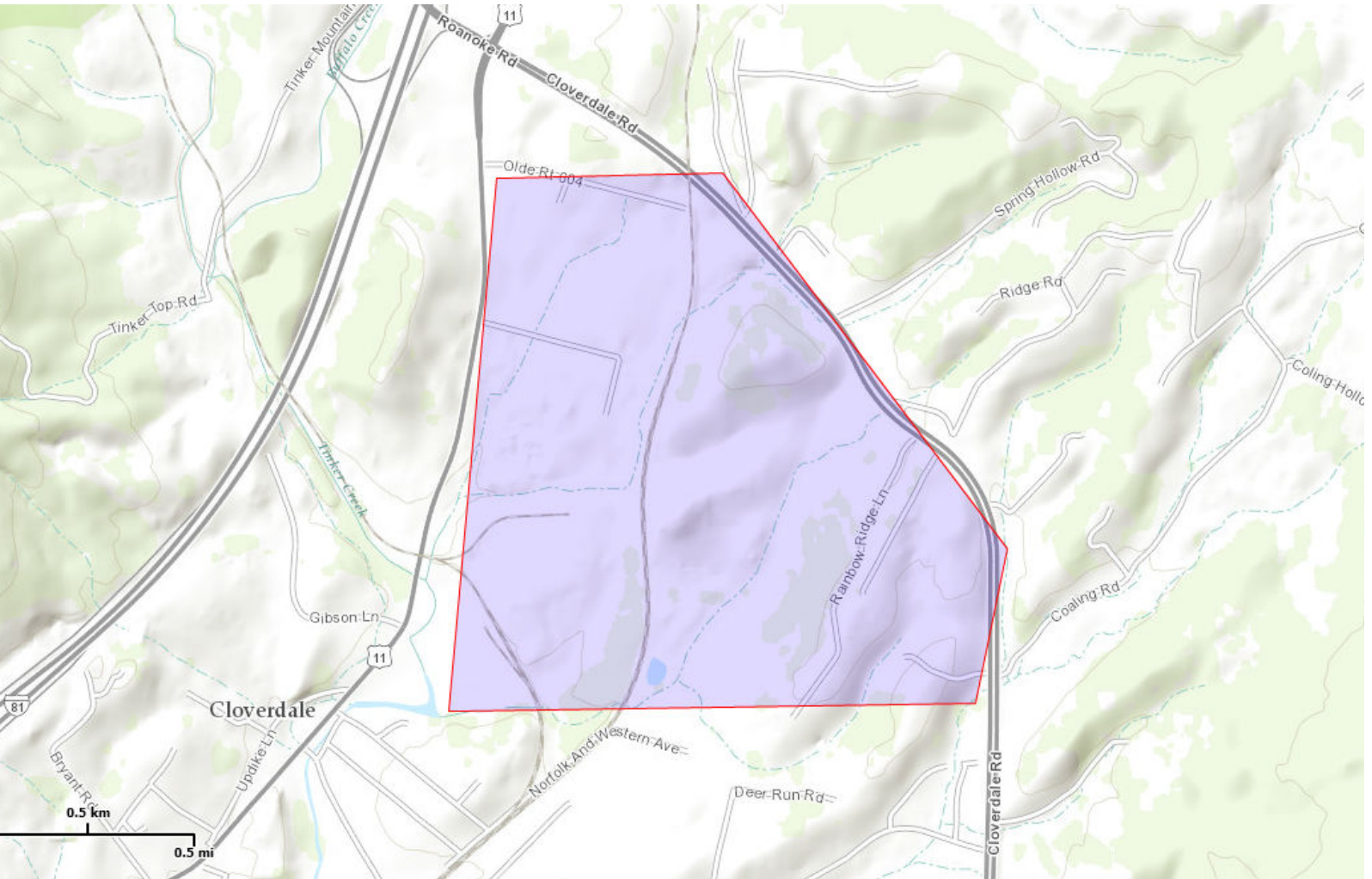
Project Description: Proposed construction of new 500 kV substation, expansion of existing 765 kV Yard and 345 kV Yard, construction of 4 new EHV transmission lines, and relocation of \$ existing high voltage transmission lines



United States Department of Interior
Fish and Wildlife Service

Project name: NAO-13-0373

Project Location Map:



Project Coordinates: MULTIPOLYGON (((-79.9023929 37.3839009, -79.8951016 37.3840373, -79.8859177 37.3744205, -79.8869477 37.3704643, -79.9039379 37.3702597, -79.9023929 37.3839009)))

Project Counties: Botetourt, VA



United States Department of Interior
Fish and Wildlife Service

Project name: NAO-13-0373

Endangered Species Act Species List

There are a total of 4 threatened, endangered, or candidate species on your species list. Species on this list should be considered in an effects analysis for your project and could include species that exist in another geographic area. For example, certain fish may appear on the species list because a project could affect downstream species. Critical habitats listed on the **Has Critical Habitat** lines may or may not lie within your project area. See the **Critical habitats within your project area** section further below for critical habitat that lies within your project. Please contact the designated FWS office if you have questions.

