

Our ref: 11227527

October 24, 2022

Mr. Bradley Grant  
Barton & Loguidice  
10 Airline Drive, Suite 200  
Albany, NY 12205

**Response to Draft FEAF Part 2 – 153 YMCA Road Wind Energy Project, Town of Florida, New York**

Dear Mr. Grant:

On behalf of New Leaf Energy and in connection with the 153 YMCA Road Wind Energy Project, GHD is writing this letter to provide additional information on Moderate to Large Impacts outlined in Part 2 of the Full Environmental Assessment Form and per discussions at the October 3, 2022, Planning Board meeting of the Town of Florida.

This information is for your use, as deemed appropriate during further discussions and the preparation of Part 3 at the discretion of the lead agency, the Planning Board, to assist in their determination.

Part 2 Review with Moderate to Large Impacts:

1.f. The proposed action may result in increased erosion, whether from physical disturbance or vegetation removal (including from treatment by herbicides).

**In accordance with NYSDEC regulations, the project construction will obtain coverage under the SPDES permit program; therefore, the required Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) has been prepared for the project. The SWPPP identifies the potential for erosion during construction and operation and outlines the temporary and permanent stormwater practices that will be incorporated into the construction to address and minimize any erosion, as well as maintenance requirements. A note has been added to the plans that no herbicides/pesticides will be used. Total acreage of tree removal is 2.11 acres.**

3.e. The proposed action may create turbidity in a waterbody, either from upland erosion, runoff or by disturbing bottom sediments.

**The SWPPP will eliminate or minimize all potential impacts. The project site will be fully stabilized at the end of construction to eliminate any on-going impacts.**

3.h. The proposed action may cause soil erosion, or otherwise create a source of stormwater discharge that may lead to siltation or other degradation of receiving water bodies.

**The SWPPP will eliminate or minimize all potential impacts and control stormwater discharge.**

3.i. The proposed action may affect the water quality of any water bodies within or downstream of the site of the proposed action.

**The SWPPP includes addressing water quality in accordance with the SPDES permit and will eliminate or minimize all potential impacts.**

5.d. The proposed action may result in, or require, modification of existing drainage patterns.

**The SWPPP will minimize any negative effects. Details on the drainage can be found on the drainage and grading plan.**

7.b. The proposed action may result in a reduction or degradation of any habitat used by any rare, threatened, or endangered species, as listed by New York State or the federal government.

**NLE has been in close coordination with DEC in regard to species impact. The DEC has determined that the construction or operation of the facility will not result in the incidental take of any threatened or endangered species.**

7.c. The proposed action may cause reduction in population, or loss of individuals, of any species of special concern or conservation need, as listed by New York State or the Federal government, that use the site, or are found on, over, or near the site.

**NLE has been in close coordination with DEC in regard to species impact. The DEC has determined that the construction or operation of the facility will not result in the incidental take of any threatened or endangered species. NLE has committed to the DEC to curtail operation, as specified, to minimize impacts to the Northern Long-eared Bat.**

8.g. The proposed project is not consistent with the adopted municipal Farmland Protection Plan.

**The subject parcel is not an actively farmed parcel and is unsuitable for it due to the topography and unsuitable soils.**

9.a. Proposed action may be visible from any officially designated federal, state, or local scenic or aesthetic resource.

**From the DEC Environmental Resource Mapper, the following sites are officially designated scenic or aesthetic resources: Erie Canalway Trail and Mohawk Valley Gateway Overlook. Visual simulations have been created for each of these resources. From the provided photos, the turbine will not be visible since they are nearly 5 miles from the site.**

9.b. The proposed action may result in the obstruction, elimination, or significant screening of one or more officially designated scenic views.

