The US Fish and Wildlife Service has developed a programmatic biological opinion (PBO) in conjunction with the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), and NCDOT for the northern long-eared bat (NLEB) (*Myotis septentrionalis*) in eastern North Carolina.  The PBO covers the entire NCDOT program in Divisions 1-8, including all NCDOT projects and activities.  The programmatic determination for NLEB for the NCDOT program is **May Affect, Likely to Adversely Affect**.   The PBO provides incidental take coverage for NLEB and will ensure compliance with Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act for five years for all NCDOT projects with a federal nexus in Divisions 1-8, which includes [*XXXX* C*ounty*] , where [PROJECT #] is located. This level of incidental take is authorized from the effective date of a final listing determination through December 31, 2020 (the USFWS, FHWA, USACE, and NCDOT are coordinating to reinitiate Section 7 to extend the PBO beyond this date).

~~Project requirement for PBO compliance:~~ *~~After project completion, the contract administrator for construction must submit the actual amount of tree clearing reported in tenths of acres.~~*

*~~This information should be submitted at:~~*[~~https://connect.ncdot.gov/site/construction/biosurveys/Lists/Northern%20Long%20Eared%20Bat/AllItems.aspx~~](https://connect.ncdot.gov/site/construction/biosurveys/Lists/Northern%20Long%20Eared%20Bat/AllItems.aspx)

Note: Reporting of tree clearing is no longer required. The total reported since the implementation of the PBO has equaled approximately 25% of the total incidental take.