

1400 Coliseum Blvd. 36110-2400 • Post Office Box 301463
Montgomery, Alabama 36130-1463
(334) 271-7700 • FAX (334) 271-7950

CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION FROM ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

Chandler Mountain Greasy Cove Water Authority
St. Clair County

SRF Project No. FS010282-01

August 11, 2021

The Alabama Department of Environmental Management has made \$617,000 in financial assistance available to the Chandler Mountain Greasy Cove Water Authority using funds from the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) loan program. In accordance with State and Federal regulations that govern the program, the Alabama Department of Environmental Management has conducted a review to assess the potential impacts upon the environment that may result from implementation of this project.

The Chandler Mt. Greasy Cove Water Authority proposes a project to provide safe and reliable drinking water within its water system. The proposed project will consist of replacement of existing water meters with new AMR meters, installation of emergency power at existing booster pump stations, rehabilitation of existing water storage tanks, replacement of fire hydrants and update SCADA system. Completion of this proposed project will reduce water loss, maintain compliance, provide power during emergency situations and decrease overall operational cost associated with labor and transportation.

The Alabama Department of Environmental Management has determined that the project qualifies for a Categorical Exclusion (CE) from further environmental study under the guidelines specified by the State Environmental Review Process (SERP) which specifically include actions which are solely directed toward minor rehabilitation of existing facilities, functional replacement of equipment, or towards the construction of new ancillary facilities adjacent or appurtenant to existing facilities. However, this decision may be reconsidered if significant adverse information concerning the potential environmental impacts of the project is discovered.

Comments relative to this project should be submitted in writing to Mrs. Chavon R. Jones, SRF Section, Permits and Services Division, Alabama Department of Environmental Management, Post Office Box 301463, Montgomery, Alabama 36130-1463, no later than 30 days after the date of this public notice. The Alabama Department of Environmental Management will not take formal action to proceed with the project without carefully evaluating any public comments opposing the project.

Sincerely,

Lance R. LeFleur,
Director

LRL/EJR/CRJ/kbh
Attachment

Chandler Mountain Greasy Cove Water Authority
SRF# FS010282-01

The Categorical Exclusion is promulgated in the State Environmental Review Process (SERP) in Part IV, Section C: Categorical Exclusions for Drinking Water State Revolving Fund Projects: (Italicized sections apply.)

1. The following drinking water projects are eligible for categorical exclusions:
 - a. *Actions intended solely for minor rehabilitation, functional replacement, or ancillary facilities adjacent or appurtenant to existing facilities.*
 - b. Minor construction, including:
 - (1) New wells or replacement wells for water supply purposes if ancillary to the existing system;
 - (2) Improvements not intended to increase capacity of the system;
 - (3) Facilities for the disinfection of public water supplies;
 - (4) Facilities such as looping that will result solely in the provision of adequate public water system pressure;
 - (5) *Construction of water tanks;*
 - (6) Construction of new water lines in previously disturbed areas within one mile of the existing distribution system.
 - c. Projects where funding is being provided for planning and/or engineering costs only (in which case the requirements of IV.C.1.a-d do not apply).
2. In order to determine if a drinking water project is eligible for a CE, all of the following must not apply:
 - a. The action is known or expected to directly or indirectly adversely impact any of the following:
 - (1) Cultural or historical resources;
 - (2) Endangered or Threatened Species and/or their critical habitats;
 - (3) Environmentally important natural resource areas such as floodplains, wetlands, prime agricultural land, or aquifer recharge zones.
 - b. The action is not cost effective.
 - c. The action will cause significant public controversy.
 - d. The action will create a new or expanded surface drinking water source.

This project complies with the above requirements and has been determined to be eligible for a Categorical Exclusion.



