



# Hub City Energy Park

Aberdeen, South Dakota

## Application for an Energy Conversion Facility Permit

*Docket EL26-XXX*

### Appendix I – Habitat Assessment

October 2026

# Memo

Date: Tuesday, July 21, 2026

Project: Hub City Energy Park

Subject: Endangered Species Act (ESA) Documentation

## Introduction

NorthWestern Energy Public Service Corporation d/b/a (NorthWestern Energy) is planning to develop Hub City Energy Park; a new, three-unit nominal 131 megawatt (MW) simple cycle combustion turbine facility (Project). The Project is adjacent to the existing Aberdeen Generating Station south of Aberdeen, SD and will interconnect to the electric grid at 115 kilovolts (kV) via a new, on-site substation and will be fed natural gas from a nearby interstate pipeline. The Project covers approximately 176 acres within Section 25, Township 123N, Range 64W in Brown County, SD (Study Area; **Figure 1**).

This memorandum has been prepared to document consideration of effects to federally listed threatened and endangered species and designated critical habitats.

## Methods & Results

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) Information for Planning and Consultation (IPaC) tool was used to identify species which are federally listed as threatened or endangered under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) with potential to occur within the Study Area. IPaC identified seven federally listed species with potential to occur within the Study Area (**Table 1**). No designated critical habitat is present within the Study Area (USFWS 2026<sup>1</sup>).

**Table 1. Federally Listed Species with Potential to Occur within the Study Area.**

| Common Name                 | Scientific Name                     | Status              |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------------------|---------------------|
| Northern long-eared bat     | <i>Myotis septentrionalis</i>       | Endangered          |
| Rufa red knot               | <i>Calidris canutus rufa</i>        | Threatened          |
| Whooping crane              | <i>Grus americana</i>               | Endangered          |
| Dakota skipper              | <i>Hesperia dacotae</i>             | Threatened          |
| Monarch butterfly           | <i>Danaus plexippus</i>             | Proposed Threatened |
| Suckley's cuckoo bumble bee | <i>Bombus suckleyi</i>              | Proposed Endangered |
| Western regal fritillary    | <i>Argynnis idalia occidentalis</i> | Proposed Threatened |

According to the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) National Land Cover Dataset (NLCD), the Study Area is primarily composed of cultivated crops (58%), followed by hay/pasture (41%),

<sup>1</sup>U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Information for Planning and Consultation tool. Accessed May 6, 2026. Available at: <https://ipac.ecosphere.fws.gov/>

and Developed land cover types (1%) and all other land cover types accounting for less than one percent of the Study Area (**Figure 2; Table 2**).<sup>2</sup>

**Table 2. Land Cover Types within the Study Area.**

| Land Cover Type  | Acres        | Percent of Study Area |
|------------------|--------------|-----------------------|
| Cultivated Crops | 102.3        | 58                    |
| Hay/Pasture      | 72.5         | 41                    |
| Developed        | 1.3          | 1                     |
| Deciduous Forest | 0.3          | <1                    |
| <b>TOTAL</b>     | <b>176.4</b> | <b>100.00</b>         |

HDR biologists completed a field survey to evaluate, and map the extent of, any potentially suitable habitat for federally listed species within the Study Area on April 9, 2026. Additionally, HDR biologists observed suitable nesting habitat within the vicinity of the Study Area for large stick nests prior to tree leaf out. No large stick nests, or potential eagle nests were observed within the vicinity of the Study Area during the field visit.

#### Northern Long-eared Bat (*Myotis septentrionalis*)

Suitable habitat for this species typically requires hibernacula during the winter months and roosting habitat in the summer. When available, northern long-eared bats prefer overwintering in caves and abandoned mines, but may also utilize storm sewers, wells, or any rocky crevice with the appropriate temperature, humidity, and airflow. Summer roosting occurs under bark or in cavities/crevices of both living trees and tree snags. Suitable summer roosting and maternity habitat is defined as living or dead trees with a minimum diameter-at-breast-height (DBH) of three inches or greater and with exfoliating bark<sup>3</sup>. The Study Area is composed of active agricultural fields surrounding a grass-dominated depression with a small shelter belt along the southwest edge, providing a suitable but highly fragmented habitat. Due to limited suitable habitat and the Project commitment to avoid tree removal, it is anticipated that the Project will have **No Effect** the northern long-eared bat.

#### Rufa red knot (*Calidris canutus rufa*)

The Rufa red knot is a stocky, medium-sized shorebird with a relatively short bill and short legs. Rufa red knot is considered a very rare migrant in the Dakotas and suitable habitat is largely found along gravelly shores and bars along the Missouri River, or in alkali wetlands<sup>4</sup>. There is no suitable habitat present within the Study Area, and it is anticipated that the Project would have **No Effect** on rufa red knot.

#### Whooping crane (*Grus americana*)

<sup>2</sup> U.S. Geological Survey (USGS). 2023. National Land Cover Database (NLCD) 2021 Land Cover Products. Earth Resources Observation and Science Center, Sioux Falls, SD. Available at: <https://doi.org/10.5066/P9JZ7AO3>.

<sup>3</sup> USFWS. 2026. Northern Long-eared Bat. Available at: <https://www.fws.gov/species/northern-long-eared-bat-myotis-septentrionalis>.

<sup>4</sup> USFWS. 2026. Rufa Red Knot. Available at: <https://www.fws.gov/species/rufa-red-knot-calidris-canutus-rufa>.

Whooping cranes utilize a wide variety of habitats during breeding, migration, and foraging. During the migration and breeding season in the northern great plains, whooping cranes can be found in lakes and open ponds, seasonal and temporary wetlands, wet meadows, rivers, pastures, and cultivated crop fields<sup>5</sup>. The wetlands and cultivated agricultural fields provide suitable stopover habitat for migrating whooping cranes, however the proximity of the Project to urban areas likely prevents use by migrating whooping cranes. It is anticipated that the Project will have **No Effect** on whooping crane.

#### Dakota skipper (*Hesperia dacotae*)

The Dakota skipper is a small butterfly that lives in high-quality mixed and tallgrass prairie. The species experienced a decline coinciding with the conversion and degradation of its prairie habitat and was listed as threatened under the ESA in 2014. Critical habitat was designated. Dakota skipper may survive in areas where lands have some grazing or haying, and in fact, they are dependent on habitat that experiences periodic disturbance; however, Dakota skippers disappear when these disturbances become too intense<sup>6</sup>. The Study Area is largely cultivated agricultural field and no suitable habitat is present for the Dakota skipper. It is anticipated that the Project will have **No Effect** on Dakota skipper.

