

Memorandum

To: Town of Cortlandt Planning Board
From: Kevin Jamieson
Date: February 23, 2021
Subject: Biodiversity Assessment Scope - Revised
Lexington Avenue Solar Project Cortlandt CSG LLC

Project number: 20001755B

The proposed Biodiversity Assessment scope included below is a revision to the original scope submitted to the Planning Board and takes into account comments provided by the Town's consultant Weston & Sampson.

Biodiversity Assessment Scope

The Town or its designated biodiversity consultant will perform a biodiversity assessment for threatened, endangered, and other focal flora and fauna identified and deemed to be locally important by the Town of Cortlandt. The biodiversity assessment shall provide an overview of the entire subject parcel, however the field assessment shall primarily focus on the limits of disturbance for the proposed improvements, and the connected ecological systems. A review of the previously completed desktop research by the Applicant's biologist will be completed prior to the field assessment.

The biodiversity assessment will include the following:

- Background information – Review correspondence and documents concerning threatened and endangered species and ecological conditions related to the project site including Natural Heritage Program information, topographic maps, aerial photographs, soil surveys, and agency reports.
- Field Assessment – Conduct a two-day field assessment of the project site to document ecological conditions including the potential for endangered/threatened species habitat and critical habitat. The field assessment will focus on known rare or focal species in the project area. The site will be photographed to document conditions.
- The two-day field assessment shall be completed when most suitable to capture the greatest number and variety of species/habitats. Field assessments are suggested for mid-April (Amphibians) and mid-June (Breeding Birds/Vegetation). The specific dates are contingent upon seasonal changes and shall be agreed upon by the Applicant's biologist and the Town consultant.
- Field assessments will be conducted under appropriate weather conditions and time of day. Data shall be collected via notes, sketches and/or Global Positioning System.
- Agency Consultation – If needed, appropriate agencies will be contacted including the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) and/or the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) to discuss the site and its potential for endangered/threatened species and critical habitat.
- The Applicant's biodiversity consultant shall have the right to accompany the Town's consultant during the Field Assessment.

The deliverable will consist of a report or memorandum which documents the findings of the biodiversity assessment. The report will be based upon an analysis of information synthesized from the above tasks. The report will include a discussion of the existing ecology including representative flora, fauna, and ecological communities observed, potential project impacts, and potential mitigation/conservation measures (if deemed necessary). Habitat and species locations will be documented on an aerial photograph of the site with photo locations shown and copies of photos provided as part of the report.

The report shall be prepared and submitted to the Town Planning Board for discussion at the July 2021 Planning Board Meeting. The Town and the Applicant shall also discuss and agree upon whether it would be productive for the Planning Board to be updated during the May meeting on the outcome of the mid-April field assessment.

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