



# United States Department of the Interior

## FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

Ecological Services  
Nebraska Field Office  
9325 South Alda Road  
Wood River, Nebraska 68883

August 27, 2015

**FWS-NE: 2013-164**

Ms. Mary D. Hassell  
Office of Environmental Quality and  
Transboundary Issues (EQT)  
Bureau of Oceans and International  
Environmental and Scientific Affairs (OES)  
U.S. Department of State  
Washington, D.C. 20520

**RE: Request for Reinitiation of Section 7(a)(2) Consultation for the TransCanada  
Keystone XL Pipeline Project and Concurrence with Findings**

Dear Ms. Hassell:

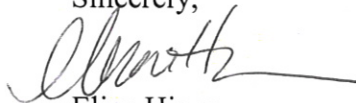
This is in response to your letter dated July 9, 2015, requesting reinitiation of section 7 consultation and concurrence that the proposed Keystone XL Pipeline Project (Project) may affect, but is not likely to adversely affect, the federally threatened Rufa Red Knot (*Calidris canutus rufa*). After reviewing your July 9, 2015, letter and attached Biological Analysis of the effect of the Project on the species, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) has concluded that it concurs with the U.S. Department State's (Department) determination of effect.

This concludes section 7 consultation pursuant to the Endangered Species Act. Consultation should be reinitiated, however, if new information reveals impacts of the Project that may affect listed species, a new species is listed, new critical habitat is designated, or the Project is subsequently modified.

The Service appreciates the opportunity to work cooperatively with the Department in assuming a shared responsibility for protecting federal trust fish and wildlife resources along the proposed Project route in Montana, South Dakota, Nebraska, and Kansas.

If you have any questions or require technical assistance, please do not hesitate to contact Mr. Robert Harms at [robert\\_harms@fws.gov](mailto:robert_harms@fws.gov); (308) 382-6468, extension 208.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Eliza Hines', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Eliza Hines

Nebraska Field Supervisor

Cc: USFWS, Denver CO (Attn: Clint Riley)  
USFWS, Denver CO (Attn: Doug Laye)  
USFWS, Helena, MT (Attn: Jeff Berglund)  
USFWS, Pierre, SD (Attn: Charlene Bessken)  
USFWS, Manhattan, KS (Attn: Dan Mulhern)  
USDOI, Denver CO (Attn: Kate Williams-Shuck)  
BLM, Reno, NV (Attn: Jim Stobaugh)