

Appendix E

New York Natural Heritage Program Consultation



215 Greenfield Pkwy.
Suite 102
Liverpool, NY 13088

T 315.671.1600
TRCcompanies.com

February 25, 2020

Andrea Chaloux, Environmental Review Specialist
New York Natural Heritage Program – Information Services
New York State Department of Environmental Conservation
625 Broadway, 5th Floor
Albany, NY 12233-4757

Sent online via NaturalHeritage@dec.ny.gov

**Re: Garnet Energy Center, LLC
Garnet Energy Center Project
Town of Conquest, Cayuga County, New York
Project Review Request**

Dear Ms. Chaloux:

Garnet Energy Center, LLC proposes to construct a solar energy center in the Town of Conquest, Cayuga County, New York (See Figure 1 for area being evaluated for Project). Garnet Energy Center, LLC plans to submit an application to the NYS Board on Electric Generation Siting and the Environment in pursuit of a Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need to construct the Garnet Energy Center (the Project) under Article 10 of the Public Service Law (PSL). This request is being made in order to help prepare the Article 10 Application.

The proposed Project will have a generating capacity of 200 megawatts (MWs) of power and a 3.4 MW/4-hour duration energy storage system located on land leased from owners of private property. Proposed components include commercial-scale solar arrays, access roads, buried (and possibly overhead) electric collection lines, energy storage, fencing, inverters, a Project collection substation, and electrical interconnection facilities. Garnet Energy Center anticipates the interconnection facilities will include a 345-kV switchyard which will be transferred to the New York State Power Authority (NYPA) to own and operate. The final solar array specification, as well as locations of arrays, will be finalized as part of micro-siting efforts.

Land cover in the area being evaluated for the Project consists primarily of agricultural land, with portions of forestland, a transmission line right-of-way, aquatic habitat, and rural residential properties. The general location of the area being evaluated for the Project is identified on the enclosed map, Figure 1. The Project is planned to commence commercial operation in 2023.

TRC, on behalf of Garnet Energy Center, LLC, has consulted with the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) Environmental Resource Mapper (ERM) as a first step in determining the presence of rare or state-listed animals or plants, significant natural communities, or other significant habitats in the immediate vicinity of the Project. The results of the search revealed the area being evaluated for the Project is in vicinity of rare, threatened, and endangered species layers and significant natural communities (rich graminoid fen and floodplain forest).

TRC is requesting herein a review and confirmation of the latest New York Natural Heritage Program (NYNHP) – Information Service records for the presence of rare or state-listed plants or animals, significant natural communities, or other significant habitats in the vicinity of the Project. If you have any questions regarding the Project or the request herein, please contact me at TRC by calling (315) 362-2415 or via email at skranes@trccompanies.com.

