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August 5, 2019

Ryan Westervelt
Synergy
1407 Kings Highway, Unit 422
Sugar Loaf, NY 10981

RE: Endangered Species Habitat Assessment on the Synergy Warehouse Project

Dear Ryan;

The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) New York Natural Heritage Program has identified one federal and state listed species, the bog turtle (*Glyptemys muhlenbergii*), that occurs in the vicinity of the subject property.

ERS Consultants, Inc. conducted an endangered species habitat assessment on August 2, 2019 at the Synergy Warehouse Project located at 509 Orange County Highway 82 (Bellvale Road) in the Town of Chester, Orange County, New York. The subject property consists of approximately 4.5 +/- acres and is known as Section 17, Block 1, Lot 9.1. The site is partially developed with an existing dwelling, garage, barn, and saw mill.

Prior to conducted field investigations, the National Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) Soils Maps, the US Fish & Wildlife Services (USFWS) National Wetland Inventory Maps (NWI) and the NYSDEC Freshwater Wetlands Maps were reviewed. The NRCS Soils Maps show one soil unit, Mardin soils on the subject site. Mardin soils occur throughout the site and are not considered a hydric soil. The USFWS NWI Maps show no wetlands on the subject site. The NYSDEC Freshwater Wetland Maps also show no State regulated wetlands on site but state wetlands (WR-36, Class 2) do exist to the south.

It is our understanding that the applicant is proposing to utilize the existing saw mill structure and parking area. The existing well and the on-site septic system will also be utilized.

Habitats occupied by bog turtles in the Hudson Valley are wet meadows, sedge meadows, and red maple swamps (New York Natural Heritage Program, NYSDEC Bog Turtle Fact Sheet, USFWS 2001). Bog turtles have specific habitat requirements that include spring-fed, open-canopy wetlands with shallow, slow-moving water, deep mucky soils, and tussock-forming herbaceous vegetation. For example, tussock sedge (*Carex stricta*) or moss (*Sphagnum* spp.) covered hummocks are typical habitat for these species. A diversity of microhabitats within these wetlands provide areas that the turtles require for basking, foraging, nesting, and hibernation.

Based upon a lack of hydrology, hydric soils, and hydrophytic vegetation, no wetlands exist on the subject site, therefore no bog turtle habitat exists onsite. Additionally, no suitable bog turtle habitat exists within 300 feet of the subject site's property boundary.

In reviewing the current site plan for Synergy prepared by McGoey, Hauser and Edsall Consulting Engineers, D.P.C., dated 5/28/19 and based upon this habitat assessment, the proposed project will not result in an impact to this reptile species.

Very truly yours,
ERS Consultants, Inc.



David Griggs
Senior Scientist