

Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission

From: SirTrackAutoResponse <RA-pndiautoresponse@pa.gov>
Sent: Friday, October 22, 2021 3:24 PM
To: Hunter Lieb
Cc: draab@pa.gov
Subject: PNDI review by PFBC SIR#55213
Attachments: Temp Docs55213_10-22-2021.pdf

EXERCISE CAUTION: This is an External Email Message!

****Think before clicking on links, opening attachments, or responding****

Please find attached a response to your submission for environmental review by the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission.



Pennsylvania Fish & Boat Commission

Division of Environmental Services
Resource Extraction Section
595 E Rolling Ridge Dr.
Bellefonte, PA 16823

October 22, 2021

IN REPLY REFER TO
SIR# 55213

GAI Consultants
William Lieb
6000 Town Center Blvd
Canonsburg, Pennsylvania 15317

**RE: Species Impact Review (SIR) – Rare, Candidate, Threatened and Endangered Species
PNDI Search No. 743054_1
Ohio Valley Connector Expansion
GREENE County:**

Dear William Lieb:

This responds to your inquiry about a Pennsylvania Natural Diversity Inventory (PNDI) Internet Database search “potential conflict” or a threatened and endangered species impact review. These projects are screened for potential conflicts with rare, candidate, threatened or endangered species under Pennsylvania Fish & Boat Commission jurisdiction (fish, reptiles, amphibians, aquatic invertebrates only) using the Pennsylvania Natural Diversity Inventory (PNDI) database and our own files. These species of special concern are listed under the Endangered Species Act of 1973, the Wild Resource Conservation Act, and the Pennsylvania Fish & Boat Code (Chapter 75), or the Wildlife Code.

Except for occasional transient species, rare, candidate, threatened or endangered species under our jurisdiction are not known to exist in the vicinity of the project area. Therefore, no biological assessment or further consultation regarding rare species is needed with the Commission. Should project plans change, or if additional information on listed or proposed species becomes available, this determination may be reconsidered.

This response represents the most up-to-date summary of the PNDI data and our files and is valid for two (2) years from the date of this letter. An absence of recorded species information does not necessarily imply species absence. Our data files and the PNDI system are continuously being updated with species occurrence information. Should project plans change or additional information on listed or proposed species become available, this determination may be reconsidered, and consultation shall be re-initiated.

Our Mission:

www.fish.state.pa.us

To protect, conserve and enhance the Commonwealth's aquatic resources and provide fishing and boating opportunities.

If you have any questions regarding this review, please contact Dakota Raab at 814-359-5117 and refer to the SIR # 55213. Thank you for your cooperation and attention to this important matter of species conservation and habitat protection.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Dakota Raab".

Dakota Raab, Fisheries Biologist
Resource Extraction Section

DR/dn



Pittsburgh Office
385 East Waterfront Drive
Homestead, Pennsylvania 15120-5005

T 412.476.2000
F 412.476.2020

October 21, 2021
Project R210388.03

PNDI Receipt #743054
State Agency: Rare, Threatened, and Endangered Species Consultation
Ohio Valley Connector Expansion Project, Equitrans, L.P.
Greene County, Pennsylvania

To Whom It May Concern:

Equitrans, L.P. (Equitrans) is seeking a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity from the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) pursuant to Section 7(c) of the Natural Gas Act (NGA) as amended, authorizing Equitrans to construct and operate the proposed Ohio Valley Connector Expansion Project (OVCX) located in Greene County, Pennsylvania (PA), Wetzel County, West Virginia (WV), and Monroe County, Ohio (OH).

The purpose of OVCX is to supply an increased volume of natural gas to the Ohio Valley Connector (OVC) market through which gas is transported to expanding mid-continent and Gulf Coast markets.

On behalf of Equitrans, GAI Consultants, Inc. (GAI) is submitting additional project information to the Pennsylvania (PA) Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR), the PA Game Commission (PGC), and PA Fish and Boat Commission (PFBC) as it relates to the OVCX located in Center, Gilmore, and Jackson Townships in Greene County, PA. In PA, the OVCX will include:

- Approximately 0.5 mile of paralleling 16-inch-diameter natural gas pipeline (H-327) and 12-inch-diameter natural gas pipeline (H-328);
- Removal of the existing 3606 compressor and addition of two T-70 turbines at the existing Cygrymus Compressor Station with additional mechanical and electrical equipment to support the HP increase;
- One deep well anode groundbed and rectifier for cathodic protection (located within the pipeline easement);
- Additional ancillary facilities, such as a valve yard, taps, and internal inspection device (e.g., pig) launchers and receivers; and,
- New and existing temporary and permanent access roads, staging areas, and contractor yards.

OVCX is anticipated to require approximately 7.22 acres of tree-clearing in PA. Equitrans intends to clear trees from October 1 through March 31. Four contractor yards will be utilized for OVCX, of which three of the yards are existing, graveled contractor yards. The fourth yard is abandoned residential land that consists of grass species (lawn) and landscape trees. Topsoil within the new contractor yard will be segregated and stockpiled, and geotextile fabric covered with gravel will be installed. Upon completion of construction, the new contractor yard will be returned to pre-construction contours and revegetated.

Results of the PNDI Receipt #743054 indicated that the project was considered a "Large Project" and that further review was required from all agencies due the distance being greater than 10 miles from the proposed pipelines to the contractor yards. **Equitrans is requesting information concerning the potential for occurrence of state-listed threatened and endangered species, their critical habitat, or significant biological or geological features within study area of OVCX, as shown on the Project Location Map (Attachment 1).**

GAI and Equitrans thank you in advance for your assistance. If you have any questions or require further information, please feel free to contact me at 412.399.5317 or via email at j.broush@gaiconsultants.com.

Sincerely,

GAI Consultants, Inc.

**Jennifer
Broush**

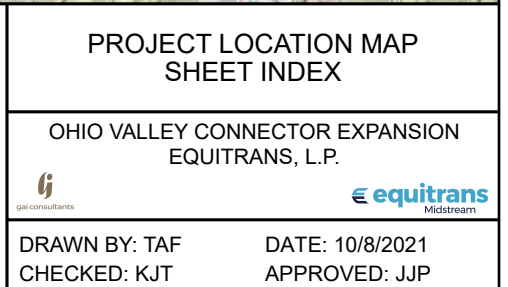
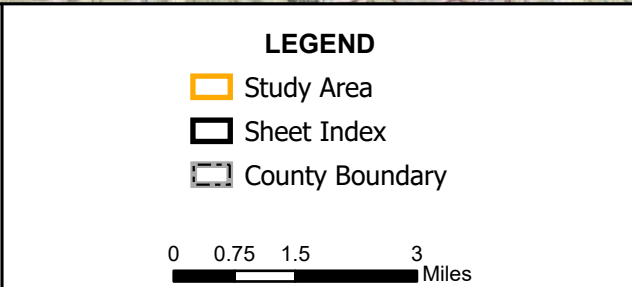
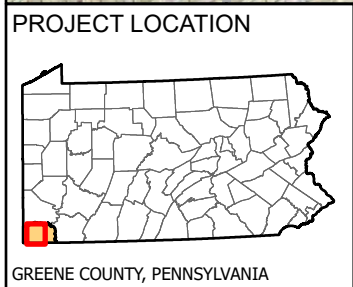
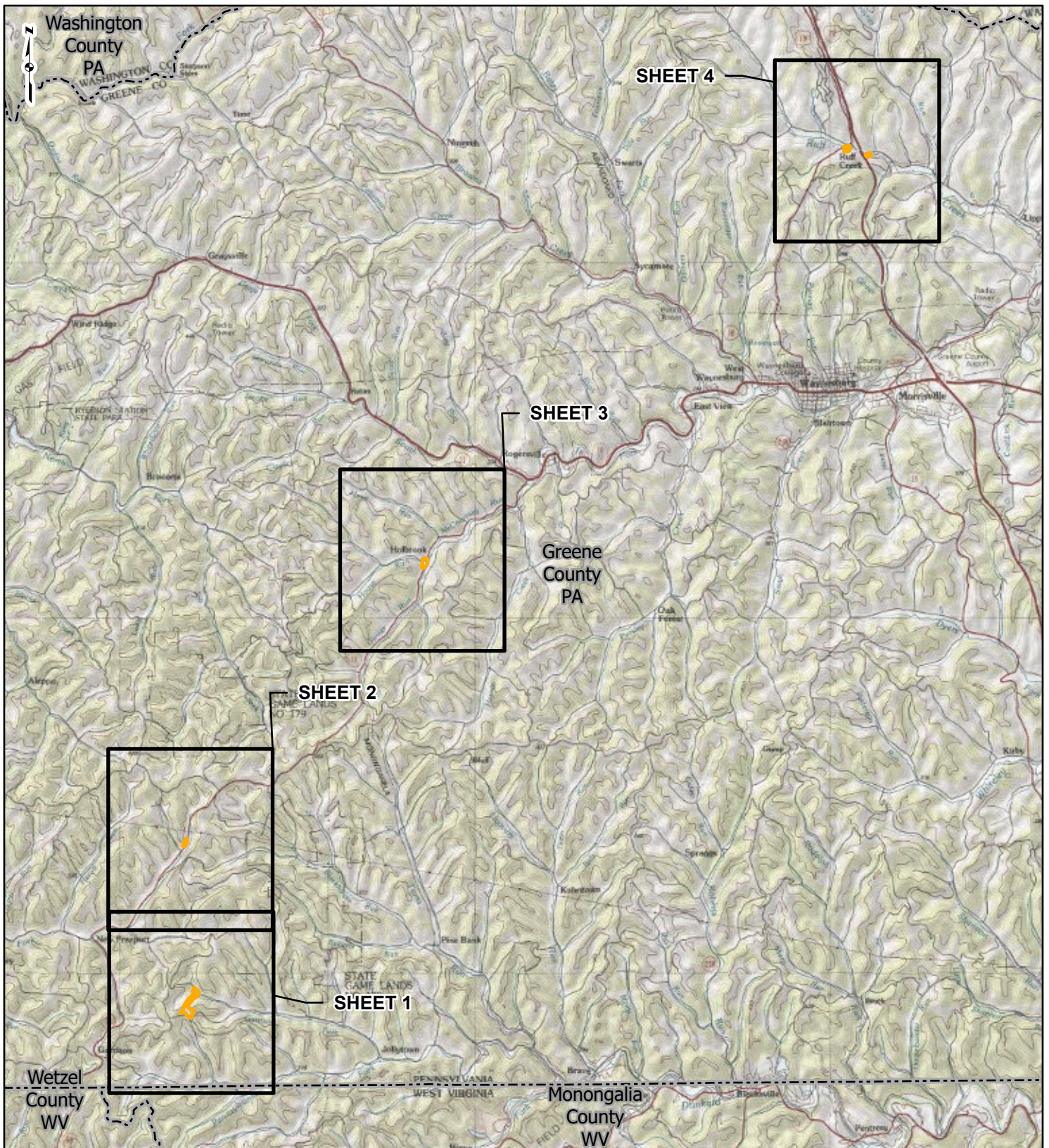
Digitally signed by Jennifer Broush
DN: cn=Jennifer Broush, o=GAI
Consultants, Inc., ou,
email=j.broush@gaiconsultants.co
m, c=US
Date: 2021.10.20 15:20:07 -0400

Jennifer C. Broush, MBA
Associate / Director, Environmental and Energy Services

Attachment: Attachment 1 (Project Location Map)

