

Environmental
Assessment
Cole Hollow Road
Realignment Project

Appendix – C

Environmental Consultations
and Resources



Natural Resources
Conservation Service

April 9, 2014

441 South Salina St.
Suite 354
Syracuse, NY 13212
315-477-6506
kathryn.duncan@ny.usda.gov

U.S. Department of Homeland Security-
Federal Emergency Management Agency (DHS-FEMA)
Leo W. O'Brien Federal Building
11 A Clinton Avenue, Suite 742
Albany, NY 12207

Re: Farmland Protection Policy Act (FPPA), Cole Hollow Road Realignment Project;
Town of Blenheim, Schoharie County, NY

Ms. Piwonka-Bernstein,

I have received of your request dated April 4, 2014, with the information needed to complete a Farmland Conversion Impact Rating (AD-1006) for the project cited above. After reviewing the documentation, the project is exempt from the Farmland Protection Policy Act (FPPA) provision.

Although the project does contain soils designated statewide significant, I am declaring the project is exempt because of the minimal impact on those statewide significant soils. The total area of the disturbance of the project is 4 acres but the amount of soils designated as statewide significant is .7ac which is below the threshold of 2ac. which we consider minimal impact. Minimal impact projects are not subject to the Act.

In that case, an AD-1006 for the FPPA is not required for this project.

If you have any questions about this determination please feel free to contact me.

Kathryn Duncan
Cartographer

U.S. Department of Homeland Security-
Federal Emergency Management Agency (DHS-FEMA)
Leo W. O'Brien Federal Building
11 A Clinton Avenue, Suite 742
Albany, NY 12207



FEMA

April 4, 2014

Ms. Cathy Crotty
Natural Resources Conservation Society (NRCS)
The Galleries of Syracuse
441 S. Salina St.
Syracuse, NY 13202-2450
315-477-6505
Cathy.Crotty@ny.usda.gov

Re: Farmland Protection Policy Act (FPPA), Cole Hollow Road Realignment Project;
Town of Blenheim, Schoharie County, NY

Ms. Crotty:

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) proposes to provide Public Assistance (PA) Federal grant funding to the Town of Blenheim (Sub-grantee) to realign approximately 1,500 feet of Cole Hollow Road (from 42.50251, -74.44227 to 42.50331, -74.43823) in the Town of Blenheim, Schoharie County, NY. The road was damaged as a result of erosion caused by flooding during Hurricane Irene (FEMA-DR-4020-NY), and the Sub-grantee wishes to move the road upland onto more stable soils and slope. FEMA has determined that the proposed project requires an Environmental Assessment (EA) in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and 44 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 10.8. The PA grant reference number is PA-02-NY-4020-PW-08505(0). Relevant documentation has been attached.

The proposed project would relocate the road to an area that is currently old field and woodland. There is a small wetland at the northeast end of the new road section. The project area has rolling to hilly topography, and will require significant grading to accommodate a road. The area of interest (AOI) delineated on the attached soil map includes the approximate extent of grading and soil disturbance anticipated (see Land Acquisition Exhibit and Soil Map, both attached). The Subgrantee will acquire portions of five properties for this project, and will maintain ownership of this property as the road right-of-way. Some disturbance may take place within a construction easement planned on either side of the road right-of-way; these areas will remain the property of current owners. Additionally, the abandoned gravel road will be scarified, topsoiled, and seeded with grass. Approximately 3.7 to 4.1 acres are expected to be disturbed during construction.

According to the NRCS Web Soil Survey, the proposed AOI consists mainly of two soil map units: Lordstown, Oquaga and Nassau soils (LrF), and Mardin channery silt loam (McB, McD, McE). McB soils are categorized as Farmland of Statewide Importance. The project area is not within an agricultural district; however, the boundary of Schoharie County Agricultural District 1 is several hundred feet south of the project area, on the south side of Cole Brook.

Map Unit Symbol	Map Unit Name	Acres in AOI**	% of AOI
LrF	Lordstown, Oquaga, and Nassau soils, 35 to 70 percent slopes	1.6	39.1%
McB*	Mardin channery silt loam, 2 to 8 percent slopes	0.7	17.6%
McD	Mardin channery silt loam, 15 to 25 percent slopes	1.7	43.3%
McE	Mardin channery silt loam, 25 to 35 percent slopes	0.0	0.0%
Totals for Area of Interest		4.0	100.0%

* Farmland of Statewide Significance

** Approximate

Because soils identified as Farmland of Statewide Importance are found within the project area, FEMA is contacting the NRCS for additional guidance on whether to complete the Farmland Conversion Impact Rating form AD-1006.

Please provide us with your comments on how best to continue. If you have additional questions regarding this project, please contact me at christine.piwonkabernstein@fema.dhs.gov or at 518-396-3842.

