



Minnesota Department of Natural Resources

Division of Ecological and Water Resources, Box 25

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April 4, 2016

Correspondence # ERDB 20160349

Ms. Amy Denz
Wenck Associates, Inc.
1800 Pioneer Creek Center, PO Box 249
Maple Plain, MN 55359

RE: Natural Heritage Review of the proposed Bemidji Upper Elementary School;
T146N R34W Section 12; Beltrami County

Dear Ms. Denz,

As requested, the above project has been reviewed for potential effects to known occurrences of rare features. A search of the Minnesota Natural Heritage Information System did identify rare features within an approximate one-mile radius of the proposed project, but these records did not include any federally listed species and were either historical or not of concern given the project details that were provided with the data request form. As such, I do not believe the proposed project will adversely affect any known occurrences of rare features.

*However, the northern long-eared bat (*Myotis septentrionalis*), federally listed as threatened and state-listed as special concern, can be found throughout Minnesota. During the winter this species hibernates in caves and mines, and during the active season (approximately April-October) it roosts underneath bark, in cavities, or in crevices of both live and dead trees. Pup rearing is during June and July. Activities that may impact this species include, but are not limited to, wind farm operation, any disturbance to hibernacula, and destruction/degradation of habitat (including tree removal).*

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) has published a final 4(d) rule that identifies prohibited take. To determine whether you need to contact the USFWS, please refer to the USFWS Key to the Northern Long-Eared Bat 4(d) Rule (see links below). Please note that the NHIS does not contain any known occurrences of northern long-eared bat roosts or hibernacula within an approximate one-mile radius of the proposed project.

The Natural Heritage Information System (NHIS), a collection of databases that contains information about Minnesota's rare natural features, is maintained by the Division of Ecological and Water Resources, Department of Natural Resources. The NHIS is continually updated as new information becomes available, and is the most complete source of data on Minnesota's rare or otherwise significant species, native plant communities, and other natural features. However, the NHIS is not an exhaustive inventory and thus does not represent all of the occurrences of rare features within the state. Therefore, ecologically significant features for which we have no records may exist within the project area. **If additional information becomes available regarding rare features in the vicinity of the project, further review may be necessary.**

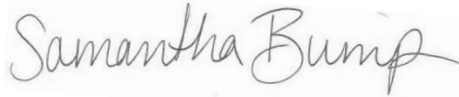
For environmental review purposes, the results of this Natural Heritage Review are valid for one year; the results are only valid for the project location (noted above) and the project description provided on the NHIS Data Request Form. Please contact me if project details change or for an updated review if construction has not occurred within one year.

The Natural Heritage Review does not constitute review or approval by the Department of Natural Resources as a whole. Instead, it identifies issues regarding known occurrences of rare features and

potential effects to these rare features. To determine whether there are other natural resource concerns associated with the proposed project, please contact your DNR Regional Environmental Assessment Ecologist (contact information available at http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/eco/ereview/erp_regioncontacts.html). Please be aware that additional site assessments or review may be required.

Thank you for consulting us on this matter, and for your interest in preserving Minnesota's rare natural resources. An invoice will be mailed to you under separate cover.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Samantha Bump". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above the printed name.

Samantha Bump
Natural Heritage Review Specialist

Links: USFWS Key to the Northern Long-Eared Bat 4(d) Rule for Non-Federal Activities
<http://www.fws.gov/midwest/endangered/mammals/nleb/KeyFinal4dNLEB.html>
USFWS Key to the Northern Long-Eared Bat 4(d) Rule for Federal Actions
<http://www.fws.gov/midwest/endangered/mammals/nleb/KeyFinal4dNLEBFedProjects.html>
USFWS Northern Long-eared Bat Website
<http://www.fws.gov/midwest/endangered/mammals/nleb/index.html>
USFWS Northern Long-eared Bat Fact Sheet
<http://www.fws.gov/midwest/endangered/mammals/nleb/nlebFactSheet.html>