October 21, 2021
R210388.03

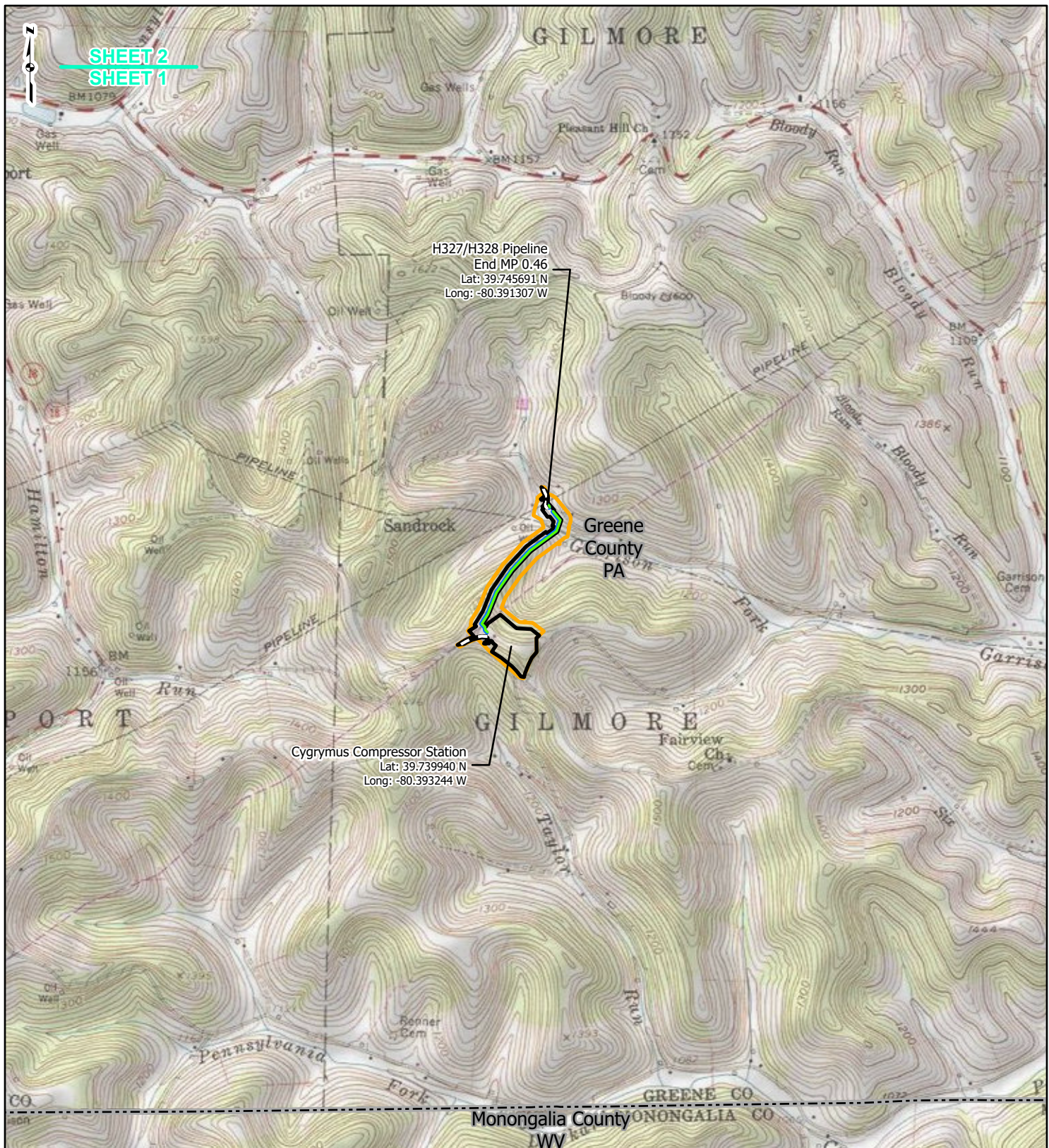
ATTACHMENT 1
PROJECT LOCATION MAP



REFERENCE: USGS 30' X 60' TOPOGRAPHIC QUADRANGLES OBTAINED THROUGH ESRI USA TOPO MAPS, ACCESSED 10/8/2021.

G:\R210388.00 - GIS\AGP\R210388_00_EQM_Expansion\R210388_00_EQM_Expansion.aprx\R210388_00_USFWS_Project_Location_Map_Index_2021_10_08

SHEET 2
SHEET 1



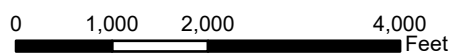
PROJECT LOCATION



GREENE COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA

LEGEND

- H327 Pipeline
- H328 Pipeline
- Access Road
- Limit of Disturbance
- Study Area
- County Boundary



PROJECT LOCATION MAP
SHEET 1 OF 4

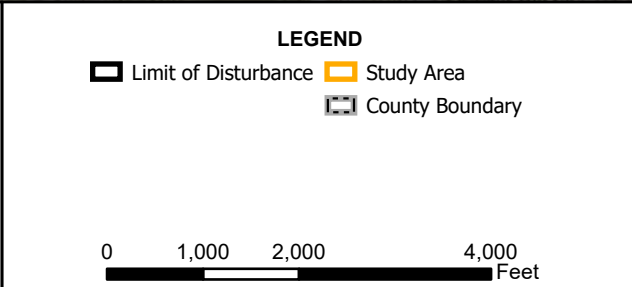
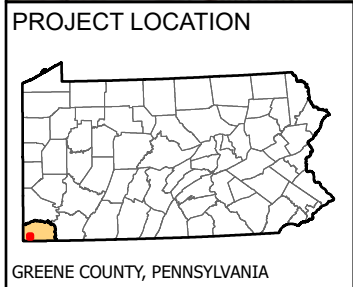
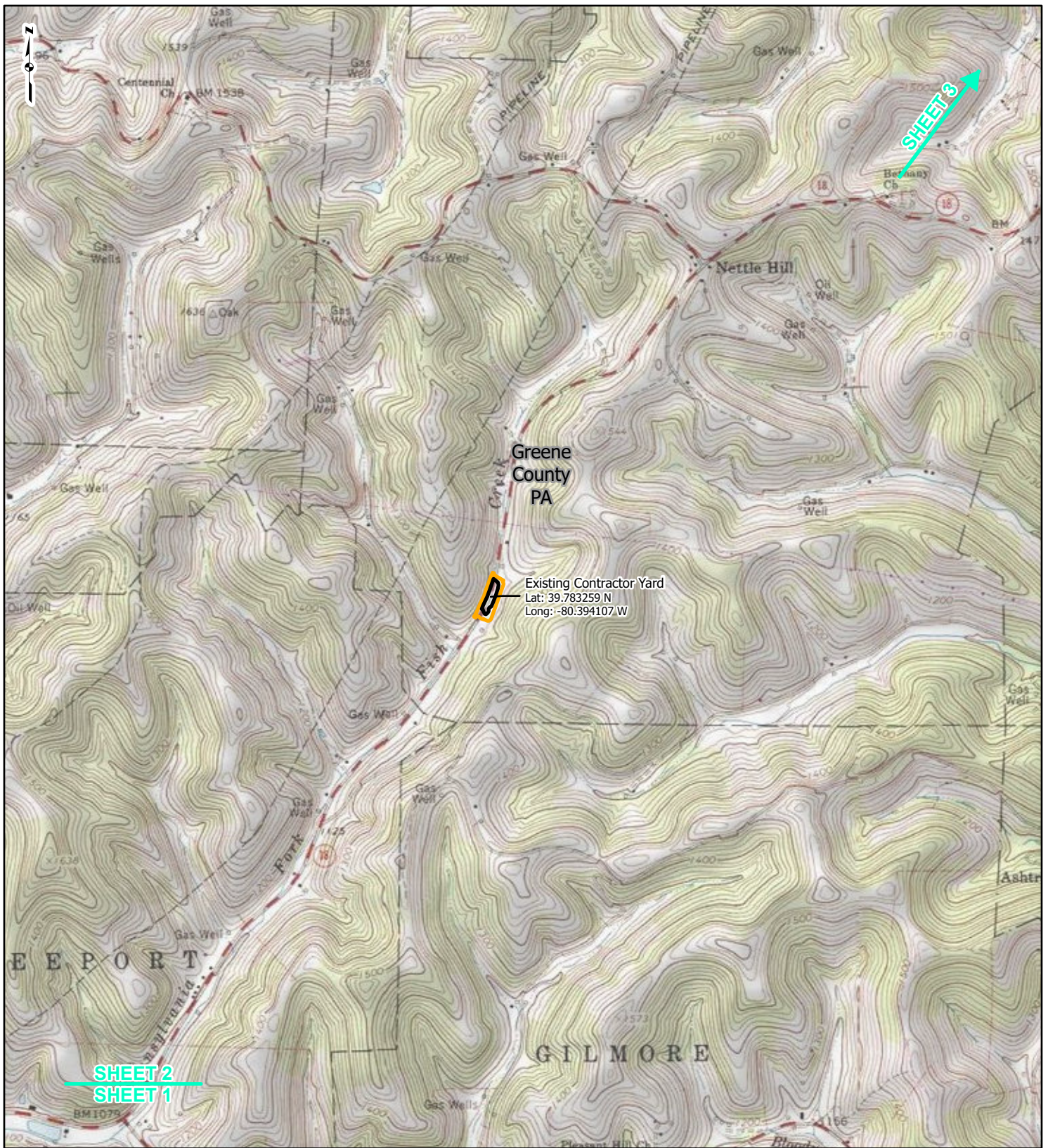
OHIO VALLEY CONNECTOR EXPANSION
EQUITRANS, L.P.



DRAWN BY: TAF
CHECKED: KJT

DATE: 10/15/2021
APPROVED: JJP

REFERENCE: USGS 7.5' TOPOGRAPHIC QUADRANGLES: HOLBROOK (1973), HUNDRED (1978), NEW FREEPORT (1973), ROGERSVILLE (1973), WADESTOWN (1978), AND WAYNESBURG (1973), PENNSYLVANIA, OBTAINED THROUGH ESRI USA TOPO MAPS, ACCESSED 10/15/2021.



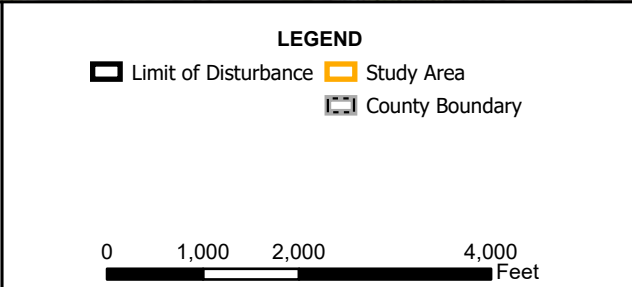
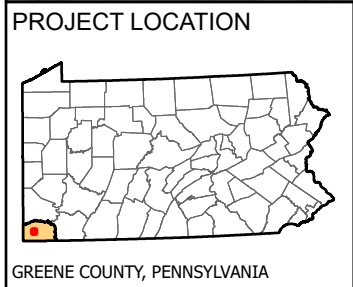
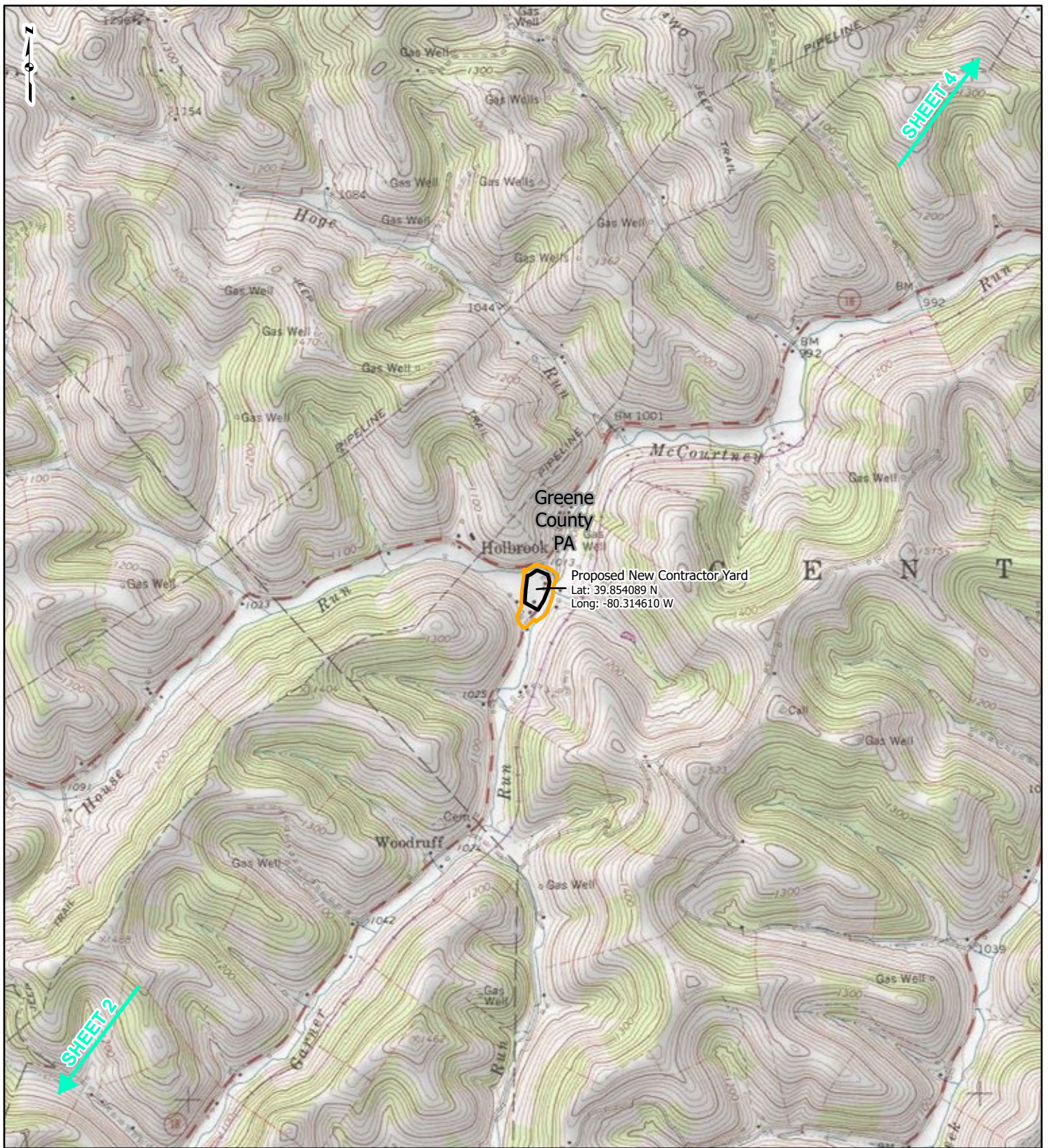
PROJECT LOCATION MAP SHEET 2 OF 4

OHIO VALLEY CONNECTOR EXPANSION
EQUITRANS, L.P.

equitrans
Midstream

DRAWN BY: TAF DATE: 10/15/2021
CHECKED: KJT APPROVED: JJP

REFERENCE: USGS 7.5' TOPOGRAPHIC QUADRANGLES: HOLBROOK (1973), HUNDRED (1978), NEW FREEPORT (1973), ROGERSVILLE (1973), WADESTOWN (1978), AND WAYNESBURG (1973), PENNSYLVANIA, OBTAINED THROUGH ESRI USA TOPO MAPS, ACCESSED 10/15/2021.

