

Our ref: 11227527

May 09, 2023

Mr. Christopher N. Henry, Director  
Department of Planning and Development  
City of Oneida  
109 North Main Street  
Oneida, NY 13421

**Application Review Package | Oneida Wind Energy Project, 0 Brewer Road, City of Oneida, NY**

Dear Mr. Henry:

GHD Consulting Services Inc. (GHD), on behalf of New Leaf Energy (NLE), is pleased to submit this letter and related enclosures in response to your comments on the Oneida Wind Energy Project submittal package.

1. The Civil Plans, Page 2 under Erosion and Sediment Control. The Town of Deruyter is noted. It should be the City of Oneida.

*Response: Addressed on the Revised Plans.*

2. Part 1 of the FEAF Question C.2.a – Please describe how this project falls within the adopted land use plan.

*Response: See attached NLE memo on local plans.*

3. Part 1 of the FEAF Question C.4.b. – Should be City of Oneida Police Department.

*Response: See attached Revised Part 1 FEAF.*

4. Part 1 of the FEAF Question D.1.e.i – What is the period of construction? This will help answer questions 1.e FEAF Part 2.

*Response: See attached Revised Part 1 FEAF.*

5. Part 1 of the FEAF Question D.2.n.i – What structure is 1,404 feet away? The Site Plan describes the nearest dwelling being 2,086 feet away.

*Response: See attached Revised Part 1 FEAF.*

6. Part 1 of the FEAF Question E.2.a – Is there any exposed rock on site? Please provide additional information, this can be in the form of a preliminary geotechnical report. Please provide additional turbine details describing how the windmill will be secured to bedrock to ensure stability.

*Response: See NLE memo on geotechnical investigation and foundation design.*

7. Question 7d Part 2 of the Full EAF, related to Questions E1, E2, and E3 of the Full EAF propose impacts on Plants and Animals. Please provide a letter that proves that NYSDEC was consulted, and it confirms that the proposal is acceptable or does not require further mitigation or approval.

*Response: The Wetland Delineation and Report were completed (see attached), and no wetlands were found on the parcel. A Jurisdictional Determination Request was sent to NYSDEC and USACE, both of which concurred with the findings. See attached wetland determination and verification letters from the DEC and USACE.*

8. Question 7d Part 2 of the Full EAF, related to Questions E1, E2, and E3 of the Full EAF propose impacts on Plants and Animals. Please provide a letter that proves that New York Natural Heritage Program (NYNHP) was consulted, and it confirms that the proposal is acceptable or does not require further mitigation or approval.

*Response: See attached NYNHP letter indicating no species have been documented in the area. NLE has been coordinating with the DEC Central Office on this and other similar projects, and based on that coordination, have performed a habitat assessment of the site (see attached Listed Species memo) and submitted it to NYSDEC. They are still evaluating the information, but we anticipate them to determine that no further permit is needed provided the following two mitigation measures are taken:*

- a. Bat Curtailment: The turbine will be programmed to halt operation during the period of July 1 through October 1 when wind speeds are less than 5.5 m/s from 1/2 hour before sunset to 1/2 hour after sunrise, when ambient temperatures are 50 degrees Fahrenheit or greater.*
- b. For the duration of the project, if the project results in the take of a bald eagle, the operator shall inform NYSDEC to develop an appropriate mitigation plan that will result in a net conservation benefit to the species.*

9. Question 7d Part 2 of the Full EAF, related to Questions E1, E2, and E3 of the Full EAF propose impacts on Plants and Animals.

*Response: Copy/paste error, no response required.*

10. Question 7d Part 2 of the Full EAF, related to Questions E1, E2, and E3 of the Full EAF propose impacts on Plants and Animals. Please provide a letter that proves that there was consultation with the USFWS Regional Office.

*Response: A species list was requested from the USFWS NY Ecological Services Field Office. No species were flagged in that review. See attached USFWS letter.*

11. Part 1 of the FEAF Question E2 and E3 related to Question 8 of the Part 2 of the FEAF, please provide a decommissioning plan pursuant to Local Law 10-2022 (B)(11) ) Unsafe and inoperable wind energy facilities; site reclamation.

*Response: A decommissioning plan was submitted with our original application. No responses at this time.*

12. Question 15d of the FEAF Part 2, please supply a lighting plan that illustrates the impacts of any lighting may have on adjacent properties.

*Response: No lighting is proposed except for emergency lighting and FAA required lighting. Emergency lighting will be a single light over the turbine door and FAA lighting, if required, will be a slow red strobe light located on the hub.*

13. Question 17 of the FEAF Part 2, in a memo please note the Local and County plans that support the proposed project.

*Response: Same as #2, see NLE memo.*

Thank you for your time and consideration. Please contact me if you have any questions or if you require additional information.

Regards,



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Project Manager

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Copy to: Brandon Smith, New Leaf Energy

Attachments