



**Department of Energy**  
Washington, DC 20585

April 1, 2016

Laura Zimmerman  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
Pennsylvania Field Office  
110 Radnor Road, Suite 101  
State College, PA 16801

Dear Ms. Zimmerman,

This letter is to initiate informal consultation under section 7(a)(2) of the Endangered Species Act (ESA) for the proposed ITC Lake Erie Connector (LEC) Project. ITC Lake Erie Connector, LLC (ITC Lake Erie) applied to the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) for a Presidential permit to construct, operate, maintain, and connect an electric transmission line across the United States border with Canada. ITC Lake Erie filed its Presidential permit application on May 29, 2015.

In response to the Presidential permit application, DOE published the Notice of Intent (NOI) to prepare an Environmental Assessment in the Federal Register on July 17, 2015. In the NOI, DOE announced its intention to prepare an Environmental Assessment pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) to assess the potential environmental impacts of issuing a Presidential permit, the federal action, to ITC Lake Erie to construct, operate, maintain, and connect a new electric transmission line across the United States – Canada border in Northern Pennsylvania.

A detailed description of the proposed transmission line is located on the EA website at [www.lakeerieconnectorea.com](http://www.lakeerieconnectorea.com).

The following is a list of threatened and endangered species under the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service jurisdiction, which are potentially located in the LEC project area:

- Indiana bat (*Myotis sodalis*)
- Northern long-eared bat (*Myotis septentrionalis*)
- Bald eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*) – delisted but remains under the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act (16 U.S.C. 668-668C)
- Bank swallow (*Riparia riparia*)

We ask that you review and approve the above list of potentially affected species, or provide a list of additional species that might be affected and any concerns relative to impacts of the Proposed Action on federally listed species.

Please feel free to contact me directly at any time at [Brian.Mills@hq.DOE.gov](mailto:Brian.Mills@hq.DOE.gov), by phone at (202) 586-8267, or by fax at (202) 586-8008. We look forward to working with your office on this project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Brian Mills". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the typed name and title.

Brian Mills  
NEPA Document Manager  
National Electricity Delivery Division (OE-20)  
Office of Electricity Delivery and  
Energy Reliability  
U.S. Department of Energy