STATE OF ALABAMA
DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION AND NATURAL RESOURCES
64 NORTH UNION STREET, SUITE 464
MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA 36130

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July 14, 2023

Mr. L. Stephen Blankenship
MEC McGehee Engineering Corp.
P.O. Box 3431
Jasper, AL 35502-3431

RE: Sensitive Species Information request
Warrior Met Coal BC, LLC - Blue Creek Mine No. 1 Revision R-9

Dear Mr. Blankenship:

The Natural Heritage Section office received your e-mail dated 7/13/2023 addressed to Ashley Peters on 7/14/2023 and has since developed the following information pertaining to sensitive species (state protected, and federally listed candidate, threatened, and endangered species). I have enclosed a list of sensitive species which the Natural Heritage Section Database or the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service have indicated occur or have occurred in Fayette and Tuscaloosa Counties. Additionally, I have listed some potentially helpful and informative web sites at the end of this letter.

The Natural Heritage Section database contains numerous records of sensitive species in Fayette and Tuscaloosa Counties. Our database indicates the area of interest has had no biological survey performed at the delineated location, by our staff or any individuals referenced in our database. Therefore, we can make no accurate assessment to the past or current inhabitancy of any federal or state protected species at that location. A biological survey conducted by trained professionals is the most accurate way to ensure that no sensitive species are jeopardized by the development activities.

The closest sensitive species is recorded in our database as occurring approximately 2.6 miles from the subject site. This federally listed threatened species (Flattened Musk Turtle) feeds on invertebrates such as snails and mussels in undammed small to medium sized clear shallow streams in a small range in the Black Warrior River system. It can also be found upstream and downstream of impoundments. Threats include overcollecting, disease, and habitat degradation from sedimentation and water pollution (in part related to

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coal mining); habitat fragmentation and related increased vulnerability to human-caused catastrophes and demographic accidents also appear to be problems.*

I hope this information will be useful to you. The provided information is to help you in fulfilling your necessary legal obligations. This does not constitute any form of Section 7 consultation. The Natural Heritage Section recommends that the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service field office in Daphne be contacted for Section 7 consultations.

The information does not suggest that protected species are not at this location. The specific location of a sensitive species is considered confidential information by a State Lands Division Regulation and can be released only to individuals who enter into a confidentiality and indemnity contract with the State Lands Division.

The Natural Heritage Section provides this information as a service to the people of Alabama. The NHS acts as a clearing house for species distribution data. We happily accept any information environmental researchers are willing to donate. Sensitive species exact locations are kept confidential. If you would be willing to donate any information to this database, we will be better able to assist all individuals interested in environmental compliance.

Sincerely,

Ashley Peters

Ashley Peters
Database Manager
Natural Heritage Section

Enclosures

*Paraphrased Information from NatureServe.2014. Natureserve Explorer: An online encyclopedia of life [web application]. Version 7.1. NatureServe, Arlington, Virginia. Available http://www.natureserve.org/explorer. (Accessed: March 17, 2014).

Potentially helpful web sites

Information about federally listed species
http://daphne.fws.gov/es/speciesIst.htm
http://www.pfmt.org/wildlife/endangered/

http://www.natureserve.org/explorer/

State Protected Species Regulations:
http://www.outdooralabama.com/hunting/regulations/regs.cfm

ALABAMA'S FEDERALLY LISTED AND STATE PROTECTED SPECIES (BY COUNTY)

This is a list of protected species that are believed to occur in the designated county and the legal protection status of each species. This list is a combination of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Daphne field office) federally listed species county and state lists and the Alabama State Lands Division's Natural Heritage Section (SLD-NHS) Database of species occurrence data. This list is continually being updated, and, therefore, it may be incomplete or inaccurate and is provided strictly for informational purposes. Site specific information can be provided by the Alabama SLD-NHS and/or the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Daphne field office) prior to project activities. To be certain of occurrence, surveys should be conducted by qualified biologists to determine if a sensitive species occurs within a project area. Species not listed for a given county does not imply that they do not occur there, only that their occurrence there is as yet unrecorded by these two agencies. This list is currently under review and refects only our current understanding of species distributions. It also does not constitute any form of Section 7 consultation. The Alabama SLD-NHS recommends that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service field office in Daphne be contacted for Section 7 consultations.

