



(315) 695-7228 FAX: (315) 695-3277 E-MAIL: tesinc@alltel.net

February 1, 2008

Mr. Mark Colmerauer  
American Consulting Professionals of New York  
70 Niagara Street, Suite 410  
Buffalo, New York 14202

Re: Scope of Work for Ecological Services – Town of Hounsfield Wind Project on  
Galloo Island, Town of Hounsfield, Jefferson County, New York  
TES File No. 3349

Dear Mr. Colmerauer:

As requested, Terrestrial Environmental Specialists, Inc. (TES) is pleased to provide American Consulting Professionals of New York (ACP) with a scope of work for ecological services for the Hounsfield Wind Project. The project site is located on Galloo Island, which is approximately 1,889 acres in size. On November 12 to 14, 2007, TES assisted C&S Engineers (C&S) with preliminary wetland mapping at the project site. Therefore, we are very familiar with the area.

TES's role would be to document the site's ecological resources. This work would consist of reviewing agency correspondence, available literature and resource information, field review of the site for ecological resources, and the preparation of a baseline ecological resources report. These tasks are described below.

**TASK 1.** Agency Correspondence and Literature/Resource Information Review – The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) and the New York Natural Heritage Program (NHP) have provided responses to the Town of Hounsfield and to ACP regarding potential rare, threatened, and endangered species and significant natural communities for the project and vicinity. According to the NHP response letter, there are several threatened birds, along with colonial bird nesting areas and raptor/waterfowl winter concentration areas; bats (namely the Indiana bat – *Myotis sodalis*); rare natural communities including calcareous pavement barrens and shoreline outcrops and; a state-endangered vascular plant – Autumnal water-starwort (*Callitriche hermaphroditica*) known from the vicinity of Galloo Island.

Based on our discussions and information we have received, avifaunal and bat investigations will be performed by others for the project. TES would, however, address other rare, threatened, and endangered species and significant natural communities at the project site. Based on a cursory in-house review of NHP data for rare, threatened, and endangered plant species there are at least 38 species of plants that occur in Jefferson County, some of which may be present at the site. TES would

perform a literature search for any species listed in the NHP database to determine its potential for occurring on the site.

At Tom Hagner's direction, I contacted Mr. Mark Wiggins at the NYSDEC Region 6 office in Watertown to determine if any additional concerns exist for rare, threatened, and endangered species. Other than the potential for rare plants, Mr. Wiggins has no known records for the site. Following the January 24, 2008 meeting at the NYSDEC in Albany, I contacted Mr. Wiggins again, and he reiterated that no other specific studies for rare, threatened and endangered species are anticipated beyond this scope.

**TASK 2.** Field Reviews for Ecological Resources – TES biologists would perform field surveys at the project site and document vascular plants, vertebrate animals (amphibians, reptiles, birds, and mammals), and natural communities. Surveys for floral and faunal resources would be performed three times between the spring and the fall of 2008. This is especially important since plants grow and flower at different times during the growing season. Wildlife, especially in the case of breeding amphibians and reptiles, are seasonally active. Although bird and bat studies will be performed by others, TES field biologists will record any observed species of birds or bats observed at the site. A vegetation cover type and land use map will be prepared that depicts the various ecological communities on the site. Any observed plants and wildlife will be recorded by vegetation cover or land use type.

TES will also perform habitat assessments and searches for any rare, threatened, and endangered plants and animals. Emphasis will be on rare vascular plants and significant natural habitats.

**TASK 3.** Ecological Resources Report – TES will prepare a baseline ecological resources report of our findings. This report can be used as a stand-alone document or as an appendix for the DEIS. The report would include a discussion of the agency correspondence and literature/resource information reviews and the results of our field studies for vegetation, wildlife, natural communities, and rare, threatened, and endangered species/significant habitats. A variety of figures, including the vegetation cover type and land use map, will be included, along with data, tables, and photographs taken from representative areas of the site.

This scope of work does not include formal wetland delineation services on Galloo Island, preparation of sections of the DEIS, or environmental work along the transmission segment of the project (i.e. the 115 kV overhead transmission line). Meetings with project team members and agencies (e.g. the January 24, 2008 meeting at the NYSDEC Albany Office), are additional.

TES is an environmental consulting firm established in 1975. It is one of the oldest such firms in the northeastern U.S. and specializes in studies of natural resources, including: wetlands, wildlife, vegetation, fisheries, habitat inventories, endangered species, and others. TES has performed hundreds of natural resources studies throughout the northeastern U.S. TES has

Mr. Mark Colmerauer

February 1, 2008

Page 3

worked on many generating facility and transmission projects. Currently we are performing studies for National Grid and the New York Power Authority. We have been responsible for large projects requiring the preparation of DEIS as well as Article VII permits for the Public Service Commission. Furthermore, TES has an excellent rapport with the involved agencies (e.g. the NYSDEC Region 6 Watertown office).

I trust this scope of work is sufficient for your needs. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

**TERRESTRIAL ENVIRONMENTAL SPECIALISTS, INC.**

Donald L. Coogan, Jr.

Vice President

DLC/dmm