



United States Department of the Interior



FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

Chesapeake Bay Field Office
177 Admiral Cochrane Drive
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
<http://www.fws.gov/chesapeakebay>

May 5, 2023

Marisa Wetmore, PMP
Section Chief, Installation Support Branch
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Baltimore District, Planning Division
2 Hopkins Plaza
10-B-06
Baltimore, MD 21201

RE: "Not Likely to Adversely Affect" determination for the northern long-eared bat (NLEB) for the BEP Replacement Currency Production Facility in Prince George's County, Maryland

Dear Ms. Wetmore:

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) has reviewed your January 30, 2023 letter; a December 2019 bat survey report for the project; your project information from the Service's Information for Planning and Consultation (IPaC) online system dated March 21, 2023 (species list) and March 22, 2023 (NLEB determination key letter); and numerous email messages. The Service has evaluated the potential effects of this project to the federally endangered northern long-eared bat (*Myotis septentrionalis*). The comments provided below are in accordance with Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act (87 Stat. 884, as amended; 16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*).

The purpose of this proposed project is to construct a Replacement Currency Production Facility at the Beltsville Agricultural Research Center in Prince George's County, Maryland. The demolition phase of this project will include the demolition of approximately 22 existing buildings/structures and the removal of up to 120 trees, ranging in size from saplings to 18-inch diameter at breast height (dbh), that are located in and immediately around buildings and are not part of a contiguous forested area. The construction phase of the project will include construction of an approximately 1 million square foot building and removal of up to 3.6 acres of forest on the eastern edge of the site. The demolition phase is scheduled to start in April 2023 and the construction phase timeframe is yet to be determined, but some tree removal associated with construction phase may begin prior to April 1, 2024.

This proposed project is within the range of the northern long-eared bat, a federally listed endangered species. This project as proposed is "not likely to adversely affect" the northern long-eared bat because surveys conducted for the species in 2019 did not detect the species.



Your 2019 bat surveys resulted in positive detections of tricolored bat (*Perimyotis subflavus*). There is a proposed rule to list the tricolored bat as an endangered species. A final listing determination will be made in September 2023. If forest clearing has not occurred prior to the final listing decision of the species, re-initiation of consultation with the Service should occur.

The monarch butterfly (*Danaus plexippus*) is a candidate species and not yet listed or proposed for listing. There are no section 7 requirements for candidate species.

Except for occasional transient individuals, no other federally proposed or listed threatened or endangered species are known to exist within the project area. Should project plans change, or if additional information on the distribution of listed or proposed species becomes available, this determination may be reconsidered.

We appreciate the opportunity to provide information relevant to threatened and endangered fish and wildlife resources. This Endangered Species Act determination does not exempt this project from obtaining all permits and approvals that may be required by other state or Federal agencies. If you have any questions or concerns regarding this letter, please contact Trevor Clark of my Endangered Species staff at 410/573-4527 or by email at trevor_clark@fws.gov.

Sincerely,

Genevieve LaRouche
Field Supervisor