

PETER D. TORGENSEN,
ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

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October 27, 2021

Kirk Rother, P.E.
5 Saint Stevens Lane
Warwick, New York 10990

Re: ICan Storage, Kings Highway, Chester NY

Mr. Rother,

The above undeveloped site is on the west side of Kings Highway and is bordered by a small industrial business, a baseball facility and the road itself. The majority of the site is mature successional forest. There are no wetlands, streams or ponds either onsite or any adjacent property.

NYSDEC has indicated that this site is located close to areas known to contain Indiana Bats, Northern Long Eared Bats, Bog Turtles and Timber Rattlesnakes. These are all threatened and endangered species that have been found in Orange County.

In southern New York the Timber Rattlesnake is typically active from late April when they emerge from their den to mid-October when they go back into hibernation. Dens are generally on open, steep, south facing slopes with rock fissures or talus surrounded by hardwood forests. There is no such habitat to be found onsite. The DEC states there is a known den location just 3/4 miles from the project site. Between that location and this site is the Elkay Drive Industrial Park which presents a formidable barrier to any snakes that attempt to move north.

Because of the lack of any onsite wetlands there is no onsite habitat suitable for Bog Turtles. The closest potential habitat is found west of Black Meadow Road. Bog Turtles do not migrate or roam any real distance from their suitable habitat and can potentially spend their entire lives in a very small area.

Northern Long Eared Bats feed under the canopy of forested hillsides and ridges. This site does indeed have a forested hillside however the small size combined with the surrounding development means this location should not be considered possible habitat for these animals. Indiana Bats feed over wetland meadows, swamps and any water body large or small. There is no such habitat onsite or directly adjacent.

Both the Indiana bat and the Northern Long Eared Bat use the same type of tree for their daytime roosts. The preferred tree is the Shagbark Hickory and sometimes Black Locust. I found none of these tree species onsite. Also used by the two bats is any tree that has cracks, crevasses or peeling exfoliated bark. Dead or dying trees as well as ones damaged by lightning are examples. I found only one dead tree onsite. The proximity of Kings Highway as well as the

adjacent baseball training facility means lots of noise and nighttime lights, two things both bat species avoid. Because of the surrounding development and road systems this location should not be considered potential habitat for any endangered bat.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Peter Torgersen". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Peter" and last name "Torgersen" clearly legible.

Peter Torgersen