Fayette

Protection Status	Common Name	Scientific Name	Applicable State Regulation
Threatened/State Protected	Alabama Moccasinshell	Medionidus acutissimus	220-2-.98 (1) (a)
State Protected	Alabama Spike	Elliptio arca	220-2-.98 (1) (a)
Endangered/State Protected	Black Warrior River Waterdog	Necturus alabamensis	220-2-.92 (1) (b)
State Protected	Coal Skink	Plestiodon anthracinus	220-2-.92 (1) (c)
State Protected	Delicate Spike	Elliptio arctata	220-2-.98 (1) (a)
State Protected	Eastern Black Kingsnake	Lampropeltis nigra	220-2-.92 (1) (c)
State Protected	Eastern Slender Glass Lizard	Ophisaurus attenuatus longicaudus	220-2-.92 (1) (c)
State Protected	Eastern Spotted Skunk	Spilogale putorius	220-2-.92 (1) (e)
State Protected	Eastern Tiger Salamander	Ambystoma tigrinum	220-2-.92 (1) (b)
Threatened/State Protected	Flattened Musk Turtle	Sternotherus depressus	220-2-.92 (1) (c)
Endangered/State Protected	Indiana Bat	Myotis sodalis	220-2-.92 (1) (e)
Threatened/State Protected	Inflated Heelsplitter	Potamilus inflatus	220-2-.98 (1) (a)
Endangered/State Protected	Mitchell's Satyr Butterfly	Neonympha mitchellii	220-2-.98 (1) (b)
Threatened	Mohr's Barbara's Buttons	Marshallia mohrii	
Endangered/State Protected	Northern Myotis	Myotis septentrionalis	220-2-.92 (1) (e)
Threatened/State Protected	Orangenacre Mucket	Hamiota perovalis	220-2-.98 (1) (a)
Endangered/State Protected	Ovate Clubshell	Pleurobema perovatum	220-2-.98 (1) (a)
State Protected	Prominence Riverlet Crayfish	Hobbseus prominens	220-2-.98 (1) (a)
State Protected	Rayed Creekshell	Strophitus radiatus	220-2-.98 (1) (a)
State Protected	Smoothnose Crayfish	Procambarus hybus	220-2-.98 (1) (a)
State Protected	Southeastern Five-lined Skink	Plestiodon inexpectatus	220-2-.92 (1) (c)
Endangered/State Protected	Southern Clubshell	Pleurobema decisum	220-2-.98 (1) (a)
State Protected	Talladega Seal Salamander	Desmognathus cheaha	220-2-.92 (1) (b)
Endangered/State Protected	Triangular Kidneyshell	Ptychobranchus greenii	220-2-.98 (1) (a)
Endangered/State Protected	Warrior Pigtoe	Pleurobema rubellum	220-2-.98 (1) (a)
Threatened	White Fringeless Orchid	Platanthera integrilabia	220-2-.92 (1) (e)

Key to codes on list:

Endangered - Federally listed as an endangered species by the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Threatened - Federally listed as a threatened species by the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Candidate - Federally listed as a candidate species by the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Experimental - Species is protected throughout its range, except for the nonessential experimental population, by the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service

State Protected - It is unlawful to take, capture or kill; possess, sell or trade for anything of monetary value, or offer to sell or trade these species. Alabama Regulations relating to game, fish and furbearing animals. 2021-2022. Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources. See https://www.outdooralabama.com/wildlife/nongame-wildlife-program for more information.