Indiana bat (*Myotis sodalis*)

Population: Entire

Listing Status: Endangered

northern long-eared Bat (*Myotis septentrionalis*)

Listing Status: Proposed Endangered

Roanoke logperch (*Percina rex*)

Population: Entire

Listing Status: Endangered

Smooth coneflower (*Echinacea laevigata*)

Listing Status: Endangered



United States Department of Interior
Fish and Wildlife Service

Project name: NAO-13-0373

Critical habitats that lie within your project area

There are no critical habitats within your project area.

Species Conclusions Table

AEP Cloverdale Expansion (NAO-13-0373/13-V1448)

Date: February 6, 2014

Species/Resource Name	Conclusion	ESA Section 7 / Eagle Act Determination	Species Info / Habitat Description
Indiana bat (<i>Myotis sodalis</i>)	No suitable habitat present	No effect	<p>"Indiana bats hibernate during winter in caves or, occasionally, in abandoned mines. For hibernation, they require cool, humid caves with stable temperatures, under 50° F but above freezing. Very few caves within the range of the species have these conditions.</p> <p>Hibernation is an adaptation for survival during the cold winter months when no insects are available for bats to eat. Bats must store energy in the form of fat before hibernating. During the six months of hibernation the stored fat is their only source of energy. If bats are disturbed or cave temperatures increase, more energy is needed and hibernating bats may starve.</p> <p>After hibernation, Indiana bats migrate to their summer habitat in wooded areas where they usually roost under loose tree bark on dead or dying trees. During summer, males roost alone or in small groups, while females roost in larger groups of up to 100 bats or more. Indiana bats also forage in or along the edges of forested areas."</p>
Roanoke Logperch (<i>Percina rex</i>)	No suitable habitat present	No effect	<p>"Found in perennial streams wider than 30 foot and deeper than ½ foot. Requires warm, clear water. Substrate < 25% silted and <25% embedded, composed of pebble and gravel. Known occurrences in Smith, Pigg, Roanoke, Nottoway, Goose Creek and Big Otter River watersheds."</p>
Smooth coneflower (<i>Echinacea laevigata</i>)	Suitable habitat present, species not present	Not likely to adversely affect	<p>"This rare coneflower was formerly a plant of prairie-like habitats or oak savannahs maintained by fire and large herbivores such as elk and bison. Now, it is found in relatively open areas including dry woods, power line right-of-ways, dry limestone bluffs, roadsides, meadows, and clearcuts. Sites with bare soils rich in magnesium and/or calcium, abundant sunlight, and little competition from other plants are optimal."</p>

Species Conclusions Table

Small whorled pogonia (Isotria medeoloides)	No suitable habitat present	No effect	"Small whorled pogonia is an herbaceous perennial orchid found in ordinary looking third-growth upland forests with an open understory and a closed canopy where the topography is typically moderately sloping or almost level. The plants are usually associated with decaying vegetative matter such as fallen trunks and limbs, leaf litter, bark, and tree roots."
Eagles (Haliaeetus leucocephalus)			
Eagle Nests	nesting bald eagles	No Eagle Act permit required	
Eagle Concentration Areas	Does not intersect with bald eagle concentration area	No Eagle Act permit required	
Critical Habitat			
N/A			
Other (other species not listed above or required coordination for NOAA, DCR, & VDGIF)			
Northern long-eared bat	Species proposed for listing	coordination will be required USFWS	

Species Conclusions Table

Notes / Determination
<p>Species not found in Botetourt County and Survey conducted September 2013</p>
<p>Survey conducted September 2013</p>
<p>Survey conducted September 2013</p>

Species Conclusions Table

Species not found in Botetourt County



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Consultation Tracking Number: 05E2VA00-2013-SLI-0475

December 14, 2012

Project Name: Cloverdale Substation Siting Study

Subject: List of threatened and endangered species that may occur in your proposed project location, and/or may be affected by your proposed project.

To Whom It May Concern:

The enclosed species list identifies threatened, endangered, and proposed species, designated critical habitat, and candidate species that may occur within the boundary of your proposed project and/or may be affected by your proposed project. The species list fulfills the requirements of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) under section 7(c) of the Endangered Species Act (Act) of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*).

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A Biological Assessment is required for construction projects (or other undertakings having

similar physical impacts) that are major Federal actions significantly affecting the quality of the human environment as defined in the National Environmental Policy Act (42 U.S.C. 4332(2) (c)). For projects other than major construction activities, the Service suggests that a biological evaluation similar to a Biological Assessment be prepared to determine whether the project may affect listed or proposed species and/or designated or proposed critical habitat. Recommended contents of a Biological Assessment are described at 50 CFR 402.12.