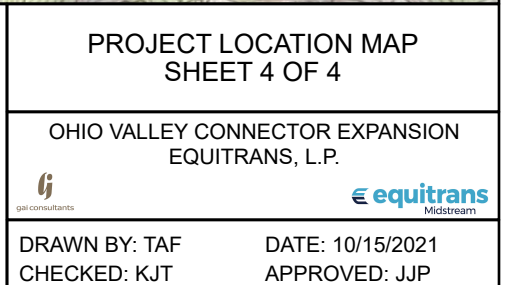
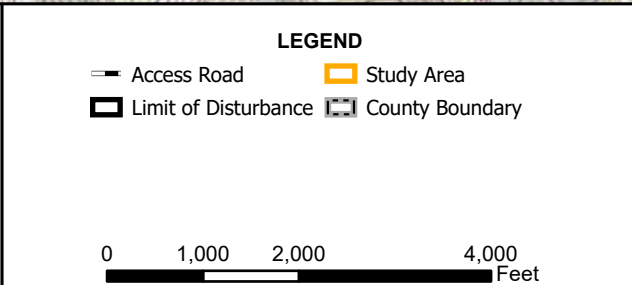
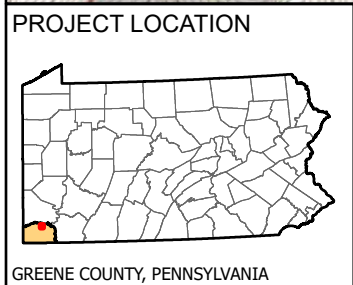
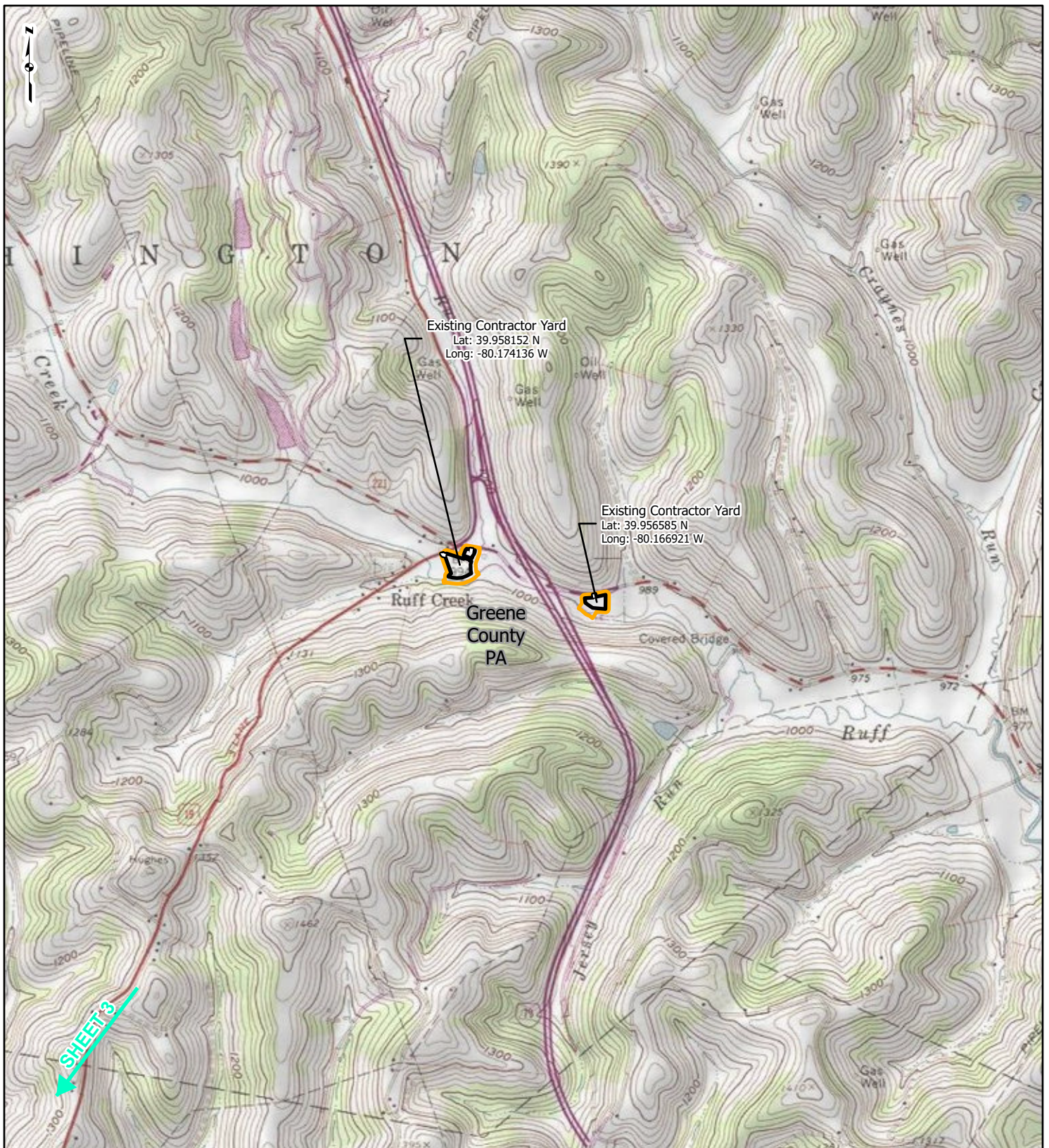


PROJECT LOCATION MAP SHEET 3 OF 4

OHIO VALLEY CONNECTOR EXPANSION
EQUITRANS, L.P.

DRAWN BY: TAF DATE: 10/15/2021
CHECKED: KJT APPROVED: JJP

REFERENCE: USGS 7.5' TOPOGRAPHIC QUADRANGLES: HOLBROOK (1973), HUNDRED (1978), NEW FREEPORT (1973), ROGERSVILLE (1973), WADESTOWN (1978), AND WAYNESBURG (1973), PENNSYLVANIA, OBTAINED THROUGH ESRI USA TOPO MAPS, ACCESSED 10/15/2021.



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Pennsylvania Game Commission

From: Guers, Sue <suguers@pa.gov>
Sent: Monday, October 25, 2021 1:05 PM
To: Hunter Lieb
Subject: Ohio Valley Connector Expansion PNDI 743054
Attachments: 20211025_Ohio Valley Connector Expansion_PGC PNDI response.pdf

EXERCISE CAUTION: This is an External Email Message!

Think before clicking on links, opening attachments, or responding

Hi there Mr. Lieb,
Attached is the PGC review of your PNDI request.
If you have any questions, just let me know.
Best,
Sue

Sue Guers | Wildlife Biologist/Environmental Review
Pennsylvania Game Commission | Bureau of Wildlife Management
2001 Elmerton Ave. | Harrisburg, PA 17110
717.787.4250 (Ext. 73412)
www.pgc.pa.gov



October 25, 2021

PGC ID Number: 202110200201

Mr. William Lieb
GAI Consultants
6000 Town Center Blvd
Canonsburg, PA 15317
h.lieb@gaiconsultants.com

PNDI Receipt File: *project_receipt_ohio_valley_connector_exp_743054_FINAL_1.pdf*

Re: Ohio Valley Connector Expansion
Center, Gilmore, and Jackson Townships; Greene County, Pennsylvania

Dear Mr. Lieb,

Thank you for submitting Pennsylvania Natural Diversity Inventory (PNDI) Environmental Review Receipt *project_receipt_ohio_valley_connector_exp_743054_FINAL_1.pdf* for review. The Pennsylvania Game Commission (PGC) screened this project for potential impacts to species and resources of concern under PGC responsibility, which includes birds and mammals only.

No Impact Anticipated

PNDI records indicate species or resources of concern are located within the vicinity of the project. However, based on the information you submitted concerning the nature of the project, the immediate location, and our detailed resource information, the PGC has determined that no impact is likely. Therefore, no further coordination with the PGC will be necessary for this project at this time.

This response represents the most up-to-date summary of the PNDI data files and is valid for two (2) years from the date of this letter. An absence of recorded information does not necessarily imply actual conditions on site. Should project plans change or additional information on listed or proposed species become available, this determination may be reconsidered.

Should the proposed work continue beyond the period covered by this letter, please resubmit the project to this agency as an "Update" (including an updated PNDI receipt, project narrative and accurate map). If the proposed work has not changed and no additional information concerning listed species is found, the project will be cleared for PNDI requirements under this agency for two additional years.

This finding applies to impacts to birds and mammals only. To complete your review of state and federally-listed threatened and endangered species and species of special concern, please be sure that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, and/or the PA Fish and Boat Commission have been contacted regarding this project as directed by the online PNDI ER Tool found at www.naturalheritage.state.pa.us.

Please be sure to include the above-referenced PGC ID Number on any future correspondence with the PGC regarding this project.

Sincerely,



Sue Guers
Wildlife Biologist / Environmental Review
Bureau of Wildlife Management
Phone: 717-787-4250, Extension 73412
Fax: 717-787-6957
E-mail: suguers@pa.gov

A PNHP Partner



Pennsylvania Natural Heritage Program

SLG/slg



Pittsburgh Office
385 East Waterfront Drive
Homestead, Pennsylvania 15120-5005

T 412.476.2000
F 412.476.2020

October 21, 2021
Project R210388.03

PNDI Receipt #743054
State Agency: Rare, Threatened, and Endangered Species Consultation
Ohio Valley Connector Expansion Project, Equitrans, L.P.
Greene County, Pennsylvania

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GAI and Equitrans thank you in advance for your assistance. If you have any questions or require further information, please feel free to contact me at 412.399.5317 or via email at j.broush@gaiconsultants.com.

Sincerely,

GAI Consultants, Inc.

**Jennifer
Broush**

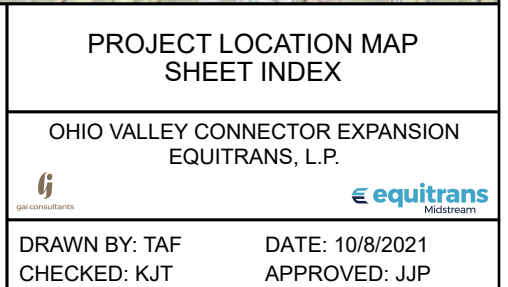
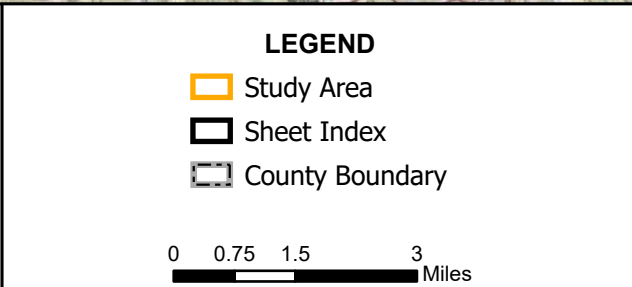
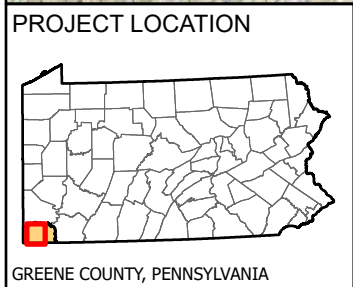
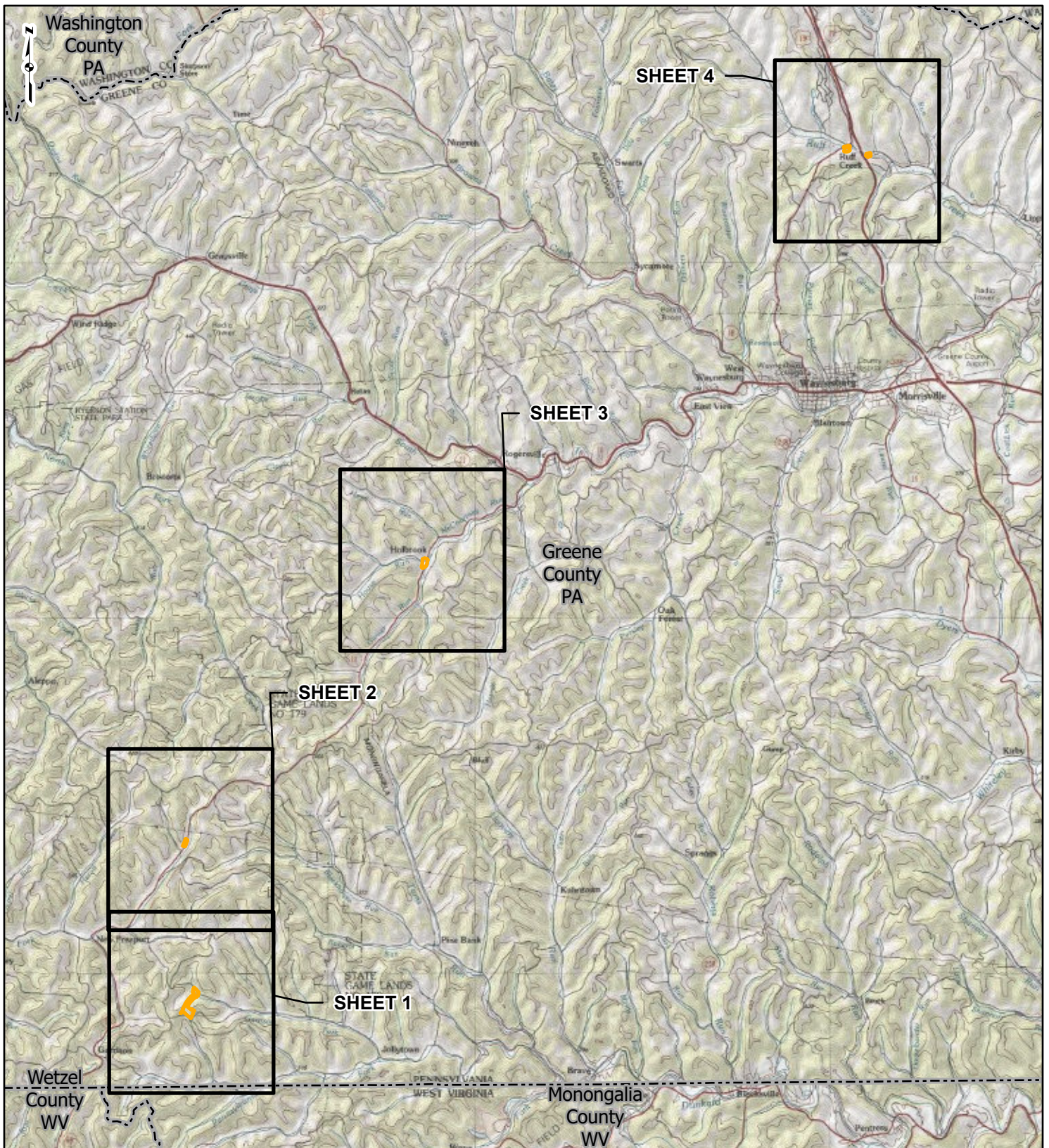
Digitally signed by Jennifer Broush
DN: cn=Jennifer Broush, o=GAI
Consultants, Inc., ou,
email=j.broush@gaiconsultants.co
m, c=US
Date: 2021.10.20 15:20:07 -0400

