NEW YORK STATE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION

Division of Fish and Wildlife, New York Natural Heritage Program
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March 23, 2017

Jason P. Ritzert
Western Ecosystems Technology, Inc.
1017 Mumma Road, Suite 103
Lemoyne, PA 17043

Dear Mr. Ritzert:

In response to your recent request, we have reviewed the New York Natural Heritage Program database with respect to the proposed Bluestone Wind Project, located in the Towns of Sanford and Windsor, Broome County, New York.

Enclosed is a report of rare or state-listed animals and plants, and significant natural communities that our database indicates occur within the project area or in its immediate vicinity. For further guidance regarding the state-listed animals listed in the report, please contact the NYS DEC Region 7 Office, Division of Environmental Permits, as listed at www.dec.ny.gov/about/39381.html.

Also enclosed is a report of rare birds documented within 10 miles of the project site, for use in assessing potential impacts of bird collisions. (No rare bats have been documented within 40 miles of the project site.) For information on NYSDEC's environmental review of proposed wind energy projects, and for the document *Guidelines for Conducting Bird and Bat Studies at Commercial Wind Energy Projects*, please go to www.dec.ny.gov/energy/66494.html.

For most sites, comprehensive field surveys have not been conducted; the enclosed report only includes records from our databases. We cannot provide a definitive statement as to the presence or absence of all rare or state-listed species or significant natural communities. Depending on the nature of the project and the conditions at the project site, further information from on-site surveys or other resources may be required to fully assess impacts on biological resources.

Sincerely,

Nicholas Conrad
Information Resources Coordinator
NY Natural Heritage Program

NEW YORK STATE OF OPPORTUNITY | Department of Environmental Conservation

The following state-listed animals have been documented in the vicinity of the project site.

The following list includes animals that are listed by NYS as Endangered, Threatened, or Special Concern; and/or that are federally listed or are candidates for federal listing. The list also includes other rare animals found with the listed species.

For information about any permit considerations for the project, contact the Permits staff at the NYSDEC Region 7 Office. For information about potential impacts of the project on these species, and how to avoid, minimize, or mitigate any impacts, contact the Wildlife Manager.

A listing of Regional Offices is at http://www.dec.ny.gov/about/558.html.

COMMON NAME	*SCIENTIFIC NAME*	*NY STATE LISTING*	*FEDERAL LISTING*	
The following species has been documented within the southwestern portion of the project area. Individual animals may travel 1.5 miles from documented locations.				
Timber Rattlesnake	*Crotalus horridus*	Threatened		3745
The following species have been documented in the Susquehanna River adjacent to the project area.				
Freshwater Mussels				
Green Floater	*Lasmigona subviridis*	Threatened		125
Brook Floater	*Alasmidonta varicosa*	Threatened		13948
Yellow Lampmussle	*Lampsilis cariosa*	Unlisted		8671
Dragonflies				
Rapids Clubtail	*Gomphus quadricolor*	Unlisted		12084

This report only includes records from the NY Natural Heritage database. For most sites, comprehensive field surveys have not been conducted, and we cannot provide a definitive statement as to the presence or absence of all rare or state-listed species. Depending on the nature of the project and the conditions at the project site, further information from on-site surveys or other sources may be required to fully assess impacts on biological resources.

If any rare plants or animals are documented during site visits, we request that information on the observations be provided to the New York Natural Heritage Program so that we may update our database.

Information about many of the listed animals in New York, including habitat, biology, identification, conservation, and management, are available online in Natural Heritage's Conservation Guides at www.guides.nynhp.org, and from NYSDEC at www.dec.ny.gov/animals/7494.html.

The following rare animals have been documented in the general vicinity of the proposed Bluestone Wind Project.

The impacts of wind turbines on animals include both impacts due to disturbance at the site of the turbines, and impacts due to flying birds and bats colliding with turbine blades. Therefore, when screening proposed wind energy projects for potential impacts on rare species, in addition to reporting rare plants and animals documented at the project site itself, NY Natural Heritage reports species of rare birds documented within 10 miles of the project site, and rare bats documented within 40 miles of the project site. These distances were determined in consultation with the NYSDEC Division of Fish, Wildlife and Marine Resources.