#### Monarch Butterfly (*Danaus plexippus*)

On December 17, 2020, the USFWS determined that the monarch butterfly warrants protection under the ESA<sup>7</sup>. However, due to higher-priority listing actions, it has been designated as a candidate species rather than being officially listed or proposed for listing under the ESA (USFWS 2024). Monarch butterflies are dependent upon flowering plants for nectar, and particularly, various species of milkweed (*Asclepias* spp.) are used for reproduction<sup>8</sup>. Milkweed was not observed during the field survey of the Study Area, however milkweed commonly occurs in the roadside ditches adjacent to the Project. Due to the generalist nature of suitable habitat for the monarch butterfly, it is anticipated that the Project would present **No Jeopardy to the continued existence of the species**.

#### Suckley's cuckoo bumble bee (*Bombus suckleyi*)

On December 17, 2024, Suckley's cuckoo bumble bee (*Bombus suckleyi*) was proposed for listing as an endangered species<sup>9</sup> (89 FR 102074). Suckley's cuckoo bumble bee occurs in diverse habitats including open meadows and prairies, farms and croplands, urban areas, boreal

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<sup>5</sup> USFWS. 2026. Whooping Crane. Available at: <https://www.fws.gov/carp/carp/carp/species/whooping-crane-grus-americanus>.

<sup>6</sup> USFWS. 2026. Dakota Skipper. Available at: <https://www.fws.gov/rivers/carp/carp/carp/species/dakota-skipper-hesperia-dacotae>.

<sup>7</sup> USFWS. December 12, 2024. Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Threatened Species Status With Section 4(d) Rule for Monarch Butterfly and Designation of Critical Habitat. Federal Register 89, no. 239: 100662–100716.

<sup>8</sup> USFWS. 2026. Monarch. Available at: <https://www.fws.gov/species/monarch-danaus-plexippus>

<sup>9</sup> USFWS. December 17, 2024. Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Endangered Species Status for Suckley's Cuckoo Bumble Bee. Federal Register 89, no. 242: 102074-102091.

forests, and montane meadows. Suckley's cuckoo bumble bee is an obligate nest parasite of social bumble bees confirmed to have usurped nests of Western bumble bee (*Bombus occidentalis*) and Nevada bumble bees (*Bombus nevadensis*). In the early spring, hosts typically establish nests in abandoned underground rodent burrows or other dry natural hollows; because Suckley's cuckoo bumble bee is a nest parasite, these same host residence sites also serve as its habitat<sup>10</sup>. Suckley's cuckoo bumble bee has been historically documented in South Dakota but not recorded in the state for more than 50 years (Martens AP, 2022). <sup>11</sup>The Project is anticipated to pose **No Jeopardy to the continued existence of Suckley's cuckoo bumble bee.**

Western regal fritillary (*Argynnis idalia occidentalis*)

The Western regal fritillary is a large butterfly that is restricted to large expanses of disturbed/somewhat degraded and native pastures. Ideal prairie habitat may range from dry and wet microhabitats with abundant violets. Prairie violet (*Viola pedatifida*) provide a primary food source for larvae, while adults feed on the nectar of a variety of native and non-native flower such as thistles, various late summer composites and milkweed. The species is primarily threatened by small population sizes, natural and unnatural fluctuations, conversion of prairie remnants to agriculture, pesticides and herbicides, isolation and ill-conceived prescribed burning<sup>12</sup>. The Project is anticipated to present **No Jeopardy to the continued existence of the western regal fritillary.**

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<sup>10</sup> USFWS. 2024. Suckley's Cuckoo Bumble Bee (*Bombus suckleyi*) Species Status Assessment. Version 1.0. August 2024. Alaska Region. 131 pp.

<sup>11</sup> Martens AP et. Al. 2022. Available at:

[https://gfp.sd.gov/images/WebMaps/Viewer/WAP/Website/Checklists/Bumblebees\\_checklist.pdf](https://gfp.sd.gov/images/WebMaps/Viewer/WAP/Website/Checklists/Bumblebees_checklist.pdf)

<sup>12</sup> USFWS. 2023. Species Status Assessment Report for the Regal Fritillary: Eastern Subspecies (*Argynnis idalia idalia*) and Western Subspecies (*A. i. occidentalis*). Version 1.0. 288 pp.

