

HABITAT CONSERVATION PLAN



Balancing customers' need for reliable electric service with respect for the environment is important when building transmission lines and substations.

A Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) is under development to help minimize and address the impacts of transmission construction on endangered species. The plan defines actions needed to fulfill requirements of the Endangered Species Act while also improving the efficiency of the permitting process.

WHAT

The HCP focuses on industry best practices to protect federally threatened and endangered species. It identifies actions to avoid, minimize and address the unintentional impacts of transmission construction.

WHY

Collaboration between AEP and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service ensures transmission line projects comply with the Endangered Species Act. The company's preference is to avoid areas with threatened and endangered species during transmission construction. When this is not feasible, the HCP can help minimize impacts.

The plan also addresses the regional needs of protected species, which saves time by eliminating the need for individual project permits.

WHERE

The HCP includes counties, parishes and independent cities served by AEP operating companies in the following states:

- Arkansas
- Indiana
- Kentucky
- Louisiana
- Michigan
- Ohio
- Oklahoma
- Tennessee
- Texas
- Virginia
- West Virginia

PROJECT SCHEDULE

CURRENT ACTIVITIES

DATA GATHERING AND EVALUATION

Through First Quarter 2020

COORDINATION WITH STATE AGENCIES AND SPECIES EXPERTS

Through First Quarter 2022

DEVELOPMENT OF DRAFT HABITAT CONSERVATION PLAN

Through First Quarter 2022

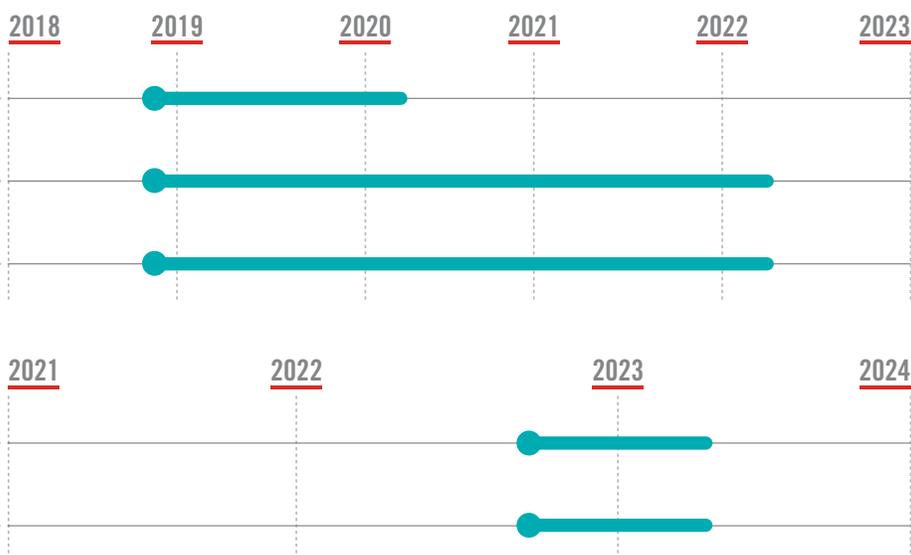
NEXT STEPS

PUBLIC SCOPING NOTICE FOR ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

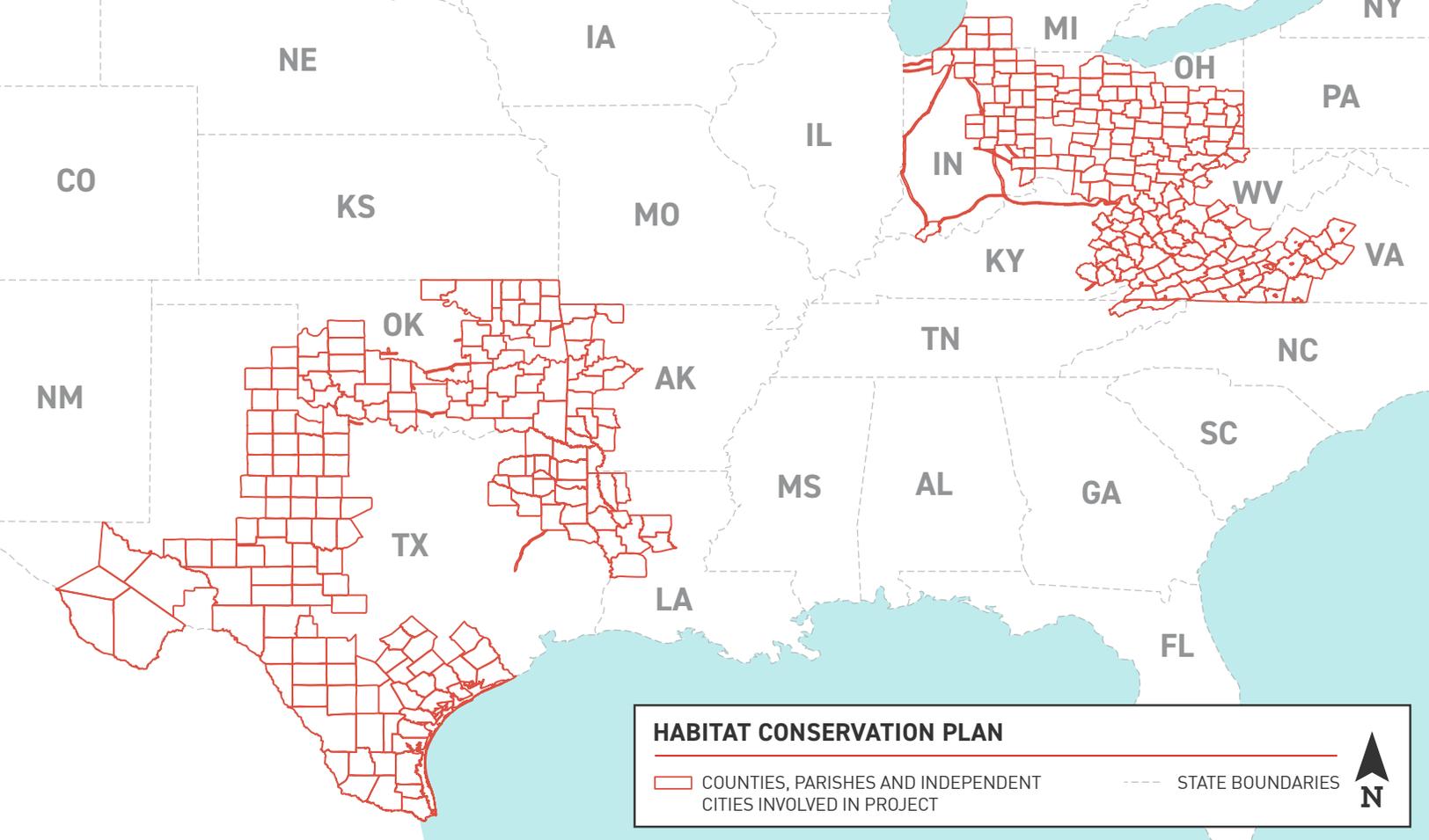
Third Quarter 2022

OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

Third Quarter 2022



*Timeline subject to change.



