# Appendix G – NDDB Approval Letter and USFWS IPaC Review





## 2/5/2025

Nicholas Granata Granata 712 Brook Street Rocky Hill, CT 06067 granata.nicholas@wseinc.com

Subject: Town of Groton Solar PV Development

Filing #: 124890

NDDB - New Determination Number: 202501089

Expiration Date: 2/5/2027

Location Description: 685 Flanders Road, Groton, CT.

## Dear Granata Nicholas,

I have reviewed Natural Diversity Data Base (NDDB) maps and files regarding the proposed solar development project at 685 Flanders Road, Groton, CT.

Based on the project details and map provided in your NDDB review request, I do not anticipate impacts to State-listed species resulting from the proposed work.

Your submission information indicates that your project does require a state permit, license, registration, or authorization. Therefore, this NDDB - New determination **MAY** be utilized to fulfill the Endangered and Threatened Species requirements for state-issued permit applications, licenses, registration submissions, and authorizations.

Please be aware of the following limitations and conditions:

Natural Diversity Database information includes all information regarding listed species available to us at the time of the request. This information is a compilation of data collected over the years by the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection's Natural History Survey and cooperating units of DEEP, land owners, private conservation groups and the scientific community. This information is not necessarily the result of comprehensive or site-specific field investigations. Current research projects and new contributors continue to identify additional populations of species and locations of habitats of concern, as well as enhance existing data. Such new information is incorporated into the Database and accessed through the ezFile portal as it becomes available. New information may result in additional review, and new or modified restrictions or

conditions may be necessary to remain in compliance with certain state permits.

- During your work listed species may be encountered on site. A report must be submitted by the
  observer to the Natural Diversity Database promptly and additional review and restrictions or conditions
  may be necessary to remain in compliance with certain state permits. Please fill out the <u>appropriate</u>
  <u>survey form</u> and follow the instructions for submittal.
- If your project involves preparing an Environmental Impact Assessment, this NDDB consultation and determination should not be substituted for biological field surveys assessing on-site habitat and species presence.
- The NDDB New determination for the Town of Groton Solar PV Development as described in the submitted information and summarized at the end of this document is valid until 2/5/2027. This determination applies only to the project as described in the submission and summarized at the end of this letter. Please re-submit an updated Request for Review if the project's scope of work and/or timeframe changes, including if work has not begun by 2/5/2027.

If you have further questions, please contact me at the following:

Vincent Long
CT DEEP Bureau of Natural Resources
Wildlife Division
Natural Diversity Database
79 Elm Street
Hartford, CT 06106-5127
(860) 502-9786
Vincent.Long@ct.gov

Please reference the Determination Number 202501089 when you e-mail or write. Thank you for consulting the Natural Diversity Data Base.

Vincent Long
Wildlife Division- Natural Diversity Data Base
79 Elm Street
Hartford, CT 06106-5127
(860) 502-9786
Vincent.Long@ct.gov

# Application Details:

Project involves federal funds or federal permit:	No
Project involves state funds, state agency action, or relates to CEPA request:	No
Project requires state permit, license, registration, or authorization:	Yes
DEEP enforcement action related to project:	
Project Type:	Energy and Utility Production Facilities and Distribution Infrastructure
Project Sub-type:	Solar Energy
Project Name:	Town of Groton Solar PV Development
Project Description:	



# United States Department of the Interior



## FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

New England Ecological Services Field Office 70 Commercial Street, Suite 300 Concord, NH 03301-5094 Phone: (603) 223-2541 Fax: (603) 223-0104

In Reply Refer To: 06/20/2025 19:30:59 UTC

Project Code: 2025-0112249

Project Name: Groton Landfill Solar PV Development

Subject: List of threatened and endangered species that may occur in your proposed project

location or may be affected by your proposed project

To Whom It May Concern:

*Updated 4/12/2023* - Please review this letter each time you request an Official Species List, we will continue to update it with additional information and links to websites may change.