Thank you,



Christine Piwonka-Bernstein
Environmental Protection Specialist

Attachments:

- Location Map
- Land Acquisition Exhibit (Provided by Sub-grantee's consultant)
- Map Excerpt from Soil Report (indicates maximum extent of proposed grading)
- NRCS Farmland Conversion Impact Rating Information Form/Checklist

ATTACHMENT #1 - Location Map

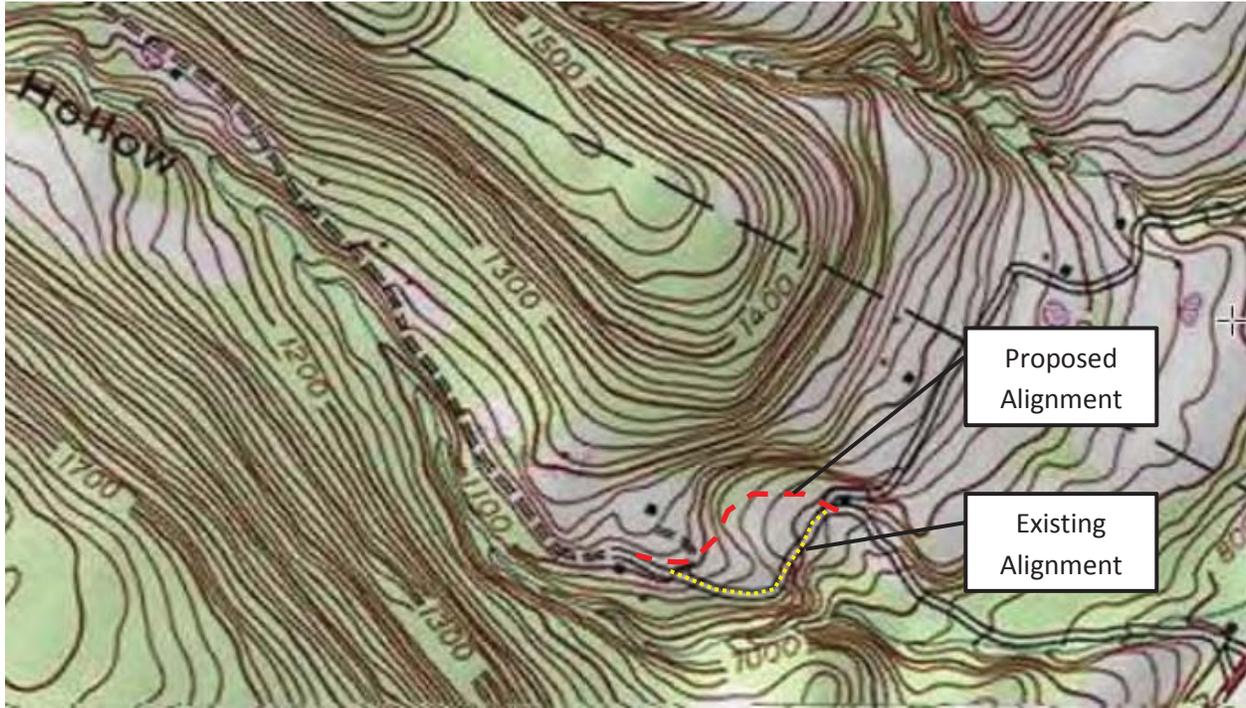
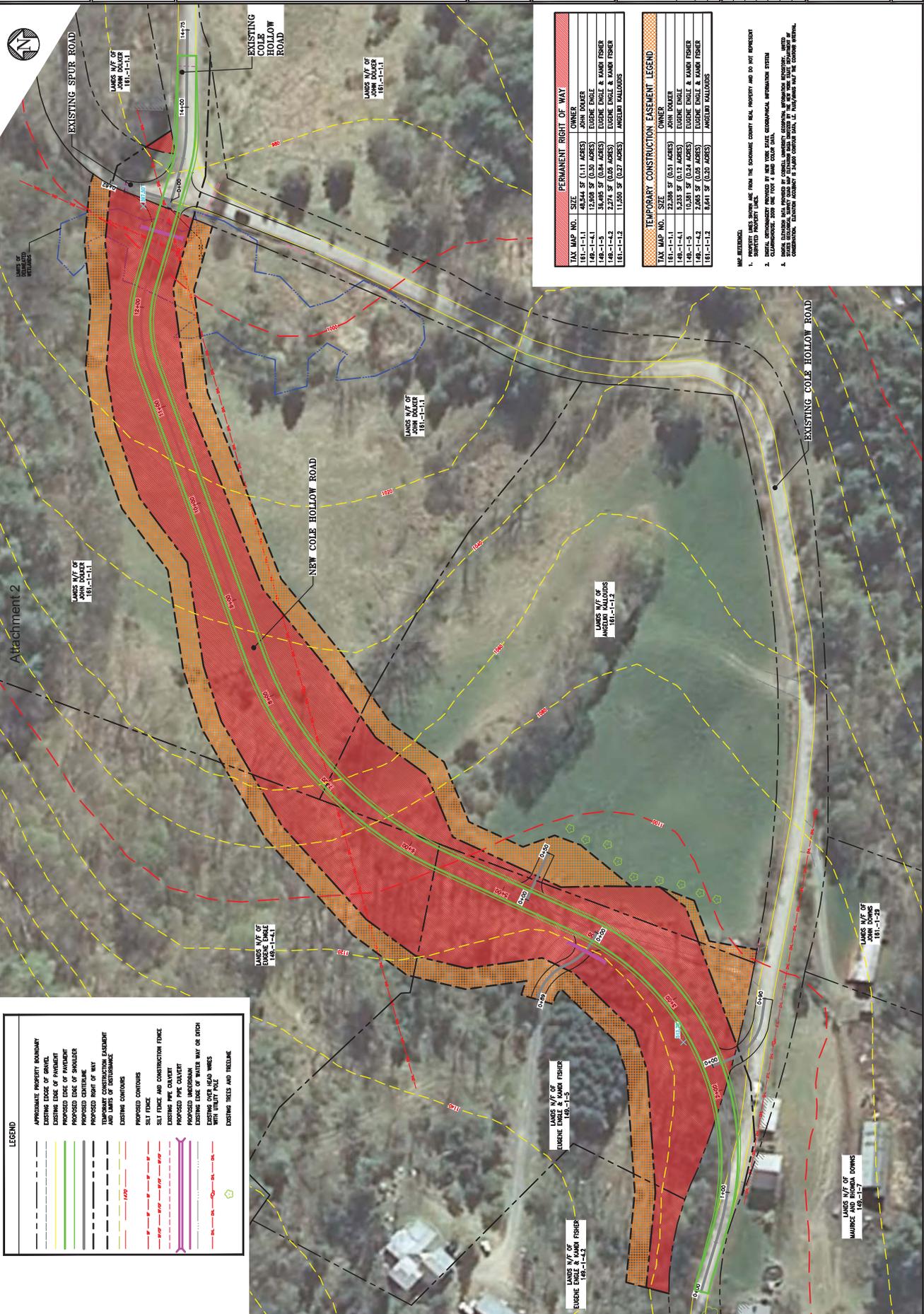


