16.4 MILE WETLAND & STREAM DELINEATION, PERMITTING, AND OTHER ECOLOGICAL SERVICES FOR PIPELINE INSTALLATION

Western Access II

EnviroScience (ES) delineated wetlands and other waters and identified potential endangered species habitat along a 16.4 mile long (200 feet wide) proposed pipeline corridor in Harrison and Tuscarawas Counties, Ohio. Portions of the corridor were located within existing right-of-way and portions were located within new right-of-way. The project area contained 61 wetlands (10.5 acres), 79 waterways (17,000 linear feet), 2 ponds (0.06 acres), and 304 trees that could potentially provide habitat for threatened and endangered bats. All site data were compiled using ArcGIS and provided to the client before the due date.

As part of the project, ES attended weekly meeting with the client to discuss the progress and advise on potential problems that may arise. Throughout the project, ES coordinated with Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR), U.S. Fish and Wildlife (USFWS), Ohio Historic Preservation Office, and the Muskingum Watershed Conservation District to receive various approvals and ensure the project was in compliance. Through coordination with the ODNR, ES was required to perform a point count survey for the upland sandpiper and a Phase I mussel survey on two streams. EnviroScience also prepared a Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan, an application for a Nationwide Permit (NWP #12) through the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), and an Individual 401 Water Quality Certification through the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (OEPA). Through the permitting process, ES provided timely updates and responses to both the USACE and OEPA's questions. The most significant issue during permitting was the applicant's desire to clear approximately 90 acres of forest between April 1 and October 1. EnviroScience developed several options on how to proceed for the applicant. The applicant decided to assume presence of threatened and endangered bats and prepare a Biological Assessment (BA). EnviroScience prepared the BA according to the applicant's strict deadline and submitted to the USACE and USFWS in under one month. The BA was accepted and was made part of a Biological Opinion (BO) and the final permits were issued. As part of the issued NWP and BO, ES had to monitor all onsite summer tree clearing activities to ensure the contractors did not clear more than the proposed forested acreage and that the take of threatened and endangered bats was kept below the permitted number. After construction is complete, ES will go back to the project area and ensure all wetlands and streams were replaced as specified in the permits. This monitoring will continue for five years.

Because of their dedication, technical skill, and knowledge of regulations, ES biologists were able to meet or exceed all project deadlines and provide the client with valuable insight regarding environmental compliance, saving the client time and money.

EnviroScience
www.EnviroScienceInc.com

Client
The East Ohio Gas Company

Key Services Provided
- Wetland & Stream Delineation
- GIS Mapping
- Nationwide Permit
- Individual 401 Permit
- Endangered Species Coordination
- Historic Coordination
- Stormwater Plan
- Upland Sandpiper Survey
- Mussel Survey
- Biological Assessment

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Project Duration
June 2014-Sept. 2015

Total ES Project Cost
$200,000

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