




INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM

August 29, 2023

TO: Master Files

FROM: *for* John Fleming, Division Head, Environmental Division 

SUBJECT: Job 030585
FAP NHPP-30-1(162)
Arkansas Welcome Center – Hwy. 67 (Sel. Secs.) (S)
Route I-30, Sections 11 & 12
Hempstead and Miller Counties
Tier 1 Categorical Exclusion

After appropriate environmental review, it has been determined that the subject job is a Tier 1 Categorical Exclusion as described by the ARDOT/FHWA Programmatic Agreement on Categorical Exclusion Documentation and Processing. A public hearing will not be offered for this project.

The purpose of this project is to rehabilitate select sections of the pavement and ramps of Interstate 30 between the Arkansas Welcome Center and Highway 67 using diamond grinding and joint sealing, polymer overlay of two bridges, and joint seal on two additional bridges. During construction, a single lane closure in one direction will be used to allow for maintenance of traffic. All work will take place within the existing right of way. A project location map is attached.

The project will not involve relocations, prime farmlands, wetlands, underground storage tanks, hazardous materials, any environmental justice issues, or cultural resources. This project has been determined to generate minimal air quality impacts for Clean Air Act criteria pollutants and has not been linked with any special mobile source air toxics concerns. The cultural resources clearance is attached.

The official species lists obtained through the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's (USFWS) Information for Planning and Consultation identified the following species as potentially occurring within the project area: Indiana Bat (*Myotis sodalis*), Northern Long-eared Bat (*Myotis septentrionalis*), Tricolored Bat (*Perimyotis subflavus*), Eastern Black Rail (*Laterallus jamaicensis ssp. jamaicensis*), Piping Plover (*Charadrius melodus*), Red Knot (*Calidris canutus rufa*), Alligator Snapping Turtle (*Macrochelys temminckii*), and Monarch Butterfly (*Danaus plexippus*). The official species list is attached. This project will have "no effect" on the aforementioned species due to the limited scope of the action, lack of suitable habitat, and distance to known species locations.

The Alligator Snapping Turtle is currently a proposed threatened species, the Tricolored Bat is a proposed endangered species, and the Monarch Butterfly is a candidate species; however, the proposed project will not jeopardize the continued existence of any of these species.

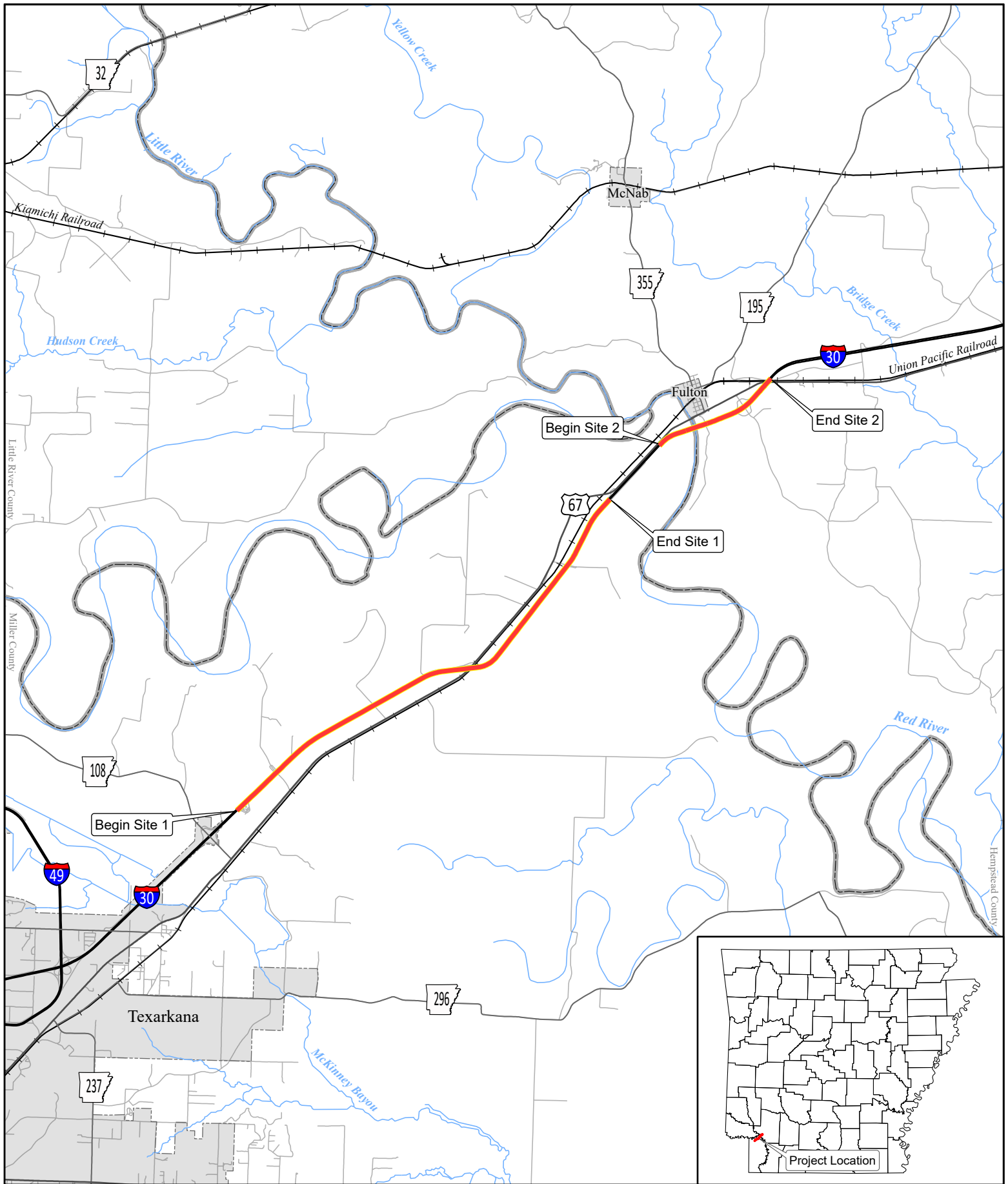
This project will not have a discharge of dredged or fill material into waters of the U.S.; therefore, a Section 404 permit will not be required.

