

## Updated status on USFWS B.O. from the MaineDOT

Larry Adams

9/15/2014 6:03 PM

To: Brewer City Council; Brewer City Manager; Councilor Beverly Uhlenhake; Councilor Joseph Ferris; Councilor Kevin O'Connell; Deputy Mayor Matthew Vachon; Mayor Jerry W. Goss; Eddington Board of Selectman and Town Manager; Carol Woodcock / U.S. Senator Susan Collins; Elizabeth Montgomery Schneider MacTaggart / U.S. Senator Angus King; Representative Arthur Verow - District #21; Representative David Johnson - District#20; Rosemary Winslow / U.S. Congressman Mike Michaud; Senator Edward Youngblood - District#31;

Cc: personal addresses redacted.

Follow the dates on the three emails and you will see that there was indeed news that could have and should have been shared on September 11th and that is the phone call on Sept 8th to the USFWS from the MaineDOT/FHWA and the results that we now get on a second request for information.

Thanks again to Gretchen Heldmann for pursuing this matter; we should have been fully advised of this information the moment the MaineDOT/FHWA knew about it as per this statement that I will once again share with you to make a point:

*Town officials and the residents of Brewer, Holden, Eddington and Clifton deserve to be fully informed of all decisions and progress. We recognize that it is our obligation to do so, and we will rectify this situation in the future. MaineDOT Spokesman Ted Talbot BDN 1/6/2012*

Note that cc. addresses are redacted to save space. Full emails available upon request.

From: "Charette, Russ" <[Russ.Charette@maine.gov](mailto:Russ.Charette@maine.gov)>  
Date: Sep 15, 2014 3:00 PM  
Subject: RE: I-395/Route 9 Transportation Study Update  
To: "Gretchen Heldmann" <[gheldmann@gmail.com](mailto:gheldmann@gmail.com)>

Ms. Heldmann,

FHWA and MaineDOT are aware of the 6-month extension on the proposal to list the northern long-eared bat. At this time, FHWA has provided all the required and requested information for Section 7 consultation to USFWS. A call between FHWA and USFWS occurred on September 8, 2014 regarding the status of USFWS' Biological Opinion. At that time, USFWS stated they had completed writing the Biological Opinion and it was currently going through their internal review process.

As indicated in my September 12<sup>th</sup> e-mail, I will notify you as soon as we receive the Biological Opinion for this project.

Russell Charette – Project Manager

From: Gretchen Heldmann [mailto:[gheldmann@gmail.com](mailto:gheldmann@gmail.com)]  
Sent: Friday, September 12, 2014 11:29 AM  
To: Charette, Russ

Mr. Charette,

According to the [USFWS website, the NLEB comment period was reopened](#), and the agency now has until April 2, 2015 to make a decision whether or not to list NLEB as Endangered. This previously was part of the reason for the delay on the Biological Opinion, due to the original announcement in October 2013. Is this currently the reason for the continued delay on the Biological Opinion?

Thank you,

Gretchen

\_\_\_\_\_  
Gretchen Heldmann, GISP, LF

On Thu, Sep 11, 2014 at 9:28 AM, Charette, Russ <[Russ.Charette@maine.gov](mailto:Russ.Charette@maine.gov)> wrote:

In response to a question pertaining to the status of this project.

The status remains as previously indicated, in that MaineDOT is still waiting for USFWS to complete the Biological Opinion. Once we receive the Biological Opinion, I will immediately send out an update with an estimate of the time required to complete the FEIS.

Russell Charette – Project Manager