Q&A:

HABITAT CONSERVATION PLANS AND THE ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT

What are Habitat Conservation Plans?

Habitat Conservation Plans (HCPs) help ensure compliance with Endangered Species Act requirements focused on protecting and assisting in the recovery of threatened and endangered species, and the ecosystems upon which they depend.

What is a “take?”

Take is defined as “harass, harm, pursue, hunt, shoot, wound, kill, trap, capture, or collect, or to attempt to engage in any such conduct.” Section 9 of the Endangered Species Act prohibits the take of any fish or wildlife species listed as endangered.

What is an “incidental take?”

An incidental take is an unintentional, but not unexpected, take that impacts an endangered species. Congress created a permit mechanism to allow for the incidental take of listed species resulting from non-federal activities (Section 10 of the Endangered Species Act).

What is an “incidental take permit?”

Incidental take permits describe the process to minimize the potential for take, and to monitor and mitigate any take that occurs. An applicant can obtain an Incidental Take Permit by developing an HCP that specifies:

- Impacts likely to result from the taking
- Measures the applicant plans to use to minimize impacts
- Funding to implement the measures

HCP COVERS THE FOLLOWING SPECIES

- Indiana Bat: [Endangered](#)
- Northern Long-Eared Bat: [Threatened](#)
- Little Brown Bat: [Candidate for Listing](#)
- Tricolored Bat: [Undergoing Status Review](#)
- Whooping Crane: [Endangered](#)
- Golden-Cheeked Warbler: [Endangered](#)
- Red-Cockaded Woodpecker: [Endangered](#)
- Eastern Massasauga Rattlesnake: [Threatened](#)
- Rusty Patched Bumble Bee: [Endangered](#)
- Mitchell’s Satyr Butterfly: [Endangered](#)



FORMAL PUBLIC COMMENT PERIODS ARE ANNOUNCED AS PART OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT PROCESS. CONTACT US IF YOU HAVE COMMENTS OR QUESTIONS.



An AEP Company

BOUNDLESS ENERGY™