For information on NYSDEC's environmental review of proposed wind energy projects, and for the document Guidelines for Conducting Bird and Bat Studies at Commercial Wind Energy Projects, please go to www.dec.ny.gov/energy/66494.html.

Birds within 10 miles

COMMON NAME	*SCIENTIFIC NAME*	*NY STATE LISTING*	*HERITAGE CONSERVATION STATUS**
Bald Eagle *Nesting and Wintering*	*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*	Threatened	S2S3B,S2N
Henslow's Sparrow *Breeding*	*Ammodramus henslowii*	Threatened	S3B

* Conservation status in NYS as ranked by NY Natural Heritage Program on a 1 to 5 scale:
- S1 = Critically imperiled
- S2 = Imperiled
- S3 = Rare or uncommon
- S4 = Abundant and apparently secure
- S5 = Demonstrably abundant and secure

B after one of the above ranks indicates the status rank is for breeding populations only.
N after one of the above ranks indicates the status rank is for nonbreeding wintering populations only.

IPaC Information for Planning and Conservation **U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service**

IPaC resource list

Location

Broome County, New York

Local office

New York Ecological Services Field Office

(607) 753-9334
(607) 753-9699

3817 Luker Road
Cortland, NY 13045-9349

http://www.fws.gov/northeast/nyfo/es/section7.htm

Endangered species

This resource list is for informational purposes only and should not be used for planning or analyzing project level impacts.

Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act **requires** Federal agencies to "request of the Secretary information whether any species which is listed or proposed to be listed may be present in the area of such proposed action" for any project that is conducted, permitted, funded, or licensed by any Federal agency.

A letter from the local office and a species list which fulfills this requirement can only be obtained by requesting an official species list either from the Regulatory Review section in IPaC or from the local field office directly.

For project evaluations that require USFWS concurrence/review, please return to the IPaC website and request an official species list by creating a project and making a request from the Regulatory Review section.

Listed species[1] are managed by the Endangered Species Program of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

1. Species listed under the Endangered Species Act are threatened or endangered; IPaC also shows species that are candidates, or proposed, for listing. See the listing status page for more information.

The following species are potentially affected by activities in this location:

Mammals

NAME	STATUS
Northern Long-eared Bat *Myotis septentrionalis* **No critical habitat** has been designated for this species. http://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9045	Threatened

Critical habitats

Potential effects to critical habitat(s) in this location must be analyzed along with the endangered species themselves.

THERE ARE NO CRITICAL HABITATS AT THIS LOCATION.

Migratory birds

Birds are protected under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act[1] and the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act[2].

Any activity that results in the take (to harass, harm, pursue, hunt, shoot, wound, kill, trap, capture, or collect, or to attempt to engage in any such conduct) of migratory birds or eagles is prohibited unless authorized by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service[3]. There are no provisions for allowing the take of migratory birds that are unintentionally killed or injured.

Any person or organization who plans or conducts activities that may result in the take of migratory birds is responsible for complying with the appropriate regulations and implementing appropriate conservation measures.

1. The Migratory Birds Treaty Act of 1918.
2. The Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act of 1940.
3. 50 C.F.R. Sec. 10.12 and 16 U.S.C. Sec. 668(a)

Additional information can be found using the following links:

- Birds of Conservation Concern http://www.fws.gov/birds/management/managed-species/birds-of-conservation-concern.php
- Conservation measures for birds http://www.fws.gov/birds/management/project-assessment-tools-and-guidance/conservation-measures.php
- Year-round bird occurrence data http://www.birdscanada.org/birdmon/default/datasummaries.jsp

Not for consultation

The migratory birds species listed below are species of particular conservation concern (e.g. Birds of Conservation Concern) that may be potentially affected by activities in this location, not a list of every bird species you may find in this location. Although it is important to try to avoid and minimize impacts to all birds, special attention should be made to avoid and minimize impacts to birds of priority concern. To view available data on other bird species that may occur in your project area, please visit the AKN Histogram Tools and Other Bird Data Resources.