If a Federal agency determines, based on the Biological Assessment or biological evaluation, that listed species and/or designated critical habitat may be affected by the proposed project, the agency is required to consult with the Service pursuant to 50 CFR 402. In addition, the Service recommends that candidate species, proposed species and proposed critical habitat be addressed within the consultation. More information on the regulations and procedures for section 7 consultation, including the role of permit or license applicants, can be found in the "Endangered Species Consultation Handbook" at:

<http://www.fws.gov/endangered/esa-library/pdf/TOC-GLOS.PDF>

Please be aware that bald and golden eagles are protected under the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act (16 U.S.C. 668 *et seq.*), and projects affecting these species may require development of an eagle conservation plan (http://www.fws.gov/windenergy/eagle_guidance.html). Additionally, wind energy projects should follow the wind energy guidelines (<http://www.fws.gov/windenergy/>) for minimizing impacts to migratory birds and bats.

Guidance for minimizing impacts to migratory birds for projects including communications towers (e.g., cellular, digital television, radio, and emergency broadcast) can be found at: <http://www.fws.gov/migratorybirds/CurrentBirdIssues/Hazards/towers/towers.htm>; <http://www.towerkill.com>; and <http://www.fws.gov/migratorybirds/CurrentBirdIssues/Hazards/towers/comtow.html>.

We appreciate your concern for threatened and endangered species. The Service encourages Federal agencies to include conservation of threatened and endangered species into their project planning to further the purposes of the Act. Please include the Consultation Tracking Number in the header of this letter with any request for consultation or correspondence about your project that you submit to our office.

Attachment



United States Department of Interior
Fish and Wildlife Service

Project name: Cloverdale Substation Siting Study

Official Species List

Provided by:

VIRGINIA ECOLOGICAL SERVICES FIELD OFFICE

6669 SHORT LANE

GLOUCESTER, VA 23061

(804) 693-6694

<http://www.fws.gov/northeast/virginiafield/>

Consultation Tracking Number: 05E2VA00-2013-SLI-0475

Project Type: Power Generation

Project Description: Proposed expansion of the Cloverdale power substation



United States Department of Interior
Fish and Wildlife Service

Project name: Cloverdale Substation Siting Study

Project Location Map:



Project Coordinates: MULTIPOLYGON (((-79.9072276 37.3745133, -79.9070581 37.3745235, -79.9064144 37.3751715, -79.9049982 37.3743871, -79.9046548 37.3757513, -79.9038824 37.3756149, -79.9038824 37.3757854, -79.898003 37.3769108, -79.8968872 37.3796049, -79.8973592 37.3797754, -79.8970159 37.3804915, -79.8952135 37.3804233, -79.894441 37.3808325, -79.8906215 37.3759798, -79.892424 37.3723664, -79.9016508 37.3714115, -79.903582 37.3739693, -79.9052986 37.3733896, -79.9072276 37.3745133)))

Project Counties: Botetourt, VA



United States Department of Interior
Fish and Wildlife Service

Project name: Cloverdale Substation Siting Study

Endangered Species Act Species List

Species lists are not entirely based upon the current range of a species but may also take into consideration actions that affect a species that exists in another geographic area. For example, certain fish may appear on the species list because a project could affect downstream species. Please contact the designated FWS office if you have questions.

Indiana bat (*Myotis sodalis*)

Population: Entire

Listing Status: Endangered

Roanoke logperch (*Percina rex*)

Listing Status: Endangered

Small Whorled pogonia (*Isotria medeoloides*)

Listing Status: Threatened

Smooth coneflower (*Echinacea laevigata*)

Listing Status: Endangered

Species Conclusions Table

Project Name: AEP Cloverdale Substation Siting Study

Date: December 14, 2012

Species / Resource Name	Conclusion	ESA Section 7 / Eagle Act Determination	Notes / Documentation
Roanoke logperch (<i>Percina rex</i>)	Potential habitat present and no current survey conducted.	Recommend coordination with this office	
Bald Eagle	Unlikely to disturb nesting bald eagles, the project location does not intersect with an eagle concentration area	No effect No Eagle Act Permit required	No nests within 660' of the action area.
Small Whorled pogonia (<i>Isotria medeoloides</i>)	Habitat not present	No effect	This species is not found in Botetourt County.
Smooth coneflower (<i>Echinacea laevigata</i>)	Potential habitat present and no current survey conducted	Recommend coordination with this office	
Indiana bat (<i>Myotis sodalis</i>)	Habitat not present	No effect	This species is not found in Botetourt County.
Federally designated critical habitat	No critical habitat present	No effect	