# **About Official Species Lists**

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. Federal and non-Federal project proponents have responsibilities under the Act to consider effects on listed species.

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 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. The Service recommends that verification be completed by visiting the IPaC website at regular intervals during project planning and implementation for updates to species lists and information. An updated list may be requested by returning to an existing project's page in IPaC.

# **Endangered Species Act Project Review**

Please visit the "New England Field Office Endangered Species Project Review and Consultation" website for step-by-step instructions on how to consider effects on listed

species and prepare and submit a project review package if necessary:

Project code: 2025-0112249

https://www.fws.gov/office/new-england-ecological-services/endangered-species-project-review

**\*NOTE\*** Please <u>do not</u> use the **Consultation Package Builder** tool in IPaC except in specific situations following coordination with our office. Please follow the project review guidance on our website instead and reference your **Project Code** in all correspondence.

**Northern Long-eared Bat** - (**Updated 4/12/2023**) The Service published a final rule to reclassify the northern long-eared bat (NLEB) as endangered on November 30, 2022. The final rule went into effect on March 31, 2023. You may utilize the **Northern Long-eared Bat Rangewide Determination Key** available in IPaC. More information about this Determination Key and the Interim Consultation Framework are available on the northern long-eared bat species page:

# https://www.fws.gov/species/northern-long-eared-bat-myotis-septentrionalis

For projects that previously utilized the 4(d) Determination Key, the change in the species' status may trigger the need to re-initiate consultation for any actions that are not completed and for which the Federal action agency retains discretion once the new listing determination becomes effective. If your project was not completed by March 31, 2023, and may result in incidental take of NLEB, please reach out to our office at <a href="mailto:newengland@fws.gov">newengland@fws.gov</a> to see if reinitiation is necessary.

## Additional Info About Section 7 of the Act

Under section 7(a)(2) of the Act and its implementing regulations (50 CFR 402 et seq.), Federal agencies are required to determine whether projects may affect threatened and endangered species and/or designated critical habitat. If a Federal agency, or its non-Federal representative, determines 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 Federal agency also may need to consider proposed species and proposed critical habitat in the consultation. 50 CFR 402.14(c)(1) specifies the information required for consultation under the Act regardless of the format of the evaluation. 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:

## https://www.fws.gov/service/section-7-consultations

In addition to consultation requirements under Section 7(a)(2) of the ESA, please note that under sections 7(a)(1) 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. Please contact NEFO if you would like more information.

**Candidate species** that appear on the enclosed species list have no current protections under the ESA. The species' occurrence on an official species list does not convey a requirement to

consider impacts to this species as you would a proposed, threatened, or endangered species. The ESA does not provide for interagency consultations on candidate species under section 7, however, the Service recommends that all project proponents incorporate measures into projects to benefit candidate species and their habitats wherever possible.

# Migratory Birds

In addition to responsibilities to protect threatened and endangered species under the Endangered Species Act (ESA), there are additional responsibilities under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) and the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act (BGEPA) to protect native birds from project-related impacts. Any activity resulting in take of migratory birds, including eagles, is prohibited unless otherwise permitted by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (50 C.F.R. Sec. 10.12 and 16 U.S.C. Sec. 668(a)). For more information regarding these Acts see:

https://www.fws.gov/program/migratory-bird-permit

https://www.fws.gov/library/collections/bald-and-golden-eagle-management

Please feel free to contact us at **newengland@fws.gov** with your **Project Code** in the subject line if you need more information or assistance regarding the potential impacts to federally proposed, listed, and candidate species and federally designated and proposed critical habitat.

Attachment(s): Official Species List

Attachment(s):

Official Species List

# OFFICIAL SPECIES LIST

This list is provided pursuant to Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act, and fulfills the requirement for Federal agencies to "request of the Secretary of the Interior information whether any species which is listed or proposed to be listed may be present in the area of a proposed action".

