

Appendix B

Coordination and Consultation



Illinois Department of Transportation

2300 South Dirksen Parkway / Springfield, Illinois / 62764

Logan County
High-Speed Rail -- Chicago to St. Louis
Elkhart and Broadwell
Elkhart Siding
IDOT Sequence #17551
ISAS Log#12210

February 13, 2013

RECEIVED

FEB 19 2013

Preservation Services

Federal - Section 106 Project

NO HISTORIC PROPERTIES AFFECTED

Ms. Anne Haaker
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer
Illinois Historic Preservation Agency
Springfield, Illinois 62701

Dear Ms. Haaker:

In coordination with the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA), please find attached the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) Environmental Survey Request form with accompanying plan sheets and photographic documentation. Also attached are copies of the Illinois State Archaeological Survey (ISAS) Phase I reconnaissance report for the above referenced project.

Survey of the 12-acre project area resulted in the identification of no archaeological sites, and the IDOT Cultural Resources Unit has not identified historical or architectural resources within the project limits that warrant National Register consideration.

Therefore, on behalf of FRA, we request the concurrence of the State Historic Preservation Officer in our determination that no Historic Properties subject to protection under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, will be affected by this project.

Very truly yours,

Brad H. Koldehoff, RPA
Cultural Resources Unit
Bureau of Design and Environment

cc: Colleen Vaughn, FRA

CONCUR

By: June E. Haaker
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

Date: 2-19-13

An undetermined number of trees would be removed to construct the proposed improvements. The locations of tree removals are unknown at this time. In order to minimize the potential for impacts to the Indiana bat the project sponsor would commit to clearing trees while the Indiana bat is hibernating, September 30 through April 1. With implementation of this conservation measure, the proposed improvements are not likely to adversely affect the Indiana bat.

Eastern prairie fringed orchid is a plant of open-canopied mesic to wet prairies and wetlands. In Illinois, this plant has been nearly exterminated from all but the northeastern part of the state (Herkert 2002). Although there are wetlands and prairie remnants within the limits of the proposed improvement, those habitats are degraded and are not suitable for the eastern prairie fringed orchid—see under heading Prairie below. We conclude that the proposed project will have no effect to the eastern prairie fringed orchid.

17 Ill. Adm. Code Part 1075 – Endangered and Threatened Species and Natural Areas

We screened the proposed improvement using a geographic information system, digital air photography, digital soils information, the Illinois Natural Heritage Database data, the National Wetlands Inventory and the updated National Wetlands Inventory for Illinois. The preceding geographic information and best professional judgment were used to identify the potential for presence of protected resources within and in the vicinity of the proposed improvements and to determine the need for on-site surveys.

We saw no recent element of occurrence representations (eorep) for State-listed threatened or endangered species, sites listed on the Illinois Natural Areas Inventory (np, inai) located within the limits of the proposed improvement—see attached map of possible resource conflicts. In the vicinity of the proposed siding are the North Elkhart Hill Grove Land and Water Reserve and the Elkhart Hill Grove Nature Preserve located approximately 0.2 miles and 0.3 miles respectively from the existing UPRR right-of-way. On 11-20-2012, as part of the larger Tier 3 improvement, the IDNR effectively cleared the siding project for compliance with Ill. Adm. Code Part 1075.

17 Ill. Adm. Code Part 1090 – Wetlands

As part of the UPRR High Speed Rail project - Tier 3, the limits of the Elkhart siding improvement were surveyed for wetlands (Olsson 2012). We reviewed the Tier 3 Wetland Delineation Report and found that the report meets the policy and procedures of the IDOT Wetlands Action Plan. Wetlands were identified and delineated within and in the vicinity of the proposed improvements according to the Corps of Engineers Wetlands Delineation Manual (1987) and the Regional Supplement to the Corps of Engineers Wetland Delineation Manual: Midwest Region, Version 2.0 (2010).

Impacts to wetlands are unknown at this time. The project sponsor will consider location and design alternatives to avoid and minimize adverse wetland impacts to the extent practical. After the extent of impacts is determined, a Wetland Impact Evaluation (WIE) form will be completed and submitted to the IDOT Bureau of Design and Environment. If the project will avoid adverse wetland impacts, the WIE should reflect the determination that adverse wetland impacts will not occur. The WIE form and instructions for its completion are available at <http://www.dot.il.gov/environment/wetlands.asp>. Unavoidable adverse wetland impacts are subject to the applicable replacement ratios specified in 17 Ill. Adm. Code Part 1090.50 (c)(8).

In accordance with the IDOT Wetlands Action Plan, the proposed improvements are Programmatic Review Actions and coordination with the IDNR is not required. Programmatic Review Actions are those which involve impacts to wetlands only in areas where construction is within existing right-of-way or in new right-of-way which is contiguous to the existing right-of-way and for which there is no practicable alternative which would avoid adverse wetlands impacts.