Notes:
- Birds: All nongame birds are protected under the provisions of this regulation except crows, and non-native species including starlings, house sparrows, Eurasian collared doves, rock pigeons.
- The Bald Eagle (Haliaeetus leucocephalus) has been delisted. This species is still protected by the Nongame Species Regulation and the Migratory Bird Act. This species is distributed statewide, but it is most likely to be observed near large rivers and reservoirs.
- Black Bear (Ursus americanus ssp.) may occur statewide.

ALABAMA'S FEDERALLY LISTED AND STATE PROTECTED SPECIES (BY COUNTY)

This is a list of protected species that are believed to occur in the designated county and the legal protection status of each species. This list is a combination of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Daphne field office) federally listed species county and state lists and the Alabama State Lands Division's Natural Heritage Section (SLD-NHS) Database of species occurrence data. This list is continually being updated, and, therefore, it may be incomplete or inaccurate and is provided strictly for informational purposes. Site specific information can be provided by the Alabama SLD-NHS and/or the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Daphne field office) prior to project activities. To be certain of occurrence, surveys should be conducted by qualified biologists to determine if a sensitive species occurs within a project area. Species not listed for a given county does not imply that they do not occur there, only that their occurrence there is as yet unrecorded by these two agencies. This list is currently under review and refects only our current understanding of species distributions. It also does not constitute any form of Section 7 consultation. The Alabama SLD-NHS recommends that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service field office in Daphne be contacted for Section 7 consultations.

Tuscaloosa

Protection Status	Common Name	Scientific Name	Applicable State Regulation
State Protected	Alabama Hickorynut	Obovaria unicolor	220-2-.98 (1) (a)
State Protected	Alabama Map Turtle	Graptemys pulchra	220-2-.92 (1) (c)
Threatened/State Protected	Alabama Moccasinshell	Medionidus acutissimus	220-2-.98 (1) (a)
State Protected	Alabama Shad	Alosa alabamae	220-2-.92 (1) (a)
State Protected	Alabama Spike	Elliptio arca	220-2-.98 (1) (a)
State Protected	Alligator Snapping Turtle	Macrochelys temminckii	220-2-.92 (1) (c)
State Protected	Armored Siltsnail	Clappia cahabensis	220-2-.98 (1) (a)
Endangered/State Protected	Black Warrior River Waterdog	Necturus alabamensis	220-2-.92 (1) (b)
State Protected	Black-knobbed Map Turtle	Graptemys nigrinoda	220-2-.92 (1) (c)
State Protected	Brazilian Free-tailed Bat	Tadarida brasiliensis	220-2-.92 (1) (e)
State Protected	Coal Skink	Plestiodon anthracinus	220-2-.92 (1) (c)
State Protected	Cockle Elimia	Elimia cochliaris	220-2-.98 (1) (a)
State Protected	Delicate Spike	Elliptio arctata	220-2-.98 (1) (a)
State Protected	Eastern Black Kingsnake	Lampropeltis nigra	220-2-.92 (1) (c)
State Protected	Eastern Slender Glass Lizard	Ophisaurus attenuatus longicaudus	220-2-.92 (1) (c)
Threatened/State Protected	Finelined Pocketbook	Hamiota altilis	220-2-.98 (1) (a)
Threatened/State Protected	Flattened Musk Turtle	Sternotherus depressus	220-2-.92 (1) (c)
State Protected	Frecklebelly Madtom	Noturus munitus	220-2-.92 (1) (a)
Endangered/State Protected	Gray Myotis	Myotis grisescens	220-2-.92 (1) (e)
State Protected	Green Salamander	Aneides aeneus	220-2-.92 (1) (b)
Endangered/State Protected	Indiana Bat	Myotis sodalis	220-2-.92 (1) (e)
Threatened/State Protected	Inflated Heelsplitter	Potamilus inflatus	220-2-.98 (1) (a)
State Protected	Long-tailed Weasel	Neogale frenata	220-2-.92 (1) (e)
State Protected	Milksnake	Lampropeltis triangulum	220-2-.92 (1) (c)
Endangered/State Protected	Mitchell's Satyr Butterfly	Neonympha mitchellii	220-2-.98 (1) (b)
Threatened	Mohr's Barbara's Buttons	Marshallia mohrii	
Candidate	Monarch	Danaus plexippus	