ALABAMA HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Lisa D. Jones
Executive Director
State Historic Preservation Officer

468 South Perry Street
Montgomery, Alabama 36130-0900

Tel: 334-242-3184
Fax: 334-242-1083

January 4, 2021

Dave Bechtel
Utility Engineering Consultants, LLC
P.O. Box 19218
Birmingham, AL 35219

Re: AHC 21-0252
Chandler Mt.-Greasy Cove Water Authority-Water System Improvements
St. Clair County

Dear Mr. Bechtel:

We concur with the above referenced project provided all construction activities will occur within **existing and previously disturbed** highway right-of-way and/or other previously disturbed areas. For the purposes of this letter, previous disturbance is defined as mechanical disturbance to either culturally sterile subsoil, or the maximum depth of the proposed undertaking. It should be noted that agricultural plowing does not typically meet this threshold of disturbance, nor do previously undisturbed portions of the ROW that require clearing of additional vegetation. Any area that is to be involved and does not fall into one of the above categories will require a cultural resource assessment by a professional archaeologist. Submit the resulting report to our office for review and determination prior to project initiation.

Consultation with the State Historic Preservation Office does not constitute consultation with Tribal Historic Preservation Offices, other Native American tribes, local governments, or the public. If archaeological materials are encountered during construction, the procedures codified at 36 CFR 800.13(b) will apply. Archaeological materials consist of any items, fifty years old or older, which were made or used by man. These items include but are not limited to, stone projectile points (arrowheads), ceramic sherds, bricks, worked wood, bone and stone, metal, and glass objects. The federal agency or the applicant receiving federal assistance should contact our office immediately. If human remains are encountered, the provisions of the Alabama Burial Act (*Code of Alabama* 1975, §13A-7-23.1, as amended; Alabama Historical Commission Administrative Code Chapter 460-X-10 Burials) should be followed. This stipulation shall be placed on the construction plans to ensure contractors are aware of it.

We appreciate your commitment to helping us preserve Alabama's historic archaeological and architectural resources. Should you have any questions, please contact Amanda McBride at 334.230.2692 or Amanda.McBride@ahc.alabama.gov. Have the AHC tracking number referenced above available and include it with any future correspondence.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Lee Anne Wofford".

Lee Anne Wofford
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

LAW/AMH/nj



ALABAMA HISTORICAL COMMISSION

468 South Perry Street
Montgomery, Alabama 36130-0900
334-242-3184 / Fax: 334-240-3477

Lisa D. Jones
Executive Director
State Historic Preservation Officer

June 5, 2019

Dave Bechtel
Utility Engineering Consultants
P.O. Box 100995
Irondale, AL 35210

Re: AHC 19-0935
Replacement of existing water meters water lines
St. Clair County

Dear Mr. Bechtel:

We concur with the above referenced project provided all construction activities will occur within either the highway right-of-way or in previously disturbed areas. Any area that is to be involved and does not fall into one of the above categories will require a cultural resource assessment by a professional archaeologist. Submit the resulting report to our office for review and determination prior to project initiation.

However, should artifacts or archaeological features be encountered during project activities, work shall cease and our office shall be consulted immediately. Artifacts are objects made, used or modified by humans. They include but are not excluded to arrowheads, broken pieces of pottery or glass, stone implements, metal fasteners or tools, etc. Archaeological features are stains in the soil that indicate disturbance by human activity. Some examples are post holes, building foundations, trash pits and even human burials. This stipulation shall be placed on the construction plans to insure contractors are aware of it.

We appreciate your commitment to helping us preserve Alabama's historic archaeological and architectural resources. Should you have any questions, please contact Amanda McBride at 334.230.2692 or Amanda.McBride@ahc.alabama.gov. Have the AHC tracking number referenced above available and include it with any future correspondence.

