

NEW YORK STATE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION

Division of Fish and Wildlife, New York Natural Heritage Program
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October 23, 2025

Brooke Szczesny
EDR
217 Montgomery Street, Suite 1100
Syracuse, New York 13202

Re: Azalea Wind Project
County: Schuyler Town/City: Catharine, Hector

Dear Brooke Szczesny:

In response to your recent request, we have reviewed the New York Natural Heritage Program database with respect to the above project.

Enclosed is a report of rare or state-listed animals and plants, and significant natural communities that our database indicates occur in the vicinity of the project site. Also enclosed is a report of rare birds documented within 10 miles of the project site, and rare bats documented within 40 miles of the project site, for use in assessing potential impacts of bird and bat collisions. For information on NYSDEC's environmental review of proposed wind energy projects, and for the document entitled Guidelines for Conducting Bird and Bat Studies at Commercial Wind Energy Projects, follow this link:

<https://www.dec.ny.gov/regulations/28693.html>

For most sites, comprehensive field surveys have not been conducted; the enclosed report only includes records from our database. 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 sources may be required to fully assess impacts on biological resources.

Our database is 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.

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 Permits staff at the NYSDEC Central Office at DEPEnergy@dec.ny.gov.

Sincerely,



Heidi Krahling
Environmental Review Specialist
New York Natural Heritage Program

6902CY



Department of
Environmental
Conservation



The following state-listed animals have been documented in the vicinity of the following project: Azalea Wind Project.

The following list includes animals that are listed by NYS as Endangered, Threatened, or Special Concern; and/or that are federally listed.

For more information, including any permit considerations for the project, please contact the NYS DEC Region 8 Office, Division of Environmental Permits, at dep.r8@dec.ny.gov or (585) 226-5400.

The following species has been documented within 0.5 mile of the project site:

COMMON NAME	SCIENTIFIC NAME	NY STATE LISTING	FEDERAL LISTING
Birds			
Short-eared Owl <i>wintering area</i>	<i>Asio flammeus</i>	Endangered	11101

The following species has been documented within 0.25 mile of the project site:

COMMON NAME	SCIENTIFIC NAME	NY STATE LISTING	FEDERAL LISTING
Birds			
Least Bittern <i>breeding area</i>	<i>Botaurus exilis</i>	Threatened	11809

The following species has been documented within 1.5 miles of the project site. Individual animals may travel 1.5 miles from documented locations.

COMMON NAME	SCIENTIFIC NAME	NY STATE LISTING	FEDERAL LISTING
Mammals			
Northern Long-eared Bat <i>non-winter location</i>	<i>Myotis septentrionalis</i>	Endangered	Endangered 14533

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 guides.nynhp.org, and from NYSDEC at www.dec.ny.gov/nature/animals-fish-plants.



The following rare plants, rare animals, and significant natural communities have been documented in the vicinity of the following project: Azalea Wind Project.

We recommend that potential impacts of the proposed project on these species or communities be addressed as part of any environmental assessment or review conducted as part of the planning, permitting and approval process, such as reviews conducted under SEQRA. Field surveys of the project site may be necessary to determine the status of a species at the site, particularly for sites that are currently undeveloped and may still contain suitable habitat. Final requirements of the project to avoid, minimize, or mitigate potential impacts are determined by the lead permitting agency or the government body approving the project.

The following animals, while not listed by New York State as Endangered or Threatened, are rare in New York and are of conservation concern.

COMMON NAME	SCIENTIFIC NAME	NY STATE LISTING	HERITAGE CONSERVATION STATUS	
Dragonflies and Damselflies				
Comet Darner	<i>Anax longipes</i>	Unlisted	Imperiled in NYS	13445
Documented within the project site at Fitzgerald Road and Mark Taber Road Ponds. 2012-06-20: The odonates were observed at small man-made farm ponds.				
Southern Spreadwing	<i>Lestes australis</i>	Unlisted	Imperiled in NYS	15301
Documented within the project site at Fitzgerald Road Ponds. 2017-07-21: The habitats are ponds.				
Spatterdock Darner	<i>Rhionaeschna mutata</i>	Unlisted	Imperiled in NYS	11882
Documented within 100 yards west of the project site. 2005-06-23: The bog at Texas Hollow is shrub-dominated with many dead, flooded white pine trees. A bog mat is also present with typical bog species including pitcher plants, cranberry and cotton grass.				
Bees				
American Bumble Bee	<i>Bombus pensylvanicus</i>	Unlisted	Imperiled in NYS	17568
Documented within the project site at Fitzgerald Road Ponds. 2019-09-10				

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 rare animals and plants in New York, including habitat, biology, identification, conservation, and management, are available online in Natural Heritage's Conservation Guides at guides.nynhp.org.



The following rare bats and birds have been documented in the general vicinity of the proposed wind power 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 and Wildlife..

For information on NYSDEC's environmental review of proposed wind energy projects, and for the document entitled Guidelines for Conducting Bird and Bat Studies at Commercial Wind Energy Projects, follow this link: <https://www.dec.ny.gov/regulations/28693.html>

Bats within 40 miles

COMMON NAME	SCIENTIFIC NAME	NY STATE LISTING	HERITAGE CONSERVATION STATUS*
Indiana Bat <i>Maternity colony</i>	<i>Myotis sodalis</i>	Endangered and Federally Listed as Endangered	S1
Northern Long-eared Bat <i>Maternity colonies and non-winter non-breeding locations</i>	<i>Myotis septentrionalis</i>	Endangered and Federally Listed as Endangered	S1
Eastern Small-footed Myotis <i>Maternity colony</i>	<i>Myotis leibii</i>	Special Concern	S1S3

Birds within 10 miles

COMMON NAME	SCIENTIFIC NAME	NY STATE LISTING	HERITAGE CONSERVATION STATUS*
Short-eared Owl <i>Breeding and nonbreeding</i>	<i>Asio flammeus</i>	Endangered	S2
Peregrine Falcon <i>Breeding</i>	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>	Endangered	S3B
Sandhill Crane <i>Breeding</i>	<i>Grus canadensis</i>	Protected Bird	S1B
Northern Harrier <i>Breeding and nonbreeding</i>	<i>Circus hudsonius</i>	Threatened	S3B,S3N
Least Bittern <i>Breeding</i>	<i>Botaurus exilis</i>	Threatened	S3B,S1N
Pied-billed Grebe <i>Breeding</i>	<i>Podilymbus podiceps</i>	Threatened	S3B,S1N
Bald Eagle <i>Breeding</i>	<i>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</i>	Threatened	S2S3B, S2N
Henslow's Sparrow <i>Breeding</i>	<i>Centronyx henslowii</i>	Threatened	S3B
Upland Sandpiper <i>Breeding</i>	<i>Bartramia longicauda</i>	Threatened	S3B
Waterfowl Winter Concentration Area			S3S4N

* 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.