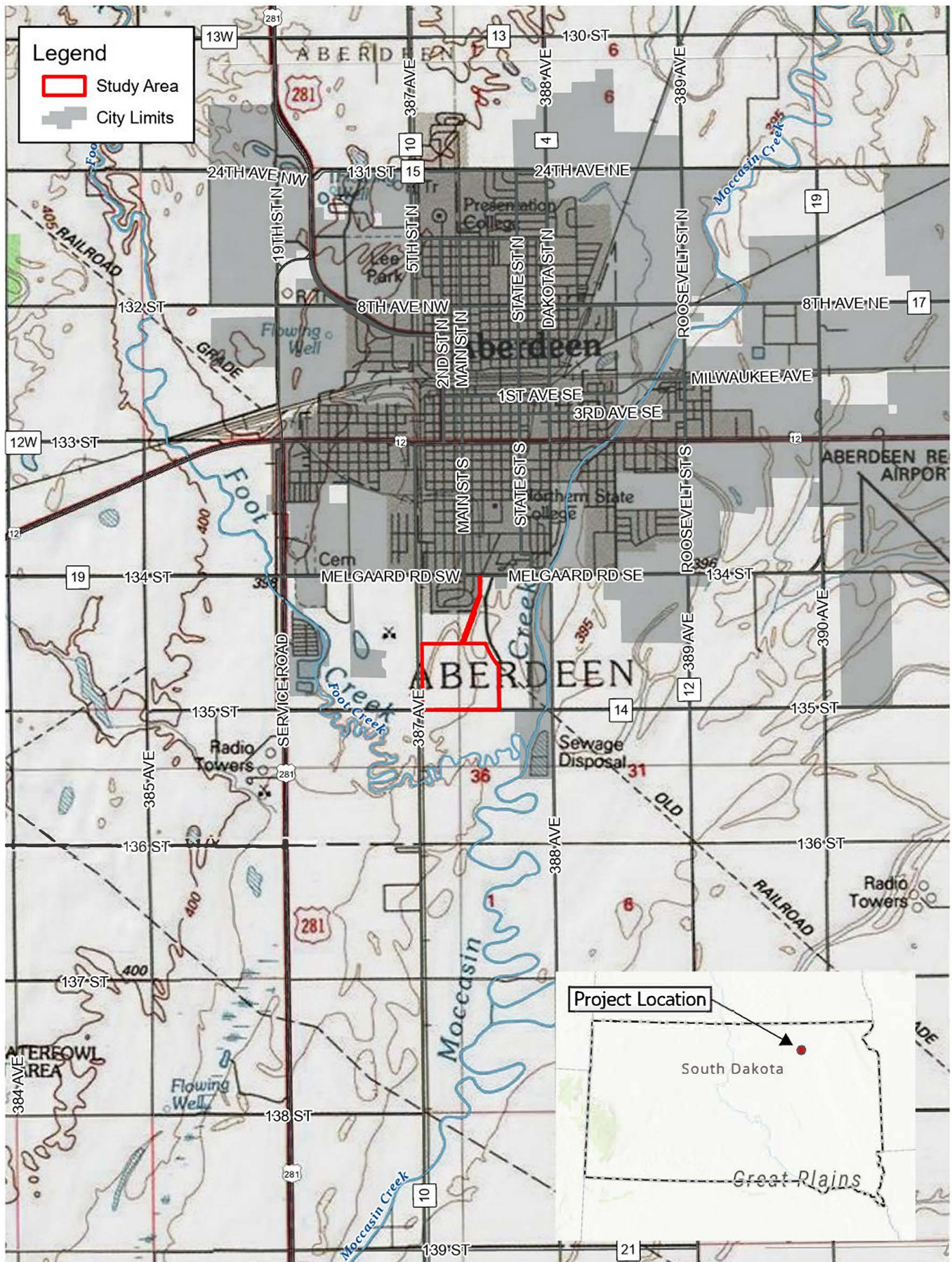
## Conclusion

Based on the Project activities, and results of the IPaC determination key, a **No Effect** determination was made for Northern long-eared bat that may occur within the Study Area. The proposed Project is anticipated to have **No Effect** on all other federally listed threatened or endangered species that may occur within the Study Area. The monarch butterfly, Suckley's cuckoo bumble bee, and western regal fritillary are proposed for listing at this time, and it is anticipated that the Project poses **No Jeopardy to the continued existence of the species**. A summary of proposed effect determinations for each species with respective rationale is provided below in **Table 3**.

**Table 3. Proposed Effect Determinations for Federally Listed Species with Potential to Occur within the Study Area.**

| Species                     | Suitable Habitat Present? | Proposed Determination | Proposed Determination Rationale                                                                                                          |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Northern long-eared bat     | Yes                       | No Effect              | Potential habitat within the Study Area is a small, highly fragmented shelterbelt.                                                        |
| Rufa red knot               | No                        | No Effect              | No inland saline lakes are present within the Study Area.                                                                                 |
| Whooping crane              | Yes                       | No Effect              | Agricultural fields may be utilized during migration. However, proximity to urban areas likely prevents use by migrating whooping cranes. |
| Dakota skipper              | No                        | No Effect              | The Study Area does not include suitable native prairie, or preferred nectar plant species.                                               |
| Monarch butterfly           | Yes                       | No Jeopardy            | Common milkweed is a generalist plant species and persists within Study Area.                                                             |
| Suckley's cuckoo bumble bee | No                        | No Jeopardy            | Species has not been recorded in South Dakota in more than 50 years.                                                                      |
| Western regal fritillary    | No                        | No Jeopardy            | The Study Area does not include native prairie, or preferred nectar plant species.                                                        |

## **Figure 1. Project Location**



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Delivering a Bright Future

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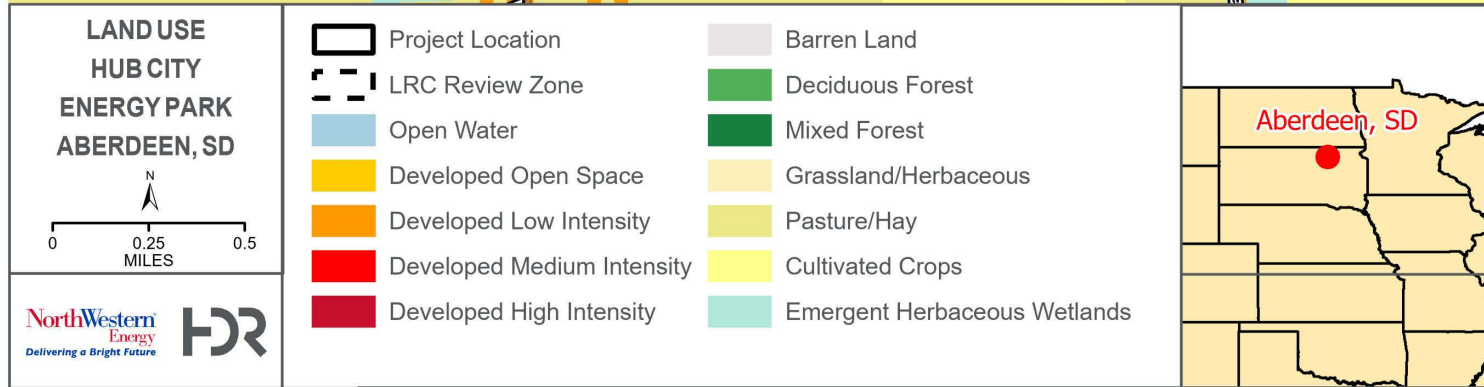


## PROJECT LOCATION MAP

Hub City Energy Park, Brown County, SD

NORTHWESTERN ENERGY

## Figure 2. National Land Cover Data Map





## **Attachment A: USFWS IPaC Official Species List**



## United States Department of the Interior



FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE  
South Dakota Ecological Services Field Office  
420 South Garfield Avenue, Suite 400  
Pierre, SD 57501-5408

Phone: (605) 224-8693 Fax: (605) 224-1416

<https://www.fws.gov/office/south-dakota-ecological-services>

In Reply Refer To:

09/16/2026 19:57:59 UTC

Project Code: 2026-0087450

Project Name: Hub City Energy Park

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/media/endangered-species-consultation-handbook>

**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/law/bald-and-golden-eagle-protection-act>, <https://www.fws.gov/media/endangered-species-act-1>, and/or <https://www.fws.gov/law/migratory-bird-treaty-act-1918>.

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/birds/bird-enthusiasts/threats-to-birds.php>.

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/law/migratory-birds>

Please be aware that bald and golden eagles are protected under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (16 U.S.C. §§ 703-712, as amended), as well as the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act (16 U.S.C. 668 et seq.). Projects affecting these species may benefit from the development of an Eagle Conservation Plan (ECP), see guidance at this website (<https://www.fws.gov/node/266177>). An ECP can assist developers in achieving compliance with regulatory requirements, help avoid "take" of eagles at project sites, and provide biological support for eagle permit applications. Additionally, we recommend wind energy developments adhere to our Land-based Wind Energy Guidelines for minimizing impacts to migratory

birds and bats.