Sincerely,

Lee Anne Wofford
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

LAW/AMH/nw



REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF:

**DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
CORPS OF ENGINEERS, MOBILE DISTRICT
218 SUMMIT PARKWAY, SUITE 222
HOMEWOOD, ALABAMA 35209**

August 20, 2019

North Branch
Regulatory Division

SUBJECT: Department of the Army Jurisdictional Determination, Number SAM-2019-00520-JDC, Chandler Mountain /Greasy Cove Water Authority

Chandler Mountain /Greasy Cove Water Authority
% Utility Engineering Consultants, LLC
Attention: Dave Bechtel
Post Office Box 100995
Irondale, Alabama 35210

Transmitted electronically to dbechtel@uecllc

Dear Mr. Bechtel:

This is in response to your May 24, 2019, letter requesting Department of the Army (DA), U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) review of the proposed Chandler Mountain /Greasy Cove Water Authority water system improvements including water line replacement. The water system improvements will occur along Chandler Mountain Road between Latitude N33.941626, Longitude W86.254687 and Latitude N33.936147, Longitude W86.248801 in Section 32, Township 12 South, Range 4 East, Steele, St. Clair County, Alabama. This project has been assigned file number **SAM-2019-00520-JDC**, which should be referred to in all future correspondence regarding this project.

Based on our review of the project information submitted by your office and mapping resources available to our office, we have determined that the approximately 0.55 mile of open trenched water line replacement along Chandler Mountain Road and locations for upgrades to existing water meters and booster stations will occur on non-jurisdictional upland or dry lands. Be advised, this determination is based primarily on information provided by you regarding the specific project location, scope of work, and environmental setting.

The proposed project was reviewed pursuant to Section 404 of the Clean Water Act, which requires that a DA permit be obtained for the placement or discharge of dredged and/or fill material into "waters of the United States", including wetlands, prior to conducting the work (33 U.S.C. 1344). For regulatory purposes, the USACE defines wetlands as those areas that are inundated or saturated by surface or groundwater at a frequency and duration sufficient to support, and under normal circumstances do support, a prevalence of vegetation typically adapted for life in saturated soil conditions.

This letter contains an approved jurisdictional determination (JD) for the subject project area. If you object to this determination, you may request an administrative appeal under USACE Regulations at 33 CFR Part 331. Attached you will find a Notification of Appeal Process (NAP) fact sheet and Request for Appeal (RFA) form. If you request to appeal this determination you must submit a completed RFA form to the USACE, South Atlantic Division Office at the following address:

Administrative Appeals Review Officer
Telephone: (404) 562-5137, Fax: (404) 562-5138
60 Forsyth Street Southwest, Room 9M15
Atlanta, Georgia 30303-8801

In order for an RFA to be accepted by the U.S Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), the USACE must determine that it is complete, that it meets the criteria for appeal under 33 CFR Part 331.5, and that it has been received by the Division Office within 60 days of the date of the NAP. Should you decide to submit an RFA form, it must be received at the above address by October 21, 2019. It is not necessary to submit an RFA form to the Division Office if you do not object to the determination in this letter.

This approved JD is based on current policy and regulation and is valid for a period of five years from the date of this letter. If by the end of the five-year period the proposed work has not been implemented and this JD has not been specifically revalidated by the USACE, it shall automatically expire.

The statements contained herein do not convey any property rights or any exclusive privileges, and do not authorize any injury to property nor shall it be construed as excusing you from compliance with other Federal, State, or local statutes, ordinances, or regulations that may affect proposed work at this site. Furthermore, this determination has been conducted to identify the limits of the USACE Clean Water Act jurisdiction for the particular site identified in this request. This determination may not be valid for the wetland conservation provisions of the FSA of 1985, as amended. If you are a U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) program participant, or anticipate participation in USDA programs, you should request a certified wetland determination from the local office of the Natural Resources Conservation Service prior to starting work.

If you intend to sell property that is part of a project that requires DA authorization, it may be subject to the Interstate Land Sales Full Disclosure Act. The Property Report, required by Housing and Urban Development Regulation, must state whether or not a permit for the development has been applied for, issued or denied by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), (Part 320.3(h) of Title 33 of the Code of Federal Regulations).

Based on our findings regarding the proposed activities, a DA permit pursuant to Section 404 of the Clean Water Act **will not be required** to implement the project as proposed.

We appreciate your cooperation with the USACE Regulatory Program. If the project location or scope of work changes, you are urged to contact this office for a verification of this determination.

