



Illinois Department of Natural Resources

One Natural Resources Way Springfield, Illinois 62702-1271
www.dnr.illinois.gov

Pat Quinn, Governor
Marc Miller, Director

September 20, 2012

Mr James Sims, Engineer/Planner
University of Illinois
Facilities & Services, Planning Division
1501 South Oak Street, M/c 800
Champaign, IL 61820

**RE: Cruz Farm Solar Energy Facility, Champaign County
Endangered Species Consultation Program
EcoCAT Review #1304404**

Dear Mr. Sims:

Thank you for providing the results of a field survey for the State-listed threatened Franklin's Ground Squirrel, performed by Dr. Ed Heske of the Illinois Natural History Survey. This documentation demonstrates it is unlikely the site of the proposed solar energy facility is currently occupied by the Franklin's Ground Squirrel. The Department therefore concludes it is unlikely the proposed action will adversely modify any essential habitat for this species.

Consultation on the part of the Department is terminated, unless the University desires additional information or advice related to this proposal. This consultation is valid for two years unless new information becomes available which was not previously considered; or the proposed action is modified; or additional species, essential habitats, or Natural Areas are identified in the vicinity. If the project has not been implemented within two years of the date of this letter, or any of the above listed conditions develop, a new consultation is necessary. If additional protected resources are encountered during the project's implementation, compliance with the applicable statutes and regulations is required. Also, termination does not imply IDNR's authorization or endorsement of the proposed action. Please contact me if you have questions regarding this review.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Keith M. Shank".

Keith M. Shank
Impact Assessment Section
Division of Ecosystems and Environment
keith.shank@illinois.gov
(217) 785-5500