This species list is provided by:

New England Ecological Services Field Office 70 Commercial Street, Suite 300 Concord, NH 03301-5094 (603) 223-2541

# **PROJECT SUMMARY**

Project Code: 2025-0112249

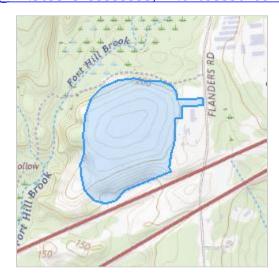
Project Name: Groton Landfill Solar PV Development

Project Type: Power Gen - Solar

Project Description: Proposed solar PV development at 685 Flanders Road, Groton, CT 06340

Project Location:

The approximate location of the project can be viewed in Google Maps: <a href="https://www.google.com/maps/@41.36952549999995">https://www.google.com/maps/@41.36952549999995</a>,-72.01095356488258,14z



Counties: New London County, Connecticut

# **ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT SPECIES**

Project code: 2025-0112249

There is a total of 3 threatened, endangered, or candidate species on this 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.

IPaC does not display listed species or critical habitats under the sole jurisdiction of NOAA Fisheries<sup>1</sup>, as USFWS does not have the authority to speak on behalf of NOAA and the Department of Commerce.

See the "Critical habitats" section below for those critical habitats that lie wholly or partially within your project area under this office's jurisdiction. Please contact the designated FWS office if you have questions.

1. <u>NOAA Fisheries</u>, also known as the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), is an office of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration within the Department of Commerce.

# **MAMMALS**

habitat.

NAME	STATUS
Northern Long-eared Bat <i>Myotis septentrionalis</i> No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: <a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9045">https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9045</a>	Endangered
Tricolored Bat <i>Perimyotis subflavus</i> No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: <a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/10515">https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/10515</a>	Proposed Endangered
INSECTS NAME	STATUS
Monarch Butterfly <i>Danaus plexippus</i>	Proposed

# **CRITICAL HABITATS**

Species profile: <a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9743">https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9743</a>

THERE ARE NO CRITICAL HABITATS WITHIN YOUR PROJECT AREA UNDER THIS OFFICE'S JURISDICTION.

There is **proposed** critical habitat for this species. Your location does not overlap the critical

YOU ARE STILL REQUIRED TO DETERMINE IF YOUR PROJECT(S) MAY HAVE EFFECTS ON ALL ABOVE LISTED SPECIES.

Threatened

Project code: 2025-0112249 06/20/2025 19:30:59 UTC

# **IPAC USER CONTACT INFORMATION**

Agency: Private Entity
Name: Marisa Gay

Address: 55 Walkers Brook Drive

Address Line 2: Suite 100
City: Reading
State: MA
Zip: 01867

Email gay.marisa@wseinc.com

Phone: 9785321900



# United States Department of the Interior



## FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

New England Ecological Services Field Office 70 Commercial Street, Suite 300 Concord, NH 03301-5094 Phone: (603) 223-2541 Fax: (603) 223-0104

In Reply Refer To: 06/27/2025 14:53:41 UTC

Project code: 2025-0112249

Project Name: Groton Landfill Solar PV Development

Federal Nexus: yes

Federal Action Agency (if applicable): Environmental Protection Agency

Subject: Record of project representative's no effect determination for 'Groton Landfill Solar

PV Development'

Dear Marisa Gay:

This letter records your determination using the Information for Planning and Consultation (IPaC) system provided to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) on June 27, 2025, for 'Groton Landfill Solar PV Development' (here forward, Project). This project has been assigned Project Code 2025-0112249 and all future correspondence should clearly reference this number. **Please carefully review this letter.** 

# **Ensuring Accurate Determinations When Using IPaC**

The Service developed the IPaC system and associated species' determination keys in accordance with the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (ESA; 87 Stat. 884, as amended; 16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.) and based on a standing analysis. All information submitted by the Project proponent into IPaC must accurately represent the full scope and details of the Project.