You may contact me at (205) 290-9096 or at jevon.d.coleman@usace.army.mil, if you have questions concerning this matter. For additional information about our Regulatory Program, visit our website at www.sam.usace.army.mil/Missions/Regulatory.aspx. Also, while you are there please take a moment to complete our regulatory customer survey located near the bottom of the webpage. Your responses are appreciated and will help us improve our services.

Sincerely,

COLEMAN.JEVO

N.D.1555630910

Digitally signed by
COLEMAN.JEVON.D.1555630910
Date: 2019.08.21 10:19:27 -05'00'

Jevon D. Coleman
Regulatory Specialist
North Branch

Attachments

NOTIFICATION OF ADMINISTRATIVE APPEAL OPTIONS AND PROCESS AND REQUEST FOR APPEAL

Applicant: Chandler Mt./Greasy Cove Water Authority	File Number: SAM-2019-00520-JDC	Date: 08/20/2019
Attached is:		See Section below
	INITIAL PROFFERED PERMIT (Standard Permit or Letter of permission)	A
	PROFFERED PERMIT (Standard Permit or Letter of permission)	B
	PERMIT DENIAL	C
XX	APPROVED JURISDICTIONAL DETERMINATION	D
	PRELIMINARY JURISDICTIONAL DETERMINATION	E

SECTION I - The following identifies your rights and options regarding an administrative appeal of the above decision. Additional information may be found at <http://usace.army.mil/inet/functions/cw/cecwo/reg> or Corps regulations at 33 CFR Part 331.

A: INITIAL PROFFERED PERMIT: You may accept or object to the permit.

- **ACCEPT:** If you received a Standard Permit, you may sign the permit document and return it to the district engineer for final authorization. If you received a Letter of Permission (LOP), you may accept the LOP and your work is authorized. Your signature on the Standard Permit or acceptance of the LOP means that you accept the permit in its entirety, and waive all rights to appeal the permit, including its terms and conditions, and approved jurisdictional determinations associated with the permit.
- **OBJECT:** If you object to the permit (Standard or LOP) because of certain terms and conditions therein, you may request that the permit be modified accordingly. You must complete Section II of this form and return the form to the district engineer. Your objections must be received by the district engineer within 60 days of the date of this notice, or you will forfeit your right to appeal the permit in the future. Upon receipt of your letter, the district engineer will evaluate your objections and may: (a) modify the permit to address all of your concerns, (b) modify the permit to address some of your objections, or (c) not modify the permit having determined that the permit should be issued as previously written. After evaluating your objections, the district engineer will send you a proffered permit for your reconsideration, as indicated in Section B below.

B: PROFFERED PERMIT: You may accept or appeal the permit

- **ACCEPT:** If you received a Standard Permit, you may sign the permit document and return it to the district engineer for final authorization. If you received a Letter of Permission (LOP), you may accept the LOP and your work is authorized. Your signature on the Standard Permit or acceptance of the LOP means that you accept the permit in its entirety, and waive all rights to appeal the permit, including its terms and conditions, and approved jurisdictional determinations associated with the permit.
- **APPEAL:** If you choose to decline the proffered permit (Standard or LOP) because of certain terms and conditions therein, you may appeal the declined permit under the Corps of Engineers Administrative Appeal Process by completing Section II of this form and sending the form to the division engineer. This form must be received by the division engineer within 60 days of the date of this notice.

C: PERMIT DENIAL: You may appeal the denial of a permit under the Corps of Engineers Administrative Appeal Process by completing Section II of this form and sending the form to the division engineer. This form must be received by the division engineer within 60 days of the date of this notice.

D: APPROVED JURISDICTIONAL DETERMINATION: You may accept or appeal the approved JD or provide new information.

