



PennEast Pipeline Company, LLC

## **PENNEAST PIPELINE PROJECT**

*Multi-Permit Application  
for  
Freshwater Wetlands Individual Permit  
Special Activity Transition Area Waiver  
Letter of Interpretation  
Water Quality Certificate  
Flood Hazard Area Individual Permit  
Flood Hazard Hardship Exception Request  
Flood Hazard Area Verification*

### **ATTACHMENT J-3 –Bog Turtle Certification**



*Submitted to:  
New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection  
Division of Land Use Regulation*

**August 2019**

## BOG TURTLE CERTIFICATION STATEMENT

The PennEast Pipeline Project (Project) traverses Hunterdon and Mercer counties, New Jersey. According to Appendix D of the Individual Freshwater Wetlands Permit Individual / Open Water Fill Permit Application Checklist, bog turtle (*Glyptemys muhlenbergii*) may occur within the following townships in Hunterdon and Mercer counties:

- **Alexandria Township (Hunterdon)**
- Bethlehem Township (Hunterdon)
- Clinton Township (Hunterdon)
- Franklin Township (Hunterdon)
- Glen Gardner Borough (Hunterdon)
- Lebanon Township (Hunterdon)
- Quinton Township (Hunterdon)
- Readington Township (Hunterdon)
- Tewksbury Township (Hunterdon)
- Union Township (Hunterdon)
- Hamilton Township (Mercer)

Alexandria Township is the only township with known bog turtle occurrence that the Project traverses. No other townships on the list are crossed by the Project.

PennEast initiated consultation with the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) New Jersey Field Office in 2014. The USFWS indicated that both Hunterdon and Mercer counties are within the range of the federally-threatened bog turtle. Recognized Qualified Bog Turtle Surveyors (RQBTS) have conducted Phase 1 habitat assessments on all wetlands delineated within the workspace and within the accessible survey corridor in all townships that the Project traverses in New Jersey. Phase 2 and 3 presence/absence surveys have been conducted where suitable habitat was identified. No bog turtles have been observed during these surveys.

The USFWS issued a Biological Opinion for the Project on November 28, 2017. The Biological Opinion discusses avoidance and minimization measures (AMMs) that PennEast has committed to when crossing occupied bog turtle habitat. These AMMs were specific to a known bog turtle wetland complex in Pennsylvania and would be applied to any additional occupied habitats that were encountered as surveys continued in 2018 and 2019. Because no bog turtles were observed along the Project in New Jersey, these AMMs do not apply within New Jersey. PennEast continues to coordinate with the USFWS, reporting survey results and providing Project updates.

Based on the township list of known bog turtle occurrences, the surveys conducted by RQBTS, and the Biological Opinion, the Project is not likely to adversely affect the federally-threatened bog turtle in New Jersey.

By:  Date: 7/31/2019

Tony Cox, Vice President, Supply and Logistics  
PennEast Pipeline Company, LLC  
By its Project Manager  
UGI Energy Services, LLC