Failure to accurately represent or implement the Project as detailed in IPaC or the Northern Long-eared Bat and Tricolored Bat Range-wide Determination Key (Dkey), invalidates this letter. Answers to certain questions in the DKey commit the project proponent to implementation of conservation measures that must be followed for the ESA determination to remain valid.

# Determination for the Northern Long-Eared Bat and/or Tricolored Bat

Based upon your IPaC submission and a standing analysis, your project has reached the following effect determinations:

SpeciesListing StatusDeterminationNorthern Long-eared Bat (Myotis septentrionalis)EndangeredNo effect

Tricolored Bat (*Perimyotis subflavus*)

Project code: 2025-0112249

Proposed Endangered No effect

Federal agencies must consult with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service under section 7(a)(2) of the Endangered Species Act (ESA) when an action *may affect* a listed species. Tricolored bat is proposed for listing as endangered under the ESA, but not yet listed. For actions that may affect a proposed species, agencies cannot consult, but they can *confer* under the authority of section 7(a) (4) of the ESA. Such conferences can follow the procedures for a consultation and be adopted as such if and when the proposed species is listed. Should the tricolored bat be listed, agencies must review projects that are not yet complete, or projects with ongoing effects within the tricolored bat range that previously received a NE or NLAA determination from the key to confirm that the determination is still accurate.

To make a no effect determination, the full scope of the proposed project implementation (action) should not have any effects (either positive or negative), to a federally listed species or designated critical habitat. Effects of the action are all consequences to listed species or critical habitat that are caused by the proposed action, including the consequences of other activities that are caused by the proposed action. A consequence is caused by the proposed action if it would not occur but for the proposed action and it is reasonably certain to occur. Effects of the action may occur later in time and may include consequences occurring outside the immediate area involved in the action. (See § 402.17).

Under Section 7 of the ESA, if a federal action agency makes a no effect determination, no consultation with the Service is required (ESA §7). If a proposed Federal action may affect a listed species or designated critical habitat, formal consultation is required except when the Service concurs, in writing, that a proposed action "is not likely to adversely affect" listed species or designated critical habitat [50 CFR §402.02, 50 CFR§402.13].

## Other Species and Critical Habitat that May be Present in the Action Area

The IPaC-assisted determination key for the northern long-eared bat and tricolored bat does not apply to the following ESA-protected species and/or critical habitat that also may occur in your Action area:

Monarch Butterfly Danaus plexippus Proposed Threatened

You may coordinate with our Office to determine whether the Action may affect the animal species listed above and, if so, how they may be affected.

## **Next Steps**

If there are no updates on listed species, no further consultation/coordination for this project is required with respect to the species covered by this key. However, the Service recommends that project proponents re-evaluate the Project in IPaC if: 1) the scope, timing, duration, or location of the Project changes (includes any project changes or amendments); 2) new information reveals the Project may impact (positively or negatively) federally listed species or designated critical habitat; or 3) a new species is listed, or critical habitat designated. If any of the above conditions

occurs, additional coordination with the Service should take place to ensure compliance with the Act.

If you have any questions regarding this letter or need further assistance, please contact the New England Ecological Services Field Office and reference Project Code 2025-0112249 associated with this Project.

# **Action Description**

You provided to IPaC the following name and description for the subject Action.

## 1. Name

Groton Landfill Solar PV Development

# 2. Description

The following description was provided for the project 'Groton Landfill Solar PV Development':

Proposed solar PV development at 685 Flanders Road, Groton, CT 06340

The approximate location of the project can be viewed in Google Maps: <a href="https://www.google.com/maps/@41.36952549999995">https://www.google.com/maps/@41.36952549999995</a>,-72.01095356488258,14z



Project code: 2025-0112249

# **DETERMINATION KEY RESULT**

Based on the information you provided, you have determined that the Proposed Action will have no effect on the species covered by this determination key. Therefore, no consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service pursuant to Section 7(a)(2) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (87 Stat. 884, as amended 16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*) is required for those species.