- **ACCEPT:** You do not need to notify the Corps to accept an approved JD. Failure to notify the Corps within 60 days of the date of this notice means that you accept the approved JD in its entirety, and waive all rights to appeal the approved JD.
- **APPEAL:** If you disagree with the approved JD, you may appeal the approved JD under the Corps of Engineers Administrative Appeal Process by completing Section II of this form and sending the form to the division engineer. This form must be received by the division engineer within 60 days of the date of this notice.

E: PRELIMINARY JURISDICTIONAL DETERMINATION: You do not need to respond to the Corps regarding the preliminary JD. The Preliminary JD is not appealable. If you wish, you may request an approved JD (which may be appealed), by contacting the Corps district for further instruction. Also you may provide new information for further consideration by the Corps to reevaluate the JD.

SECTION II - REQUEST FOR APPEAL or OBJECTIONS TO AN INITIAL PROFFERED PERMIT

REASONS FOR APPEAL OR OBJECTIONS: (Describe your reasons for appealing the decision or your objections to an initial proffered permit in clear concise statements. You may attach additional information to this form to clarify where your reasons or objections are addressed in the administrative record.)

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: The appeal is limited to a review of the administrative record, the Corps memorandum for the record of the appeal conference or meeting, and any supplemental information that the review officer has determined is needed to clarify the administrative record. Neither the appellant nor the Corps may add new information or analyses to the record. However, you may provide additional information to clarify the location of information that is already in the administrative record.

POINT OF CONTACT FOR QUESTIONS OR INFORMATION:

If you have questions regarding this decision and/or the appeal process you may contact:

**MS. LESLIE E. TURNEY
CESAM-RD-N
U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS
218 SUMMIT PARKWAY, SUITE 222
HOMEWOOD, ALABAMA 35209
(205) 290-9096**

If you only have questions regarding the appeal process you may also contact:

**REGULATORY APPEALS REVIEW OFFICER
SOUTH ATLANTIC DIVISION
60 FORSYTH STREET SW (ROOM 9M15)
ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30303-8801
TELEPHONE: 404-562-5137, FACSIMILE: 404-562-5138**

RIGHT OF ENTRY: Your signature below grants the right of entry to Corps of Engineers personnel, and any government consultants, to conduct investigations of the project site during the course of the appeal process. You will be provided a 15 day notice of any site investigation, and will have the opportunity to participate in all site investigations.

Signature of appellant or agent.

Date:

Telephone number:



REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
CORPS OF ENGINEERS, MOBILE DISTRICT
218 SUMMIT PARKWAY, SUITE 222
HOMEWOOD, ALABAMA 35209

June 7, 2019

North Branch
Regulatory Division

Sent Electronically

Utility Engineering Consultants, LLC
Attention: Mr. Dave Bechtel
P O Box 100995
Irondale, Al 35210
dbechtel@uecllc.com

Dear Mr. Bechtel,

I refer to your recent submittal request for Chandler Mt/Greasy Cove Water system improvements in St Clair County, Alabama. This project has been assigned file number **SAM-2019-00520-JDC**. It is important that you refer to the assigned number in all communications with this office concerning this matter.

If after reviewing your submittal we determine that additional information is required, we will contact you. However, should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at (205) 290-9096 or by email at jevon.d.coleman@usace.army.mil.

Sincerely,

Jevon Coleman
Regulatory Specialist

Event/EC

RECEIVED
JAN 05 2021



Utility Engineering Consultants, LLC

Phone : 205.951.3838
FAX : 205.951.3839
WEB : www.uecllc.com

2019-TA-0917

BY: *M*
150 Southcrest Drive, Suite 100
Homewood, AL 35209
P O Box 19218
Birmingham, AL 35219

January 4, 2021

Mr. William J. Pearson
U.S. Fish and Wildlife
Service 1208-B Main Street
Daphne, AL 36526

**RE: Chandler Mt./Greasy Cove Water Authority Concurrence Request
Response Letter 2019-TA-0917, Dated July 13, 2019**

Dear Mr. Pearson,

Chandler Mt./Greasy Cove Water Authority is in the process of performing an environmental review pursuant to the for ADEM DWSRF Environmental Information Document in order that it may assess the environmental impacts. The project the replacement of existing water meters with new automated reading meters, replacement of existing water lines with severe leaks replace fire hydrants and rehabilitate water existing water tanks. The project location is shown on the enclosed map.