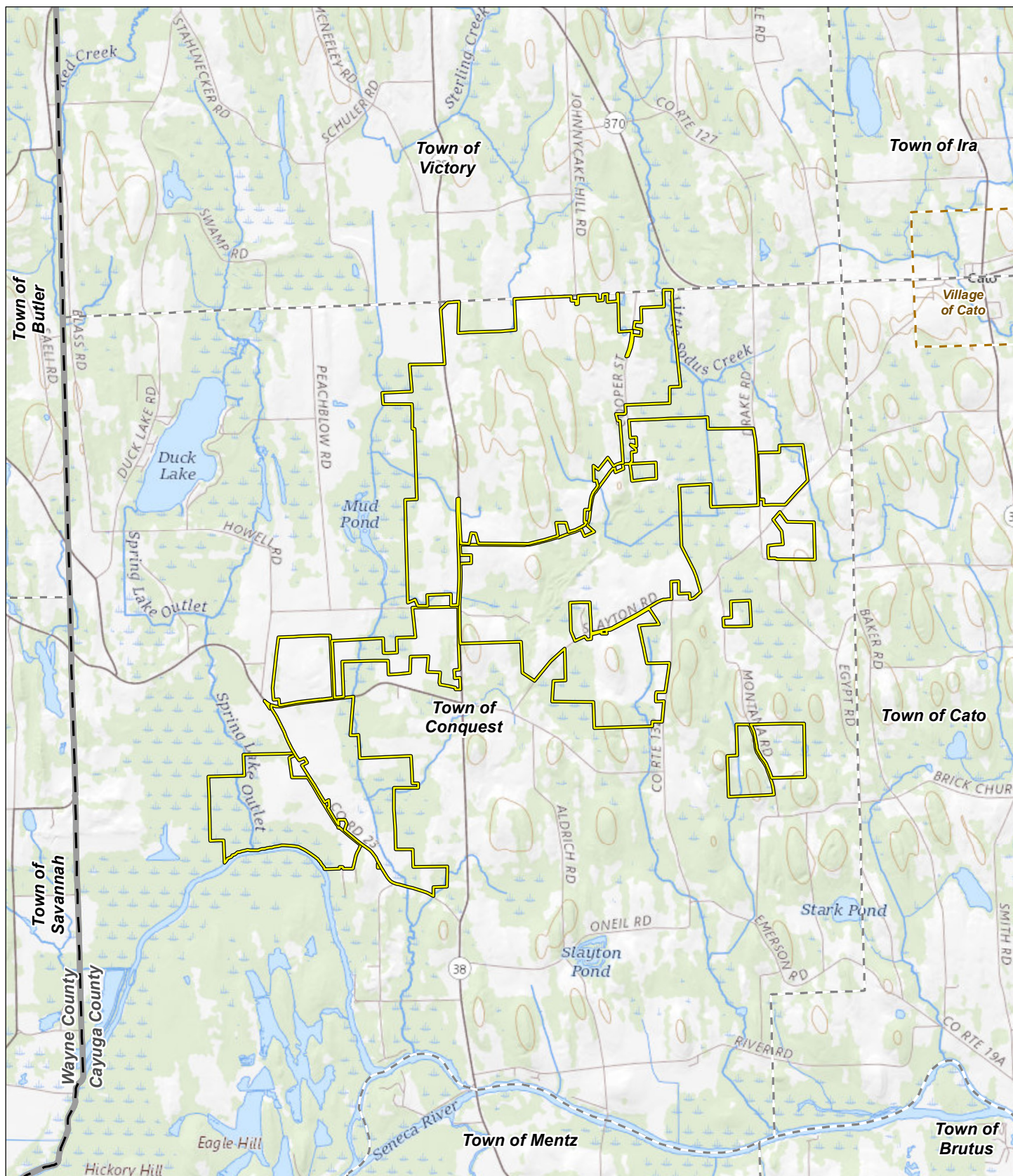
Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Samantha Kranes". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Samantha Kranes
Project Manager, TRC

cc: Bill Boer, NextEra Energy Resources, LLC
Kris Scornavacca, NextEra Energy Resources, LLC

Attachments: Figure 1. Project Location Map



- Area Being Evaluated for Project
- Village Boundary
- Municipal Boundary
- County Boundary

Base Map: USGS/The National Map 2020

0 1
Mile

MAP LOCATION



PROJECT LOCATION MAP GARNET ENERGY CENTER, LLC TOWN OF CONQUEST, NY

FIGURE 1

FEBRUARY 2020

Map Produced by TRC

NEW YORK STATE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION

Division of Fish and Wildlife, New York Natural Heritage Program
625 Broadway, Fifth Floor, Albany, NY 12233-4757
P: (518) 402-8935 | F: (518) 402-8925
www.dec.ny.gov

March 16, 2020

Samantha Kranes
TRC
215 Greenfield Parkway, Suite 102
Liverpool, NY 13088

Re: Garnet Energy Center Project
County: Cayuga Town/City: Conquest

Dear Ms. Kranes:

In response to your recent request, we have reviewed the New York Natural Heritage Program database with respect to the above project.

Enclosed is a report of rare or state-listed animals and plants, and significant natural communities that our database indicates occur in the vicinity of the project site.

For most sites, comprehensive field surveys have not been conducted; the enclosed report only includes records from our database. We cannot provide a definitive statement as to the presence or absence of all rare or state-listed species or significant natural communities. Depending on the nature of the project and the conditions at the project site, further information from on-site surveys or other sources may be required to fully assess impacts on biological resources.