Jennifer C. Broush, MBA
Associate / Director, Environmental and Energy Services

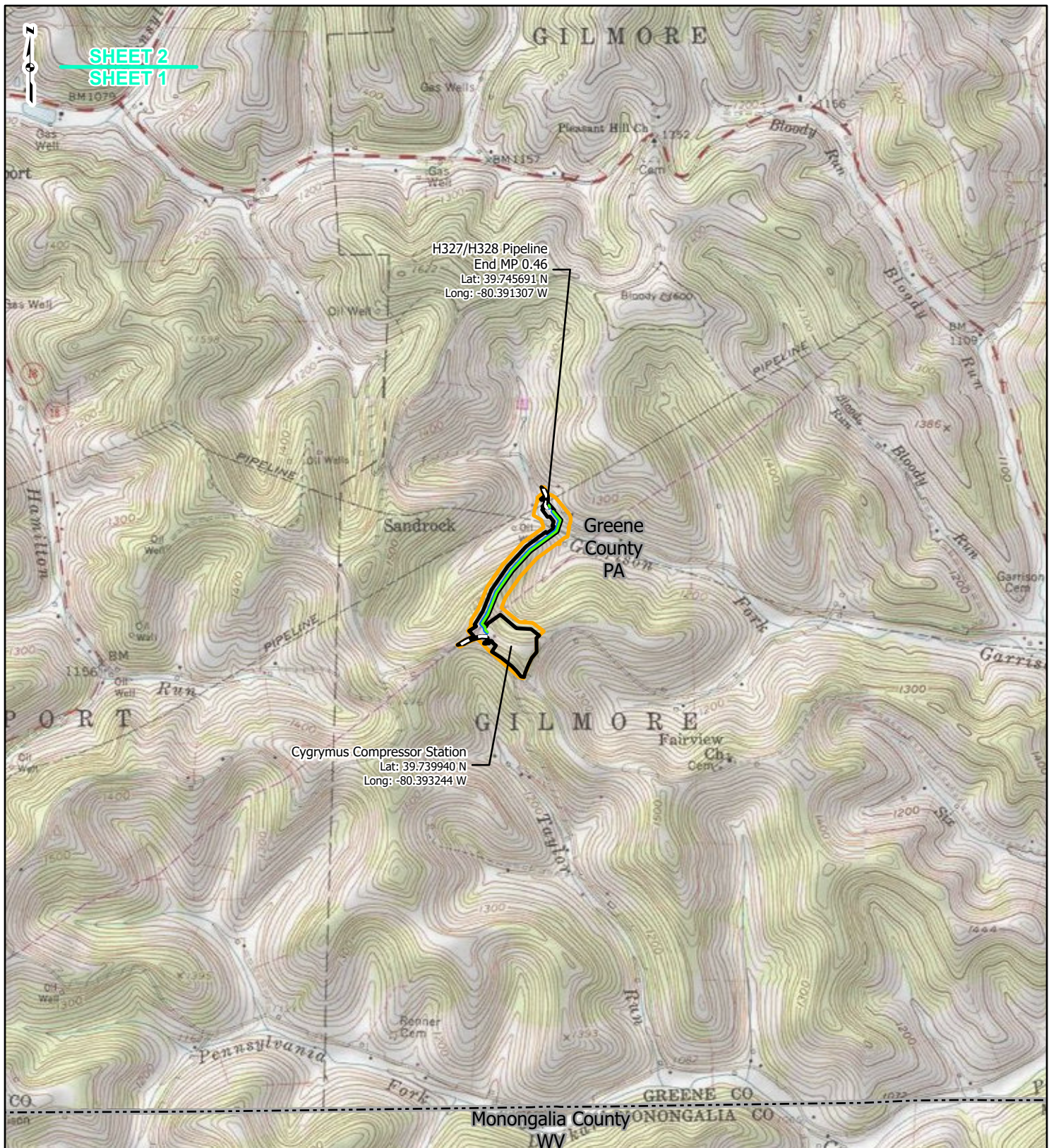
Attachment: Attachment 1 (Project Location Map)

October 21, 2021
R210388.03

ATTACHMENT 1
PROJECT LOCATION MAP



REFERENCE: USGS 30' X 60' TOPOGRAPHIC QUADRANGLES OBTAINED THROUGH ESRI USA TOPO MAPS, ACCESSED 10/8/2021.



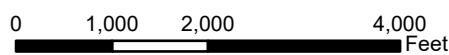
PROJECT LOCATION



GREENE COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA

LEGEND

- H327 Pipeline
- H328 Pipeline
- Access Road
- Limit of Disturbance
- Study Area
- County Boundary



PROJECT LOCATION MAP
SHEET 1 OF 4

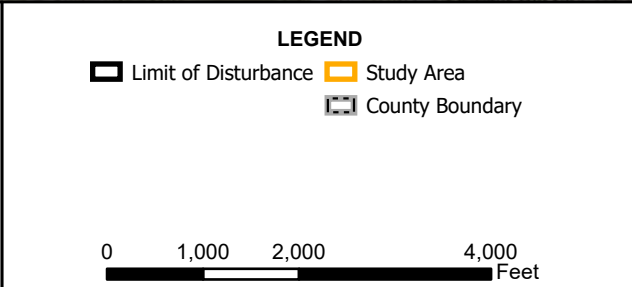
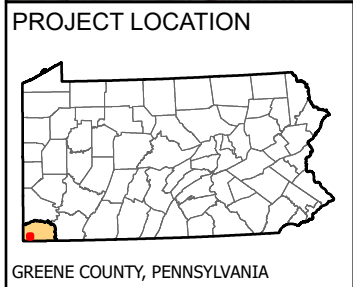
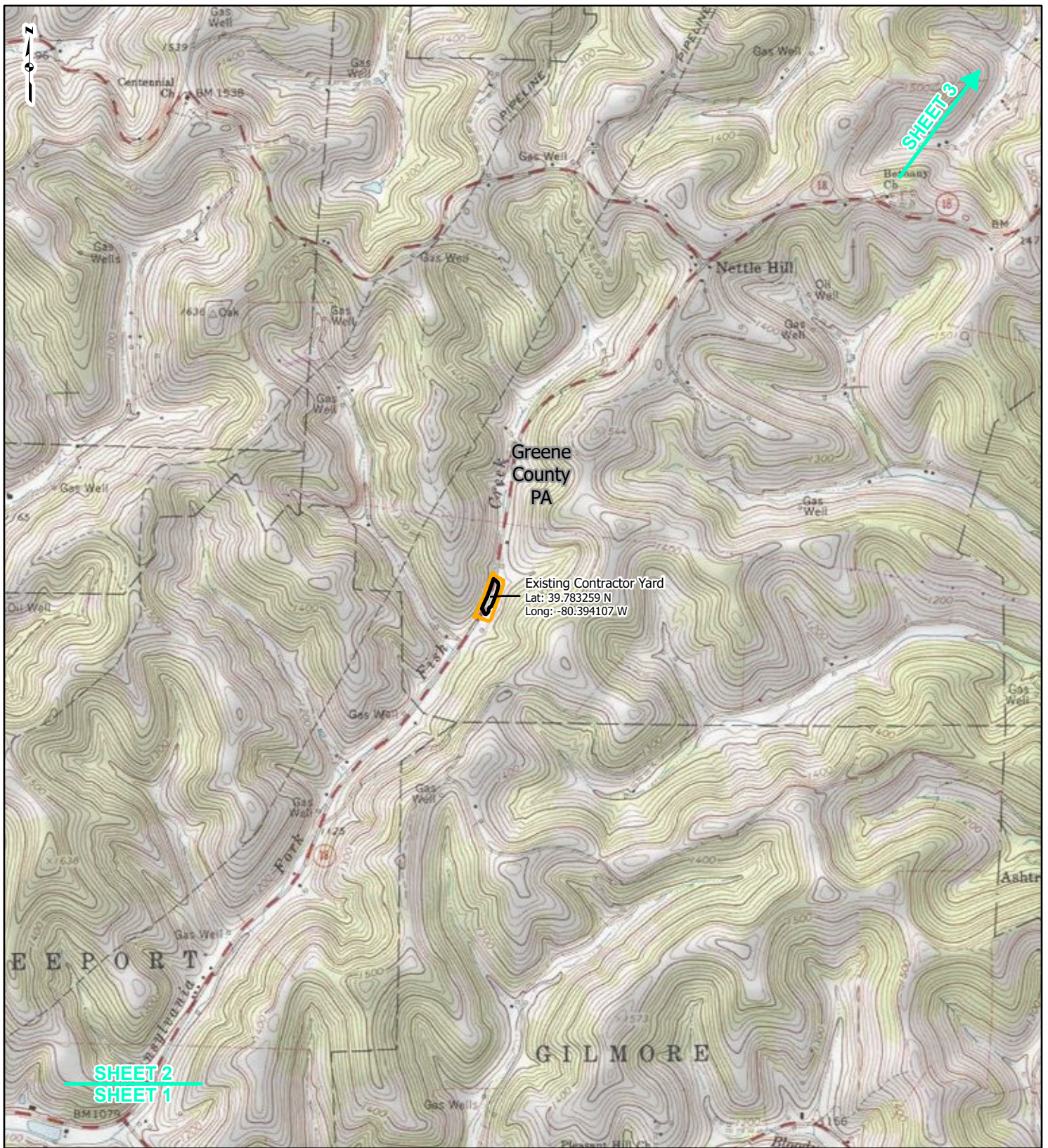
OHIO VALLEY CONNECTOR EXPANSION
EQUITRANS, L.P.



DRAWN BY: TAF
CHECKED: KJT

DATE: 10/15/2021
APPROVED: JJP

REFERENCE: USGS 7.5' TOPOGRAPHIC QUADRANGLES: HOLBROOK (1973), HUNDRED (1978), NEW FREEPORT (1973), ROGERSVILLE (1973), WADESTOWN (1978), AND WAYNESBURG (1973), PENNSYLVANIA, OBTAINED THROUGH ESRI USA TOPO MAPS, ACCESSED 10/15/2021.



