

## APPENDIX M

### Invasive Species Control Plan

# Hounsfield Wind Farm Invasive Species Control Plan

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The Hounsfield Wind Farm Project is a commercial scale wind farm project proposed by the Upstate NY Power Corp. (Upstate Power). The project includes the construction and operation of up to 90 wind turbines, the installation and operation of associated collection lines, and related facilities including docking facilities, ship channel construction, helipad, living quarters, parking areas and operations and maintenance facilities on Galloo Island (the “Project”).

In addition to the construction activities associated with the project as set forth above, the transmission of the electricity will require construction and operation of an approximately 51.5-mile transmission line, together with interconnection facilities (substations) and other related facilities, linking Galloo Island with the New York State power grid. The construction and operation of the 50.6-mile transmission line is subject to the review jurisdiction of the New York State Public Service Commission (PSC) under Public Service Law Article VII. As such it is a Type II action under SEQRA (6 NYCRR §617.5(c) (35)) and therefore not subject to SEQRA review (6 NYCRR §617.5(a)) and is not included within the “Project”.

Galloo Island has no permanent residents however it has been inhabited periodically and developed since at least 1812. As such, a majority of the land has been altered by human activities (e.g., cedar forestry, agricultural crop growth, sheep grazing, etc.).

The construction of the project will likely occur over a three-year period. Construction will begin with the slip, temporary housing and support systems. The following two years will include construction of the access roads, permanent housing, WTG and supporting infrastructure. Construction will occur both on land and in the waters of Lake Ontario. Materials and equipment will be delivered to the island by ship or barge.

The construction and operation of the Project will disturb both riparian and wetland areas. One threat to both habitat environments is the introduction and spread of invasive species. Invasive Species of particular concern are purple loosestrife (*Lythrum salicaria*), phragmites (*Phragmites australis*), and Eurasian water milfoil (*Myriophyllum spicatum*). These may be introduced through the movement or use of topsoil, fill or construction materials.

This plan will be part of the construction and operation environmental management procedures for the Project.

This plan describes the procedures that will be undertaken to ensure that the invasive species mentioned above do not expand their aerial coverage on the island due to the construction or operation of the Project. Particular care will be taken to prevent expansion into federal and New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) regulated wetlands, riparian areas and NYSDEC regulated areas i.e., wetland setback areas (buffer zone) on the island. These areas will collectively be called Regulated Areas. The goal of the plan is a 0% increase in the coverage of invasive species for five years following the completion of construction in Regulated Areas.

## **Baseline Survey**

A baseline survey will be conducted to document the presence, or lack of the invasive species listed above. This survey will be completed in Regulated Areas prior to the commencement of construction. Any areas where these species are observed will be flagged in the field. A map will be created and distributed to the NYSDEC and United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE). Receipt of, and concurrence with the baseline report will be requested. This map will be used to establish the baseline condition of the invasive species and will be used to identify any post-construction effects.

## **Invasive Species Control**

### **Invasive Plant Removal**

When invasive species are identified in the Regulated Areas, herbicides approved by NYSDEC will be applied to the plant. The application of herbicide will be done in accordance with the manufacturers' guidelines and in accordance with federal, state and local regulations. As the plants are identified the contractor will coordinate with NYSDEC to determine disposal guidelines for each species. The dead plant or plants will then be segregated from the soil as appropriate.

All dead plant material will be placed in a covered container prior to being transported to a collection area. If the container will be transported in a vehicle it will be securely fastened, as to not accidentally spill or fall. One collection area will be designated on the island. This collection area will have a disposal container fitted with a black cover to facilitate in composting or liquefying material. This compost container will be monitored by construction staff. Once the contents of the container have broken down, the material will be securely transported to the mainland and disposed of in an approved landfill.

If the coverage of the invasive species of a Regulated Area is greater than 75% of its area, removal of topsoil may be warranted. This will not be a preferred method of invasive species control, and will only be done if invasive species cannot be identified as individuals. If topsoil is removed it will be done to a depth of 16" or as site characteristics require. The topsoil would then be replaced with topsoil from an on-island source determined to be free of invasive species and from a similar ecological community where possible. The area will be regraded to pre-construction contours. The area will then be reseeded with a seeding mix determined in consultation with NYSDEC. The topsoil that is removed will be disposed of on-site in a location determined to be an acceptable distance from a Regulated Area.

### **Equipment Sanitation**

All machinery will be inspected and cleaned prior to going onto or leaving the island. Any soil or debris will be removed and the equipment will be inspected to ensure cleanliness.

Equipment will be cleaned as required to prevent the spread of invasive species plant seeds or propagules. Any earth moving or excavation equipment used in Regulated Area known to contain invasive species will be cleaned in a nearby upland area. Excess soil will be removed and the equipment will be washed with a mobile power washer. If workers walked through the Regulated Area known to contain invasive species their boots will also be washed as near the point of origin as practically possible.

### **Restoration**

Any Regulated Area that is altered during construction will be restored to preconstruction contours as soon as practicable. An appropriate native seed mixture will be used based on plants that were in the area prior to disturbance. When possible seed mix will be from a local source. For any wetland area that was impacted, an appropriate seed mixture, as determined in consultation with NYSDEC, will be used. Where the disturbance was minimal, a soil stabilization plant such as a rye grass will be planted and the natural vegetation of the Regulated Area will be allowed to revegetate the area.

### **Monitoring**

Invasive Species monitoring will take place for five years following construction by project personnel. Inspections of Regulated Areas will occur twice a year between the months of April and November.

Using the Baseline Study staff will review Regulated Areas and document any changes to Invasive Species coverage. Any increase in coverage will be reported to USACE and NYSDEC. If this increase is determined to be significant, the invasive species control measures mentioned above will be undertaken. A report will be provided annually to NYSDEC and USFWS.

The effort will be considered successful if there is no increase in the areal coverage of invasive species in Regulated Areas after five year. If this is the case, Upstate Power will petition NYSDEC and USFWS to concur and allow monitoring to be discontinued. If however the 0% increase criterion is not met, this plan will be reviewed jointly with NYSDEC and USFWS to establish alternative control measures. A new plan will be developed including a supplemental monitoring program if deemed necessary.