

Technical Memorandum

Appendix 9

Ecologically Sensitive Areas and Species

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Neither the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries (VDGIF) or Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation (VDCR) identified endangered species habitat or other state designated natural heritage resources in their review of the 5-mile project corridor which occurred in 2006. A copy of this correspondence can be found in Appendix 10 of the 2007 Documented Categorical Exclusion (DCE). The Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (VDEQ) led a state environmental clearinghouse review in 2006, which included the VDGIF and VDCR. The US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) also reviewed the project in June 2006, but did not identify any federally listed species or habitat at that time (See Appendix 10 of the 2007 DCE for agency correspondence).

For this analysis, a database search for the project was conducted through the USFWS Virginia Field Office website on December 14, 2010. The USFWS Virginia Field Office does not identify any federally listed endangered or threatened species in the City of Alexandria.¹ Habitat and species information provided by the USFWS Virginia Field Office website for the City is summarized in Table 1. Additionally, the College of William and Mary, Center for Conservation Biology, maintains a database of bald eagles nests within the Commonwealth but does not identify any bald eagle nests in the City.

¹ United States Fish and Wildlife Service, Virginia Field Office, *Endangered Species County Lists*, http://www.fws.gov/northeast/virginiafield/PDF/EndSpecies/County_Lists/Alexandria.pdf, Accessed 12/14/10.

Table 1: USFWS Federally Listed Species Findings for the City of Alexandria, Virginia (Species Conclusion Table)

| Species / Resource Name | Conclusion | ESA Section 7 / Eagle Act Determination | Notes / Documentation |
|--|---|---|---|
| Federal Endangered Species Act (ESA) listed species | Species not present | Not likely to adversely affect | Project study area is located within an urbanized, developed area of the City of Alexandria, with little or no natural habitat. |
| Federally Designated Critical Habitat | No critical habitat present | No effect | |
| <i>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</i> Bald Eagle | Unlikely to disturb nesting bald eagles | No Eagle Act permit required | No nests within 660' and not within a concentration area. |
| <i>Stygobromus phreaticus</i> Northern Virginia well amphipod (Species of Concern) | Species not present | No effect | Required habitat for this species includes groundwater or groundwater-related subterranean habitats, for example, caves, seeps, small springs, wells, interstices, and rarely deep lakes. Habitat assessment indicated no potential habitat present. |
| <i>Pycnanthemum torrei</i> Torrey's mountain-mint (Species of Concern) | Species not present | No effect | Required habitat for this species includes grasslands, shrublands, open woodlands, open wetlands/bogs, shale barrens, rock outcrops, tallus slopes and/or early successional woody habitat. Habitat assessment indicated no potential habitat present. |

Source: US Fish and Wildlife Service, Virginia Field Office, *Endangered Species County Lists*, http://www.fws.gov/northeast/virginiafield/endspecies/county_lists.html, Accessed December 12, 2010.