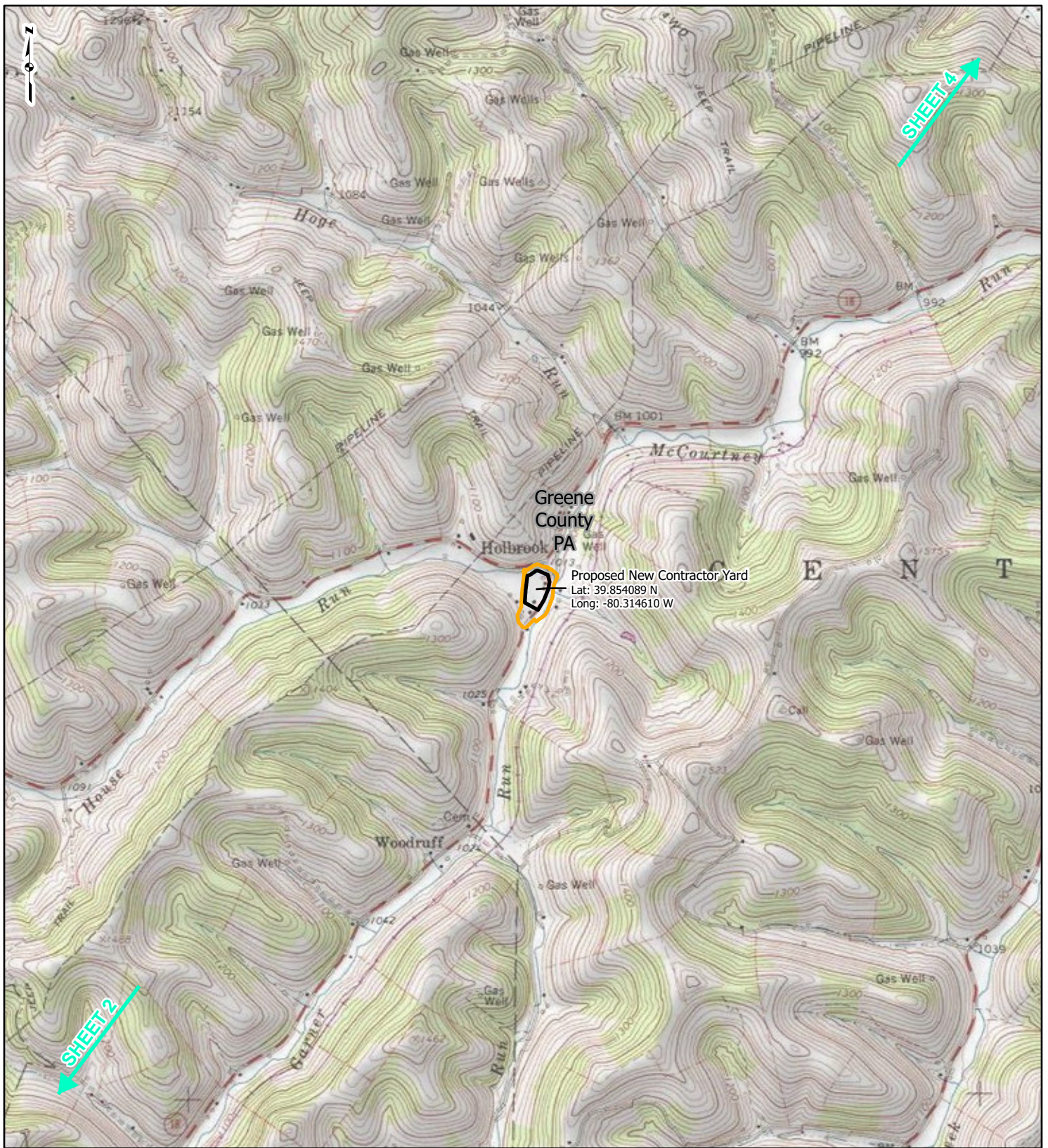
PROJECT LOCATION MAP SHEET 2 OF 4

OHIO VALLEY CONNECTOR EXPANSION
EQUITRANS, L.P.

equitrans
Midstream

DRAWN BY: TAF DATE: 10/15/2021
CHECKED: KJT APPROVED: JJP

REFERENCE: USGS 7.5' TOPOGRAPHIC QUADRANGLES: HOLBROOK (1973), HUNDRED (1978), NEW FREEPORT (1973), ROGERSVILLE (1973), WADESTOWN (1978), AND WAYNESBURG (1973), PENNSYLVANIA, OBTAINED THROUGH ESRI USA TOPO MAPS, ACCESSED 10/15/2021.



PROJECT LOCATION

GREENE COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA

LEGEND

- Limit of Disturbance
- Study Area
- County Boundary

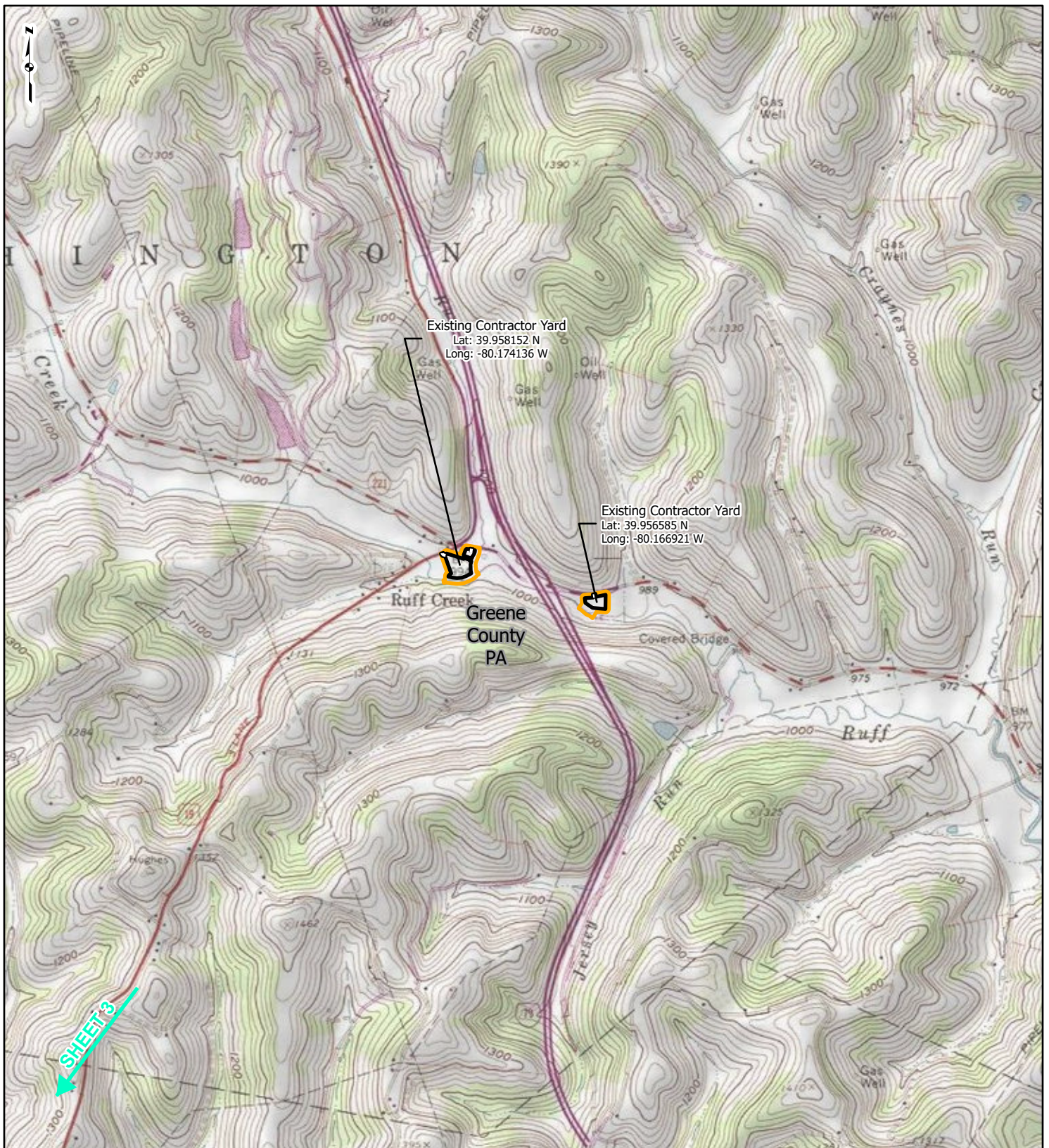
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PROJECT LOCATION MAP SHEET 3 OF 4

OHIO VALLEY CONNECTOR EXPANSION
EQUITRANS, L.P.

DRAWN BY: TAF DATE: 10/15/2021
CHECKED: KJT APPROVED: JJP

REFERENCE: USGS 7.5' TOPOGRAPHIC QUADRANGLES: HOLBROOK (1973), HUNDRED (1978), NEW FREEPORT (1973), ROGERSVILLE (1973), WADESTOWN (1978), AND WAYNESBURG (1973), PENNSYLVANIA, OBTAINED THROUGH ESRI USA TOPO MAPS, ACCESSED 10/15/2021.



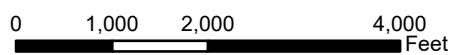
PROJECT LOCATION



GREENE COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA

LEGEND

- Access Road
- Study Area
- Limit of Disturbance
- County Boundary



**PROJECT LOCATION MAP
SHEET 4 OF 4**

OHIO VALLEY CONNECTOR EXPANSION
EQUITRANS, L.P.



DRAWN BY: TAF
CHECKED: KJT

DATE: 10/15/2021
APPROVED: JJP

REFERENCE: USGS 7.5' TOPOGRAPHIC QUADRANGLES: HOLBROOK (1973), HUNDRED (1978), NEW FREEPORT (1973), ROGERSVILLE (1973), WADESTOWN (1978), AND WAYNESBURG (1973), PENNSYLVANIA, OBTAINED THROUGH ESRI USA TOPO MAPS, ACCESSED 10/15/2021.

West Virginia Division of Natural Resources



DIVISION OF NATURAL RESOURCES

**Wildlife Resources Section
Elkins Operations Center
738 Ward Rd., PO Box 67
Elkins, WV 26241
Telephone 304-637-0245
Fax 304-637-0250**

**Stephen S. McDaniel
Director
November 5, 2021**

Ms. Jennifer Broush
GAI Consultants, Inc.
6000 Town Center Boulevard, Suite 300
Canonsburg, PA 15317

Dear Ms. Broush:

We have reviewed Natural Heritage Program files for information on rare, threatened and endangered (RTE) species and sensitive habitats for the areas of the proposed Equitrans Ohio Valley Expansion project in Wetzel County, WV.

We have no known records of any RTE species at the project sites; however, the pipeline portion of this project is within a habitat buffer for the endangered Indiana bat. Coordination with the US Fish and Wildlife Service will be needed. In addition, the North Fork Fishing Creek is a High Quality Stream and may require fish spawning waivers prior to any instream work. Other than bat surveys in the general area, the Wildlife Resources Section knows of no surveys that have been conducted in the areas for rare species or rare species habitat. Consequently, this response is based on information currently available and should not be considered a comprehensive survey of the areas under review. This response is valid for two years.

The information provided above is the product of a database search and retrieval. This information does not satisfy other consultation or permitting requirements for disturbances to the natural resources of the state, and further consultation may be required. Additionally, any concurrence requirements for federally listed species must come from the US Fish and Wildlife Service.

Thank you for your inquiry, and should you have any questions please feel free to contact me at the above number, or barbara.d.sargent@wv.gov. Enclosed please find an invoice.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Barbara Sargent".

Barbara Sargent
Environmental Resources Specialist
Environmental Coordination
Operations Unit

enclosure

S:\Monthly\BSargent\Invoices\GAI.doc

INVOICE

West Virginia Division of Natural Resources

Wildlife Resources Section, P.O. Box 67, Elkins, WV 26241

Attention: Ms. Kathy Scott Shreve

In Account With: GAI Consultants, Inc.
6000 Town Center Boulevard, Suite 300
Canonsburg, PA 15317

Date: November 5, 2021

Attention: Ms. Jennifer Broush

For the retrieval and compilation of information on rare, threatened, and endangered species and sensitive habitats for the proposed Equitrans Ohio Valley Expansion project in Wetzel County, WV.

AMOUNT DUE: \$75.00

Make check payable to WV Division of Natural Resources, and mail to the attention of Kathy Scott Shreve at the address above. Or pay with a credit card by calling 304-637-0245.

Please reference the invoice number on your check or have it available when calling.



Southpointe Office
6000 Town Center Blvd
Suite 300
Canonsburg, Pennsylvania 15317

T 724.873.3545
F 724.873.3549

October 21, 2021
Project R210388.02

West Virginia Division of Natural Resources Headquarters
324 4th Ave
South Charleston, West Virginia 25303

**Initial Consultation Letter
Ohio Valley Connector Expansion Project, Equitrans, L.P.
Wetzel County, West Virginia**

To Whom It May Concern:

On behalf of Equitrans, L.P. (Equitrans), GAI Consultants, Inc. (GAI) is providing information to initiate the review process regarding threatened and endangered species and their habitats for the proposed Ohio Valley Connection Expansion Project (OVCX), located in Wetzel County, West Virginia (WV). The OVCX will include:

- Approximately 3.8 miles of 24-inch-diameter natural gas pipeline (H-326);
- Approximately 0.02 mile of eight-inch-diameter natural gas pipeline (H-329);
- Approximately 0.8 mile of 24-inch-diameter natural gas pipeline (H-330);
- Approximately 0.03 mile of 12-inch-diameter natural gas pipeline (Logansport Spur) located within existing gravel and fenced facility area;
- One additional M-100 compressor unit at the existing Corona Compressor Station with additional mechanical and electrical equipment to support the horsepower increase;
- Additional ancillary facilities, such as mainline valves, valve yards, interconnects, measuring equipment, and internal inspection device (e.g., pig) launchers and receivers; and,
- New and existing temporary and permanent access roads, and contractor yards.

