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FWS/RIFO

## United States Department of the Interior

### FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

Ecological Services  
Rock Island Field Office  
4469 48th Avenue Court  
Rock Island, Illinois 61201  
Tel: 309/793-5800 Fax: 309/793-5804

July 12, 2000

W. Kenneth Derickson, Ph.D.  
Senior Project Manager  
Zambrana Engineering, Inc.  
6 S 535 Bridlespur Dr.  
Naperville, IL 60540-5901

Dear Mr. Derickson:

This is in response to your letter to our Rock Island Field Office dated June 30, 2000, requesting resource information relating to your summer camp project site.

We have reviewed the information provided for this site. To facilitate compliance with Section 7(c) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended, Federal agencies are required to obtain from the Fish and Wildlife Service information concerning any species, listed or proposed to be listed, which may be present in the area of a proposed action. Therefore, we are furnishing you the following list of species which may be present in the concerned area:

<u>Classification</u>	<u>Common Name (Scientific Name)</u>	<u>Habitat</u>
Endangered	Indiana bat ( <i>Myotis sodalis</i> )	Caves, mines; small stream corridors with well developed riparian woods; upland forests
Threatened	Bald eagle ( <i>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</i> )	Wintering
Threatened	Eastern prairie fringed orchid ( <i>Platanthaera leucophaea</i> )	Mesic to wet prairies

The endangered Indiana bat (*Myotis sodalis*) could potentially occur in Johnson county, Iowa. During the summer, the Indiana bat frequents the corridors of small streams with well

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developed riparian woods as well as mature upland forests. It forages for insects by flying beneath the tree canopy, and roosts and rears its young beneath the loose bark of large dead or dying trees. It winters in caves and abandoned mines.

Suitable summer habitat in Iowa is considered to have the following characteristics within a ½ mile radius of the project site:

- 1) forest cover of 15% or greater;
- 2) permanent water;
- 3) one or more of the following tree species 9 inches diameter at breast height (dbh) or greater: shagbark hickory, bitternut hickory, American elm, slippery elm, eastern cottonwood, silver maple, white oak, red oak, post oak, and shingle oak;
- 4) at least 1 potential roost tree per 2.5 acres;
- 5) potential roost trees must have greater than 10% coverage of loose bark (by visual estimation of peeling bark on trunks and main limbs).

If the project site contains any habitat that fits the above description, it may be necessary to conduct a survey to determine whether the bat is present. If Indiana bats are known to be present, they must not be harmed, harassed, or disturbed and their habitat must not be destroyed. Indiana bat habitat may be altered only between the dates of October 1 and March 31.

The threatened bald eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*) is listed as wintering along large rivers, lakes and reservoirs in Johnson County, Iowa. During the winter, this species feeds on fish in the open water areas created by dam tailwaters, the warm water effluents of power plants and municipal and industrial discharges, or in power plant cooling ponds. The more severe the winter, the greater the ice coverage and the more concentrated the eagles become. They roost at night in groups in large trees adjacent to the river in areas that are protected from the harsh winter elements. They perch in large shoreline trees to rest or feed on fish. There is no critical habitat designated for this species. The eagle may not be harassed, harmed, or disturbed when present nor may nest trees be cleared.

The eastern prairie fringed orchid (*Platanthera leucophaea*) is listed as threatened for Johnson County in Iowa. It occupies wet grassland habitats. There is no critical habitat designated for this species. Federal regulations prohibit any commercial activity involving this species or the destruction, malicious damage or removal of this species from Federal land or any other lands in knowing violation of State law or regulation, including State criminal trespass law. This species should be searched for whenever wet prairie remnants are encountered.

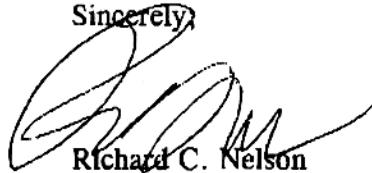
This letter provides comments under the authority of and in accordance with provisions of the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act (48 Stat. 401, as amended; 16 U.S.C. 661 et seq.); and the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended. Thank you for the opportunity to provide

W. Kenneth Derickson, Ph. D

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comments early in the planning process. If you have any additional questions or concerns, please contact Heidi Woeber of my staff at extension 517.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Richard C. Nelson', written over the word 'Sincerely,'.

Richard C. Nelson  
Supervisor