Hempstead and Miller Counties participate in the National Flood Insurance Program. The project lies within Zone A and Zone X Special Flood Hazard Areas. The final project design will be reviewed to confirm that the design is adequate and that the potential risk to life and property are minimized. Adjacent properties should not be impacted nor have a greater flood risk than existed before construction of the project. None of the encroachments will constitute a substantial floodplain encroachment or a risk to property or life.

Attachments


c: Program Management
Right of Way
Roadway Design
District 3
FHWA

JF:KR:fc



ARDOT - Environmental GIS - Hopkins
August 21, 2023

Job 030585
Arkansas Welcome Center - Hwy. 67
(Sel. Secs.) (I-30)
Hempstead & Miller Counties

 Project Location



INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM

August 25, 2023

TO: Environmental Job File

FROM: Jason Kennedy, Cultural Resources

SUBJECT: Cultural Resources Clearance
Job 030585
Arkansas Welcome Center - Hwy. 67 (Sel. Secs.) (S)
Route I-30, Sections 11 & 12
Hempstead and Miller Counties

This job proposes 9.78 miles of Diamond Grinding, Joint Sealing, and polymer overlay on two bridges, and bridge joint treatment on three bridges along Interstate 30 between the Arkansas Welcome Center in Miller County and Fulton in Hempstead County. No new right-of-way (ROW) will be acquired. All work will occur within the existing roadway.

A records check of the Arkansas Archeological Survey's database showed two archeological sites (3HE435 and 3HE390) near the proposed project area. Site 3HE435 is a historic affiliation farmstead. Site 3HE390 is recorded as the Red Hill Cemetery. Based on a records check of the Arkansas Historic Preservation Program's database for National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) properties, three previously recorded historic structures are located near the proposed project area, this includes the Red Hill Cemetery (3HE804) as well as the Fulton Spring Hill Road Fort (HE799). Both are listed as eligible for the NRHP. The third structure is the Fulton Battlements (HE780), which has unknown eligibility. The Red Hill Cemetery is shown as the closest resource at 28 feet from the existing ROW, with the remaining resources greater than 300 feet from the ROW.

Cultural Resources Clearance

Job 030585

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Nineteenth through twentieth century maps were examined. The 1842 GLO plat map of Townships 14 South, Range 27 West and show that the Major Pop Plantation and Moorehead-Wrights Plantation fell along the corridor of what would become Interstate 30. The 1936 Hempstead County and Miller County maps shows development including scatterings of structures that would have been near or intersected the project area. None of these structures, if still extant, will be affected by the rehabilitation along the course of Interstate 30.