The proposal should not represent a "major construction activity" as defined in 50 CFR 402.02. We request a list of any Federally-listed or proposed threatened or endangered species and designated or proposed critical habitat that may be present in the project area. In addition, please advise us of any present concerns you may have related to possible effects of the project listed above on such species or critical habitat, as well as any other wildlife concerns.

We are including your previous response letter from when we applied for USDA funding. The Water Board has chosen to apply for ADEM DWSRF Funding instead of USDA.

We would appreciate a response within 30 days. If you need any further information or wish to discuss the project, please do not hesitate to contact me at 205-903-3899 or by email at dbechtel@uecllc.com.

Sincerely,

UTILITY ENGINEERING CONSULTANTS, LLC.

Dave Bechtel, P.E.

DBE/jj

cc: Ms. Lynn Burton

Attachments: Water System Map
Previous Response



U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
1208-B Main Street – Daphne, Alabama 36526
Phone 251-441-5181 Fax 251-441-6222

No federally listed species critical habitat are known to occur in the project area. As described, the project will have no significant impact on fish and wildlife resources. IF PROJECT DESIGN CHANGES ARE MADE, PLEASE SUBMIT NEW PLANS FOR REVIEW. We recommend use of best management practices specific to your project (See

<http://www.fws.gov/daphne/section7/bmp.html>

William J. Pearson
William J. Pearson, Field Supervisor

MAR 04 2021

Date

3



United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
1208-B Main Street
Daphne, Alabama 36526

JUN 13 2019

IN REPLY REFER TO:
2019-TA-0917

Mr. Dave Bechtel, P.E.
Utility Engineering Consultants, LLC
2000 Crestwood Blvd. Suite 100
P.O. Box 100995
Irondale, AL 35210

Dear Mr. Bechtel:

Thank you for your letter received June 4, 2019, requesting a list of threatened and endangered species and critical habitats that may occur in the area of the proposed replacement of water meters, water lines, and fire hydrants and rehabilitation of existing water tanks by Chandler Mountain/Greasy Cove Water Authority. We understand the project is located in the vicinity of coordinates 33.944152, -86.253439. We are providing the following information in accordance with the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (87 Stat. 884, as amended; 16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.) (ESA).

Federally Listed Species

The following species may occur within or near your project area:

Bats

Gray Bat, *Myotis grisescens* – Endangered
Indiana Bat, *Myotis sodalis* – Endangered
Northern Long-Eared Bat, *Myotis septentrionalis* – Threatened

Mussels

Coosa moccasinshell, *Medionidus parvulus* – Endangered
Finelined Pocketbook, *Hamiota altilis* – Threatened
Ovate Clubshell, *Pleurobema perovatum* – Endangered
Southern Acornshell, *Epioblasma othcaloogensis* – Endangered
Southern Clubshell, *Pleurobema perovatum* – Endangered
Southern Pigtoe, *Pleurobema georgianum* – Endangered
Triangular Kidneyshell, *Ptychobranhus greenii* – Endangered
Upland Combshell, *Epioblasma metastriata* – Endangered

Plants

Alabama leatherflower, *Clematis socialis* – Endangered
Green Pitcher Plant, *Sarracenia oreophila* - Endangered

Critical Habitat

No critical habitats occur within the proposed project area.

In regards to the three bat species, we recommend a thorough site investigation for any karst features within the project area (i.e., sinkholes, sinking streams, caves). If such topographic features are located on or near the project area, we request that you inform our office of their location so that we may determine if further consultation is necessary.

