

NEW YORK STATE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION
Division of Fish, Wildlife & Marine Resources
Habitat Inventory Unit
625 Broadway, 5th Floor, Albany, New York 12233-4757
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Joe Martens
Commissioner

February 6, 2012

James Damon
Own Energy
45 Main Street
Brooklyn, NY 11201

Dear Mr. Damon;

In response to your recent request, we have reviewed the New York Natural Heritage Program database with respect to an Environmental Assessment for the proposed Wind Turbine Project, as indicated in the shapefile you provided, located in the City of Watertown, the Towns of Rutland and Champion, Jefferson County; and the Towns of Denmark, Harrisburg, and Lowville, Lewis County.

Enclosed is a report of rare or state-listed animals and plants, significant natural communities, and other significant habitats, which our databases indicate occur, or may occur, on your site or in the immediate vicinity of your site. 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 natural communities. This information should not be substituted for on-site surveys that may be required for environmental impact assessment.

Please note that for wind energy projects, we screen for all records found within the project boundary, any avian records located within 10 miles of the project boundary, and any bat records located within 40 miles of the project boundary. We refer you to <http://www.dec.ny.gov/energy/40966.html> for information on environmental review of proposed wind energy projects and for the document *Guidelines for Conducting Bird and Bat Studies at Commercial Wind Energy Projects*.

The enclosed report may be included in documents that will be available to the public. However, any enclosed maps displaying locations of rare species are considered sensitive information, and are intended only for the internal use of the recipient; they should not be included in any document that will be made available to the public, without permission from the New York Natural Heritage Program.

The presence of the plants and animals identified in the enclosed report may result in this project requiring additional review or permit conditions. For further guidance, and for information regarding other permits that may be required under state law for regulated areas or activities (e.g. regulated wetlands), please contact the appropriate NYS DEC Regional Office, Division of Environmental Permits, as listed at www.dec.ny.gov/about/39381.html.

Our databases are continually growing as records are added and updated. If this proposed project is still under development one year from now, we recommend that you contact us again so that we may update this response with the most current information.

Sincerely,

Katherine F. Barnes, GISP
Cartographic technician 3
Habitat Inventory Unit

Enc.

cc: Region 6
John Ozard, Endangered Species Unit
Brianna Gary, Bureau of Habitat, Albany
Rudyard Edick, Environmental Permits, Albany