Figure 1 – Existing and proposed alignment (approximate). Source: USGS Breakabeen 7.5' Quadrangle, Schoharie County, NY.

LEGEND

	APPROXIMATE PROPERTY BOUNDARY
	EXISTING EDGE OF GRAVEL
	EXISTING EDGE OF ASPHALT
	PROPOSED EDGE OF SHOULDER
	PROPOSED CENTERLINE
	PROPOSED RIGHT OF WAY
	TEMPORARY CONSTRUCTION EASEMENT AND LIMIT OF ENCROACHMENT
	EXISTING CONTOURS
	PROPOSED CONTOURS
	SILT FENCE AND CONSTRUCTION FENCE
	EXISTING PIPE CHANNEL
	PROPOSED PIPE CHANNEL
	EXISTING EDGE OF WATER WAY OR DITCH
	EXISTING OVER HEAD WIRES WITH UTILITY POLE
	EXISTING TREES AND TREELINE



PERMANENT RIGHT OF WAY

TAX MAP NO.	SIZE
148-1-1.1	24,344 SF (0.55 ACRES)
148-1-4.1	12,828 SF (0.29 ACRES)
148-1-4.5	36,495 SF (0.84 ACRES)
148-1-4.2	2,271 SF (0.05 ACRES)
181-1-1.2	11,252 SF (0.27 ACRES)

TEMPORARY CONSTRUCTION EASEMENT LEGEND

TAX MAP NO.	SIZE	OWNER
181-1-1.1	22,208 SF (0.51 ACRES)	JOHN DOLGER
148-1-4.1	9,232 SF (0.21 ACRES)	EUGENE ENGLE
148-1-5	10,581 SF (0.24 ACRES)	EUGENE ENGLE & MARY FISHER
148-1-4.2	2,262 SF (0.05 ACRES)	EUGENE ENGLE & MARY FISHER
181-1-1.2	8,241 SF (0.20 ACRES)	ANGELMAY KALLODERS

- MAP REFERENCES:**
- PROPERTY LINES SHOWN ARE FROM THE SCHWARZ COUNTY REAL PROPERTY AND DO NOT REPRESENT SURVEYED PROPERTY LINES.
 - CONTRIBUTION FROM THE TOWN OF BLENNHEIM TO THE STATE HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE ROAD.
 - LEGAL EASEMENTS SHOWN AS PER THE RECORDS OF THE SCHWARZ COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF RECORDS AND DEEDS.
 - CONSTRUCTION EASEMENT LEGEND AS SHOWN ON THIS MAP.