We have recently updated our guidelines for minimizing impacts to migratory birds at projects that have communication towers (including meteorological, cellular, digital television, radio, and emergency broadcast towers). These guidelines can be found at:

<https://www.fws.gov/media/avoiding-and-minimizing-communication-tower-impacts-migratory-birds>

<https://www.fws.gov/library/collections/bird-friendly-communication-tower-toolkit>

According to National Wetlands Inventory maps, (available online at <https://www.fws.gov/library/collections/national-wetland-inventory>) wetlands exist adjacent to the proposed construction corridor. If a project may impact wetlands or other important fish and wildlife habitats, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service), in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321-4347) and other environmental laws and rules, recommends complete avoidance of these areas, if possible. If this is not possible, attempts should be made to minimize adverse impacts. Finally if adverse impacts are unavoidable, measures should be undertaken to replace the impacted areas. Alternatives should be examined and the least damaging practical alternative selected. If wetland impacts are unavoidable, a mitigation plan addressing the number and types of wetland acres to be impacted, and the methods of replacement should be prepared and submitted to the resource agencies for review.

Please check with your local wetland management district to determine whether Service interest lands exist at the proposed project site, the exact locations of these properties, and any additional restrictions that may apply regarding these sites. The Offices are listed below. If you are not sure which office to contact, we can help you make that decision.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Huron Wetland Management District, Federal Building, Room 309, 200 4th Street SW, Huron, SD 57350; telephone (605) 352-5894. Counties in the Huron WMD: Beadle, Buffalo, Hand, Hughes, Hyde, Jerauld, Sanborn, Sully.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Lake Andes Wetland Management District, P O Box 18, Pickstown, South Dakota, 57367; telephone (605) 487-7603. Counties in the Lake Andes WMD: Aurora, Brule, Charles Mix, Davison, Douglas.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Madison Wetland Management District, P.O. Box 48, Madison, South Dakota, 57042, telephone (605) 256-2974. Counties in the Madison WMD: Bon Homme, Brookings, Clay, Deuel, Hamlin, Hanson, Hutchinson, Kingsbury, Lake, Lincoln, McCook, Miner, Minnehaha, Moody, Turner, Union, Yankton.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Sand Lake Wetland Management District, 39650 Sand Lake Drive, Columbia, South Dakota, 57433; telephone (605) 885-6320. Counties in the Sand Lake WMD: Brown, Campbell, Edmunds, Faulk, McPherson, Potter, Spink, Walworth.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Waubay Wetland Management District, 44401 134A Street, Waubay, South Dakota, 57273; telephone (605) 947-4521. Counties in the Waubay WMD: Clark, Codington, Day,

Grant, Marshall, Roberts.

You are welcome to visit our website (<https://www.fws.gov/office/southdakota-ecological-services>) or to contact our office/staff at the address or phone number above for more information.

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
- USFWS National Wildlife Refuges and Fish Hatcheries
- Bald & Golden Eagles
- Migratory Birds
- Wetlands

## 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:

**South Dakota Ecological Services Field Office**

420 South Garfield Avenue, Suite 400

Pierre, SD 57501-5408

(605) 224-8693

## PROJECT SUMMARY

Project Code: 2026-0087450

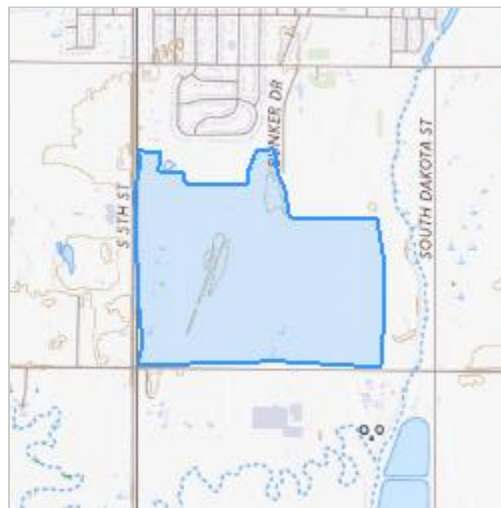
Project Name: Hub City Energy Park

Project Type: Refining - Energy

Project Description: NorthWestern Energy Public Service Corporation d/b/a (NorthWestern Energy) is planning to develop Hub City Energy Park; a new, three-unit nominal 131 megawatt (MW) simple cycle combustion turbine facility (Project). The Project is adjacent to the existing Aberdeen Generating Station south of Aberdeen, SD and will interconnect to the electric grid at 115 kV via a new, on-site substation and will be fed natural gas from a nearby interstate pipeline. The Project covers approximately 176 acres within Section 25, Township 123N, Range 64W in Brown County, SD

Project Location:

The approximate location of the project can be viewed in Google Maps: <https://www.google.com/maps/@45.43560775,-98.48656751707465,14z>



Counties: Brown County, South Dakota

## ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT SPECIES

There is a total of 7 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. [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     |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------|
| Northern Long-Eared Bat <i>Myotis septentrionalis</i><br>No critical habitat has been designated for this species.<br>Species profile: <a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9045">https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9045</a> | Endangered |

## BIRDS

| NAME                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | STATUS     |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------|
| rufa red knot <i>Calidris canutus rufa</i><br>There is <b>proposed</b> critical habitat for this species. Your location does not overlap the critical habitat.<br>Species profile: <a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/1864">https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/1864</a>                                                                       | Threatened |
| Whooping crane <i>Grus americana</i><br>Population: Wherever found, except where listed as an experimental population<br>There is <b>final</b> critical habitat for this species. Your location does not overlap the critical habitat.<br>Species profile: <a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/758">https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/758</a> | Endangered |

## INSECTS

| NAME                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | STATUS                 |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------|
| Dakota Skipper <i>Hesperia dacotae</i><br>There is <b>final</b> critical habitat for this species. Your location does not overlap the critical habitat.<br>Species profile: <a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/1028">https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/1028</a>       | Threatened             |
| Monarch butterfly <i>Danaus plexippus</i><br>There is <b>proposed</b> critical habitat for this species. Your location does not overlap the critical habitat.<br>Species profile: <a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9743">https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9743</a> | Proposed<br>Threatened |
| Suckley's cuckoo bumble bee <i>Bombus suckleyi</i><br>Population:<br>No critical habitat has been designated for this species.<br>Species profile: <a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/10885">https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/10885</a>                              | Proposed<br>Endangered |
| Western regal fritillary <i>Argynnis idalia occidentalis</i><br>No critical habitat has been designated for this species.<br>Species profile: <a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/12017">https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/12017</a>                                   | Proposed<br>Threatened |

## 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.

# USFWS NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE LANDS AND FISH HATCHERIES

Any activity proposed on lands managed by the [National Wildlife Refuge](#) system must undergo a 'Compatibility Determination' conducted by the Refuge. Please contact the individual Refuges to discuss any questions or concerns.

