



STATE OF MICHIGAN

JENNIFER M. GRANHOLM  
GOVERNOR

## DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

LANSING

K. L. COOL  
DIRECTOR

May 13, 2004

Ms. Laura D. Morland, P.E.  
Mead & Hunt, Inc.  
6501 Watts Road  
Madison, WI 53719-2700**RE: Proposed Capital City Airport Runway Extension & Service Road Extension**

Dear Ms. Morland:

The location of the proposed project was checked against known localities for rare species and unique natural features, which are recorded in a statewide database. This continuously updated database is a comprehensive source of information on Michigan's endangered, threatened and special concern species, exemplary natural communities and other unique natural features. Records in the database indicate that a qualified observer has documented the presence of special natural features at a site. The absence of records may mean that a site has not been surveyed. Records may not always be up-to-date. In some cases, the only way to obtain a definitive statement on the presence of rare species is to have a competent biologist perform a field survey. Projects that are submitted to the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) are routinely checked for such features regardless if they are on public or private land.

Under Act 451 of 1994, the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act, Part 365, Endangered Species Protection, "a person shall not take, possess, transport, ...fish, plants, and wildlife indigenous to the state and determined to be endangered or threatened," unless first receiving an Endangered Species Permit from the Department of Natural Resources, Wildlife Division. *Responsibility to protect endangered and threatened species is not limited to the list below. Other species may be present that have not been recorded in the database.*

The presence of threatened or endangered species does not preclude activities or development, but may require alterations in the project plan. Special concern species are not protected under endangered species legislation, but recommendations regarding their protection may be provided. Protection of special concern species will help prevent them from declining to the point of being listed as threatened or endangered in the future.

If the project is located on or adjacent to wetlands, lakes, streams, or other regulated resources, additional permits may be required. To obtain more information regarding permits in these areas, please visit the DEQ's website at <http://www.michigan.gov/deq>. Or you may contact the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality, Geological and Land Management Division at 517-241-1515.

The following is a summary of the results for the project in the Clinton County, Sections 31, 32, T5N R2W.

The following list includes special features that are known to occur on or near the site(s) and may be impacted by the project. Federally threatened or endangered species are marked with an asterisk (\*). Please contact the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 2651 Coolidge Road, Suite 101, East Lansing, MI, 48823 or (517) 351-2555 for information on federal regulations that apply to these species.

<u>common name</u>	<u>status</u>	<u>scientific name</u>
Cat-tail sedge	state threatened	<i>Carex typhina</i>

The **cat-tail sedge** has been known to occur in the area. In Michigan this species has been collected primarily in swamp forests along floodplains dominated by silver maple and ash. Elsewhere in its range *C. typhina* occurs in moist

or wet woods, marshes, calcareous meadows, and other types of bottomlands. Most Michigan collections of cattail sedge have been made in late July and early August.

In summary, the project site may include suitable habitat for the above listed species. Potential impacts might include direct destruction of species and disturbance of critical habitat. Specifically, because this project may affect a protected species, **clearance from this office in the form of a "No Effect" statement will be needed before work on this project begins.** To obtain an evaluation for project clearance, please provide at least one of the following to this office:

1. Description of the project area with regard to the species habitat type(s) described above. A recent photo of the project site and a map that shows habitat type(s) and location(s) of the proposed project will be necessary. This can be done by the landowner, other responsible party, or knowledgeable source (i.e. botanist, ecologist, biologist, experienced birder, etc.). This level of evaluation will only define the presence or absence of available habitat. If this office determines that there is no significant available habitat, the project may be cleared at this point. If potential habitat does exist, the next level of evaluation must be undertaken (see options 2 or 3 below).
2. A statement from a knowledgeable source (see above) stating that suitable habitat is or is not present and why the project will not impact the species or habitat(s) identified above.
3. Results from a complete and adequate survey by a knowledgeable source (see above) showing whether or not the above listed species are present in the affected project area. Guidelines for conducting surveys can be obtained from this office on request. For additional information and guidance for conducting surveys, including consultation with MNFI staff biologists, please contact me at the number below.

In most situations, the most efficient, thorough, and expeditious evaluation of the project and its impacts results from option 3. Responses and correspondence can be sent to:

Michigan Department of Natural Resources  
Wildlife Division – Natural Heritage Program  
PO Box 30180  
Lansing, MI 48909

Thank you for your advance coordination in addressing the protection of Michigan's natural resource heritage. If you have further questions, please call me at 517-373-1263.

Sincerely,



Lori G. Sargent  
Endangered Species Specialist  
Wildlife Division