

## PART 3 – EVALUATION OF THE IMPORTANCE OF IMPACTS

### 1. Impact on Land

Proposed Action will require access roads and utility connections on land with 15% or greater slope or where the general slopes of the project area exceeds 10%.

#### Mitigation

The proposed Action, a wind turbine farm, is reliant on variant elevations for its generation of wind power. The area of the proposed Action consists of a series of parallel ridgelines and associated valleys. Main construction features include wind turbine towers and bases, service roads and underground power transmission lines. Select portions of the transmission lines will be above ground. The project features will not occupy large portions of land (estimated to be approximately 125 acres of developed land across entire project area) in any one location; therefore the impact is not considered to be significant.

Proposed Action may require construction on land where the depth to the water table is less than three feet.

#### Mitigation

The area of the proposed Action will contain wetlands and creek beds, areas likely to have shallow water tables. Avoidance of areas of shallow groundwater may be achieved through site design review. Based on the nature of the project the impact to shallow groundwater is not considered to be significant.

Proposed Action may required construction on land bedrock is exposed or within three feet of the surface

#### Mitigation

A significant portion of the proposed Action will occur on ridgelines, which may be areas of shallow bedrock. The actual design of the project is not yet complete, however, the project features will not occupy large portions of land in any one location; therefore the impact is not considered to be significant.

Proposed Action construction may require construction in a designated floodway.

#### Mitigation

Electrical collection system will cross above or below creeks. Impacts can be avoided through a site design review that will avoid impacting designated floodways. The impact is not considered to be significant.

## 2. Impact on Water

Developable area of site contains a protected water body and extension of a utility distribution system facility through a protected water body.

### Mitigation

The electrical collection system will have to cross NYS protected streams. The impact of these crossings can be minimized by appropriately designed crossings. Impact is not considered to be significant.

Construction in a designated freshwater or tidal wetland

### Mitigation

The electrical collection system will have to cross near and, possibly, through wetlands. Avoidance or minimization of the potential impacts can be achieved through civil site design review that will determine the least intrusive pathway of the electrical collection system. Impact may be important and requires further study.

Proposed Action may affect a non-protected existing body of water.

### Mitigation

The electrical collection system will have to cross non-protected streams. This impact can be limited by proper overhead or underground crossings. Impact is not considered to be significant.

Proposed Action may cause the siltation or other discharge into the existing body of water to the extent that there will be an obvious visual contrast to natural conditions.

### Mitigation

Construction activities may cause silt laden run-off into local creeks. This can be controlled by the implementation of best management practices such as silt fencing as well as the implementation of a storm water management plan. Impact is not considered to be significant.

Proposed Action may cause an alteration of surface water runoff.

### Mitigation

Access roads required for the project may affect surface water runoff patterns. However, the actual site design has not yet been completed. The extent of this disturbance has not been quantified and therefore may be important. This issue requires further study.

### 3. **Impact on Plants and Animals**

Proposed Action may substantially interfere with any resident or migratory fish, shellfish or wildlife, including non threatened or non-endangered species.

#### Mitigation

The actual site design has not yet been completed and therefore the appropriate mitigation efforts are unknown. The extent of this interference has not been quantified and therefore may be important. This issue requires further study.

Proposed Action may require the removal of more than 10-acres of mature forest or other locally important vegetation.

#### Mitigation

Electrical collection system and possibly some wind turbine locations may be in wooded or heavily vegetated areas. The extent of this disturbance has not been quantified and therefore may be important. This issue requires further study.

### 4. **Impact on Agricultural Land Resources**

Proposed Action would sever, cross or limit access to agricultural land.

#### Mitigation

Where possible, access roads to turbine locations will use existing farm roads. However, the actual site design has not yet been completed. The extent of this disturbance has not been quantified and therefore may be important. This issue requires further study.

Construction activity would excavate or compact the soil profile of agricultural land.

#### Mitigation

Where possible, active agricultural land will be avoided. However, the actual site design has not yet been completed. The extent of this disturbance has not been quantified and therefore may be important. This issue requires further study.

Proposed Action would irreversibly convert more than 10 acres of agricultural land or, if located in an Agricultural district, more than 2.5 acres of agricultural land..

#### Mitigation

Where possible, active agricultural land will be avoided. However, the actual site design has not yet been completed. The extent of this disturbance has not been quantified and therefore may be important. This issue requires further study.

**5. Impact on Aesthetic Resources**

Proposed land uses or project components will be obviously different from or in sharp contrast to current surrounding land use patterns, whether man-made or natural.

Mitigation

Due to the nature of the proposed Action and surrounding setting, this issue may be important and requires further study.

**6. Impact on Historic and Archeological Resources**

Possible impact to an archeological site or fossil bed located within the project site and proposed action will occur in an area designated as sensitive for archeological sites in the NYS Site Inventory.

Mitigation

Where possible, sensitive areas will be avoided. However, the actual site design has not yet been completed. The extent of this impact has not been quantified and therefore may be important. This issue requires further study.

Proposed Action may be visible within the view shed of a listed historic site.

Mitigation

Due to the nature of the proposed Action and surrounding setting, this issue may be important and requires further study.

**7. Noise and Odor Impact**

Proposed Action will produce operating noise exceeding the local ambient noise levels for noise outside of structures.

Mitigation

Wind turbine siting will be based on criteria that include distance from noise sensitive receptors. However, the actual site design has not yet been completed. The extent of this impact has not been quantified and therefore may be important. This issue requires further study.

**8. Impact on Growth and Character of Community or Neighborhood**

Proposed Action may result in public controversy related to potential adverse environmental impacts

Mitigation

A Generic Environmental Impact Statement (GEIS) will be completed for the proposed Action. The GEIS will include a public scoping component.