THERE ARE NO REFUGE LANDS OR FISH HATCHERIES WITHIN YOUR PROJECT AREA.

## BALD & GOLDEN EAGLES

Bald and Golden Eagles are protected under the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act <sup>2</sup> and the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) <sup>1</sup>. Any person or organization who plans or conducts activities that may result in impacts to Bald or Golden Eagles, or their habitats, should follow appropriate regulations and consider implementing appropriate avoidance and minimization measures, as described in the various links on this page.

- 
1. The [Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act](#) of 1940.
  2. The [Migratory Birds Treaty Act](#) of 1918.
  3. 50 C.F.R. Sec. 10.12 and 16 U.S.C. Sec. 668(a)

There are Bald Eagles and/or Golden Eagles in your [project](#) area.

### Measures for Proactively Minimizing Eagle Impacts

For information on how to best avoid and minimize disturbance to nesting bald eagles, please review the [National Bald Eagle Management Guidelines](#). You may employ the timing and activity-specific distance recommendations in this document when designing your project/activity to avoid and minimize eagle impacts. For bald eagle information specific to Alaska, please refer to [Bald Eagle Nesting and Sensitivity to Human Activity](#).

The FWS does not currently have guidelines for avoiding and minimizing disturbance to nesting Golden Eagles. For site-specific recommendations regarding nesting Golden Eagles, please consult with the appropriate Regional [Migratory Bird Office](#) or [Ecological Services Field Office](#).

If disturbance or take of eagles cannot be avoided, an [incidental take permit](#) may be available to authorize any take that results from, but is not the purpose of, an otherwise lawful activity. For assistance making this determination for Bald Eagles, visit the [Do I Need A Permit Tool](#). For assistance making this determination for golden eagles, please consult with the appropriate Regional [Migratory Bird Office](#) or [Ecological Services Field Office](#).

### Ensure Your Eagle List is Accurate and Complete

If your project area is in a poorly surveyed area in IPaC, your list may not be complete and you may need to rely on other resources to determine what species may be present (e.g. your local FWS field office, state surveys, your own surveys). Please review the [Supplemental Information](#)

[on Migratory Birds and Eagles](#), to help you properly interpret the report for your specified location, including determining if there is sufficient data to ensure your list is accurate.

For guidance on when to schedule activities or implement avoidance and minimization measures to reduce impacts to bald or golden eagles on your list, see the "Probability of Presence Summary" below to see when these bald or golden eagles are most likely to be present and breeding in your project area.

| NAME                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | BREEDING SEASON        |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------|
| <b>Bald Eagle <i>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</i></b><br>This is not a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) in this area, but warrants attention because of the Eagle Act or for potential susceptibilities in offshore areas from certain types of development or activities.<br><a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/1626">https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/1626</a> | Breeds Dec 1 to Aug 31 |

## PROBABILITY OF PRESENCE SUMMARY

The graphs below provide our best understanding of when birds of concern are most likely to be present in your project area. This information can be used to tailor and schedule your project activities to avoid or minimize impacts to birds. Please make sure you read ["Supplemental Information on Migratory Birds and Eagles"](#), specifically the FAQ section titled "Proper Interpretation and Use of Your Migratory Bird Report" before using or attempting to interpret this report.

### Probability of Presence (■)

Green bars; the bird's relative probability of presence in the 10km grid cell(s) your project overlaps during that week of the year.

### Breeding Season (■)

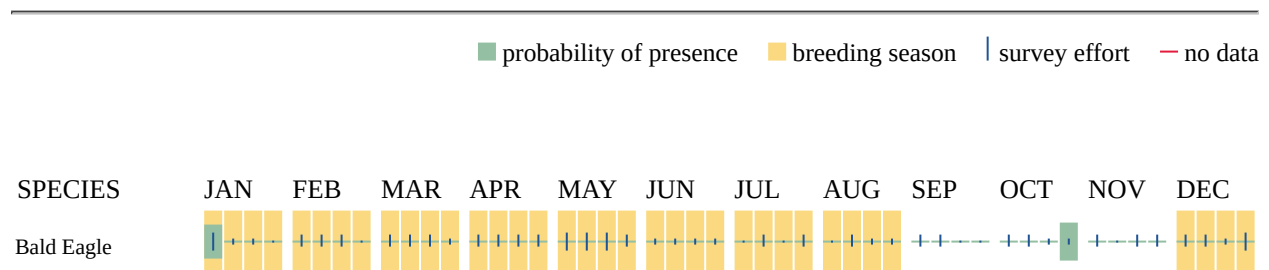
Yellow bars; liberal estimate of the timeframe inside which the bird breeds across its entire range.

### Survey Effort (|)

Vertical black lines; the number of surveys performed for that species in the 10km grid cell(s) your project area overlaps.

### No Data (—)

A week is marked as having no data if there were no survey events for that week.



Non-BCC  
Vulnerable

Additional information can be found using the following links:

- Eagle Management <https://www.fws.gov/program/eagle-management>
- Measures for avoiding and minimizing impacts to birds <https://www.fws.gov/library/collections/avoiding-and-minimizing-incidental-take-migratory-birds>
- Nationwide avoidance and minimization measures for birds <https://www.fws.gov/sites/default/files/documents/nationwide-standard-conservation-measures.pdf>
- Supplemental Information for Migratory Birds and Eagles in IPaC <https://www.fws.gov/media/supplemental-information-migratory-birds-and-bald-and-golden-eagles-may-occur-project-action>

## MIGRATORY BIRDS

The Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) <sup>1</sup> prohibits the take (including killing, capturing, selling, trading, and transport) of protected migratory bird species without prior authorization by the Department of Interior U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service).

