

From: [Kendle, Erin \(MARAD\)](#)
To: [Bigbie Brian](#)
Subject: RE: Section 7 USFWS Verification Letter
Date: Monday, January 4, 2021 7:35:02 AM

Brian,

We agree based on the USFWS letter. That is sufficient for our purposes, and we don't require anything else for ESA. Please let me know if you need any other information to resubmit the worksheet to FRA.

Thank you,

Erin Kendle
Office of Environment
MAR-410
Maritime Administration
Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave SE
Washington, DC 20590

From: Bigbie Brian |
Sent: Friday, January 01, 2021 4:40 PM
To: Kendle, Erin (MARAD)
Subject: Section 7 USFWS Verification Letter

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Erin,

Happy New Year! As per FRA comments on the Section 7 review of critical habitat for the Northern Long-Eared Bat, attached is the generated verification USFWS letter on the matter. We consulted our project Biologist to ensure the answers provided in this review were correct. According to him, the information filled in the system is listing a "may affect" determination likely due to the inclusion of tree removal inside the range, and not any of the other items. Reviewing this through the lens of the FHWA/FTA/FRA Programmatic BO, project activities should qualify for those discussed in the BO, at least in part. Parts of the loop track may be too far afield from the existing road/track surfaces to be considered.

FRA mentioned that the worksheet needs to have a final conclusion for the species with supporting rationale and state whether MARAD consulted with FWS or not.

Please advise.

Brian Bigbie
Economic Development
W: 918.579.9493