# **QUALIFICATION INTERVIEW**

1. Does the proposed project include, or is it reasonably certain to cause, intentional take of listed bats or any other listed species?

**Note:** Intentional take is defined as take that is the intended result of a project. Intentional take could refer to research, direct species management, surveys, and/or studies that include intentional handling/encountering, harassment, collection, or capturing of any individual of a federally listed threatened, endangered or proposed species?

No

2. Is the action area wholly within Zone 2 of the year-round active area for northern long-eared bat and/or tricolored bat?

#### Automatically answered

No

3. Does the action area intersect Zone 1 of the year-round active area for northern long-eared bat and/or tricolored bat?

#### Automatically answered

No

4. Does any component of the action involve leasing, construction or operation of wind turbines? Answer 'yes' if the activities considered are conducted with the intention of gathering survey information to inform the leasing, construction, or operation of wind turbines.

**Note:** For federal actions, answer 'yes' if the construction or operation of wind power facilities is either (1) part of the federal action or (2) would not occur but for a federal agency action (federal permit, funding, etc.).

No

5. Is the proposed action authorized, permitted, licensed, funded, or being carried out by a Federal agency in whole or in part?

Yes

6. Is the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), Federal Railroad Administration (FRA), or Federal Transit Administration (FTA) funding or authorizing the proposed action, in whole or in part?

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7. Are you an employee of the federal action agency or have you been officially designated in writing by the agency as its designated non-federal representative for the purposes of Endangered Species Act Section 7 informal consultation per 50 CFR § 402.08?

**Note:** This key may be used for federal actions and for non-federal actions to facilitate section 7 consultation and to help determine whether an incidental take permit may be needed, respectively. This question is for information purposes only.

No

8. Is the lead federal action agency the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) or Federal Communications Commission (FCC)? Is the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) or Federal Communications Commission (FCC) funding or authorizing the proposed action, in whole or in part?

Yes

9. [Semantic] Is the action area located within 0.5 miles of a known bat hibernaculum? Note: The map queried for this question contains proprietary information and cannot be displayed. If you need additional information, please contact your State wildlife agency.

# Automatically answered

No

10. Does the action area contain any winter roosts or caves (or associated sinkholes, fissures, or other karst features), mines, rocky outcroppings, or tunnels that could provide habitat for hibernating bats?

No

11. Does the action area contain (1) talus or (2) anthropogenic or naturally formed rock shelters or crevices in rocky outcrops, rock faces or cliffs?

No

12. Will the action cause effects to a bridge?

**Note:** Covered bridges should be considered as bridges in this question.

No

13. Will the action result in effects to a culvert or tunnel at any time of year?

No

14. Are trees present within 1000 feet of the action area?

**Note:** If there are trees within the action area that are of a sufficient size to be potential roosts for bats answer "Yes". If unsure, additional information defining suitable summer habitat for the northern long-eared bat and tricolored bat can be found in Appendix A of the USFWS' Range-wide Indiana Bat and Northern long-eared bat Survey Guidelines at: <a href="https://www.fws.gov/media/range-wide-indiana-bat-and-northern-long-eared-bat-survey-guidelines">https://www.fws.gov/media/range-wide-indiana-bat-and-northern-long-eared-bat-survey-guidelines</a>.

Yes

Project code: 2025-0112249

15. Does the action include the intentional exclusion of bats from a building or structure?

**Note:** Exclusion is conducted to deny bats' entry or reentry into a building. To be effective and to avoid harming bats, it should be done according to established standards. If your action includes bat exclusion and you are unsure whether northern long-eared bats or tricolored bats are present, answer "Yes." Answer "No" if there are no signs of bat use in the building/structure. If unsure, contact your local Ecological Services Field Office to help assess whether northern long-eared bats or tricolored bats may be present. Contact a Nuisance Wildlife Control Operator (NWCO) for help in how to exclude bats from a structure safely without causing harm to the bats (to find a NWCO certified in bat standards, search the Internet using the search term "National Wildlife Control Operators Association bats"). Also see the White-Nose Syndrome Response Team's guide for bat control in structures.

