



E1-963

April 26, 2004



Mr. Troy Brady
Surface Transportation Board
1925 K Street NW
Washington, DC 20423

Re: Indiana Bat Habitat Survey
Keller Branch Rail Construction
Peoria County, Illinois

Dear Mr. Brady:

In response to your phone conversation with Ms. Kristen Lundh of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service regarding a survey for potential suitable habitat for the Indiana bat (*Myotis sodalis*), Hanson Professional Services conducted a habitat survey of the proposed construction area, at your request, on April 24, 2004.

The proposed 1,800 ft rail construction area is located in an urban, light industrial and commercial area and crosses a four-lane roadway with an average daily traffic count of about 8,000 vehicles per day. There are no known caves or streams suitable for wintering or foraging, respectively, in the vicinity of the project area. Also, there are no trees with exfoliating bark or dead trees greater than 16 in. dbh that will be removed for the construction of this project. A few trees will be removed by the construction of this project; however, they are primarily saplings and early successional trees less than 8 in. dbh and consist of various species including white ash, mulberry, linden and spruce.

Based on our field review of the project area, it is our opinion that no suitable habitat is present and project activities will not likely adversely affect the Indiana bat. Therefore, we are requesting concurrence of these findings from your office and a termination of any further consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service so that this project can be approved for construction.

Hanson Professional Services Inc.

1525 S. Sixth St. • Springfield, IL 62703-2886 • Phone: (217) 788-2450 • Fax: (217) 788-2503

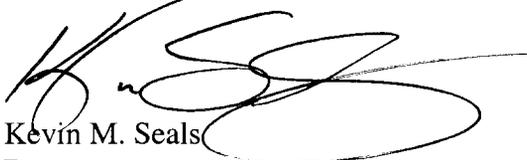
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Please contact me at (217) 788-2450 if you have any questions or require any additional information.

Sincerely,

HANSON PROFESSIONAL SERVICES INC.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kevin M. Seals', written over the printed name.

Kevin M. Seals
Partner

cc: Ms. Kristen Lundh, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service



Hanson Professional Services Inc.