

EI-16171



United States Department of the Interior



FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
New England Field Office
70 Commercial Street, Suite 300
Concord, New Hampshire 03301-5087
<http://www.fws.gov/northeast/newenglandfieldoffice>

November 4, 2008

Reference: Project Location
Railroad abandonment Leominster, MA
Docket # AB-55 (Sub No. 691X)

Ms. Victoria J. Rutson
Chief, Section of Environmental Analysis
Surface Transportation Board
395 East St., NW
Washington, DC 20423

Dear Ms. Rutson:

This responds to recent correspondence from Dave Geraci of CSX Transportation, Inc., requesting information on the presence of federally-listed and/or proposed endangered or threatened species in relation to the proposed activity(ies) referenced above.

Based on information currently available to us, no federally-listed or proposed, threatened or endangered species or critical habitat under the jurisdiction of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service are known to occur in the project area(s). Preparation of a Biological Assessment or further consultation with us under Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act is not required.

This concludes our review of listed species and critical habitat in the project location(s) and environs referenced above. No further Endangered Species Act coordination of this type is necessary for a period of one year from the date of this letter, unless additional information on listed or proposed species becomes available.

In order to curtail the need to contact this office in the future for updated lists of federally-listed or proposed threatened or endangered species and critical habitats, please visit the Endangered Species Consultation page on the New England Field Office's website:

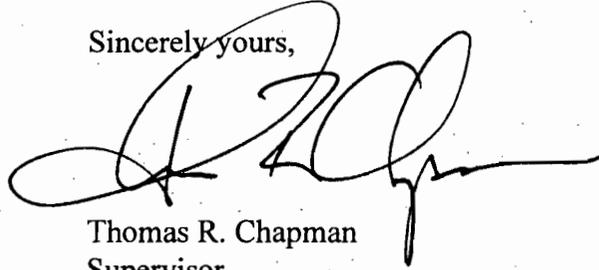
www.fws.gov/northeast/newenglandfieldoffice/EndangeredSpec-Consultation.htm

In addition, there is a link to procedures that may allow you to conclude if habitat for a listed species is present in the project area. If no habitat exists, then no federally-listed species are present in the

Project area and there is no need to contact us for further consultation. If the above conclusion cannot be reached, further consultation with this office is advised. Information describing the nature and location of the proposed activity that should be provided to us for further informal consultation can be found at the above-referenced site.

Thank you for your coordination. Please contact Anthony Tur at 603-223-2541 if we can be of further assistance.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'T. Chapman', written in a cursive style.

Thomas R. Chapman
Supervisor
New England Field Office

cc: Dave Geraci, CSX Transportation, Inc.