Project Number: 2012055

Drawn By: JES

Checked By: JES

Date: 4/7/14

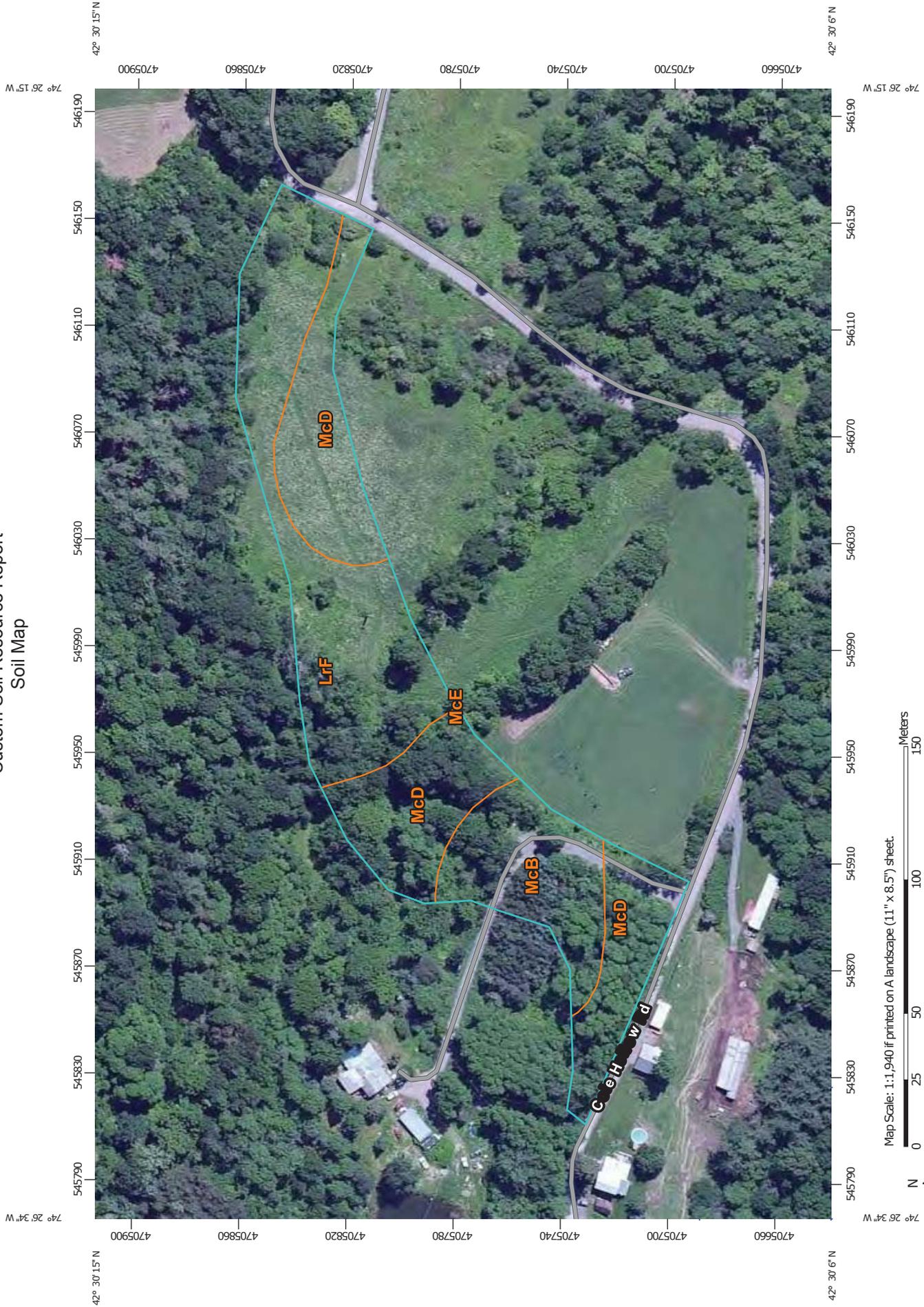
Scale: NTS

File Name: LAND AC EX

Sheet No: C10

Attachment 2

Attachment 3 Custom Soil Resource Report Soil Map



Map Scale: 1:1,940 if printed on A landscape (11" x 8.5") sheet.



Map projection: Web Mercator Corner coordinates: WGS84 Edge tics: UTM Zone 18N WGS84

Exhibit 1

NRCS Farmland Conversion Impact Rating - Information Form/ Checklist

Parties requesting a Farmland Conversion Impact Rating from NRCS must include the following information. Submission of the complete materials will avoid processing delays.

A Project Contact Information:

Project Contact Name..... Donna Bolognino

Project Contact Email Address..... donna.bolognino@fema.dhs.gov

Project Contact Address..... FEMA, Leo O'Brien Federal Building,
11A Clinton Ave Suite 742, Albany, NY 12207

Project Contact Telephone..... 518-396-3843

Project Contact FAX..... _____

Preferred Method of Contact:..... Email Phone Mail

B Project Information:

Project Name..... Cole Hollow Road Realignment

Requesting Agency or Business Name.. FEMA

Federal Agency Providing Funding FEMA

Soil Survey Name..... Schoharie County

Town and County Name..... Town of Blenheim, Schoharie County

Date of Request..... 4/4/2014

Is there a location map supplied on a topographic, aerial photography base or soil map with the project extent outlined? (soil map preferred) Yes No

MORE SOILS HELP: The Web Soil Survey (<http://soils.usda.gov/>) provides a web based application for delineation of an area (project location) and display of soil lines on a photography base with an associated report that includes acreage totals. The Soil Data Mart (<http://soildatamart.nrcs.usda.gov/>) provides a listing of counties that are digitized and a download of GIS format files.

What is the current or planned zoning for the site?..... No zoning in T/o Blenheim, currently vacant/forested/1-family

Corridor width (if applicable)..... 50' R.O.W. plus grading

Parts I and III of the AD-1006 form need to be completed by the requesting party. Access to a digital form is located at the FPPA site: <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/fppa/>. If access is not available answer the following questions.

a. Total Acres to be Converted Directly? **4.1 acres**

b. Total Acres to be Converted Indirectly?
("Converted Indirectly" is defined as land that the specific project does not alter but creates a situation where the land can no longer be used for potential farming due to the project.) **0.0**

c. Total Project Acres affected by FPPA (Acres should total the sum of a and b.)? **4.1 acres**

Any questions can be directed to Cathy Keenan: (315) 477-6525 or cathy.keenan@ny.usda.gov

Please send completed materials to:

Cathy Keenan, NRCS State GIS Specialist
Natural Resources Conservation Service
441 S. Salina Street, Suite 354
Syracuse, NY 13202-2450



To: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, New York Field Office

FAX: (607) 753-9699 Email: sandra_doran@fws.gov MaryEllen_VanDonsel@fws.gov and Megan_Patch@fws.gov

Request for review pursuant to Section 7(a)(2) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973

Declaration #: FEMA 4020 -DR-NY

Date: 6/19/15 Program PA Project/PW # PW #08505

Project name: Cole Hollow Road Realignment (REVISED)

Applicant: Town of Blenheim

Location: Cole Hollow Road near Cole Hollow Spur Road

County: Schoharie Latitude: 42.502289 Longitude: -47.43997

FEMA Representative: Christine Piwonka-Bernstein

Email: christine.piwonkabernstein@fema.dhs.gov Desk phone: 518-396-3842 Cell: 518-414-0146

Project description: Road will be realigned and will traverse wooded areas and former agricultural fields.