NAME	SEASON(S)
American Bittern Botaurus lentiginosus http://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/6582	Breeding
Bald Eagle Haliaeetus leucocephalus http://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/1626	Year-round
Black-billed Cuckoo Coccyzus erythropthalmus http://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9399	Breeding
Blue-winged Warbler Vermivora pinus	Breeding
Canada Warbler Wilsonia canadensis	Breeding
Golden-winged Warbler Vermivora chrysoptera http://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/8745	Breeding
Kentucky Warbler Oporornis formosus	Breeding
Least Bittern Ixobrychus exilis http://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/6175	Breeding
Louisiana Waterthrush Parkesia motacilla	Breeding
Olive-sided Flycatcher Contopus cooperi http://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/3914	Breeding
Peregrine Falcon Falco peregrinus http://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/8831	Breeding
Pied-billed Grebe Podilymbus podiceps	Breeding
Prairie Warbler Dendroica discolor	Breeding

Red-headed Woodpecker Melanerpes erythrocephalus	Breeding
Short-eared Owl Asio flammeus http://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9295	Wintering
Willow Flycatcher Empidonax traillii http://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/3482	Breeding
Wood Thrush Hylocichla mustelina	Breeding
Worm Eating Warbler Helmitheros vermivorum	Breeding

What does IPaC use to generate the list of migratory bird species potentially occurring in my specified location?

Landbirds:

Migratory birds that are displayed on the IPaC species list are based on ranges in the latest edition of the National Geographic Guide, Birds of North America (6th Edition, 2011 by Jon L. Dunn, and Jonathan Alderfer). Although these ranges are coarse in nature, a number of U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service migratory bird biologists agree that these maps are some of the best range maps to date. These ranges were clipped to a specific Bird Conservation Region (BCR) or USFWS Region/Regions, if it was indicated in the 2008 list of Birds of Conservation Concern (BCC) that a species was a BCC species only in a particular Region/Regions. Additional modifications have been made to some ranges based on more local or refined range information and/or information provided by U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service biologists with species expertise. All migratory birds that show in areas on land in IPaC are those that appear in the 2008 Birds of Conservation Concern report.

Not for consultation

Atlantic Seabirds:

Ranges in IPaC for birds off the Atlantic coast are derived from species distribution models developed by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Association (NOAA) National Centers for Coastal Ocean Science (NCCOS) using the best available seabird survey data for the offshore Atlantic Coastal region to date. NOAANCCOS assisted USFWS in developing seasonal species ranges from their models for specific use in IPaC. Some of these birds are not BCC species but were of interest for inclusion because they may occur in high abundance off the coast at different times throughout the year, which potentially makes them more susceptible to certain types of development and activities taking place in that area. For more refined details about the abundance and richness of bird species within your project area off the Atlantic Coast, see the Northeast Ocean Data Portal. The Portal also offers data and information about other types of taxa that may be helpful in your project review.

About the NOAANCCOS models: the models were developed as part of the NOAANCCOS project: Integrative Statistical Modeling and Predictive Mapping of Marine Bird Distributions and Abundance on the Atlantic Outer Continental Shelf. The models resulting from this project are being used in a number of decision-support/mapping products in order to help guide decision-making on activities off the Atlantic Coast with the goal of reducing impacts to migratory birds. One such product is the Northeast Ocean Data Portal, which can be used to explore details about the relative occurrence and abundance of bird species in a particular area off the Atlantic Coast.

All migratory bird range maps within IPaC are continuously being updated as new and better information becomes available.

Can I get additional information about the levels of occurrence in my project area of specific birds or groups of birds listed in IPaC?

