



May 22, 2023

United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

Wildlife Services  
4820 Route 711  
Suite A  
Bolivar, PA 15923  
724-238-7320

The USDA, APHIS, Wildlife Services, National Rabies Management Program (NRMP) will be conducting an Oral Rabies Vaccination (ORV) program for raccoons in Ohio, Pennsylvania, and West Virginia. The ORV project will include the use of fixed wing-aircraft and helicopters to distribute baits. The fixed-wing distribution will occur over mostly rural areas while the helicopter distribution will occur over suburban/urban areas.



The NRMP will be utilizing agency-owned helicopters to distribute baits around the Greater Pittsburgh Area. The helicopters are Hughes OH-6 Cayuse, Jet Ranger and Airbus H120 helicopters with the following tail numbers: N5187Y, N332AB, and N58479, N250WH, N260WH, N67265, N67525, N67767, N67908, N91637. The aircraft are red with black stripes along the body. The helicopters will be

flying terrain at approximately 200 feet above ground level while distributing the ORV baits. The helicopter ORV operations will be based from the Beaver County Airport (BVI) and Allegheny County Airport (AGC), Pennsylvania. The anticipated dates of the helicopter operations are August 12th-27th, 2023. These dates could shift due to weather or circumstances beyond our control.



The NRMP has contracted with Dynamic Aviation for the use of five King Air A90 aircraft to distribute ORV. The aircraft are white with thin red and blue stripes along the body of the aircraft. As of the date of this letter, the following tail numbers have been tasked for this operation: N7199H, N72L, N75N, N75V, N7199S and N75Z. The aircraft will be flying VFR at approximately 500 feet above ground level while distributing

the ORV baits. The fixed-wing operations will be based from Youngstown Elser Metro Airport (4G4), Ohio, for areas north of Pittsburgh, and from Upshur County Airport (W22), West Virginia, for areas south of Pittsburgh. The anticipated dates of the operation are from August 15th – September 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023. These dates could change due to weather or circumstances beyond our control.

NRMP and WS pilots will coordinate all flight plans with Pittsburgh International Airport, Beaver Valley Airport, Allegheny County Airport and the FAA prior to starting the project. Flight operations will occur daily from sunrise until sunset. The pilots will be in constant communication with Air Traffic Control as well as other emergency agencies during this time.

If there are any questions regarding any of the ORV operations, please contact Rabies Biologist Amy Hess at (office) 724-238-7320 or (cell) 724-554-0618.