See attachment for additional information

Threatened (T), Endangered (E), Proposed (P), or Candidate (C) species under USFWS jurisdiction with potential to occur in proposed project area:

- | | | |
|--|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bog turtle - T | <input type="checkbox"/> Northern wild monkshood - T | <input type="checkbox"/> New England cottontail - C |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Dwarf wedgemussel - E | <input type="checkbox"/> Piping plover - T | <input type="checkbox"/> Small whorled pogonia - E |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Indiana bat - E | <input type="checkbox"/> Sandplain gerardia - E | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Northern long-eared bat - T |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Karner blue butterfly - E | <input type="checkbox"/> Seabeach amaranth - T | <input type="checkbox"/> Red knot - P |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ |

FEMA has determined the proposed project:

- no effect _____
- may affect, but is not likely to adversely affect Northern Long-Eared Bat (NLEB) - see conditions below.
- is likely to adversely affect _____
- See attachment for the rationale for the above-listed determination(s).

RATIONALE:

FEMA had consulted on this project before the NLEB was listed as threatened; previous correspondence, including FEMA's informal consultation, dated 4/8/2014, and USFWS's concurrence, dated 4/21/14, is attached. There has been no change to the proposed scope of work or site plan, and the proposed scope of work still includes removal of approximately 1.6 acres of mixed hardwood forest. The work had been conditioned based on recommended conservation measures to schedule tree removal during an October 1 - March 31 construction window; however, guidance for protection of the NLEB has become less restrictive if no known roost trees are found within the project area. According to information provided by the New York Natural Heritage Program, there are no known maternity roost trees or hibernacula within 1/4 mile of the proposed site (the nearest hibernaculum is approximately 7 miles to the south of the site), but the site does serve as *potential* summer habitat for the species.

The project will be conditioned with the following language:

- 1) Avoid cutting or destroying trees during the pup season for the Northern Long-Eared Bat (June 1 - July 31).
- 2) Any bat colonies of any species that are observed during clearing for road construction shall be immediately reported to FEMA and USFWS.

FEMA requests:

- USFWS review and/or concurrence with our Section 7 consultation determination
- Additional assistance to make our Section 7 consultation determination

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service:

- concurs with your NLTAAs determination(s), no further ESA consultation/coordination required
- requests additional information

USFWS Contact: Sandra Doran

Date: 07-01-2015

Supervisor Approval: [Signature]

Date: 7/2/15



FEMA

To: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, New York Field Office

FAX: (607) 753-9699 Email: sandra_doran@fws.gov MaryEllen_VanDonsel@fws.gov and Megan_Patch@fws.gov

Request for review pursuant to Section 7(a)(2) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973

Declaration #: FEMA 4020 -DR-NY
Date: 6/19/15 Program PA Project/PW # PW #08505
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FEMA Representative: Christine Piwonka-Bernstein
Email: christine.piwonkabernstein@fema.dhs.gov Desk phone: 518-396-3842 Cell: 518-414-0146

Project description: Road will be realigned and will traverse wooded areas and former agricultural fields.

See attachment for additional information

Threatened (T), Endangered (E), Proposed (P), or Candidate (C) species under USFWS jurisdiction with potential to occur in proposed project area:

- Bog turtle - T
Dwarf wedgemussel - E
Indiana bat - E
Karner blue butterfly - E
Other
Northern wild monkshood - T
Piping plover - T
Sandplain gerardia - E
Seabeach amaranth - T
Other
New England cottontail - C
Small whorled pogonia - E
Northern long-eared bat - T
Red knot - P
Other

FEMA has determined the proposed project:

- no effect
may affect, but is not likely to adversely affect Northern Long-Eared Bat (NLEB) - see conditions below.
is likely to adversely affect
See attachment for the rationale for the above-listed determination(s).

RATIONALE:

FEMA had consulted on this project before the NLEB was listed as threatened; previous correspondence, including FEMA's informal consultation, dated 4/8/2014, and USFWS's concurrence, dated 4/21/14, is attached. There has been no change to the proposed scope of work or site plan, and the proposed scope of work still includes removal of approximately 1.6 acres of mixed hardwood forest. The work had been conditioned based on recommended conservation measures to schedule tree removal during an October 1 - March 31 construction window; however, guidance for protection of the NLEB has become less restrictive if no known roost trees are found within the project area. According to information provided by the New York Natural Heritage Program, there are no known maternity roost trees or hibernacula within 1/4 mile of the proposed site (the nearest hibernaculum is approximately 7 miles to the south of the site), but the site does serve as potential summer habitat for the species.

The project will be conditioned with the following language:

- 1) Avoid cutting or destroying trees during the pup season for the Northern Long-Eared Bat (June 1 - July 31).
2) Any bat colonies of any species that are observed during clearing for road construction shall be immediately reported to FEMA and USFWS.

FEMA requests:

- USFWS review and/or concurrence with our Section 7 consultation determination
Additional assistance to make our Section 7 consultation determination

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service:

- concurs with your NLTAAs determination(s), no further ESA consultation/coordination required
requests additional information

USFWS Contact: Date:
Supervisor Approval: Date:



To: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, New York Field Office

FAX: (607) 753-9699 Email: sandra_doran@fws.gov MaryEllen_VanDonsel@fws.gov and Megan_Patch@fws.gov

Request for review pursuant to Section 7(a)(2) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973

Declaration #: FEMA 4020 -DR-NY

Date: 04/07/2014 Program PA Project/PW # PW #08505

Project name: Cole Hollow Road Realignment

Applicant: Town of Blenheim

Location: Cole Hollow Road near Cole Hollow Spur Road

County: Schoharie Latitude: 42.50289 Longitude: -47.43997

FEMA Representative: Christine Piwonka-Bernstein

Email: christine.piwonkabernstein@fema.dhs.gov Desk phone: 518-396-3842 Cell: 518-414-0146