Bridges A3796, B3796, A3797, B3797, and X0028 are 45 years of age or older and are within the project area. They were evaluated for eligibility to the NRHP and found not eligible for inclusion in the NRHP under the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation's Section 106 exemption regarding effects to the Interstate Highway System (filed on the Federal Register as 69 FR 77979-77981 and authority of 16 U.S.C. 470v; 36 CFR 800.14(c) on March 7, 2005).

The existing topography, aerial imagery, previous infrastructure, construction practices, and available plans were examined to assess previous ground disturbance. This type of undertaking will not affect historic properties. All work will be within the existing ROW, and the scope of the project occurs within previously disturbed areas. Therefore, this project requires no Section 106 review under Appendix C, Activity 1 of the 2021 Programmatic Agreement.



United States Department of the Interior



FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
Arkansas Ecological Services Field Office
110 South Amity Suite 300
Conway, AR 72032-8975
Phone: (501) 513-4470 Fax: (501) 513-4480

In Reply Refer To:

August 16, 2023

Project Code: 2023-0117722

Project Name: 030585 - Arkansas Welcome Center - Hwy. 67 (Sel. Secs.) (S)

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:

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 feel free to contact us if you need more current information or assistance regarding the potential impacts to federally proposed, listed, and candidate species and federally designated and proposed critical habitat. 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. This verification can be completed formally or informally as desired. 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 through the IPaC system by completing the same process used to receive the enclosed list.

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. Under sections 7(a)(1) and 7(a)(2) 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 and to determine whether projects may affect threatened and endangered species and/or designated critical habitat.

A Biological Assessment is required for construction projects (or other undertakings having similar physical impacts) that are major Federal actions significantly affecting the quality of the human environment as defined in the National Environmental Policy Act (42 U.S.C. 4332(2) (c)). For projects other than major construction activities, the Service suggests that a biological

evaluation similar to a Biological Assessment be prepared to determine whether the project may affect listed or proposed species and/or designated or proposed critical habitat. Recommended contents of a Biological Assessment are described at 50 CFR 402.12.

If a Federal agency determines, based on the Biological Assessment or biological evaluation, 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 Service recommends that candidate species, proposed species and proposed critical habitat be addressed within the consultation. 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/sites/default/files/documents/endangered-species-consultation-handbook.pdf>

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, intentional or unintentional, 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/what-we-do>.

The MBTA has no provision for allowing take of migratory birds that may be unintentionally killed or injured by otherwise lawful activities. It is the responsibility of the project proponent to comply with these Acts by identifying potential impacts to migratory birds and eagles within applicable NEPA documents (when there is a federal nexus) or a Bird/Eagle Conservation Plan (when there is no federal nexus). Proponents should implement conservation measures to avoid or minimize the production of project-related stressors or minimize the exposure of birds and their resources to the project-related stressors. For more information on avian stressors and recommended conservation measures see <https://www.fws.gov/library/collections/threats-birds>.

In addition to MBTA and BGEPA, Executive Order 13186: *Responsibilities of Federal Agencies to Protect Migratory Birds*, obligates all Federal agencies that engage in or authorize activities that might affect migratory birds, to minimize those effects and encourage conservation measures that will improve bird populations. Executive Order 13186 provides for the protection of both migratory birds and migratory bird habitat. For information regarding the implementation of Executive Order 13186, please visit <https://www.fws.gov/partner/council-conservation-migratory-birds>.

We appreciate your concern for threatened and endangered species. The Service encourages Federal agencies to include conservation of threatened and endangered species into their project planning to further the purposes of the Act. Please include the Consultation Code in the header of this letter with any request for consultation or correspondence about your project that you submit to our office.