- 
1. The [Migratory Birds Treaty Act](#) of 1918.
  2. The [Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act](#) of 1940.
  3. 50 C.F.R. Sec. 10.12 and 16 U.S.C. Sec. 668(a)

For guidance on when to schedule activities or implement avoidance and minimization measures to reduce impacts to migratory birds on your list, see the "Probability of Presence Summary" below to see when these birds are most likely to be present and breeding in your project area.

| NAME                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | BREEDING SEASON        |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------|
| American Golden-Plover <i>Pluvialis dominica</i><br>This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska.<br><a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/10561">https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/10561</a>                                                                                                        | Breeds elsewhere       |
| Bald Eagle <i>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</i><br>This is not a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) in this area, but warrants attention because of the Eagle Act or for potential susceptibilities in offshore areas from certain types of development or activities.<br><a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/1626">https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/1626</a> | Breeds Dec 1 to Aug 31 |

| NAME                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | BREEDING SEASON         |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| <b>Black Tern <i>Chlidonias niger surinamenisis</i></b><br>This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska.<br><a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/3093">https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/3093</a>            | Breeds May 15 to Aug 20 |
| <b>Bobolink <i>Dolichonyx oryzivorus</i></b><br>This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska.<br><a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9454">https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9454</a>                       | Breeds May 20 to Jul 31 |
| <b>California Gull <i>Larus californicus</i></b><br>This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska.<br><a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/10955">https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/10955</a>                 | Breeds Mar 1 to Jul 31  |
| <b>Chimney Swift <i>Chaetura pelagica</i></b><br>This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska.<br><a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9406">https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9406</a>                      | Breeds Mar 15 to Aug 25 |
| <b>Franklin's Gull <i>Leucophaeus pipixcan</i></b><br>This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska.<br><a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/10567">https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/10567</a>               | Breeds May 1 to Jul 31  |
| <b>Golden-winged warbler <i>Vermivora chrysoptera</i></b><br>This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska.<br><a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/8745">https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/8745</a>          | Breeds May 1 to Jul 20  |
| <b>Hudsonian Godwit <i>Limosa haemastica</i></b><br>This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska.<br><a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9482">https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9482</a>                   | Breeds elsewhere        |
| <b>Lesser Yellowlegs <i>Tringa flavipes</i></b><br>This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska.<br><a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9679">https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9679</a>                    | Breeds elsewhere        |
| <b>Marbled Godwit <i>Limosa fedoa</i></b><br>This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska.<br><a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9481">https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9481</a>                          | Breeds May 1 to Jul 31  |
| <b>Northern Harrier <i>Circus hudsonius</i></b><br>This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) only in particular Bird Conservation Regions (BCRs) in the continental USA<br><a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/8350">https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/8350</a> | Breeds Apr 1 to Sep 15  |

| NAME                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | BREEDING SEASON         |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| <b>Pectoral Sandpiper</b> <i>Calidris melanotos</i><br>This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska.<br><a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9561">https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9561</a>            | Breeds elsewhere        |
| <b>Red-headed Woodpecker</b> <i>Melanerpes erythrocephalus</i><br>This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska.<br><a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9398">https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9398</a> | Breeds May 10 to Sep 10 |
| <b>Western Grebe</b> <i>Aechmophorus occidentalis</i><br>This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska.<br><a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/6743">https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/6743</a>          | Breeds Jun 1 to Aug 31  |
| <b>Willet</b> <i>Tringa semipalmata</i><br>This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska.<br><a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/10669">https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/10669</a>                      | Breeds Apr 20 to Aug 5  |

## PROBABILITY OF PRESENCE SUMMARY

The graphs below provide our best understanding of when birds of concern are most likely to be present in your project area. This information can be used to tailor and schedule your project activities to avoid or minimize impacts to birds. Please make sure you read "[Supplemental Information on Migratory Birds and Eagles](#)", specifically the FAQ section titled "Proper Interpretation and Use of Your Migratory Bird Report" before using or attempting to interpret this report.

### Probability of Presence (■)

Green bars; the bird's relative probability of presence in the 10km grid cell(s) your project overlaps during that week of the year.

### Breeding Season (■)

Yellow bars; liberal estimate of the timeframe inside which the bird breeds across its entire range.

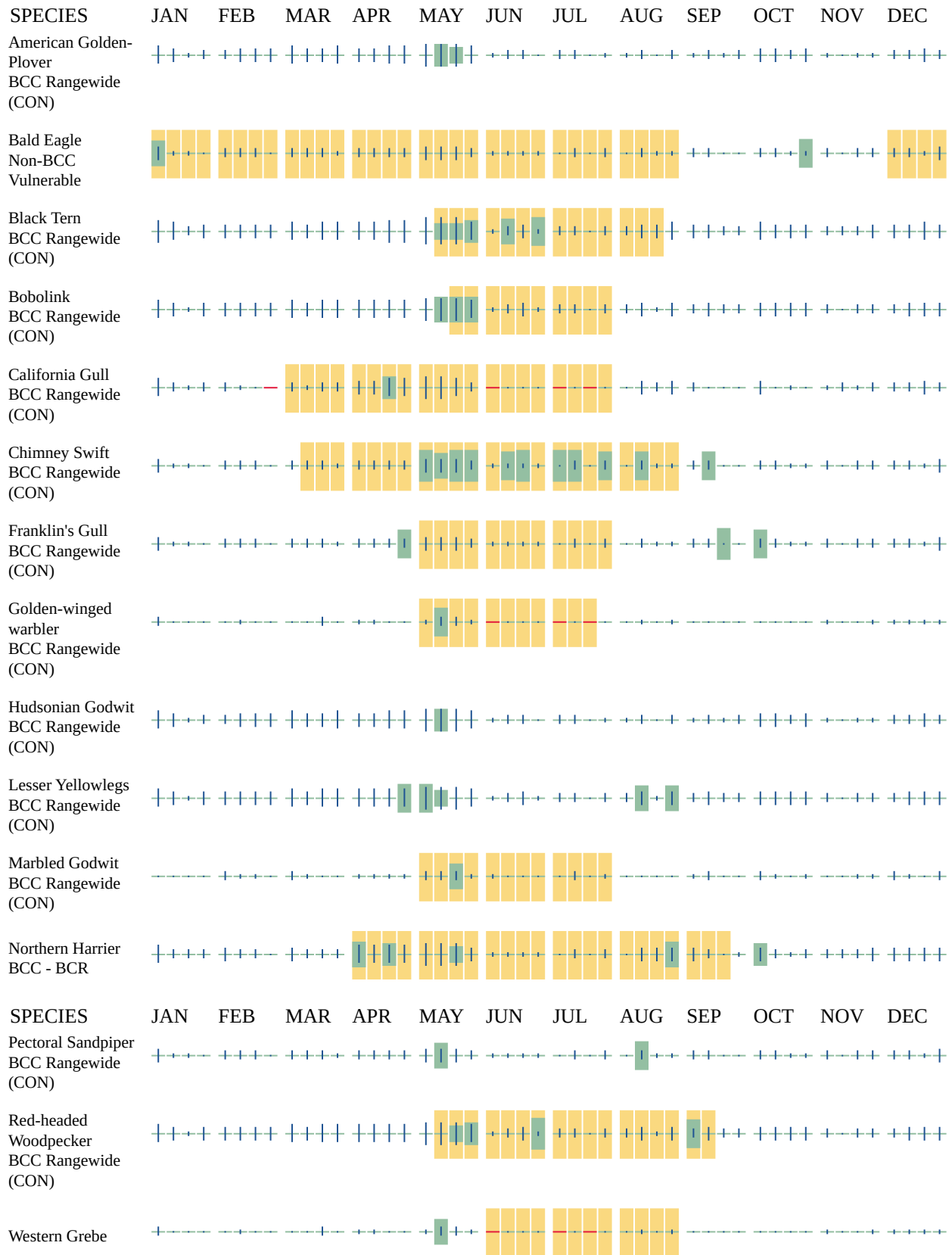
### Survey Effort (|)