The presence of the plants and animals identified in the enclosed report may result in this project requiring additional review or permit conditions. For further guidance, and for information regarding other permits that may be required under state law for regulated areas or activities (e.g., regulated wetlands), please contact the NYS DEC Region 7 Office, Division of Environmental Permits, at dep.r7@dec.ny.gov.

Sincerely,



Heidi Krahling
Environmental Review Specialist
New York Natural Heritage Program



**The following state-listed animals have been documented
in the vicinity of the project site.**

The following list includes animals that are listed by NYS as Endangered, Threatened, or Special Concern; and/or that are federally listed or are candidates for federal listing.

For information about any permit considerations for your project, please contact the Permits staff at the NYSDEC Region 7 Office at dep.r7@dec.ny.gov, 315-426-7438.

The following species has been documented within 0.5 mile of the project site.

| COMMON NAME | SCIENTIFIC NAME | NY STATE LISTING | FEDERAL LISTING |
|---|----------------------------|------------------|-----------------|
| Birds | | | |
| Pied-billed Grebe <i>Breeding</i> | <i>Podilymbus podiceps</i> | Threatened | 10643 |

The following species has been documented within 2.25 miles of the project site. Individual animals may travel 2.5 miles from documented locations. The main impact of concern is the cutting or removal of potential roost trees.

| COMMON NAME | SCIENTIFIC NAME | NY STATE LISTING | FEDERAL LISTING |
|--|-----------------------|------------------|---------------------|
| Mammals | | | |
| Indiana Bat <i>Bachelor colony</i> | <i>Myotis sodalis</i> | Endangered | Endangered 12845 |

This report only includes records from the NY Natural Heritage database.

If any rare plants or animals are documented during site visits, we request that information on the observations be provided to the New York Natural Heritage Program so that we may update our database.

Information about many of the listed animals in New York, including habitat, biology, identification, conservation, and management, are available online in Natural Heritage's Conservation Guides at www.guides.nynhp.org, and from NYSDEC at www.dec.ny.gov/animals/7494.html.



**The following significant natural community has been documented in the
vicinity of the project site.**

We recommend that potential impacts of the proposed project on this community be addressed as part of any environmental assessment or review conducted as part of the planning, permitting and approval process, such as reviews conducted under SEQR. Final requirements of the project to avoid, minimize, or mitigate potential impacts are determined by the lead permitting agency or the government body approving the project.

The following natural community is considered significant from a statewide perspective by the NY Natural Heritage Program. By meeting specific, documented criteria, the NY Natural Heritage Program considers this community occurrence to have high ecological and conservation value.

| <i>COMMON NAME</i> | <i>SCIENTIFIC NAME</i> | <i>NY STATE LISTING</i> | <i>HERITAGE CONSERVATION STATUS</i> |
|---|------------------------|-------------------------|---|
| Wetland/Aquatic Communities | | | |
| Floodplain Forest | | | High Quality Occurrence of Rare Community Type |
| <p>Documented at the southern edge of the project site along the Seneca River. This is an extremely large floodplain forest with several very mature (possible old-growth) patches. The greater landscape is mostly agricultural and rural residential with a combination of natural rivers and altered canals. A good portion of the floodplain forest, especially the northern segments of this forest, is surrounded by protected natural areas such as wildlife management areas.</p> | | | |

3669

This report only includes records from the NY Natural Heritage database. For most sites, comprehensive field surveys have not been conducted, and we cannot provide a definitive statement as to the presence or absence of all rare or state-listed species. Depending on the nature of the project and the conditions at the project site, further information from on-site surveys or other sources may be required to fully assess impacts on biological resources.

If any rare plants or animals are documented during site visits, we request that information on the observations be provided to the New York Natural Heritage Program so that we may update our database.

Information about many of the rare animals and plants in New York, including habitat, biology, identification, conservation, and management, are available online in Natural Heritage's Conservation Guides at www.guides.nynhp.org, from NatureServe Explorer at www.natureserve.org/explorer, and from USDA's Plants Database at <http://plants.usda.gov/index.html> (for plants).

Information about many of the natural community types in New York, including identification, dominant and characteristic vegetation, distribution, conservation, and management, is available online in Natural Heritage's Conservation Guides at www.guides.nynhp.org. For descriptions of all community types, go to www.dec.ny.gov/animals/97703.html for Ecological Communities of New York State.