**The turbine is not expected to be visible from the officially designated scenic views.**

9.c. The proposed action may be visible from publicly accessible vantage points: i. Seasonally (e.g., screened by summer foliage, but visible during other seasons) ii. Year round

**The wind turbine is white, will only have lighting, as required by the FAA, and will not be used for advertisements to make it as unobtrusive as possible.**

9.d. The situation or activity in which viewers are engaged while viewing the proposed action is: i. Routine travel by residents, including travel to and from work ii. Recreational or tourism-based activities

**The wind turbine is white, will only have lighting, as required by the FAA, and will not be used for advertisements to make it as unobtrusive as possible.**

9.e. The proposed action may cause a diminishment of the public enjoyment and appreciation of the designated aesthetic resource

**It will not be visible from any designated aesthetic resource based on the provided visual simulations.**

10.c. The proposed action may occur wholly or partially within, or substantially contiguous to, an archaeological site not included on the NY SHPO inventory.

**SHPO had no archeological concerns for this site. There are no National Register properties within 3 miles of the site. The closest property eligible to be on the National Register is Chuctununda Cemetery approximately 1 mile away from the project site.**

10.e.iii. The proposed action may result in the introduction of visual elements which are out of character with the site or property or may alter its setting.

**The turbine is similar to other objects in the viewscape such as power lines, large transmission lines, and communication towers.**

13.c. The proposed action will degrade existing transit access.

**The project will have a transportation plan in place to minimize impact to surrounding roads. This plan will be coordinated with New York State, Montgomery County, and the Town of Florida. For roads within the Town of Florida, a road use agreement will be in place.**

13.e. The proposed action may alter the present pattern of movement of people or goods.

**The project may temporarily impact the pattern during construction, but no traffic will occur post-construction. The construction management will coordinate with the adjacent home to ensure access throughout construction.**

13.f. Planes, helicopters, drones, flights in general (explained in part 3)

**The project is being reviewed by the Federal Aviation Administration. Any impacts to the airspace will be addressed through their review.**

15.d. The proposed action may result in light shining onto adjoining properties. (Flicker)

**The siting of the turbine has minimized the impacts of shadow flicker and are within industry standards. No residents are expected to have over 19 hours per year of shadow flicker.**

16.f. The proposed action has adequate control measures in place to ensure that future generation, treatment and/or disposal of hazardous wastes will be protective of the environment and human health.

**All oil within the turbine is self-contained and will not impact environmental or human health. The contractor on site will be required to have a spill prevention plan for fuel used during construction.**

17.a. The proposed action's land use components may be different from, or in sharp contrast to, current surrounding land use pattern(s).

**The turbine is similar to other objects in the viewscape such as power lines, large transmission lines, and communication towers.**

17.h. Other: visual, noise, RF, TV reception, light flicker

**Visual, noise, and flicker have been addressed in other responses. For radio frequency, the project will conduct a pre- and post-construction survey as well as an amateur radio study to determine what interference will occur though preliminary studies have determined the turbine will likely have no effects. The turbine will not have any impact on cable or satellite communications, such as Starlink. TV reception is also likely not expected to be affected due to modern digital television receivers.**

18.d. The proposed action may interfere with the use or enjoyment of officially recognized or designated public resources.

**The turbine is similar to other objects in the viewscape such as power lines, large transmission lines, and communication towers.**

18.e. The proposed action is inconsistent with the predominant architectural scale and character.

**The turbine is similar to other objects in the viewscape such as power lines, large transmission lines, and communication towers. Wind turbines are allowed on this parcel per the Town's code. The Town's zoning board has also reviewed the project and approved our requested height variance.**

18.f. Proposed action is inconsistent with the character of the existing natural landscape.

**The turbine is similar to other objects in the viewscape such as power lines, large transmission lines, and communication towers.**

18.g. Other: visual, noise, TV, light flicker, RF

**Visual, noise, and flicker have been addressed in other responses. For radio frequency, the project will conduct a pre- and post-construction survey, as well as an amateur radio study to determine what interference will occur though preliminary studies have determined the turbine will likely have no effects. The turbine will not have any impact on cable or satellite communications, such as Starlink. TV reception is also likely not expected to be affected due to modern digital television receivers.**

If you have any questions or require additional information, please do not hesitate to call me at the number below.

Regards,



**Camie Jarrell, PE**

Project Manager

+1 716 362-8879

camie.jarrell@ghd.com

Copy to: Emily Staley – Town Clerk