Vertical black lines; the number of surveys performed for that species in the 10km grid cell(s) your project area overlaps.

### No Data (—)

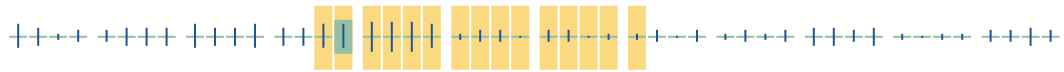
A week is marked as having no data if there were no survey events for that week.

■ probability of presence   ■ breeding season   | survey effort   — no data



BCC Rangewide  
(CON)

Willet  
BCC Rangewide  
(CON)



Additional information can be found using the following links:

- Eagle Management <https://www.fws.gov/program/eagle-management>
- Measures for avoiding and minimizing impacts to birds <https://www.fws.gov/library/collections/avoiding-and-minimizing-incident-take-migratory-birds>
- Nationwide avoidance and minimization measures for birds
- Supplemental Information for Migratory Birds and Eagles in IPaC <https://www.fws.gov/media/supplemental-information-migratory-birds-and-bald-and-golden-eagles-may-occur-project-action>

## WETLANDS

Impacts to [NWI wetlands](#) and other aquatic habitats may be subject to regulation under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act, or other State/Federal statutes.

For more information please contact the Regulatory Program of the local [U.S. Army Corps of Engineers District](#).

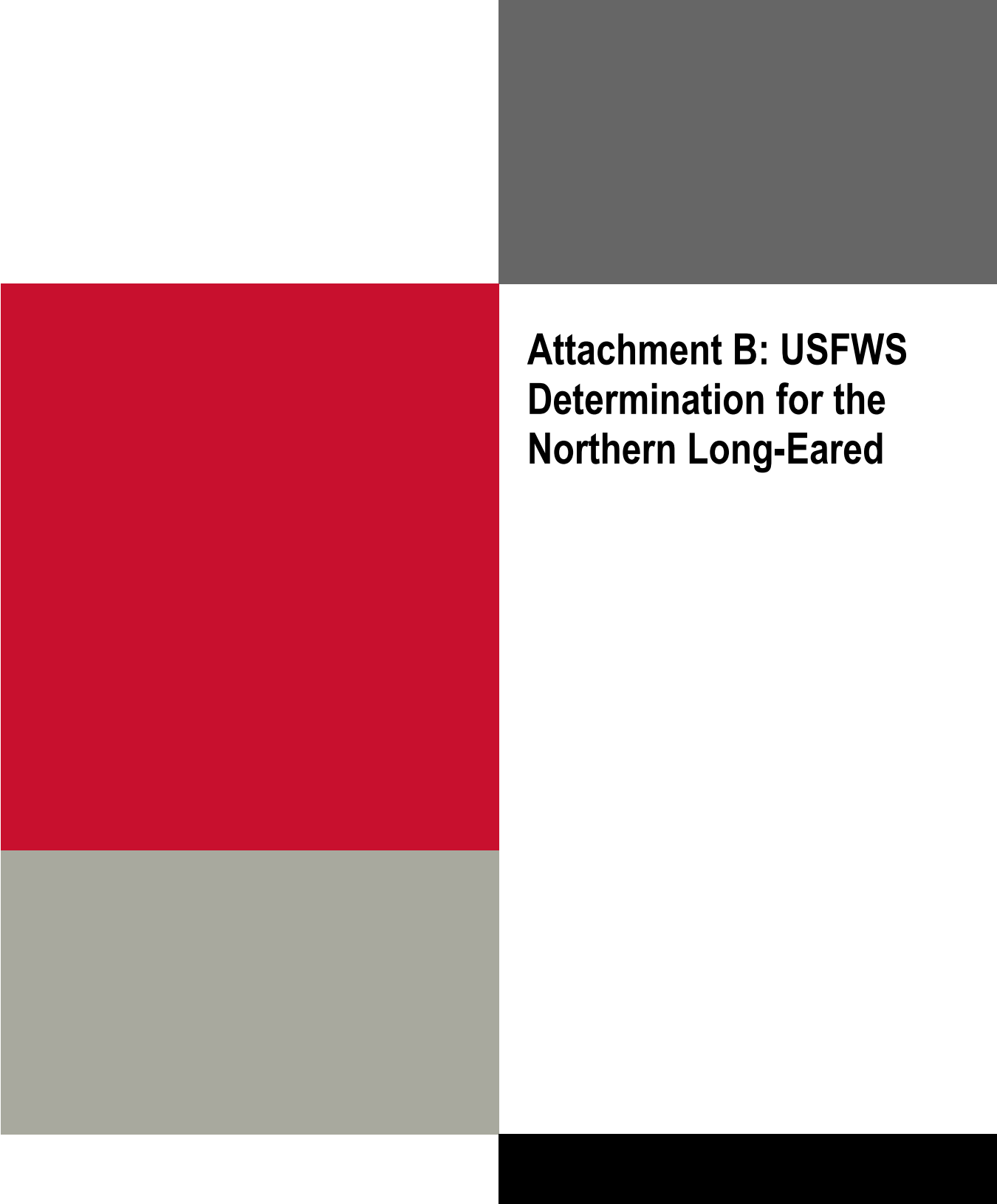
Please note that the NWI data being shown may be out of date. We are currently working to update our NWI data set. We recommend you verify these results with a site visit to determine the actual extent of wetlands on site.