Landbirds:

The Avian Knowledge Network (AKN) provides a tool currently called the "Histogram Tool", which draws from the data within the AKN (latest,survey, point count, citizen science datasets) to create a view of relative abundance of species within a particular location over the course of the year. The results of the tool depict the frequency of detection of a species in survey events, averaged between multiple datasets within AKN in a particular week of the year. You may access the histogram tools through the Migratory Bird Programs AKN Histogram Tools webpage.

The tool is currently available for 4 regions (California, Northeast U.S., Southeast U.S. and Midwest), which encompasses the following 32 states: Alabama, Arkansas, California, Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, North, Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Tennessee, Vermont, Virginia, West Virginia, and Wisconsin.

In the near future, there are plans to expand this tool nationwide within the AKN, and allow the graphs produced to appear with the list of trust resources generated by IPaC, providing you with an additional level of detail about the level of occurrence of the species of particular concern potentially occurring in your project area throughout the course of the year.

Atlantic Seabirds:

For additional details about the relative occurrence and abundance of both individual bird species and groups of bird species within your project area off the Atlantic Coast, please visit the Northeast Ocean Data Portal. The Portal also offers data and information about other taxa besides birds that may be helpful to you in your project review. Alternately, you may download the bird model results files underlying the portal maps through the NOAANCCOS Integrative Statistical Modeling and Predictive Mapping of Marine Bird Distributions and Abundance on the Atlantic Outer Continental Shelf project webpage.

Facilities

Wildlife refuges

Any activity proposed on National Wildlife Refuge lands must undergo a 'Compatibility Determination' conducted by the Refuge. Please contact the individual Refuges to discuss any questions or concerns.

THERE ARE NO REFUGES AT THIS LOCATION.

Fish hatcheries

THERE ARE NO FISH HATCHERIES AT THIS LOCATION.

Wetlands in the National Wetlands Inventory

Impacts to NWI wetlands and other aquatic habitats may be subject to regulation under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act, or other State/Federal statutes.

For more information please contact the Regulatory Program of the local U.S. Army Corps of Engineers District.

Not for consultation

WETLAND INFORMATION IS NOT AVAILABLE AT THIS TIME
This can happen when the National Wetlands Inventory (NWI) map service is unavailable, or for very large projects that intersect many wetland areas. Try again, or visit the NWI map to view wetlands at this location.

Data limitations

The Service's objective of mapping wetlands and deepwater habitats is to produce reconnaissance level information on the location, type and size of these resources. The maps are prepared from the analysis of high altitude imagery. Wetlands are identified based on vegetation, visible hydrology and geography. A margin of error is inherent in the use of imagery; thus, detailed on-the-ground inspection of any particular site may result in revision of the wetland boundaries or classification established through image analysis.

The accuracy of image interpretation depends on the quality of the imagery, the experience of the image analysts, the amount and quality of the collateral data and the amount of ground truth verification work conducted. Metadata should be consulted to determine the date of the source imagery used and any mapping problems.

Wetlands or other mapped features may have changed since the date of the imagery or field work. There may be occasional differences in polygon boundaries or classifications between the information depicted on the map and the actual conditions on site.

Data exclusions

Certain wetland habitats are excluded from the National mapping program because of the limitations of aerial imagery as the primary data source used to detect wetlands. These habitats include seagrasses or submerged aquatic vegetation that are found in the intertidal and subtidal zones of estuaries and nearshore coastal waters. Some deepwater reef communities (coral or tuberficid worm reefs) have also been excluded from the inventory. These habitats, because of their depth, go undetected by aerial imagery.

Data precautions

Federal, state, and local regulatory agencies with jurisdiction over wetlands may define and describe wetlands in a different manner than that used in this inventory. There is no attempt, in either the design or products of this inventory, to define the limits of proprietary jurisdiction of any Federal, state, or local government or to establish the geographical scope of the regulatory programs of government agencies. Persons intending to engage in activities involving modifications within or adjacent to wetland areas should seek the advice of appropriate federal, state, or local agencies concerning specified agency regulatory programs and proprietary jurisdictions that may affect such activities.