State Protected	Northern Map Turtle	Graptemys geographica	220-2-.92 (1) (c)
State Protected	Northern Mole Kingsnake	Lampropeltis rhombomaculata	220-2-.92 (1) (c)
Endangered/State Protected	Northern Myotis	Myotis septentrionalis	220-2-.92 (1) (e)
State Protected	Northern Pinesnake	Pituophis melanoleucus melanoleucus	220-2-.92 (1) (c)
Threatened/State Protected	Orangenacre Mucket	Hamiota perovalis	220-2-.98 (1) (a)
Endangered/State Protected	Ovate Clubshell	Pleurobema perovatum	220-2-.98 (1) (a)
State Protected	Rainbow Snake	Farancia erytrogramma	220-2-.92 (1) (c)
State Protected	Rayed Creekshell	Strophitus radiatus	220-2-.98 (1) (a)
Endangered/State Protected	Red-cockaded Woodpecker	Dryobates borealis	220-2-.92 (1) (d)
State Protected	Scaly Sand Darter	Ammocrypta vivax	220-2-.92 (1) (a)
State Protected	Scarlet Kingsnake	Lampropeltis elapsoides	220-2-.92 (1) (c)
State Protected	Seepage Salamander	Desmognathus aeneus	220-2-.92 (1) (b)
State Protected	Shrimp Crayfish	Faxonius lancifer	220-2-.98 (1) (a)
State Protected	Skirted Hornsnail	Pleurocera pyrenella	220-2-.98 (1) (a)
State Protected	Small-mouthed Salamander	Ambystoma texanum	220-2-.92 (1) (b)
State Protected	Southeastern Five-lined Skink	Plestiodon inexpectatus	220-2-.92 (1) (c)
Endangered/State Protected	Southern Clubshell	Pleurobema decisum	220-2-.98 (1) (a)
State Protected	Southern Hickorynut	Obovaria arkansasensis	220-2-.98 (1) (a)
State Protected	Squat Elimia	Elimia variata	220-2-.98 (1) (a)
Endangered/State Protected	Triangular Kidneyshell	Ptychobranchus greenii	220-2-.98 (1) (a)
State Protected	Tricolored Bat	Perimyotis subflavus	220-2-.92 (1) (e)
Endangered	Upland Combshell	Epioblasma metastriata	220-2-.98 (1) (a)
State Protected	Vernal Crayfish	Procambarus viaeviridis	220-2-.98 (1) (a)
Endangered/State Protected	Warrior Pigtoe	Pleurobema rubellum	220-2-.98 (1) (a)
State Protected	Watercress Snail	Fontigens nickliniana	220-2-.98 (1) (a)
Threatened	White Fringeless Orchid	Platanthera integrilabia	220-2-.92 (1) (e)
Threatened/State Protected	Wood Stork	Mycteria americana	220-2-.92 (1) (d)

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SCALE: 1" = 2000'
July 13th, 2023
Map Size: 8.5"x11"

WARRIOR MET COAL BC, LLC
BLUE CREEK MINE NO. 1
REVISION R-9

(APPROXIMATELY 233 ACRES)

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PROJECT AREA MAP

SECTIONS 27, 34 & 35, TOWNSHIP 16 SOUTH, RANGE 9 WEST,
SECTIONS 1 & 2, TOWNSHIP 17 SOUTH, RANGE 9 WEST,
ALL IN FAYETTE & TUSCALOOSA COUNTY, ALABAMA
AS FOUND ON THE WILEY, ALABAMA USGS QUAD

PROJECT BOUNDARY

mcgehee engineering corp
post office box 3431
jasper, alabama 35502-3431
telephone: (205) 221-0686 fax: 221-7721
email: staff@mcgehee.org

Latitude: 33.6082° N
Longitude: -87.4503° W