



# State of New Jersey

## DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Division of Parks and Forestry  
Office of Natural Lands Management  
Natural Heritage Program  
P.O. Box 404  
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JON S. CORZINE  
Governor

LISA P. JACKSON  
Commissioner

September 25, 2007

Michael Clayton  
AKRF, Inc.  
100 Centre Boulevard  
North Marlton Crossing Suite 102H/J  
Marlton, NJ 08053

Re: New Jersey Transit Portal Bridge Replacement (20214)

Dear Mr. Clayton:

Thank you for your data request regarding rare species information for the above referenced project site in Kearny Town and Secaucus Town, Hudson County.

Searches of the Natural Heritage Database and the Landscape Project (Version 2) are based on a representation of the boundaries of your project site in our Geographic Information System (GIS). We make every effort to accurately transfer your project bounds from the topographic map(s) submitted with the Request for Data into our Geographic Information System. We do not typically verify that your project bounds are accurate, or check them against other sources.

We have checked the Natural Heritage Database and the Landscape Project habitat mapping for occurrences of any rare wildlife species or wildlife habitat on the referenced site. Please see Table 1 for species list and conservation status.

Table 1 (on referenced site).

Common Name	Scientific Name	Federal Status	State Status	Grank	Srank
colonial waterbird foraging habitat					

We have also checked the Natural Heritage Database and the Landscape Project habitat mapping for occurrences of any rare wildlife species or wildlife habitat within one half mile of the referenced site. Please see Table 2 for species list and conservation status. This table excludes any species listed in Table 1.

Table 2 (additional species within one half mile of referenced site).

Common Name	Scientific Name	Federal Status	State Status	Grank	Srank
American coot	<i>Fulica americana</i>		D	G5	S1B
coastal heron rookery				GU	S3
peregrine falcon	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>		E	G4	S1B,S?N
pieb-billed grebe	<i>Podilymbus podiceps</i>		E/S	G5	S1B,S3N

We have also checked the Natural Heritage Database for occurrences of rare plant species or ecological communities. The Natural Heritage Database has a record for an occurrence of *Ptelea trifoliata* that may be on the site. The attached list provides more information about this occurrence. **Because some species are sensitive to disturbance or sought by collectors, this information is provided to you on the condition that no specific locational data are released to the general public. This is not intended to preclude your submission of this information to regulatory agencies from which you are seeking permits.**

Also attached is a list of rare species and ecological communities that have been documented from Hudson County. If suitable habitat is present at the project site, these species have potential to be present.

Status and rank codes used in the tables and lists are defined in the attached EXPLANATION OF CODES USED IN NATURAL HERITAGE REPORTS.

If you have questions concerning the wildlife records or wildlife species mentioned in this response, we recommend that you visit the interactive I-Map-NJ website at the following URL, <http://www.state.nj.us/dep/gis/dep splash.htm> or contact the Division of Fish and Wildlife, Endangered and Nongame Species Program at (609) 292 9400.

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,

*Herbert A. Lord*

Herbert A. Lord  
Data Request Specialist

cc: Robert J. Cartica  
NHP File No. 07-4007471