



MEMORANDUM

TO: Becky Longley and Walter Bakowski
FROM: David Cowell
DATE: August 2, 2007
SUBJECT: WM Line Indiana Bats and Bog Turtles

This memo summarizes telephone conversations I had with NYSDEC wildlife biologists on August 2, 2007 pertaining to potential Indiana Bat and Bog Turtle mitigation measures for the Central Hudson WM Line.

I spoke with Allan Hicks of the NYSDEC to inquire about regional occurrences of Indiana Bats and possible mitigation measures. He said that in Orange County, especially around Maybrook and Montgomery, Indiana Bats frequently occur there during the summer, roosting in trees. These bats are all believed to be from the same hibernacula, located in Kingston, New York, approximately 45 miles away. His concern with project impacts is the destruction of roost trees, such as shagbark hickory and dead snags during the clearing process. He expressed that if the trees were removed between September and April, it would not likely impact Indiana Bats, and should act as sufficient mitigation. He also expressed that as a federal listed species the ultimate decision of suitable mitigation measures would be at the discretion of the USFWS and provided me with contact information for a woman named Robin Niver at the regional USFWS office: (607) 753-9334.

Similarly, I engaged in dialogue with Mike Collagi (sp?) of the NYSDEC to inquire about regional occurrences of bog turtles and possible mitigation measures. He said that bog turtles are infrequent in the area, and have very specific habitat requirements such as wet meadows and early succession wetlands hosting sphagnum moss and/or tussock sedge. He explained that primary impact concerns for bog turtles pertain to loss of habitat through filling wetlands and habitat fragmentation imposed by roads and development. A linear project, such as a transmission line corridor, would likely impose little impacts as it is designed to minimize impacts to wetlands and imposes very little permanent loss of ground surface area. Mike believes that utilizing wetland mitigation measures should be enough to mitigate for bog turtle, but also reminded me that as a federal listed species, the ultimate decision of suitable mitigation measures would be at the discretion of the USFWS and provided me with contact information for a man named Steven Joule at the regional USFWS office: (845) 256-3089.