It is unclear from the information you provided whether tree removal is intended in the proposed project. Suitable Indiana bat and northern long-eared bat habitat includes forests and woodlots containing potential roost trees, including live trees and/or snags ≥ 5 inches (12.7 centimeters) and ≥ 3 inches dbh (7.6 centimeters), respectively, that have exfoliating bark, cracks, crevices or hollows. Some adjacent and interspersed non-forested habitats such as emergent wetlands and adjacent edges of agricultural fields, old fields and pastures, as well as linear features such as fencerows, riparian forests, and other wooded corridors may also be considered suitable habitat. These wooded areas may be dense or loose aggregates of trees with variable amounts of canopy closure. Individual trees may be considered suitable habitat when they exhibit the characteristics of a potential roost tree and are located within 1,000 feet (305 meters) of other forested/wooded habitat. If the site contains possible Indiana bat and/or northern long-eared bat summer habitat, we recommend tree clearing should occur from October 15 to March 31.

If there are no karst features and no suitable habitat on site for the Indiana bat or northern long-eared bat, or if there is suitable habitat and all tree removal for this project is carried out between October 15 and March 31, no further consultation will be necessary for the gray bat, Indiana bat, or northern long-eared bat. If this timing is not achievable and no other measures to avoid adverse effects are possible, then we recommend that you proceed to acoustic and/or mist-netting surveys to determine presence or probable absence of northern long eared bats at the project site in accordance with the 2019 Range-wide Indiana Bat Summer Survey Guidelines (April 2019) (https://www.fws.gov/midwest/endangered/mammals/inba/surveys/pdf/2019_Rangewide_IBat_Survey_Guidelines.pdf).

The listed mussel species require habitats consisting of flowing water with low turbidity and low levels of pollutants. If the proposed project does not affect streams or if it avoids impacts to streams by directional boring, then it would not be anticipated to impact aquatic habitats or species that may occur within or near the project area. If impacts to streams are unavoidable, we recommend that you inform our office so that we may determine if further consultation is necessary.

The Alabama leather flower is a perennial herb that produces dense clusters of erect (non-viney) stems. The most distinctive features of this leather flower are its rhizomatous habit and formation of dense clones with erect stems (singly or in clusters) reaching 7-12 inches. It does not have

tendrils. The leaves are variable – lower leaves are scale-like, mid-stem leaves are simple, and upper leaves have three to five leaflets. Its flowers are solitary, urn-to bell-shaped, and blue-violet in color. It blooms from late April to May. The Alabama leather flower is found in mesic flats near intermittent creeks where plants are rooted in silty-clay soils of the Conasauga Soil Series (slightly basic, high hydroperiod). It occurs in full sun to partial shade in a grass-sedge-rush community.

The green pitcher plant is a perennial, funnel-shaped herb growing 8-30 in tall. Leaves are green to yellow-green, externally smooth and often with red veins. They appear in early April and wither by late summer. It is found in three distinct nutrient-poor habitat types: oak-pine woodlands, sandstone streambanks, and seepage bogs. Soils where the green pitcher plant is found range from high in organic material to pure sand, but all are highly acidic and only seasonably wet. Is more shade tolerant than other pitcher plants.

Both plant species are unlikely to occur in areas that are highly modified and disturbed due to human activities. If the proposed project does not impact the listed plant species habitats as described, then no further consultation for these plant species is necessary.

We appreciate your concern for threatened and endangered species. If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact Mr. Evan Collins at (251) 441-5837. Please refer to the reference number located at the top of this letter in future phone calls or written correspondence.

Sincerely,



William J. Pearson
Field Supervisor
Alabama Ecological Services Field Office



June 7, 2019

Dave B. Bechtel, P.E.
Utility Engineer Consultants, LLC
2000 Crestwood Blvd., Suite 100
Ironton, Alabama 35210

Dear Mr. Bechtel:

Re: Chandler Mt./Greasy Cove Water Authority – water system improvements

This letter is in response to your letter requesting our review on the subject project. The Regional Planning Commission of Greater Birmingham (RPCGB) does not know of any reason to oppose, and therefore concurs with the project. Thank you for giving us the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Charles E. Ball".

Charles E. Ball, AICP
Executive Director