Project description:

See attachment for additional information

Threatened (T), Endangered (E), Proposed (P), or Candidate (C) species under USFWS jurisdiction with potential to occur in proposed project area:

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bog turtle - T | <input type="checkbox"/> Northern wild monkshood - T |
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| <input type="checkbox"/> Indiana bat - E | <input type="checkbox"/> Sandplain gerardia - E |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Karner blue butterfly - E | <input type="checkbox"/> Seabeach amaranth - T |
| <input type="checkbox"/> New England cottontail - C | <input type="checkbox"/> Red knot - P |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Small whorled pogonia - E | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Northern long-eared bat - P | |

FEMA has determined the proposed project:

- may affect _____
- may affect, but is not likely to adversely affect see conservation recommendations regarding tree removal, attached. (U. Gaces)
- is likely to adversely affect _____
- See attachment for the rationale for the above-listed determination(s) and project description.

FEMA requests:

- USFWS review and/or concurrence with our Section 7 consultation determination
- Additional assistance to make our Section 7 consultation determination
- * as per attached memo.*

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service:

- concurs with your NLTAAs determination(s), no further ESA consultation/coordination required
- requests additional information

USFWS Contact: *Sandra Doran*

Date: 4-21-14

Supervisor Approval: *Tatiana Cole*

Date: 4/29/14

If the Northern long-eared bat is listed, and if project activities are expected to continue afterwards, this concurrence will serve to satisfy consultation requirements pursuant to Section 7 of the ESA, provided that: (1) the project scope and activities remain unchanged; (2) any proposed conservation recommendations are implemented as conservation measures; and (3) there are no other changes (e.g., to the landscape, habitat, etc.) that may affect the newly-listed species and that have not already been analyzed in this consultation. Should project plans change, or if additional information on listed or proposed species or critical habitat becomes available, this determination may be reconsidered. The most recent compilation of federally-listed and proposed endangered and threatened species in New York is available for your information. Until the proposed project is complete, we recommend that you check our website every 90 days from the date of this letter to ensure that listed species presence/absence information for the proposed project is current.

The road alignment has been designed to minimize the need for grading, but it cuts into wooded areas in the southwestern portion of the subject site to avoid the steepest slopes. The consultant estimates that 1.57 acres of trees will need to be removed in order to accommodate grading. Tree removal will mainly take place in the permanent right-of-way, although some tree removal may be necessary within the temporary construction easement (see Attachment 2, "Land Acquisition Exhibit"). A construction schedule has not been set, but the project will be conditioned such that tree-clearing takes place between October 1 and March 1.

The project will be conditioned with the following language:

The proposed project area serves as potential summer roosting habitat for the Northern long-eared bat (*Myotis septentrionalis*). The Northern long-eared bat is proposed to be listed as endangered on the federal threatened and endangered species list. Pursuant to section 7(a)(4) of the Endangered Species Act (ESA) and implementing regulations at 50 CFR §402.02 and 50CFR §402.10, FEMA has determined that the proposed action would not be likely to jeopardize the proposed species, or destroy or adversely modify proposed critical habitat. The Subgrantee is requested, as a conservation recommendation, to schedule the removal of trees that are greater than 3" diameter-at-breast-height during the following construction window: October 1st – March 31st. If the Northern long-eared bat is listed, and if project activities are expected to continue afterwards, this concurrence will serve to satisfy consultation requirements pursuant to Section 7 of the ESA, provided that: (1) the project scope and activities remain unchanged; (2) any proposed conservation recommendations are implemented as conservation measures; and (3) there are no other changes (e.g., to the landscape, habitat, etc.) that may affect the newly-listed species and that have not already been analyzed in this consultation. Should project plans change, or if additional information on listed or proposed species or critical habitat becomes available, this determination may be reconsidered.

The most recent compilation of federally-listed and proposed endangered and threatened species in New York is available for your information. Until the proposed project is complete, the Subgrantee is recommended to check the USFWS website every 90 days from the date of this letter to ensure that listed species presence/absence information for the proposed project is current. The U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS) New York Field Office website for general information about species status is: www.fws.gov/northeast/nyfo/. The website to utilize for site specific information is the USFWS Information, Planning and Conservation System (IPaC): <http://ecos.fws.gov/ipac/>. The proposed species could be listed as endangered as early as October 2014, although to-be-determined. If the proposed construction action has not been completed by October 2014 and the species is listed at that time, the Subgrantee must contact FEMA to re-open project federal agency environmental compliance review and ESA consultation if the Grantee/Subgrantee cannot adhere to the tree removal window. If the tree window can be adhered to, the Grantee/Subgrantee will be in compliance with ESA. If the Grantee/Subgrantee has any questions concerning this conservation recommendation that could become a conservation measure requirement, please feel free to contact FEMA Region 2 Environmental Planning & Historic Preservation at 212.680.3600. Additional general information about the Northern long-eared bat is available at: www.fws.gov/northeast/virginiafield/pdf/NLEBinterimGuidance6Jan2014.pdf and <http://ecos.fws.gov/speciesProfile/profile/speciesProfile.action?scode=A0JE>.

