

Last evening I asked for clarification from this Board's counsel on what specifically the IDNR was recommending with regard to Rooks Creek and Henline Creek. At my request, counsel conferred with Mr. Keith Shank of IDNR, who advised that the Henline Creek is considered part of the Mackinaw River INAI site, and thus recommended the half-mile setback for all turbines from both Mackinaw River and Henline Creek in this project. Mr. Shank also advised that while a portion of Rooks Creek is part of the Vermillion River INAI site, it is only the part of Rooks Creek located in Livingston County. The portion of Rooks Creek that is located in McLean County is considered by IDNR to be a perennial stream, thus Mr. Shank recommended the 500 foot setback for those turbines. I received this information shortly before the reconvening of SU-18-02 tonight, and in the interest of fairness to all interested and involved parties, wanted to share this with you as soon as possible.

Delivered by Chair
James Finnigan
Communication }

Case SU-18-02

Walley, Samantha

From: Shank, Keith <Keith.Shank@Illinois.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, February 21, 2018 4:45 PM
To: Walley, Samantha
Subject: RE: EDR Wind Farm Application

Ms. Walley, thank you for your question.

Your interpretation is absolutely correct: that portion of Rooks Creek and its headwaters in Mclean County is NOT part of the stream which possesses the INAI designation; thus the half-mile setback recommendation for INAI Sites would not apply to those portions of Rooks Creek in McLean County.

The reason the downstream INAI designation is discussed is to emphasize that adverse impacts to Rooks Creek within McLean County will have consequences downstream that could adversely modify the INAI portion of the stream in Livingston County. These impacts would primarily involve erosion, siltation, and poorer water quality. It is also to note that endangered or threatened species known to exist in Rooks Creek in Livingston County have a pathway to be present in portions of the stream in McLean County where suitable habitat may be present, but the presence of those species have not been documented.

Portions of Rooks Creek in McLean County are perennial, where the 500-foot setback recommendation would apply, but many channel segments are intermittent or ephemeral, where a setback is not recommended. Intermittent and ephemeral channels are unlikely to provide essential habitat for aquatic species listed as endangered or threatened.

If I can be of any further assistance to the Zoning Board of Appeals, please do not hesitate to contact me.

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From: Walley, Samantha [mailto:Samantha.Walley@mcleancountyil.gov]
Sent: Wednesday, February 21, 2018 12:09 PM
To: Shank, Keith <Keith.Shank@Illinois.gov>
Subject: [External] EDR Wind Farm Application

Mr. Shank,

I have attached copies of the IDNR recommendations received by Mr. Phil Dick of the McLean County Department of Building and Zoning. As you are no doubt aware, our Zoning Board of Appeals is currently in the process of hearing the special use application for EDPR's proposed wind farm in northeast McLean County. Our board has a keen interest in understanding and utilizing the IDNR's recommendations where possible to protect our local ecology.

To that end, we want to ensure that we have properly interpreted your department's review of the proposed wind farm. On page 4 of your Endangered Species Consultation, you identified that most of the Vermillion River is designated INAI. You also indicated the portion of Rooks Creek that is identified as being part of the INAI site actually exists north of the McLean-Livingston County line, which would mean that the length of Rooks Creek contained within McLean County would *not* fall under the INAI designation. Am I interpreting that correctly?

Any additional information is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

Samantha Walley

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