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:

Arkansas Ecological Services Field Office

110 South Amity Suite 300

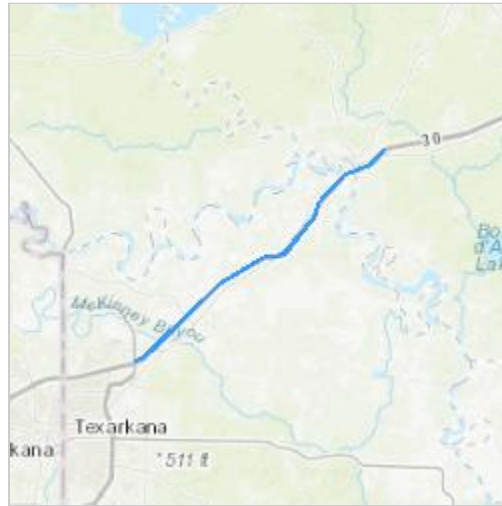
Conway, AR 72032-8975

(501) 513-4470

PROJECT SUMMARY

Project Code: 2023-0117722
Project Name: 030585 - Arkansas Welcome Center - Hwy. 67 (Sel. Secs.) (S)
Project Type: Road/Hwy - Maintenance/Modification
Project Description: Pavement Preservation
Project Location:

The approximate location of the project can be viewed in Google Maps: <https://www.google.com/maps/@33.55059655,-93.86955074789705,14z>



Counties: Hempstead and Miller counties, Arkansas

ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT SPECIES

There is a total of 8 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 Fisheries¹, 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.

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1. [NOAA Fisheries](#), 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

NAME	STATUS
Indiana Bat <i>Myotis sodalis</i> There is final critical habitat for this species. Your location does not overlap the critical habitat. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/5949	Endangered
Northern Long-eared Bat <i>Myotis septentrionalis</i> No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9045	Endangered
Tricolored Bat <i>Perimyotis subflavus</i> No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/10515	Proposed Endangered

BIRDS

NAME	STATUS
Eastern Black Rail <i>Laterallus jamaicensis ssp. jamaicensis</i> No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/10477	Threatened
Piping Plover <i>Charadrius melodus</i> Population: [Atlantic Coast and Northern Great Plains populations] - Wherever found, except those areas where listed as endangered. There is final critical habitat for this species. Your location does not overlap the critical habitat. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/6039	Threatened
Red Knot <i>Calidris canutus rufa</i> There is proposed critical habitat for this species. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/1864	Threatened

REPTILES

NAME	STATUS
Alligator Snapping Turtle <i>Macrochelys temminckii</i> No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/4658	Proposed Threatened

INSECTS

NAME	STATUS
Monarch Butterfly <i>Danaus plexippus</i> No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9743	Candidate

CRITICAL HABITATS

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

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

IPAC USER CONTACT INFORMATION

Agency: Arkansas Department of Transportation

Name: Nicholas Dial

Address: 10324 I-30

City: Little Rock

State: AR

Zip: 72209

Email: nicholas.dial@ardot.gov

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**ARDOT ENVIRONMENTAL VERIFICATION CHECKLIST
FOR CONSIDERATION OF POTENTIAL IMPACTS**

ARDOT Job 030585 FAP NHPP-30-1(162)

Job Title Arkansas Welcome Center – Hwy. 67 (Sel. Secs.) (S)

Environmental Resource	None	Minimal	Major	Comments
Air Quality	X			No impacts anticipated
Cultural Resources	X			Cultural resources memo attached
Economic	X			No impacts anticipated
Endangered Species	X			No Effect determination
Environmental Justice/Title VI	X			No impacted populations
Fish and Wildlife	X			No impacts anticipated
Floodplains		X		Zone A, Zone X SFHA
Forest Service Property	X			None in project area
Hazardous Materials/Landfills	X			No impacts anticipated
Land Use	X			No new ROW or TCE required
Migratory Birds	X			No impacts anticipated
Navigation/Coast Guard	X			None in project area
Noise Levels	X			No impacts anticipated
Prime Farmland	X			No impacts anticipated
Protected Waters	X			No impacts anticipated
Public Recreation Lands	X			No impacts anticipated
Public Water Supply/WHPA	X			No impacts anticipated
Relocatees	X			No relocations
Section 4(f)/6(f)	X			No impacts anticipated
Social	X			No impacts anticipated
Underground Storage Tanks	X			None in project area
Visual	X			No impacts anticipated
Streams	X			No impacts
Water Quality	X			No impacts
Wetlands	X			None in project area
Wildlife Refuges	X			None in project area

Section 401 Water Quality Certification Required? N

Short-term Activity Authorization Required? N

Section 404 Permit Required? N Type N/A

Remarks: _____

Signature of Evaluator Kathryn Rose Date 8/25/2023