Attachments:

Attachment 1 – Location Map

Attachment 2 – Land Acquisition Exhibit (Provided by Sub-grantee's consultant)



FEMA

To: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, New York Field Office

FAX: (607) 753-9699 Email: sandra_doran@fws.gov MaryEllen_VanDonsel@fws.gov and Megan_Patch@fws.gov

Request for review pursuant to Section 7(a)(2) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973

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Date: 04/07/2014 Program PA Project/PW # PW #08505

Project name: Cole Hollow Road Realignment

Applicant: Town of Blenheim

Location: Cole Hollow Road near Cole Hollow Spur Road

County: Schoharie Latitude: 42.50289 Longitude: -47.43997

FEMA Representative: Christine Piwonka-Bernstein

Email: christine.piwonkabernstein@fema.dhs.gov Desk phone: 518-396-3842 Cell: 518-414-0146

Project description:

See attachment for additional information

Threatened (T), Endangered (E), Proposed (P), or Candidate (C) species under USFWS jurisdiction with potential to occur in proposed project area:

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|---|--|
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| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Northern long-eared bat – P | |

FEMA has determined the proposed project:

- may affect _____
- may affect, but is not likely to adversely affect see conservation recommendations regarding tree removal, attached.
- is likely to adversely affect _____
- See attachment for the rationale for the above-listed determination(s) and project description.

FEMA requests:

- USFWS review and/or concurrence with our Section 7 consultation determination
- Additional assistance to make our Section 7 consultation determination

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service:

- concurs with your NLTAAs determination(s), no further ESA consultation/coordination required
- requests additional information

USFWS Contact: _____ Date: _____

Supervisor Approval: _____ Date: _____

If the Northern long-eared bat is listed, and if project activities are expected to continue afterwards, this concurrence will serve to satisfy consultation requirements pursuant to Section 7 of the ESA, provided that: (1) the project scope and activities remain unchanged; (2) any proposed conservation recommendations are implemented as conservation measures; and (3) there are no other changes (e.g., to the landscape, habitat, etc.) that may affect the newly-listed species and that have not already been analyzed in this consultation. Should project plans change, or if additional information on listed or proposed species or critical habitat becomes available, this determination may be reconsidered. The most recent compilation of federally-listed and proposed endangered and threatened species in New York is available for your information. Until the proposed project is complete, we recommend that you check our website every 90 days from the date of this letter to ensure that listed species presence/absence information for the proposed project is current.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Subgrantee: Town of Blenheim
PW/SGA: PA-02-NY-4020- PW-08505(0)
Purpose: Cole Hollow Road Realignment
Location: Cole Hollow Road, West Fulton, NY 12194 (Schoharie County)
Lat/Long: 42.50289 -74.43997

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) proposes to provide Public Assistance (PA) Federal grant funding to the Town of Blenheim (Sub-grantee) to realign approximately 1,500 feet of Cole Hollow Road. FEMA has determined that the proposed project requires an Environmental Assessment (EA) in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and 44 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 10.8. The PA grant reference number is PA-02-NY-4020-PW-08505(0). Relevant documentation has been attached.

Hurricane Irene washed out portions of Cole Hollow Road above Cole Brook in the Town of Blenheim, Schoharie County, NY (from 42.50251, -74.44227 to 42.50331, -74.43823). The road was damaged as a result of severe erosion caused by flooding, and the Sub-grantee wishes to move the road upland onto more stable soils and slope.

The proposed project would realign approximately 1,500 linear feet of the road, relocating it to an area that is currently old field and woodland. There is a small wetland (0.6 acres) at the northeast section of the subject property. The project area has rolling to hilly topography, and will require significant grading to accommodate a road. The attached "Land Acquisition Exhibit" includes the approximate extent of grading and soil disturbance anticipated. The Subgrantee will acquire portions of five properties for this project and will maintain ownership of this property as the road right-of-way. Some disturbance may take place within a construction easement planned on either side of the road right-of-way; however, these areas will remain the property of current owners. Additionally, the abandoned gravel road will be scarified, topsoiled, and seeded with grass.

Approximately 3.7 to 4.1 acres of ground disturbance is expected during construction, and, of this, approximately 1.6 acres is currently wooded. According to the Subgrantee's consultant, on-site wooded areas are Beech-Maple mesic forest, as defined by *Ecological Communities of New York State (Draft)* (Edinger, 2002). The rest of the site consists of successional old field, unpaved road and mowed lawn with trees (Edinger), and palustrine scrub-shrub and palustrine emergent wetland as defined by *Classification of Wetlands and Deepwater Habitats of the United States* (Cowardin, 1979). The consultant notes the following dominant species of trees in the forested areas: sugar maple (*Acer saccharum*), American beech (*Fagus grandifolia*), northern red oak (*Quercus rubra*), black cherry (*Prunus serotina*), white ash (*Fraxinus Americana*) and quaking aspen (*Populus tremuloides*). According to USDA Official Soil Series Descriptions, within the soil mapping units found onsite (Mardin Channery Silt Loam and Lordstown, Oquaga and Nassau Soils), dominant woodlot and forest species are sugar maple, American beech, white ash, black cherry, hemlock, red oak, white oak and white pine.

The road alignment has been designed to minimize the need for grading, but it cuts into wooded areas in the southwestern portion of the subject site to avoid the steepest slopes. The consultant estimates that 1.57 acres of trees will need to be removed in order to accommodate grading. Tree removal will mainly take place in the permanent right-of-way, although some tree removal may be necessary within the temporary construction easement (see Attachment 2, “Land Acquisition Exhibit”). A construction schedule has not been set, but the project will be conditioned such that tree-clearing takes place between October 1 and March 1.