No

- 16. Does the action involve removal, modification, or maintenance of a human-made structure (barn, house, or other building) known or suspected to contain roosting bats?
  No
- 17. Will the action cause construction of one or more new roads open to the public?

For federal actions, answer 'yes' when the construction or operation of these facilities is either (1) part of the federal action or (2) would not occur but for an action taken by a federal agency (federal permit, funding, etc.).

No

18. Will the action include or cause any construction or other activity that is reasonably certain to increase average night-time traffic permanently or temporarily on one or more existing roads? **Note:** For federal actions, answer 'yes' when the construction or operation of these facilities is either (1) part of the federal action or (2) would not occur but for an action taken by a federal agency (federal permit, funding, etc.).

No

19. Will the action include or cause any construction or other activity that is reasonably certain to increase the number of travel lanes on an existing thoroughfare?

For federal actions, answer 'yes' when the construction or operation of these facilities is either (1) part of the federal action or (2) would not occur but for an action taken by a federal agency (federal permit, funding, etc.).

No

20. Will the proposed Action involve the creation of a new water-borne contaminant source (e.g., leachate pond, pits containing chemicals that are not NSF/ANSI 60 compliant)?

**Note:** For information regarding NSF/ANSI 60 please visit <a href="https://www.nsf.org/knowledge-library/nsf-ansi-standard-60-drinking-water-treatment-chemicals-health-effects">https://www.nsf.org/knowledge-library/nsf-ansi-standard-60-drinking-water-treatment-chemicals-health-effects</a>

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21. Will the proposed action involve the creation of a new point source discharge from a facility other than a water treatment plant or storm water system?

No

22. Will the action include drilling or blasting?

No

- 23. Will the action involve military training (e.g., smoke operations, obscurant operations, exploding munitions, artillery fire, range use, helicopter or fixed wing aircraft use)? *No*
- 24. Will the proposed action involve the use of herbicides or other pesticides other than herbicides (e.g., fungicides, insecticides, or rodenticides)?

  No.
- 25. Will the action include or cause activities that are reasonably certain to cause chronic or intense nighttime noise (above current levels of ambient noise in the area) in suitable summer habitat for the northern long-eared bat or tricolored bat during the active season?

Chronic noise is noise that is continuous or occurs repeatedly again and again for a long time. Sources of chronic or intense noise that could cause adverse effects to bats may include, but are not limited to: road traffic; trains; aircraft; industrial activities; gas compressor stations; loud music; crowds; oil and gas extraction; construction; and mining.

**Note:** Additional information defining suitable summer habitat for the northern long-eared bat and tricolored bat can be found in Appendix A of the USFWS' Range-wide Indiana Bat and Northern long-eared bat Survey Guidelines at: <a href="https://www.fws.gov/media/range-wide-indiana-bat-and-northern-long-eared-bat-survey-guidelines">https://www.fws.gov/media/range-wide-indiana-bat-and-northern-long-eared-bat-survey-guidelines</a>.

No

26. Does the action include, or is it reasonably certain to cause, the use of permanent or temporary artificial lighting within 1000 feet of suitable northern long-eared bat or tricolored bat roosting habitat?

**Note:** Additional information defining suitable summer habitat for the northern long-eared bat and tricolored bat can be found in Appendix A of the USFWS' Range-wide Indiana Bat and Northern long-eared bat Survey Guidelines at: <a href="https://www.fws.gov/media/range-wide-indiana-bat-and-northern-long-eared-bat-survey-guidelines">https://www.fws.gov/media/range-wide-indiana-bat-and-northern-long-eared-bat-survey-guidelines</a>.

No

27. Will the action include tree cutting or other means of knocking down or bringing down trees, tree topping, or tree trimming?

28. Will the proposed action result in the use of prescribed fire?

**Note:** If the prescribed fire action includes other activities than application of fire (e.g., tree cutting, fire line preparation) please consider impacts from those activities within the previous representative questions in the key. This set of questions only considers impacts from flame and smoke.