The proposed H-326 and H-330 pipelines parallel existing cleared rights-of-way for approximately 0.8 mile. OVCX is anticipated to require approximately 40.85 acres of tree-clearing in WV. Equitrans intends to clear trees from October 1 through March 31. Two previously disturbed contractor yards will be utilized for OVCX. Both contractor yards have since been restored and consist of mowed/ maintained field. Topsoil within the contractor yards will be segregated and stockpiled, and geotextile fabric covered with gravel will be installed. Disturbance areas associated with OVCX will be restored to pre-construction contours and revegetated following the completion of construction.

Equitrans is requesting a technical review from the WV Division of Natural Resources regarding state threatened and endangered species within the study area for the OVCX in WV, as shown on the Project Location Map (Attachment 1). GAI has also initiated a similar consultation with the United States Fish and Wildlife Service WV Field Office.

GAI and Equitrans thank you in advance for your assistance. If you have any questions or require further information, please feel free to contact me at 412.399.5317 or via email at j.broush@gaiconsultants.com.

Sincerely,

GAI Consultants, Inc.

Jennifer
Broush

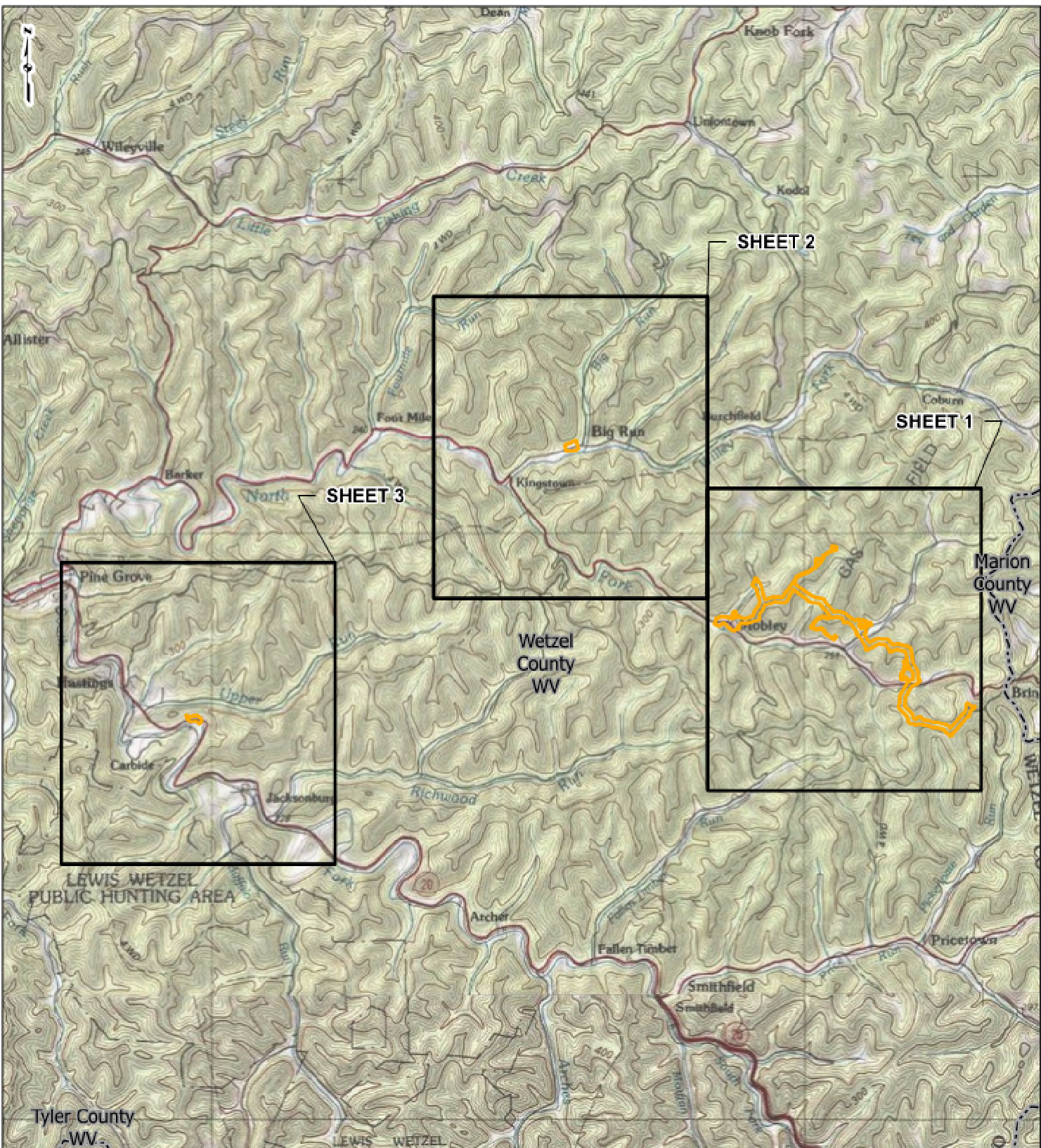
Digitally signed by Jennifer Broush
DN: cn=Jennifer Broush, o=GAI Consultants,
Inc., ou, email=j.broush@gaiconsultants.com,
c=US
Date: 2021.10.21 08:41:58 -0400

Jennifer C. Broush, MBA
Associate / Director, Environmental and Energy Services

Attachment: Attachment 1 (Project Location Map)

October 21, 2021
R210388.02

ATTACHMENT 1
PROJECT LOCATION MAP



PROJECT LOCATION

WETZEL COUNTY, WEST VIRGINIA

LEGEND

- Study Area
- Sheet Index
- County Boundary

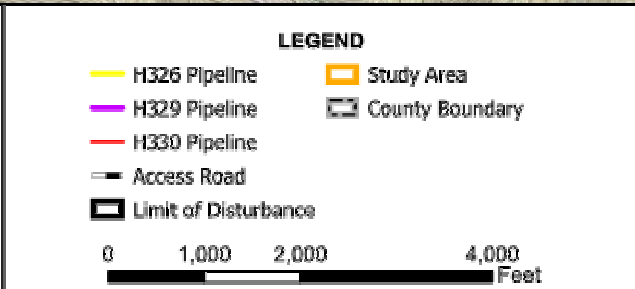
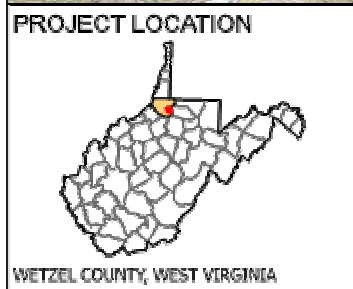
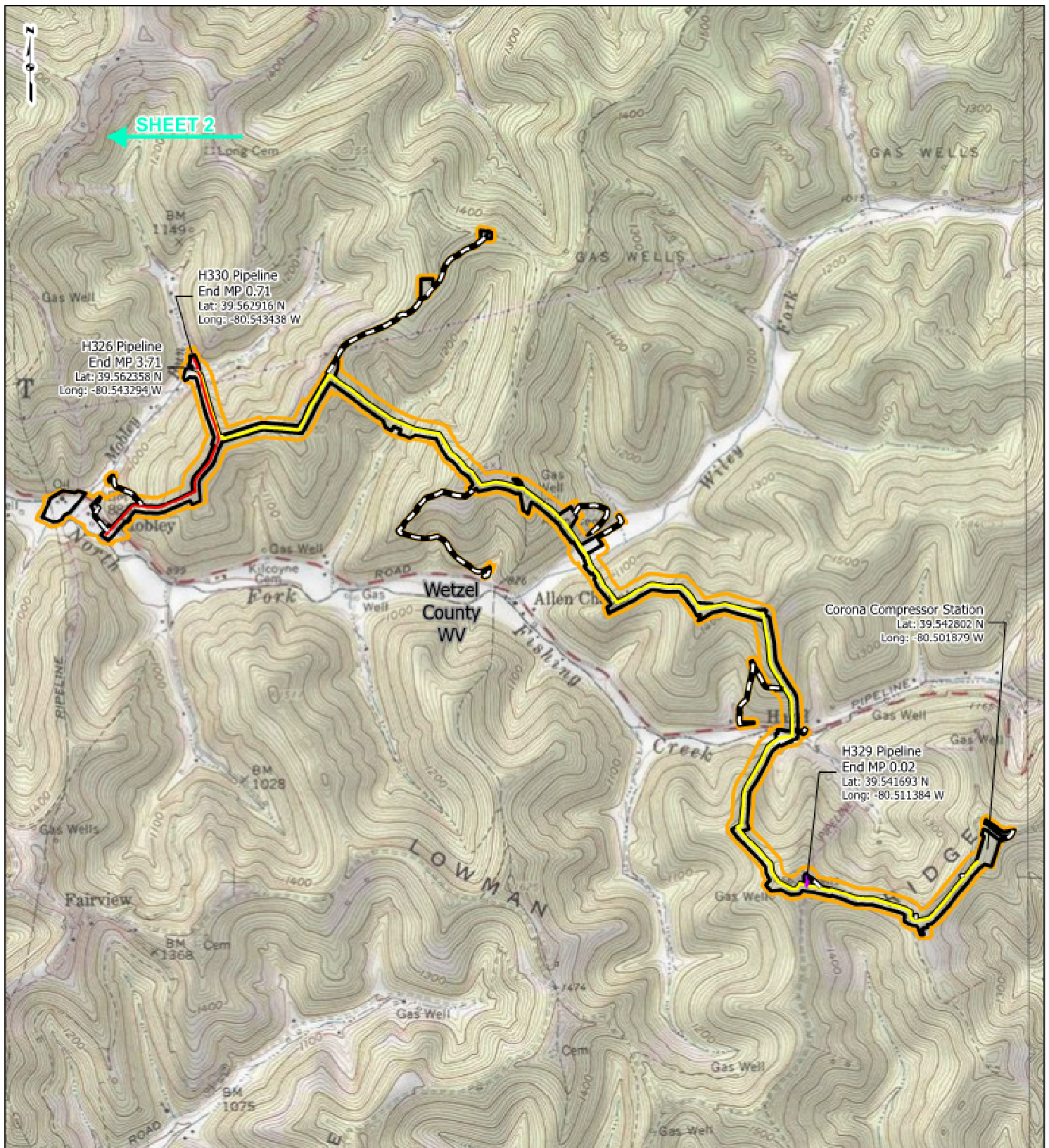
0 0.5 1 2 Miles

PROJECT LOCATION MAP SHEET INDEX

OHIO VALLEY CONNECTOR EXPANSION
EQUITRANS, L.P.

DRAWN BY: TAF DATE: 10/8/2021
CHECKED: KJT APPROVED: JJP

REFERENCE: USGS 30' X 60' TOPOGRAPHIC QUADRANGLES OBTAINED THROUGH ESRI USA TOPO MAPS, ACCESSED 10/8/2021.



