



Department of Energy
Washington, DC 20585

October 14, 2015

Tom Chapman
US Fish and Wildlife Service
New England Field Office
70 Commercial Street, Suite 300
Concord, NH 03301-5087

SUBJECT: New England Clean Power Link Transmission Line Project Endangered Species Act (ESA) Section 7 Consultation

Dear Mr. Chapman:

In accordance with Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act, DOE is requesting concurrence from U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service on the conclusions that the proposed New England Clean Power Link Transmission Line Project (NECPL Project) is not likely to adversely affect the Indiana bat (*Myotis sodalis*) or the Northern long-eared bat (*Myotis septentrionalis*),

The DOE has prepared the enclosed Biological Assessment (BA) in support of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) review of potential environmental impacts related to the proposed NECPL Project. The BA has been prepared in accordance with the legal requirements set forth under regulations implementing Section 7 of the Federal Endangered Species Act (50 CFR 402; 16 U.S.C. 1536(c)).

The description of the proposed NECPL Project in Section 2 includes measures and best management practices that would help avoid impacts on these species, including time of year restrictions and avoidance of habitat. Section 5 of the BA provides a comprehensive analysis of impacts. In section 7, DOE concludes **that any effects on the Indiana bat, and Northern long-eared bat, would be insignificant or discountable, and the proposed NECPL Project may affect, but is not likely to adversely affect either species.**

Please feel free to contact me directly at any time at Brian.Mills@hq.DOE.gov, or by phone at (202) 586-8267.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Brian Mills".

Mr. Brian Mills
NEPA Document Manager
DOE Office of Electricity Delivery and
Energy Reliability
U.S. Department of Energy

Attch: Enclosure 1