



Illinois
Department of
**Natural
Resources**

JB Pritzker, Governor • Natalie Phelps Finnie, Director
One Natural Resources Way • Springfield, Illinois 62702-1271

www.dnr.illinois.gov

September 10, 2025

Paul Bottum
Developer
7716 US Hwy 14
Crystal Lake, IL 60172

**RE: Korver Solar, LLC
Consultation Program
EcoCAT Review #2604816
McHenry County**

Dear Mr. Bottum:

The Department has received your submission for this project for the purposes of consultation pursuant to the *Illinois Endangered Species Protection Act* [520 ILCS 10/11], the *Illinois Natural Areas Preservation Act* [525 ILCS 30/17], and Title 17 *Illinois Administrative Code* Part 1075.

The proposed action consists of developing a 4MWac Community Solar facility.

The Illinois Natural Heritage Database shows the following protected resources may be in the vicinity of the project location:

Illinois Nature Preserves Commission Lands
Lake in the Hills Fen Class 3 Groundwater (C3GW)

State Threatened or Endangered Species
Blanding's Turtle (*Emydoidea blandingii*)

Due to the project scope and proximity to protected resources the Department recommends the following actions be taken to avoid adversely impacting listed species and/or protected natural area in the vicinity of the project:

Lake in the Hills Fen C3GW

This project falls completely within the Lake in the Hills Fen Class 3 Groundwater recharge area, which protects the integrity of the Lake in the Hills Fen Nature Preserve. The modification of groundwater quality and quantity which may affect conditions within a Nature Preserve is prohibited. The Department recommends the following to avoid and minimize impact to Lake in the Hills Fen Class 3 Groundwater:

- Use the lightest weight equipment possible to complete the job.
- Balloon or large tires should be used whenever possible to reduce compaction.
- Disc site upon completion to de-compact the surface after final soil is placed to ensure good infiltration.
- Naturalized permeable basins and swales should be part included in the design.

Blanding's Turtle

EcoCAT has indicated records for the state-listed Blanding's Turtle in vicinity of the project area. The Blanding's Turtle forages and hibernates in wetlands and, depending on the temperature, emerges in the spring with upland nesting occurring in open fields, preferably in sandy soils in late spring or early summer. The Department recommends:

- Install exclusionary silt fence by the end of March and maintain it through October (if needed) to prevent turtles from entering the construction area. Conduct daily inspections during construction to ensure that exclusionary fencing is properly installed (dug into the ground) and to check if turtles are present.
- Cover trenches at the end of each workday. Before starting each workday, trenches and excavations should be routinely inspected to ensure no turtles (or other amphibians and reptiles) have become trapped within them.

Given the above recommendations are adopted the Department has determined that impacts to these protected resources are unlikely. The Department has determined impacts to other protected resources in the vicinity of the project location are also unlikely.

In accordance with 17 Ill. Adm. Code 1075.40(h), please notify the Department of your decision regarding these recommendations.

Consultation on the part of the Department is closed, unless the applicant desires additional information or advice related to this proposal. Consultation for Part 1075 is valid for two years unless new information becomes available which was not previously considered; the proposed action is modified; or additional species, essential habitat, or Natural Areas are identified in the vicinity. If the action has not been implemented within two years of the date of this letter, or any of the above listed conditions develop, a new consultation is necessary.

The natural resource review reflects the information existing in the Illinois Natural Heritage Database at the time of the project submittal and should not be regarded as a final statement on the project being considered, nor should it be a substitute for detailed site surveys or field surveys required for environmental assessments. If additional protected resources are unexpectedly encountered during the project's implementation, the applicant must comply with the applicable statutes and regulations.

This letter does not serve as permission to take any listed or endangered species. As a reminder, no take of an endangered species is permitted without an Incidental Take Authorization or the required permits. Anyone who takes a listed or endangered species without an Incidental Take Authorization or required permit may be subject to criminal and/or civil penalties pursuant to the

Illinois Endangered Species Act, the Fish and Aquatic Life Act, the Wildlife Code and other applicable authority.

The Department also offers the following conservation measures be considered to help protect native wildlife and enhance natural areas in the project area:

If temporary or permanent lighting is required, the Department recommends the following lighting recommendation to minimize adverse effects to wildlife:

- All lighting should be fully shielded fixtures that emit no light upward.
- Only “warm-white” or filtered LEDs (CCT < 3,000 K; S/P ratio < 1.2) should be used to minimize blue emission.
- Only light the exact space with the amount (lumens) needed to meet facility safety requirement.
- If LEDs are to be used, avoid the temptation to over-light based on the higher luminous efficiency of LEDs.

If erosion control blanket is to be used, the Department also recommends that wildlife-friendly plastic-free blanket be used around wetlands and adjacent to natural areas, if not feasible to implement project wide, to prevent the entanglement of native wildlife.

Please contact Grant Gebhards (grant.m.gebhards@illinois.gov) with any questions about this review.

Sincerely,



Bradley Hayes
Manager, Impact Assessment Section
Division of Real Estate Services and Consultation
Office of Realty & Capital Planning
Illinois Department of Natural Resources
One Natural Resources Way
Springfield, IL 62702
Bradley.Hayes@Illinois.gov
Phone: (217) 782-0031