APPENDIX A AGENCY CORRESPONDENCE CASE 10-T-0139

APPENDIX A

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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.nv.gov

April 15, 2022

Nicole Frazer CHA **III Winners Circle** Albany, NY 12205

Re: Champlain Hudson Power Express - Phase 2 - Package 4

County: Saratoga, Schenectady Town/City: Ballston, Clifton Park, Glenville, Rotterdam

Dear Nicole Frazer:

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 along the project alignment or in its vicinity.

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 Division of Environmental Permits.

Sincerely.

Nich Como

Nicholas Conrad

Information Resources Coordinator

New York Natural Heritage Program

NEW YORK Department of Environmental Conservation

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The following state-listed animals have been documented along the Champlain-Hudson Power Express Phase 2 Package 4 alignment.

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

For information about any permit considerations for the project, contact the NYSDEC Division of Environmental Permits.

The following species has been documented nesting within .2 mile of the project alignment in the Town of Ballston, Saratoga County; and within .5 mile of the project alignment in the Town of Glenville, Schenectady County.

COMMON NAME SCIENTIFIC NAME NY STATE LISTING FEDERAL LISTING

Birds

Bald Eagle Haliaeetus leucocephalus Threatened

Breeding

This report only includes records from the NY Natural Heritage 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.

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Report on Rare Animals, Rare Plants, and Significant Natural Communities

The following rare plants have been documented directly on the Champlain-Hudson Power Express Phase 2 Package 4 alignment.

We recommend that potential impacts of the proposed project on these species or communities 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. Field surveys of the project site may be necessary to determine the status of a species at the site, particularly for sites that are currently undeveloped and may still contain suitable habitat. 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 plant is listed as Endangered or Threatened by New York State, and so is a vulnerable natural resource of conservation concern.

COMMON NAME SCIENTIFIC NAME NY STATE LISTING HERITAGE CONSERVATION STATUS

Endangered Imperiled in NYS Side Oats Grama Bouteloua curtipendula

var. curtipendula

10558

Wyatts Riverside Bluffs, including directly on the project alignment where it turns 90 degrees to cross the Mohawk River in the Town of Glenville, Schenectady County, between the railroad tracks and the river, 2005-08-09: This is an area of dry glacial till and calcareous Mohawk conglomerate forming bluffs along the Mohawk River. The banks along the river are very steep with exposed soil and weedy vegetation. The slopes are south-facing and very hot and dry in the sun. On top of the bluffs the land is level with an assortment of roads, railroads, buildings and guarries. The vegetation includes dry roadsides and fields and a few patches of woods.

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.

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.

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