

**PETER D. TORGENSEN,  
ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES**

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January 16, 2019

Ross Winglovitz  
Engineering & Surveying Properties  
71 Clinton Street  
Montgomery, New York 12549

Re: Endangered Species/1355 Kings Highway

Dear Mr. Winglovitz,

At your request I visited the above site to investigate the possibility of onsite habitat being suitable for any endangered plants or animals. The 2.199 acre site currently has a small building along with some parking just off Kings Highway. Most of the south half of the site is lawns and the north narrow part appears to have been cleared some months earlier. Overall just about the entire site has been impacted by development and contains no naturally authentic habitat other than the shoreline of the lake itself. At the south west corner of the site is a very small area that qualifies as an emergent meadow wetland. The rest of the site is upland successional habitat of various forms.

The NYSDEC shows this location has the possibly of being potential habitat for one or more rare and endangered animal species. The Indiana Bat and the Bog Turtle are two rare and endangered animal species that are known to be present in the vicinity of this job. The Indiana Bat emerges from hibernation and uses specific trees as seasonal roosts and maternity dens. For a seasonal roost the bats uses any tree with peeling and exfoliated bark such as Shagbark Hickories. They will also use trees with deeply furrowed bark such as Black Locusts. These trees are chosen because the bats can hide during the daytime under and within the irregular features of the tree bark itself. Maternity roosts are almost always large older trees with hollows that provide the space for numerous females to use the same place. These maternity trees must receive a significant amount of sun in order to maintain the high temperature needed for successful gestation. The project site currently has a few small maples scattered about the property, none of these trees provide the specific type of features used by the bats for roosts or maternity dens. I saw no examples of these types of trees on any of the immediately adjacent properties. The Indiana Bat is known to feed over wetland areas, ponds, rivers and fields. Creamery Pond represents textbook potential feeding habitat. As currently designed the project does not in any way impact any of this offsite habitat.

The Bog Turtle is usually found inhabiting bogs, fens and mostly open wetland areas that are fed primarily from springs or ground water outlets. These

locations also must receive a significant amount of any available sunlight in order for the turtle eggs to incubate. Bog Turtles do not utilize lakes or lake shore type habitat. Bog Turtles are never found in areas that are prone to flooding by storm water runoff. The onsite wetland is entirely fed by storm water runoff from the adjacent hillside. The Bog Turtle's habit of burrowing under the surface during dry seasons requires an organic type soil that is soft and easy to move. The small onsite wetland, (flags 1 through 4) does have a soil conducive for Bog Turtle use and also the existing lawn type habitat eliminates this area from consideration. The project as designed will not in any way potential offsite Bog Turtle habitat.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Peter Torgersen". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Peter Torgersen