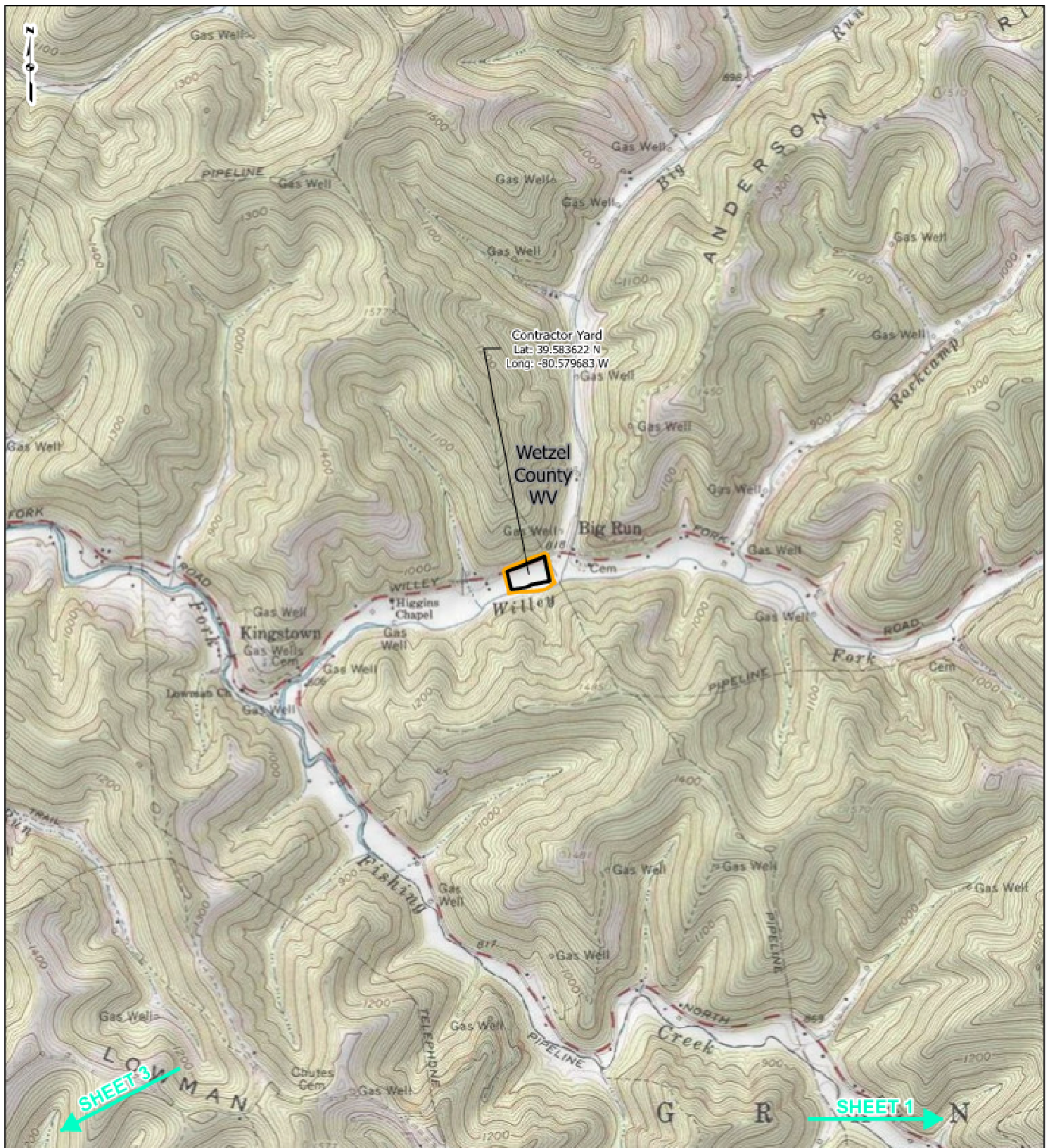
PROJECT LOCATION MAP SHEET 1 OF 3

OHIO VALLEY CONNECTOR EXPANSION
EQUITRANS, L.P.

equitrans
Midstream

DRAWN BY: TAF DATE: 10/15/2021
CHECKED: KJT APPROVED: JJP

REFERENCE: USGS 7.5' TOPOGRAPHIC QUADRANGLES: BIG RUN (1978), GLOVER GAP (1978), AND PINE GROVE (1979), WEST VIRGINIA, OBTAINED THROUGH ESRI USA TOPO MAPS, ACCESSED 10/15/2021.



PROJECT LOCATION



WETZEL COUNTY, WEST VIRGINIA

LEGEND

- Limit of Disturbance
- Study Area
- County Boundary



**PROJECT LOCATION MAP
SHEET 2 OF 3**

OHIO VALLEY CONNECTOR EXPANSION
EQUITRANS, L.P.



equitrans
Midstream

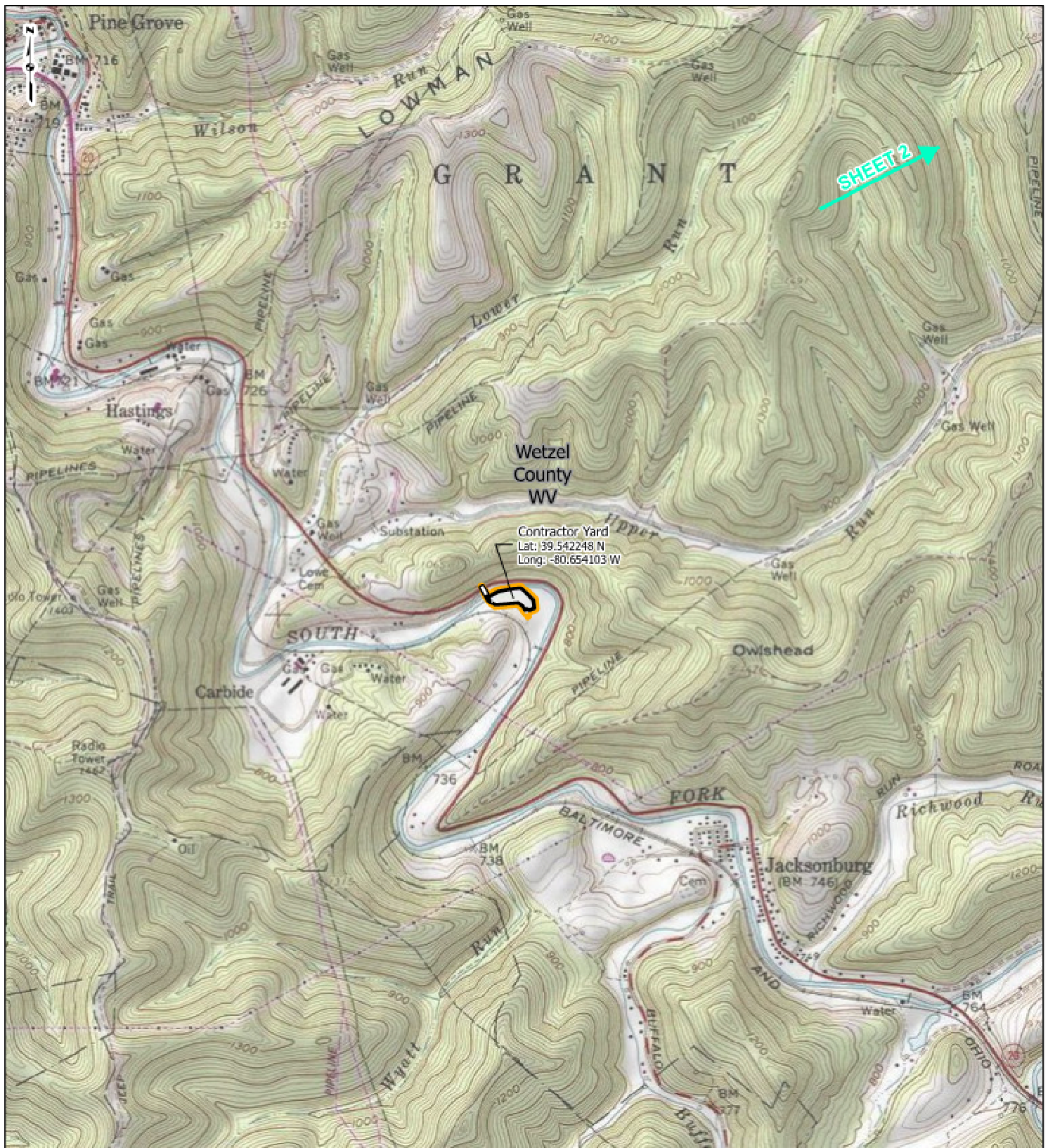
DRAWN BY: TAF

DATE: 10/15/2021

CHECKED: KJT

APPROVED: JJP

REFERENCE: USGS 7.5' TOPOGRAPHIC QUADRANGLES: BIG RUN (1978), GLOVER GAP (1978), AND PINE GROVE (1979), WEST VIRGINIA, OBTAINED THROUGH ESRI USA TOPO MAPS, ACCESSED 10/15/2021.



PROJECT LOCATION

WETZEL COUNTY, WEST VIRGINIA

LEGEND

- Access Road
- Study Area
- Limit of Disturbance
- County Boundary

0 1,000 2,000 4,000 Feet

PROJECT LOCATION MAP SHEET 3 OF 3

OHIO VALLEY CONNECTOR EXPANSION
EQUITRANS, L.P.

equitrans
Midstream

DRAWN BY: TAF DATE: 10/15/2021
CHECKED: KJT APPROVED: JJP

REFERENCE: USGS 7.5' TOPOGRAPHIC QUADRANGLES: BIG RUN (1978), GLOVER GAP (1978), AND PINE GROVE (1979), WEST VIRGINIA, OBTAINED THROUGH ESRI USA TOPO MAPS, ACCESSED 10/15/2021.

Ohio Department of Natural Resources



Southpointe Office
6000 Town Center Blvd
Suite 300
Canonsburg, Pennsylvania 15317

T 724.873.3545
F 724.873.3549

January 12, 2022

Mr. Mike Pettegrew, Acting Environmental Services Administrator
Ohio Department of Natural Resources
Division of Wildlife
2045 Morse Road, Building G
Columbus, Ohio 43229

Consultation Letter Response

**RE: 21-0998; Ohio Valley Connector Expansion Project, Equitrans, L.P.
Monroe County, Ohio**

Dear Mr. Mike Pettegrew,

On behalf of Equitrans, L.P. (Equitrans), GAI Consultants, Inc. (GAI) thanks the Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) for their review of the Ohio Valley Connector Expansion Project (Project). GAI offers the following responses to the review process regarding minimizing and avoiding adverse impacts to threatened and endangered species and their habitats for the proposed Project located in Monroe County, Ohio (OH).

As stated in the October 21, 2021 initial Consultation Letter with the ODNR, the Project involves the addition of one Titan T130 compressor unit to the existing Plasma Compressor Station. Work associated with the compressor addition will be confined to the existing station's graded and previously disturbed limits and will not include impacts to stream or wetland habitat. Additionally, no floodplains are proposed to be impacted by the Project. As a result of the Project scope, the Project is expected to avoid impacts to the species list provided by the ODNR letter response dated November 19, 2021, which included the state-endangered Ohio lamprey and eastern hellbender (also a federal species of concern), and state-threatened American eel, channel darter, river darter and Tippecanoe darter.

Best Management Practices (BMPs) will be utilized to minimize erosion and sedimentation. These BMPs include that Equitrans will adhere to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission's (FERC's) Upland Erosion Control, Revegetation, and Maintenance Plan (Plan) and Wetland and Waterbody Construction and Mitigation Procedures (Procedures). A Project-specific Erosion and Sediment Control Plan (ESCP) developed for the Project will follow the guidelines of the OH Department of Transportation (ODOT) Handbook for Sediment and Erosion Control. All erosion controls, specified seed mixes and seeding requirements, and fertilizer application will be consistent with the parameters set forth by the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (OHEPA). Disturbance areas will be restored to pre-construction contours and revegetated following completion of construction.

Additionally described in the October 21, 2021 initial Consultation Letter with the ODNR, the Project will not include tree-clearing. As a result of the Project scope, the Project is expected to avoid impacts to the species list provided by the ODNR letter response dated November 19, 2021, which included the Indiana bat, a state endangered and federally endangered species, the northern long-eared bat, a state endangered and federally threatened species, the little brown bat, a state endangered species, and the tricolored bat, a state endangered species. Additionally, work will be confined to the existing station's graded and previously disturbed limits, therefore, no subsurface impacts to hibernaculum are proposed.

GAI and Equitrans appreciate the opportunity to respond to the concerns of the ODNR. **On behalf of Equitrans, GAI requests concurrence from ODNR that due to the Project scope discussed herein that the Project is not likely to impact state-listed species.** Equitrans will continue to coordinate with the US Fish & Wildlife Service with regards to federally listed species. If you have additional comments or require further information, please feel free to continue this coordination by contacting Jennifer C. Broush at 412.399.5317 or via email at j.broush@gaiconsultants.com.

Sincerely,

GAI Consultants, Inc.

Jennifer Broush

Jennifer C. Broush, MBA
Associate / Director, Environmental and Energy Services

JCB/wgh



Ohio Department of Natural Resources

MIKE DeWINE, GOVERNOR

MARY MERTZ, DIRECTOR

Office of Real Estate
John Kessler, Chief
2045 Morse Road – Bldg. E-2
Columbus, OH 43229
Phone: (614) 265-6621
Fax: (614) 267-4764

November 19, 2021

Jennifer Broush
GAI Consultants
6000 Town Center Blvd. Suite 300
Canonsburg, Pennsylvania 15317

Re: 21-0998; Ohio Valley Connector Expansion Project

Project: The proposed project involves the addition of one Titan T130 compressor unit to the existing Plasma Compressor Station.

Location: The proposed project is located in Switzerland Township, Monroe County, Ohio.

The Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) has completed a review of the above referenced project. These comments were generated by an inter-disciplinary review within the Department. These comments have been prepared under the authority of the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act (48 Stat. 401, as amended; 16 U.S.C. 661 et seq.), the National Environmental Policy Act, the Coastal Zone Management Act, Ohio Revised Code and other applicable laws and regulations. These comments are also based on ODNR's experience as the state natural resource management agency and do not supersede or replace the regulatory authority of any local, state or federal agency nor relieve the applicant of the obligation to comply with any local, state or federal laws or regulations.

Natural Heritage Database: The Natural Heritage Database has no records at or within a one-mile radius of the project area.

A review of the Ohio Natural Heritage Database indicates there are no other records of state endangered or threatened plants or animals within the project area. There are also no records of state potentially threatened plants, special interest or species of concern animals, or any federally listed species. In addition, we are unaware of any unique ecological sites, geologic features, animal assemblages, scenic rivers, state wildlife areas, state nature preserves, state or national parks, state or national forests, national wildlife refuges, or other protected natural areas within the project area. The review was performed on the project area you specified in your request as well as an additional one-mile radius. Records searched date from 1980.

Please note that Ohio has not been completely surveyed and we rely on receiving information from many sources. Therefore, a lack of records for any particular area is not a statement that rare species or unique features are absent from that area. Although all types of plant communities have been surveyed, we only maintain records on the highest quality areas.