Our review for compliance with 17 Ill. Adm. Code Parts 1075 and 1090 is valid for two years unless new information becomes available that was not previously considered; the proposed improvement is modified; or additional species, essential habitat, Natural Areas, or wetlands are identified in the vicinity. If the proposed improvement has not been implemented within two years of the date of this memorandum, or any of the above listed conditions develops, a new review will be necessary.

Prairie

As part of the UPRR High Speed Rail project - Tier 3, the limits of the Elkhart siding improvement were surveyed for the presence of high quality prairie, per the commitment in the 2004 Record of Decision for the proposed Chicago-St. Louis High-Speed Rail project. According to Handel (2012) high quality prairie is grade C+ and above. The project limits were also surveyed for the occurrence of state and federal threatened and endangered species of plants. Survey results indicate that no high quality prairie and no listed threatened and endangered species of plants were located within the limits of the proposed improvements.

Handel (2012) delineated ten areas of moderate to low quality (grade C to D) prairie vegetation within the HSR Tier 3 footprint including the proposed Elkhart Siding. Sites 2, 4, 6 and 7 are located between the UPRR tracks and the US Rt. 66 embankment. Sites 1, 3, 5, 8, 9, and 10 are located between the UPRR tracks and adjacent farm ground. Limits of the ten prairie areas have been GPSd. An ArcGIS file of the prairie areas is also available. Impacts to prairie areas should be avoided. Areas of temporary impact should be graded back to the original contour and then seeded with modified IDOT Class 4 Native Grass mix. Perennial ryegrass shall not be included in the Class 4 mix. Seed should be planted according to Articles 250.05 and 250.06 of the IDOT Standard Specifications for Road and Bridge Construction (adopted 01-01-2012).

Commitments

- To the extent practical, the project sponsor should avoid and minimize impacts to prairie areas delineated by Handel (2012). Temporary impacts should be mitigated according to the prescription under the heading labeled Prairie. The project sponsor should notify the IDOT Bureau of Design and Environment as soon as unavoidable impacts are known.
- No tree clearing April 1 through September 30, in order to conserve the Indiana bat.

Attachments—USFWS species' county list, Map of Possible Resource Conflicts

Cc: Andréa Martin

TB

County	Species	Status	Habitat
<p>Livingston</p> <p>Field Office to Contact: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Rock Island Illinois Field Office 1511 47th Avenue Moline, Illinois 61265 (309) 757-5800 e: mail RockIsland@fws.gov FAX: 309-757-5807</p>	Indiana bat (<i>Myotis sodalis</i>)	Endangered	Caves, mines (hibernacula); Small stream corridors with well developed riparian woods; upland forests (foraging)
	Eastern prairie fringed orchid (<i>Platanthera leucophaea</i>)	Threatened	Mesic to wet prairies
<p>Logan</p> <p>Field Office to Contact: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Rock Island Illinois Field Office 1511 47th Avenue Moline, Illinois 61265 (309) 757-5800 e: mail RockIsland@fws.gov FAX: 309-757-5807</p>	Indiana bat (<i>Myotis sodalis</i>)	Endangered	Caves, mines (hibernacula); Small stream corridors with well developed riparian woods; upland forests (foraging)
	Eastern prairie fringed orchid (<i>Platanthera leucophaea</i>)	Threatened	Mesic to wet prairies
<p>Macon</p> <p>Field Office to Contact: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Rock Island Illinois Field Office 1511 47th Avenue Moline, Illinois 61265 (309) 757-5800 e: mail RockIsland@fws.gov FAX: 309-757-5807</p>	Indiana bat (<i>Myotis sodalis</i>)	Endangered	Caves, mines (hibernacula); Small stream corridors with well developed riparian woods; upland forests (foraging)
	Eastern prairie fringed orchid (<i>Platanthera leucophaea</i>)	Threatened	Mesic to wet prairies
<p>Macoupin</p> <p>Field Office to Contact: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Marion Illinois Sub-Office 8588 Route 148 Marion, Illinois 62959 Phone: (618) 997-3344, ext. 340 FAX: (618) 997-8961 e: mail Marion@fws.gov</p>	Indiana bat (<i>Myotis sodalis</i>)	Endangered	Caves, mines (hibernacula); Small stream corridors with well developed riparian woods; upland forests (foraging)
	Eastern prairie fringed orchid (<i>Platanthera leucophaea</i>)	Threatened	Mesic to wet prairies

Biological Resources Review

Map of Possible Resource Conflicts

BDE seq. no.:
17551

County: Logan

Resources

- esr limits
- eoarep
- np
- inai
- prairie
- towns
- counties

Date: 6/10/2013

