



SANDERS
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June 2, 2021

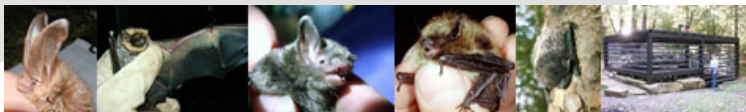
Tim Sullivan
US Fish and Wildlife Service
3817 Luker Road
Cortland, New York 13045

The Garnet Energy Center Project (Project) is a 200 megawatt (MW) solar project combined with 20 MW/four-hour duration energy storage system. The Project Area encompasses approximately 2,288 acres in the Town of Conquest, Cayuga County, New York. The Project also includes access roads, buried electric collection lines, fencing, inverters, a collection system substation and electric interconnection facilities.

Per the letter dated May 13, 2021 from Mr. David Stilwell, US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), presence/absence surveys for the Indiana bat (*Myotis sodalis*) are recommended. Based on the approximately 260 acres of proposed tree clearing for the Project, three area sites, consisting of 42 net nights each, for a total of 126 successful net nights will be run to sample the Project's potential impacts. The netting effort will be distributed throughout the Project area, focusing near areas of forest impacts. It is anticipated that locations/groupings of three nets will be run for three successful nights. A total of 14 of these locations will meet the needed 126 net nights. There may be locations sampled with more or less nets based on field conditions, however, a total of 126 net nights will be met. No net locations shall be run for more than three consecutive successful nights.

The Project proposes to perform telemetry on all federally Threatened and Endangered species captured for five days per female bat and two days per male bat. Two emergence counts will be done per roost found on properties accessible to the Project. Should roost sites be found on inaccessible properties, telemetry triangulation shall be used to further estimate a roost location.

The mist net survey will meet or exceed the technical criteria outlined in the USFWS (Region 3) agency document titled *Range-Wide Indiana Bat Survey Guidelines – March 2020* (USFWS March 2020). The most current USFWS WNS spread prevention protocol (<http://whitenosesyndrome.org/topics/decontamination>) at time of netting will be followed and all NYSDEC license requirements in Threatened/Endangered Species: Scientific #587 and License to collect or possess: Scientific #2858 shall be followed.



June 11, 2021

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The Project is prepared to initiate this survey effort immediately once review of this study plan by USFWS is completed. Once the surveys are finished, the Project will develop a Draft Report for comment followed by a Final Report. A presentation of the results can be provided if requested.

Enclosed is a map outlining the current Project area and the approximate locations of the mist net locations. Permitted bat surveyors will microsite net locations (generally within 300 meters from the proposed locations) to sample the best locations for capturing bats based on flyways, weather, and other site factors.

Please let us know if you concur with this sampling plan.

Sincerely,

Christopher Sanders

Christopher Sanders
President

Enclosed: Proposed mist net site location map.

Cc: Mike Higgins, NYSDEC
Bill Boer, NextEra Energy Resources
Hayley Effler, TRC Companies
Val Mitchell, TRC Companies
Coke Coakley, TRC Companies

Garnet Solar

Legend

- Mist Net Grouping Locations
- ▢ Project Area
- ▢ Tree Removal Area



From: [Rayman, Noelle](#)
To: [Sullivan, Tim R](#); sanders@batgate.com
Cc: [Mitchell, Valerie](#); [Coakley, Coke](#); [Effler, Hayley](#); [Boer, William](#); michael.higgins@dec.ny.gov
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] Garnet Bat Mist Netting and Tracking Study Plan
Date: Thursday, July 8, 2021 8:50:36 AM
Attachments: [image001.jpg](#)
[image006.jpg](#)

This is an **EXTERNAL** email. Do not click links or open attachments unless you validate the sender and know the content is safe.

Hi Chris - I just completed review of your proposal and it looks good! Thanks for submitting it to us and I look forward to the final report.

--

Noelle L. Rayman-Metcalf
Endangered Species Biologist
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
New York Field Office
3817 Luker Rd.
Cortland, NY 13045
607-753-9334
noelle_rayman@fws.gov
<http://www.fws.gov/northeast/nyfo>

From: Chris Sanders <sanders@batgate.com>
Sent: Tuesday, July 6, 2021 1:28 PM
To: Sullivan, Tim R <tim_r_sullivan@fws.gov>; Rayman, Noelle <noelle_rayman@fws.gov>
Cc: 'Mitchell, Valerie' <VMitchell@trccompanies.com>; 'Coakley, Coke' <CCoakley@trccompanies.com>; 'Effler, Hayley' <HEffler@trccompanies.com>; William.Boer@nexteraenergy.com <William.Boer@nexteraenergy.com>; michael.higgins@dec.ny.gov <michael.higgins@dec.ny.gov>
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] Garnet Bat Mist Netting and Tracking Study Plan

Hello Tim and Noelle,

Just checking in on the review of the Garnet mist netting study plan. Please let me know if you have any questions, that project does need to get moving fairly rapidly as the summer 2021 season is a bit over ½ over at this point.

Thanks,
Chris

Chris Sanders



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From: Sullivan, Tim R <tim_r_sullivan@fws.gov>
Sent: Thursday, June 17, 2021 4:28 PM
To: sanders@batgate.com; michael.higgins@dec.ny.gov
Cc: 'Mitchell, Valerie' <VMitchell@trccompanies.com>; 'Coakley, Coke' <CCoakley@trccompanies.com>; 'Effler, Hayley' <HEffler@trccompanies.com>; William.Boer@nexteraenergy.com; Rayman, Noelle <noelle_rayman@fws.gov>
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] Garnet Bat Mist Netting and Tracking Study Plan

Hello Chris,

Our new bat lead, Noelle Rayman, will take a look at this and give feedback. She is out this week but I asked her to look at it next week so that we can respond to you. Thanks for the coordination,
Tim

Tim Sullivan
US Fish and Wildlife Service
New York Field Office
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Cortland, NY 13045

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From: Chris Sanders <sanders@batgate.com>
Sent: Monday, June 14, 2021 1:16 PM
To: michael.higgins@dec.ny.gov; Sullivan, Tim R <tim_r_sullivan@fws.gov>
Cc: 'Mitchell, Valerie' <VMitchell@trccompanies.com>; 'Coakley, Coke' <CCoakley@trccompanies.com>; 'Effler, Hayley' <HEffler@trccompanies.com>; William.Boer@nexteraenergy.com
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Garnet Bat Mist Netting and Tracking Study Plan

This email has been received from outside of DOI - Use caution before clicking on links, opening attachments, or responding.

Hello Mike and Tim,

Attached is a study plan for the Garnet Energy project's bat mist netting and telemetry effort. If you could review and concur or comment, that would be great. The project is ready to commence field work on your concurrence/comments.

Thanks,
Chris

Chris Sanders



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