Fish and Wildlife: The DOW recommends that impacts to streams, wetlands and other water resources be avoided and minimized to the fullest extent possible, and that Best Management Practices be utilized to minimize erosion and sedimentation.

The project is within the vicinity of records for the northern long-eared bat (*Myotis septentrionalis*), a state endangered and federally threatened species, the little brown bat (*Myotis lucifugus*), a state endangered species, and the tricolored bat (*Perimyotis subflavus*), a state endangered species. Because presence of state endangered bat species has been established in the area, summer tree cutting is not recommended, and additional summer surveys would not constitute presence/absence in the area. However, limited summer tree cutting inside this buffer may be acceptable after further consultation with DOW (contact Erin Hazelton at Erin.hazelton@dnr.ohio.gov).

In addition, the entire state of Ohio is within the range of the Indiana bat (*Myotis sodalis*), a state endangered and federally endangered species, the northern long-eared bat (*Myotis septentrionalis*), a state endangered and federally threatened species, the little brown bat (*Myotis lucifugus*), a state endangered species, and the tricolored bat (*Perimyotis subflavus*), a state endangered species. During the spring and summer (April 1 through September 30), these bat species predominately roost in trees behind loose, exfoliating bark, in crevices and cavities, or in the leaves. However, these species are also dependent on the forest structure surrounding roost trees. The DOW recommends tree cutting only occur from October 1 through March 31, conserving trees with loose, shaggy bark and/or crevices, holes, or cavities, as well as trees with DBH \geq 20 if possible.

The DOW also recommends that a desktop habitat assessment is conducted, followed by a field assessment if needed, to determine if a potential hibernaculum is present within the project area. Direction on how to conduct habitat assessments can be found in the current USFWS “*Range-wide Indiana Bat Survey Guidelines*.” If a habitat assessment finds that a potential hibernaculum is present within 0.25 miles of the project area, please send this information to Erin Hazelton for project recommendations. If a potential or known hibernaculum is found, the DOW recommends a 0.25-mile tree cutting and subsurface disturbance buffer around the hibernaculum entrance, however, limited summer or winter tree cutting may be acceptable after consultation with the DOW. If no tree cutting or subsurface impacts to a hibernaculum are proposed, this project is not likely to impact these species.

The project is within the range of the following listed fish species.

State Endangered

Ohio lamprey (*Ichthyomyzon bdellium*)

State Threatened

American eel (*Anguilla rostrata*)

channel darter (*Percina copelandi*)

river darter (*Percina shumardi*)

Tippecanoe darter (*Etheostoma tippecanoe*)

The DOW recommends no in-water work in perennial streams from March 15 through June 30 to reduce impacts to indigenous aquatic species and their habitat. If no in-water work is proposed in a perennial stream, this project is not likely to impact these or other aquatic species.

The project is within the range of the eastern hellbender (*Cryptobranchus alleganiensis alleganiensis*), a state endangered species and a federal species of concern. This long-lived, entirely aquatic salamander inhabits perennial streams with large flat rocks. In-water work in hellbender streams can reduce availability of large cover rocks and can destroy hellbender nests and/or kill adults and juveniles. The contribution of additional sediment to hellbender streams can smother large cover rocks and gravel/cobble substrate (used by juveniles), making them unsuitable for refuge and nesting. Projects that contribute to altered flow regimes (e.g., by increasing areas of impervious surfaces or modifying the floodplain) can also adversely affect hellbender habitat. Due to the location, and that there is no in-water work proposed in a perennial stream of sufficient size to provide suitable habitat, this project is not likely to impact this species.

Due to the potential of impacts to federally listed species, as well as to state listed species, we recommend that this project be coordinated with the US Fish & Wildlife Service.

Water Resources: The Division of Water Resources has the following comment.

The local floodplain administrator should be contacted concerning the possible need for any floodplain permits or approvals for this project. Your local floodplain administrator contact information can be found at the website below.

http://water.ohiodnr.gov/portals/soilwater/pdf/floodplain/Floodplain%20Manager%20Community%20Contact%20List_8_16.pdf

ODNR appreciates the opportunity to provide these comments. Please contact Mike Pettegrew at mike.pettegrew@dnr.ohio.gov if you have questions about these comments or need additional information.

Mike Pettegrew
Environmental Services Administrator (Acting)

Jennifer Broush

From: Jennifer Broush
Sent: Tuesday, November 2, 2021 11:56 AM
To: 'sarah.tebbe@dnr.ohio.gov'
Cc: Jason Palonis; EDebias@equitransmidstream.com
Subject: RE: Ohio Valley Connector Expansion Project, Equitrans, L.P.

Sarah,

Thank you for the correspondence receipt acknowledgement. We will use the review request inbox noted below to submit any further communications. We look forward to your review and response.

Thanks,
Jennifer

Jennifer Broush, MBA

Associate / Director, Environmental and Energy Services

724.516.1155

From: sarah.tebbe@dnr.ohio.gov <sarah.tebbe@dnr.ohio.gov>
Sent: Monday, November 1, 2021 1:51 PM
To: Jennifer Broush <j.broush@gaiconsultants.com>
Subject: Ohio Valley Connector Expansion Project, Equitrans, L.P.

EXERCISE CAUTION: This is an External Email Message!

Think before clicking on links, opening attachments, or responding

Hi Jennifer,

We have received your request and will begin our review. Also, please submit any future environmental review requests to our designated review request inbox (environmentalreviewrequest@dnr.ohio.gov) to ensure the project does not get lost in the mix. You should get an auto-response letting you know you have to correct email, and that your project is in queue.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Thanks,

Sarah Tebbe
Ohio Department of Natural Resources
REALM Office of Environmental Services
2045 Morse Road
Columbus, Ohio 43229



Jennifer Broush

From: sarah.tebbe@dnr.ohio.gov
Sent: Monday, November 1, 2021 1:51 PM
To: Jennifer Broush
Subject: Ohio Valley Connector Expansion Project, Equitrans, L.P.

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Please let me know if you have any questions.

Thanks,

Sarah Tebbe
Ohio Department of Natural Resources
REALM Office of Environmental Services
2045 Morse Road
Columbus, Ohio 43229





Southpointe Office
6000 Town Center Blvd
Suite 300
Canonsburg, Pennsylvania 15317

T 724.873.3545
F 724.873.3549

October 21, 2021

Ms. Erin Hazelton
Ohio Department of Natural Resources
Division of Wildlife
2045 Morse Road, Building G
Columbus, Ohio 43229

**Initial Consultation Letter
Ohio Valley Connector Expansion Project. Equitrans, L.P.
Monroe County, Ohio**

Dear Ms. Hazelton:

On behalf of Equitrans, L.P. (Equitrans), GAI Consultants, Inc. (GAI) is providing information to initiate the review process regarding threatened and endangered species and their habitats for the proposed Ohio Valley Connector Expansion Project (OVCX), located in Monroe County, Ohio (OH). The OVCX involves the addition of one Titan T130 compressor unit to the existing Plasma Compressor Station. All work will be confined to the existing station's graded and previously disturbed limits and will not include tree-clearing or the disturbance of stream or wetland habitat. Disturbance areas will be restored to pre-construction contours and revegetated following completion of construction.

Equitrans is requesting a technical review from the OH Department of Natural Resources regarding state threatened and endangered species within the study area for OVCX, as shown on the Project Location Map (Attachment 1). GAI has also initiated a similar consultation with the United States Fish and Wildlife Service OH Field Office.

GAI and Equitrans thank you in advance for your assistance. If you have any questions or require further information, please feel free to contact me at 412.399.5317 or via email at j.broush@gaiconsultants.com.

Sincerely,

GAI Consultants, Inc.

Jennifer
Broush

Digitally signed by Jennifer Broush
DN: cn=Jennifer Broush, o=GAI
Consultants, Inc., ou,
email=j.broush@gaiconsultants.com, c=US
Date: 2021.10.21 08:40:52 -04'00'

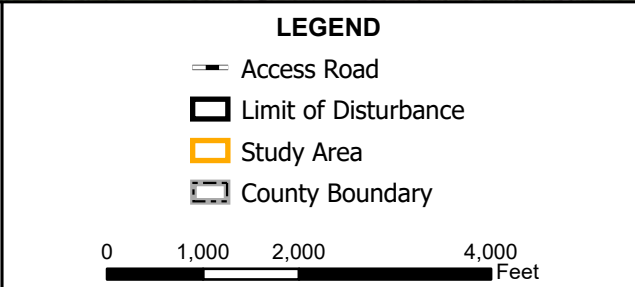
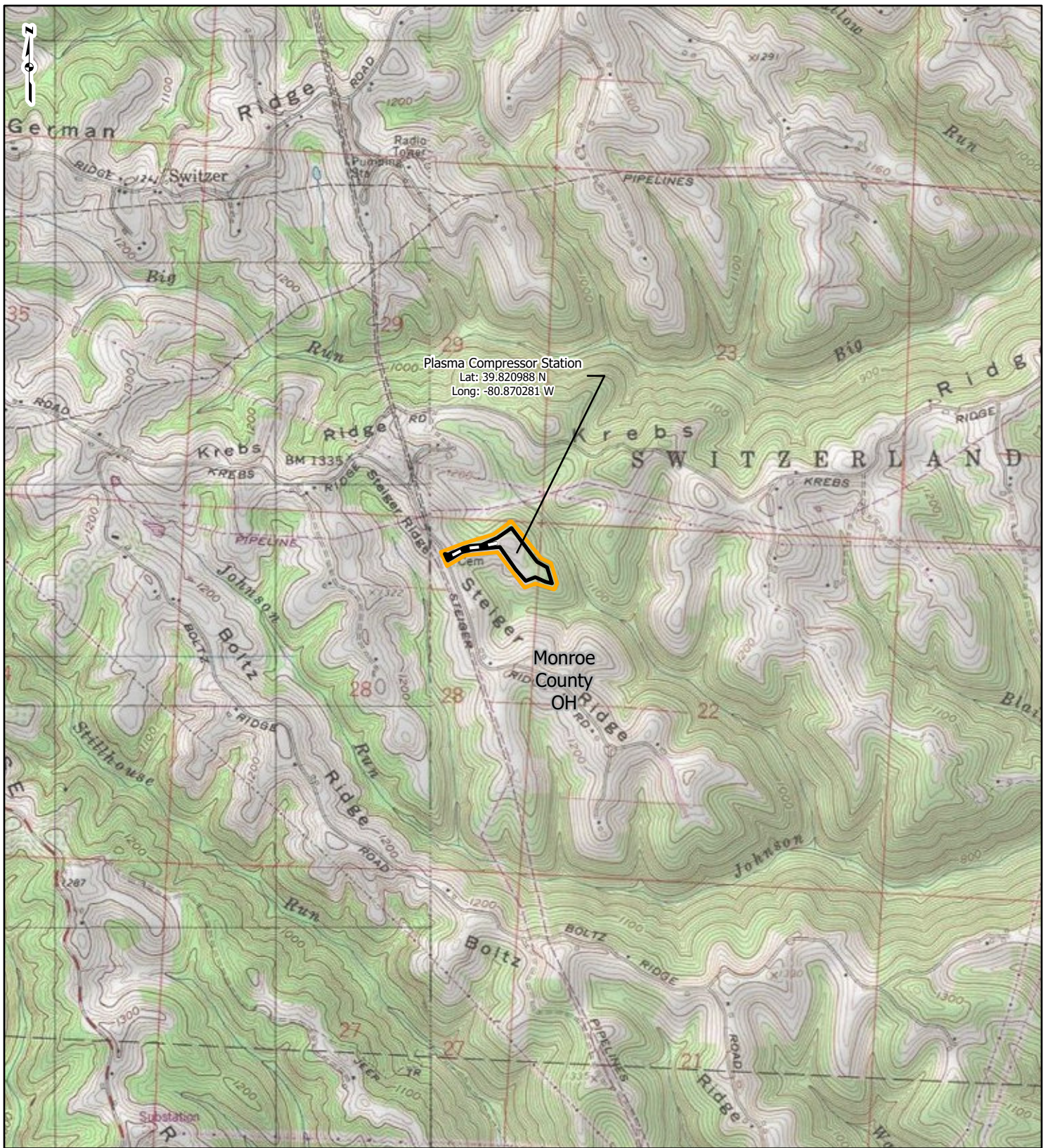
Jennifer C. Broush, MBA
Associate / Director, Environmental and Energy Services

JCB/wgh

Attachment: Attachment 1 (Project Location Map)

October 21, 2021
R210388.05

ATTACHMENT 1
PROJECT LOCATION MAP



PROJECT LOCATION MAP SHEET 1 OF 1

OHIO VALLEY CONNECTOR EXPANSION
EQUITRANS, L.P.

equitrans
Midstream

DRAWN BY: TAF DATE: 10/8/2021
CHECKED: KJT APPROVED: JJP

REFERENCE: USGS 7.5' TOPOGRAPHIC QUADRANGLES: CAMERON (1978), AND POWHATAN POINT (1978), OHIO, OBTAINED THROUGH ESRI USA TOPO MAPS, ACCESSED 10/8/2021.