

APPENDIX A

AGENCY CORRESPONDENCE



State of New Jersey

Christine Todd Whitman
Governor

Department of Environmental Protection

Robert C. Shinn, Jr.
Commissioner

Division of Parks and Forestry
Office of Natural Lands Management
Natural Heritage Program
P.O. Box 404
Trenton, NJ 08625-0404
Tel. #609-984-1339
Fax. #609-984-1427

December 18, 2000

Victor Furmanec
Dresdner Robin
371 Warren Street
Jersey City, NJ 07302-3035

Re: University Heights Connector

Dear Mr. Furmanec:

Thank you for your data request regarding rare species information for the above referenced project site in Newark City, Essex County.

The Natural Heritage Data Base does not have any records for rare plants, animals, or natural communities on the site. Attached is a list of rare species and natural communities that have been documented from Essex County. This county list can be used as a master species list for directing further inventory work. If suitable habitat is present at the project site, these species have potential to be present. If you have questions concerning the wildlife records or wildlife species mentioned in this response, we recommend you contact the Division of Fish and Wildlife, Endangered and Nongame Species Program.

PLEASE SEE THE ATTACHED 'CAUTIONS AND RESTRICTIONS ON NHP DATA'.

Thank you for consulting the Natural Heritage Program. The attached invoice details the payment due for processing this data request. Feel free to contact us again regarding any future data requests.

Sincerely,

Thomas F. Breden
Supervisor

cc: Lawrence Niles
Thomas Hampton
NHP File No. 00-4007462



United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

New Jersey Field Office
 Ecological Services
 927 North Main Street, Building
 Pleasantville, New Jersey 08232
 Tel: 609-646-9310
 Fax: 609-646-0352
<http://njfieldoffice.fws.gov>



IN REPLY REFER TO:
 ES-02/104

February 28, 2002

Victor Furmanec, Senior Planner
 Dresdner Robin
 371 Warren Street
 Jersey City, New Jersey 07302-3035
 Fax Number: (201) 217-9607

Reference: Threatened and endangered species review within the vicinity of the proposed roadway improvements project located within Newark City, Essex County, New Jersey.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) has reviewed the above-referenced proposed project pursuant to Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (87 Stat. 884, as amended; 16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*) to ensure the protection of federally listed endangered and threatened species. The following comments do not address all Service concerns for fish and wildlife resources and do not preclude separate review and comment by the Service as afforded by other applicable environmental legislation.

Except for an occasional transient bald eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*), no other federally listed or proposed threatened or endangered flora or fauna under Service jurisdiction are known to occur within the vicinity of the proposed project site. Therefore, no further consultation pursuant to Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act is required by the Service. If additional information on federally listed species becomes available, or if project plans change, this determination may be reconsidered.

Enclosed is current information regarding federally listed and candidate species occurring in New Jersey. The Service encourages federal agencies and other planners to consider candidate species in project planning. The addresses of State agencies that may be contacted for current site-specific information regarding federal candidate and State-listed species are also enclosed.

Reviewing Biologist: *Lisa Solberg*

Authorizing Supervisor: *J. C. [Signature]*

Enclosures: Current summaries of federally listed and candidate species in New Jersey
 Addresses for additional information on candidate and State-listed species