### FRESHWATER EMERGENT WETLAND

- PEM1C
- PEM1Cx
- PEM1A

## IPAC USER CONTACT INFORMATION

Agency: Private Entity  
Name: Alex Brazeal  
Address: 3231 Greensboro Drive  
Address Line 2: Suite 200  
City: Bismarck  
State: ND  
Zip: 58503  
Email: alex.brazeal@hdrinc.com  
Phone: 7015579731



## **Attachment B: USFWS Determination for the Northern Long-Eared**



## United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE  
South Dakota Ecological Services Field Office  
420 South Garfield Avenue, Suite 400  
Pierre, SD 57501-5408  
Phone: (605) 224-8693 Fax: (605) 224-1416



In Reply Refer To:  
Project code: 2026-0087450  
Project Name: Hub City Energy Park

09/18/2026 20:26:24 UTC

Federal Nexus: no  
Federal Action Agency (if applicable):

**Subject:** Record of project representative's no effect determination with the Northern Long-eared Bat and Tricolored Bat Range-wide Determination Key for 'Hub City Energy Park'

Dear Alex Brazeal:

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 September 18, 2026, for 'Hub City Energy Park' (here forward, Project). This project has been assigned Project Code 2026-0087450 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:

| Species | Listing Status | Determination |
|---------|----------------|---------------|
|---------|----------------|---------------|

Northern Long-Eared Bat (*Myotis septentrionalis*)      Endangered      No effect

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:

- Dakota Skipper *Hesperia dacotae* Threatened
- Monarch butterfly *Danaus plexippus* Proposed Threatened
- rufa red knot *Calidris canutus rufa* Threatened
- Suckley's cuckoo bumble bee *Bombus suckleyi* Proposed Endangered
- Western regal fritillary *Argynnis idalia occidentalis* Proposed Threatened
- Whooping crane *Grus americana* Endangered

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 South Dakota Ecological Services Field Office and reference Project Code 2026-0087450 associated with this Project.

**Action Description**

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

**1. Name**

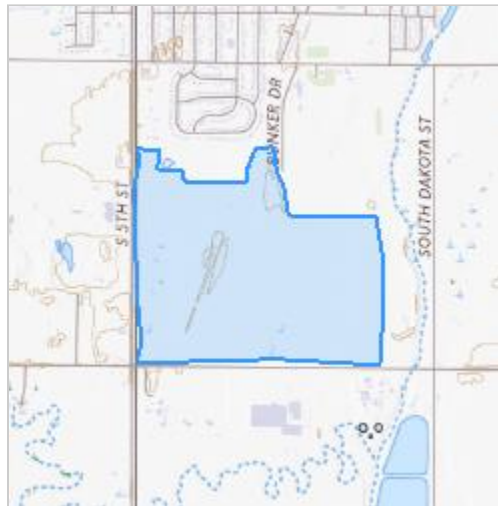
Hub City Energy Park

**2. Description**

The following description was provided for the project 'Hub City Energy Park':

NorthWestern Energy Public Service Corporation d/b/a (NorthWestern Energy) is planning to develop Hub City Energy Park; a new, three-unit nominal 131 megawatt (MW) simple cycle combustion turbine facility (Project). The Project is adjacent to the existing Aberdeen Generating Station south of Aberdeen, SD and will interconnect to the electric grid at 115 kV via a new, on-site substation and will be fed natural gas from a nearby interstate pipeline. The Project covers approximately 176 acres within Section 25, Township 123N, Range 64W in Brown County, SD

The approximate location of the project can be viewed in Google Maps: <https://www.google.com/maps/@45.43560775,-98.48656751707465,14z>



## 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 that is not covered by an existing section 10 (a)(1)(A) Recovery Permit, exempted under section 4(d) or authorized by a section 6 cooperative agreement? **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.

No

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

**Note for projects in Pennsylvania:** Projects requiring authorization under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act and/or Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act would be considered as having a federal nexus. Since the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) has issued the Pennsylvania State Programmatic General Permit (PASPGP), which may be verified by the PA Department of Environmental Protection or certain Conservation Districts, the need to receive a Corps authorization to perform the work under the PASPGP serves as a federal nexus. As such, if proposing to use the PASPGP, you would answer 'yes' to this question.

No

6. [Semantic] Is the action area located within 0.5 miles of a known bat hibernaculum or winter roost? 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

7. 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

8. 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

9. Is the action located in New England (CT, MA, ME, NH, RI, or VT)?

No

10. Will the action cause effects to a bridge?

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

No

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

No

12. 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 the USFWS' [Range-wide Indiana Bat and Northern long-eared bat Survey Guidelines](#).

Yes

13. Does the action include the intentional exclusion of bats from a building or building-like 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

14. Does the action involve removal, modification, or maintenance of a human-made building-like structure (barn, house, or other building) **known or suspected to contain roosting bats?**

No

15. 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

16. 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

17. 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

18. 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 <https://www.nsf.org/knowledge-library/nsf-ansi-standard-60-drinking-water-treatment-chemicals-health-effects>

No

19. 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

20. Will the action include drilling or blasting?

No

21. Will the action involve military training (e.g., smoke operations, obscurant operations, exploding munitions, artillery fire, range use, helicopter or fixed wing aircraft use at night)?

No

22. Will the proposed action involve the use of herbicides or pesticides (e.g., fungicides, insecticides, or rodenticides)?

No

23. 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 the USFWS' [Range-wide Indiana Bat and Northern long-eared bat Survey Guidelines](#).

No

24. Does the action include, or is it reasonably certain to cause, the use of permanent or temporary artificial lighting within 1000 feet of suitable forested 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 the USFWS' [Range-wide Indiana Bat and Northern long-eared bat Survey Guidelines](#).

Yes

25. Will the action cause an increase in the extent of suitable forested habitat exposed to artificial lighting?

No

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

No

27. 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

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

**Automatically answered**

Yes

29. [Semantic] Is the action area located within 0.5 miles of radius of an entrance/opening to any known NLEB hibernacula or winter roost? 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

30. [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

31. [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**

No

32. 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 the USFWS' [Range-wide Indiana Bat and Northern long-eared bat Survey Guidelines](#)

Yes

33. Has a presence/probable absence summer bat survey targeting the northern long-eared bat following the Service's [Range-wide Indiana Bat and Northern Long-Eared Bat Survey Guidelines](#) been conducted within the project area?

No

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

No

## PROJECT QUESTIONNAIRE

**IPAC USER CONTACT INFORMATION**

Agency: Private Entity  
Name: Alex Brazeal  
Address: 3231 Greensboro Drive  
Address Line 2: Suite 200  
City: Bismarck  
State: ND  
Zip: 58503  
Email: alex.brazeal@hdrinc.com  
Phone: 7015579731