No

29. Does the action area intersect the northern long-eared bat species list area?

#### Automatically answered

Yes

30. [Semantic] Is the action area located within 0.5 miles of radius of an entrance/opening to any known NLEB hibernacula? Note: The map queried for this question contains proprietary information and cannot be displayed. If you need additional information, please contact your State wildlife agency.

# **Automatically answered**

No

31. [Semantic] Is the action area located within 0.25 miles of a culvert that is known to be occupied by northern long-eared or tricolored bats? **Note:** The map queried for this question contains proprietary information and cannot be displayed. If you need additional information, please contact your State wildlife agency.

#### Automatically answered

No

32. [Semantic] Is the action area located within 0.25 miles of a culvert that is known to be occupied by northern long-eared or tricolored bats?

# **Automatically answered**

No

33. [Semantic] Is the action area located within 150 feet of a documented northern long-eared bat roost site?

Note: The map queried for this question contains proprietary information and cannot be displayed. If you need additional information, please contact your State wildlife agency. Have you contacted the appropriate agency to determine if your action is within 150 feet of any documented northern long-eared bat roosts?

Note: A document with links to Natural Heritage Inventory databases and other state-specific sources of information on the locations of northern long-eared bat roosts is available here. Location information for northern long-eared bat roosts is generally kept in state natural heritage inventory databases – the availability of this data varies by state. Many states provide online access to their data, either directly by providing maps or by providing the opportunity to make a data request. In some cases, to protect those resources, access to the information may be limited.

#### Automatically answered

34. Is suitable summer habitat for the northern long-eared bat present within 1000 feet of project activities?

If unsure, answer "Yes."

**Note:** Additional information defining suitable summer habitat for the northern long-eared bat and tricolored bat can be found in Appendix A of the USFWS' Range-wide Indiana Bat and Northern long-eared bat Survey Guidelines at: <a href="https://www.fws.gov/media/range-wide-indiana-bat-and-northern-long-eared-bat-survey-guidelines">https://www.fws.gov/media/range-wide-indiana-bat-and-northern-long-eared-bat-survey-guidelines</a>.

Yes

35. Does the action area intersect the tricolored bat species list area?

#### Automatically answered

Yes

36. [Semantic] Is the action area located within 0.5 miles of radius of an entrance/opening to any known tricolored bat hibernacula? Note: The map queried for this question contains proprietary information and cannot be displayed. If you need additional information, please contact your State wildlife agency.

# Automatically answered

No

37. [Semantic] Is the action area located within 0.25 miles of a culvert that is known to be occupied by northern long-eared or tricolored bats? **Note:** The map queried for this question contains proprietary information and cannot be displayed. If you need additional information, please contact your State wildlife agency.

## Automatically answered

No

38. Has a presence/probable absence bat survey targeting the <u>tricolored bat and following the Service's Range-wide Indiana Bat and Northern Long-Eared Bat Survey Guidelines</u> been conducted within the project area?

No

39. Is suitable summer habitat for the tricolored bat present within 1000 feet of project activities?

(If unsure, answer ""Yes."")

**Note:** If there are trees within the action area that may provide potential roosts for tricolored bats (e.g., clusters of leaves in live and dead deciduous trees, Spanish moss (Tillandsia usneoides), clusters of dead pine needles of large live pines) answer ""Yes."" For a complete definition of suitable summer habitat for the tricolored bat, please see Appendix A in the <a href="Service's Range-wide Indiana Bat and Northern long-eared Bat Survey Guidelines">Service's Range-wide Indiana Bat and Northern long-eared Bat Survey Guidelines</a>.

Yes

40. Do you have any documents that you want to include with this submission?

# PROJECT QUESTIONNAIRE

# **IPAC USER CONTACT INFORMATION**

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# LEAD AGENCY CONTACT INFORMATION

Lead Agency: Environmental Protection Agency