



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
Region 1
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Boston, MA 02109-3912

FROM: John H. Nagle, Industrial Permits Section

TO: Schiller Station NPDES Permit File

DATE: January 19, 2018

RE: Schiller Station ESA Review of USFWS Protected Species

In the summer of 2015, EPA was in the process of writing the Draft Permit and Fact Sheet to support the Schiller Station National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit renewal. As part of that process, using the best available science, EPA reviewed the aquatic and terrestrial species protected by the federal Endangered Species Act (ESA) under the jurisdiction of the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS).

EPA began by assembling a list of USFWS federally protected species (listed species) found in the general coastal New Hampshire region. The listed species included:

Mammals

Northern Long-eared Bat	(<i>Myotis septentrionalis</i>)	Threatened
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Birds

Red Knot	(<i>Calidris canutus rufa</i>)	Threatened
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Roseate Tern	(<i>Sterna dougallii dougallii</i>)	Endangered
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EPA found no critical habitat under the jurisdiction of USFWS in the general New Hampshire coastal region.

EPA next performed a more focused examination of where the above three species were expected to occur in relation to the federally permitted action area of the Schiller Station wastewater discharge in the Piscataqua River. Based on this review, only the northern long-eared bat had the potential to be in the general vicinity of the Schiller Station wastewater discharge (Attachment I).

Northern long-eared bats spend winter hibernating in caves and mines, called hibernacula. They use areas in various sized caves or mines with constant temperatures, high humidity, and no air

currents. Like most eastern bats, the northern long-eared bat roosts in trees during summer. During the warmer months, bats roost singly or in colonies in forested areas, underneath bark, in cavities or in crevices of both live trees and snags (dead trees). Males and non-reproductive females may also roost in cooler places, like caves and mines.

The expected habitat of the northern long-eared bat did not overlap the estuarine area of the near shore Piscataqua River, on the New Hampshire bank of the river, approximately six miles upstream from Portsmouth Harbor. In addition, the insects that these bats prey upon were not expected to be specifically found in any biologically meaningful or exclusive concentration associated with the discharge plumes of the action area of the facility, nor were these prey items expected to be adversely affected by the discharge plumes from the Station.

Based on this assessment, EPA made the determination that suitable habitat for the northern long-eared bat was not present in the action area and, therefore, the species was not present. As noted previously, no critical habitat has been designated for this species. As a result of the above considerations, no consultation was required with USFWS. *See* ESA Section 7(a)(2).

Attachment I - Schiller Station Memo To The File – ESA Review of USFWS Listed Species

The screenshot shows the IPaC 'Explore location' page. The browser address bar displays the URL: <https://ecos.fws.gov/ipac/location/BSGXU505GBBEZOEBIMDALWV2WA/resources>. The page header includes 'IPaC Information for Planning and Consultation' and 'U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service' with a 'LOG IN' link. The main heading is 'Explore location' with the subtext 'LOCAL OFFICES 2 OFFICES'. A map icon is shown next to the text 'LOCATION Maine and New Hampshire' and a 'CHANGE LOCATION' link. On the left, under the 'Resources' section, there is a list: 'ENDANGERED SPECIES' with a count of '1', 'MIGRATORY BIRDS' with a count of '25', 'FACILITIES', and 'WETLANDS'. On the right, a yellow box titled 'What's next?' contains the text: 'Define a project at this location to evaluate potential impacts, get an official species list, and make species determinations.' Below this text is a blue button labeled 'DEFINE PROJECT'. The Windows taskbar at the bottom shows the time as 8:05 PM on 1/7/2018.

The screenshot shows the 'Endangered species' page within the IPaC application. The browser address bar is the same as the previous screenshot. The page header is identical. The 'WETLANDS' section is highlighted. A button labeled 'PRINT RESOURCE LIST' is visible. The main heading is 'Endangered species'. The text on the page reads: 'Listed species 1 are managed by the [Ecological Services Program](#) of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.' followed by 'Additional information on endangered species data is provided [below](#).' and 'The following species are potentially affected by activities in this location:'. At the bottom, there are two tabs: 'THUMBNAILS' and 'LIST', with 'LIST' being the active tab. The Windows taskbar at the bottom shows the time as 8:05 PM on 1/7/2018.

https://ecos.fws.gov/ipac/location/BSGXUS05GBBEZOEBIMDALWV2WA/resources One EPA Workplace IPaC: Explore Location

File Edit View Favorites Tools Help

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IPaC Information for Planning and Consultation U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

LOG IN

Additional information on endangered species data is provided [below](#).

The following species are potentially affected by activities in this location:

THUMBNAILS

LIST

Mammals

NAME	STATUS
Northern Long-eared Bat <i>Myotis septentrionalis</i>	Threatened

Critical habitats

https://ecos.fws.gov/ipac/location/BSGXUS05GBBEZOEBIMDALWV2WA/resources One EPA Workplace IPaC: Explore Location

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Mammals

NAME	STATUS
Northern Long-eared Bat <i>Myotis septentrionalis</i>	Threatened

Critical habitats

Potential effects to critical habitat(s) in this location must be analyzed along with the endangered species themselves.

THERE ARE NO CRITICAL HABITATS AT THIS LOCATION.