



Minnesota Department of Natural Resources  
Division of Ecological & Water Resources  
500 Lafayette Road, Box 25  
St. Paul, MN 55155-4025

January 11, 2019

Correspondence # ERDB 20190199

Mr. Jesse Krzenski  
Scott County  
200 4th Avenue West  
Shakopee, MN 55379

RE: Natural Heritage Review of the proposed Sever's Fall Festival Relocation,  
T115N R23W Sections 33 & 34; Scott County

Dear Mr. Krzenski,

As requested, the Minnesota Natural Heritage Information System has been queried to determine if any rare species or other significant natural features are known to occur within an approximate one-mile radius of the proposed project. Based on this query, rare features have been documented within the search area (for details, please visit the [Rare Species Guide Website](#) for more information on the biology, habitat use, and conservation measures of these rare species). Please note that the following rare features may be adversely affected by the proposed project:

- Northern long-eared bat (*Myotis septentrionalis*), federally listed as threatened and state-listed as special concern, and little brown bat (*Myotis lucifugus*), also state-listed as special concern, have been documented in the vicinity of the proposed project. During the winter these species typically hibernate in caves and mines. During the active season (approximately April-October) they roost underneath bark, in cavities, or in crevices of both live and dead trees; and in human structures such as buildings and bridges. 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. As such, we recommend avoiding tree removal, if any, during active season, approximately April through October.

Regarding the northern long-eared bat, 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 there is a known roost tree within one mile of the proposed project.**

- The Lark Sparrow (*Chondestes grammacus*), a state-listed bird species of special concern, has been documented in the vicinity of the project. This bird species is found in open, grass land areas with scattered trees and shrubs. They build their nest on the ground, in a shrub or a small tree. If feasible, avoid

initial disturbance to grassland areas and tree/shrub removal from May 15<sup>th</sup> through August 15<sup>th</sup> to avoid disturbance of nesting birds.

- The Environmental Assessment Worksheet should address whether the proposed project has the potential to adversely affect the above rare features and, if so, it should identify specific measures that will be taken to avoid or minimize disturbance. Sufficient information should be provided so the DNR can determine whether a takings permit will be needed for any of the above protected species.
- Please include a copy of this letter in any state or local license or permit application. Please note that measures to avoid or minimize disturbance to the above rare features may be included as restrictions or conditions in any required permits or licenses.

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. If needed, please contact your [DNR Regional Environmental Assessment Ecologist](#) to determine whether there are other natural resource concerns associated with the proposed project. 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, flowing style.

Samantha Bump  
Natural Heritage Review Specialist  
[Samantha.Bump@state.mn.us](mailto:Samantha.Bump@state.mn.us)

Links: Rare Species Guide

<http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/rsg/index.html>

DNR Regional Environmental Assessment Ecologist Contact Info

[http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/eco/ereview/erp\\_regioncontacts.html](http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/eco/ereview/erp_regioncontacts.html)

USFWS Key to the Northern Long-Eared Bat 4(d) Rule for Non-Federal Activities

<http://www.fws.gov/midwest/angered/mammals/nleb/KeyFinal4dNLEB.html>

USFWS Key to the Northern Long-Eared Bat 4(d) Rule for Federal Actions

<http://www.fws.gov/midwest/angered/mammals/nleb/KeyFinal4dNLEBFedProjects.html>

USFWS Northern Long-eared Bat Website

<http://www.fws.gov/midwest/angered/mammals/nleb/index.html>

USFWS Northern Long-eared Bat Fact Sheet

<http://www.fws.gov/midwest/angered/mammals/nleb/nlebFactSheet.html>

Cc: Becky Horton

Leslie Parris