The project will be conditioned with the following language:

The proposed project area serves as potential summer roosting habitat for the Northern long-eared bat (*Myotis septentrionalis*). The Northern long-eared bat is proposed to be listed as endangered on the federal threatened and endangered species list. Pursuant to section 7(a)(4) of the Endangered Species Act (ESA) and implementing regulations at 50 CFR §402.02 and 50CFR §402.10, FEMA has determined that the proposed action would not be likely to jeopardize the proposed species, or destroy or adversely modify proposed critical habitat. The Subgrantee is requested, as a conservation recommendation, to schedule the removal of trees that are greater than 3” diameter-at-breast-height during the following construction window: October 1st – March 31st. If the Northern long-eared bat is listed, and if project activities are expected to continue afterwards, this concurrence will serve to satisfy consultation requirements pursuant to Section 7 of the ESA, provided that: (1) the project scope and activities remain unchanged; (2) any proposed conservation recommendations are implemented as conservation measures; and (3) there are no other changes (e.g., to the landscape, habitat, etc.) that may affect the newly-listed species and that have not already been analyzed in this consultation. Should project plans change, or if additional information on listed or proposed species or critical habitat becomes available, this determination may be reconsidered.

The most recent compilation of federally-listed and proposed endangered and threatened species in New York is available for your information. Until the proposed project is complete, the Subgrantee is recommended to check the USFWS website every 90 days from the date of this letter to ensure that listed species presence/absence information for the proposed project is current. The U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS) New York Field Office website for general information about species status is: www.fws.gov/northeast/nyfo/. The website to utilize for site specific information is the USFWS Information, Planning and Conservation System (IPaC): <http://ecos.fws.gov/ipac/>. The proposed species could be listed as endangered as early as October 2014, although to-be-determined. If the proposed construction action has not been completed by October 2014 and the species is listed at that time, the Subgrantee must contact FEMA to re-open project federal agency environmental compliance review and ESA consultation if the Grantee/Subgrantee cannot adhere to the tree removal window. If the tree window can be adhered to, the Grantee/Subgrantee will be in compliance with ESA. If the Grantee/Subgrantee has any questions concerning this conservation recommendation that could become a conservation measure requirement, please feel free to contact FEMA Region 2 Environmental Planning & Historic Preservation at 212.680.3600. Additional general information about the Northern long-eared bat is available at: www.fws.gov/northeast/virginiafield/pdf/NLEBinterimGuidance6Jan2014.pdf and <http://ecos.fws.gov/speciesProfile/profile/speciesProfile.action?spcode=A0JE>.

Attachments:

- Attachment 1 – Location Map
- Attachment 2 – Land Acquisition Exhibit (Provided by Sub-grantee’s consultant)

ATTACHMENT #1 - Location Map

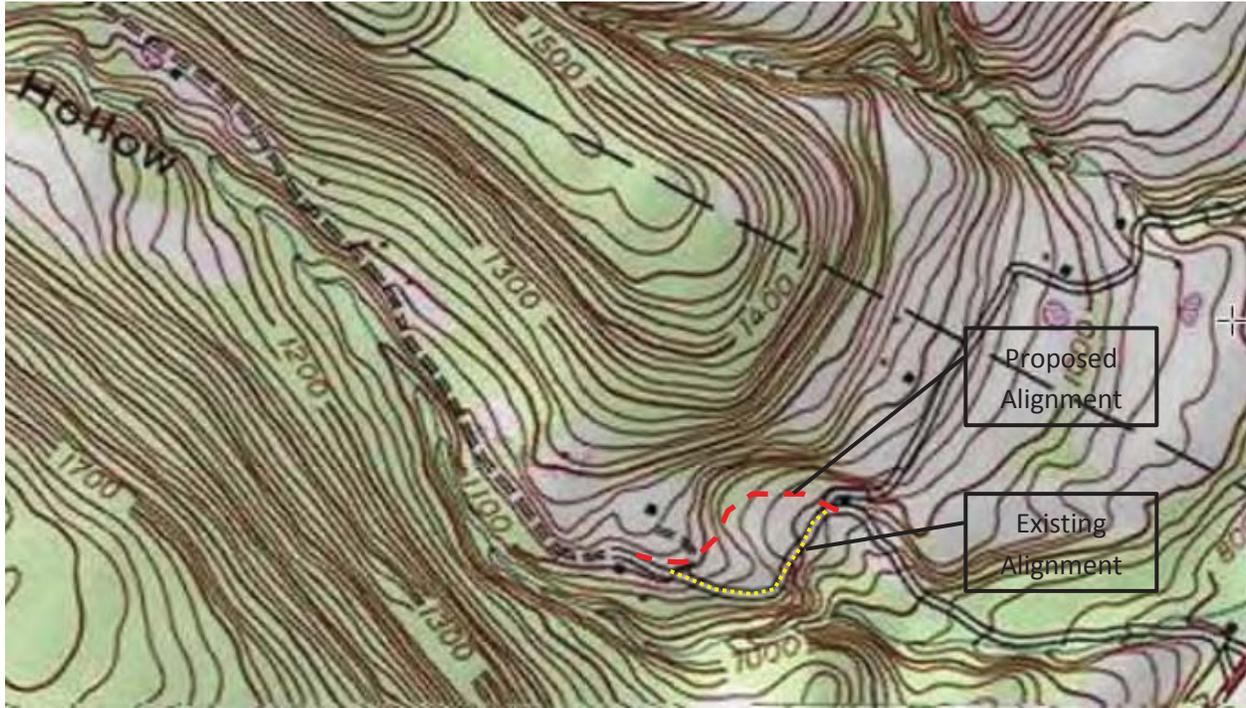
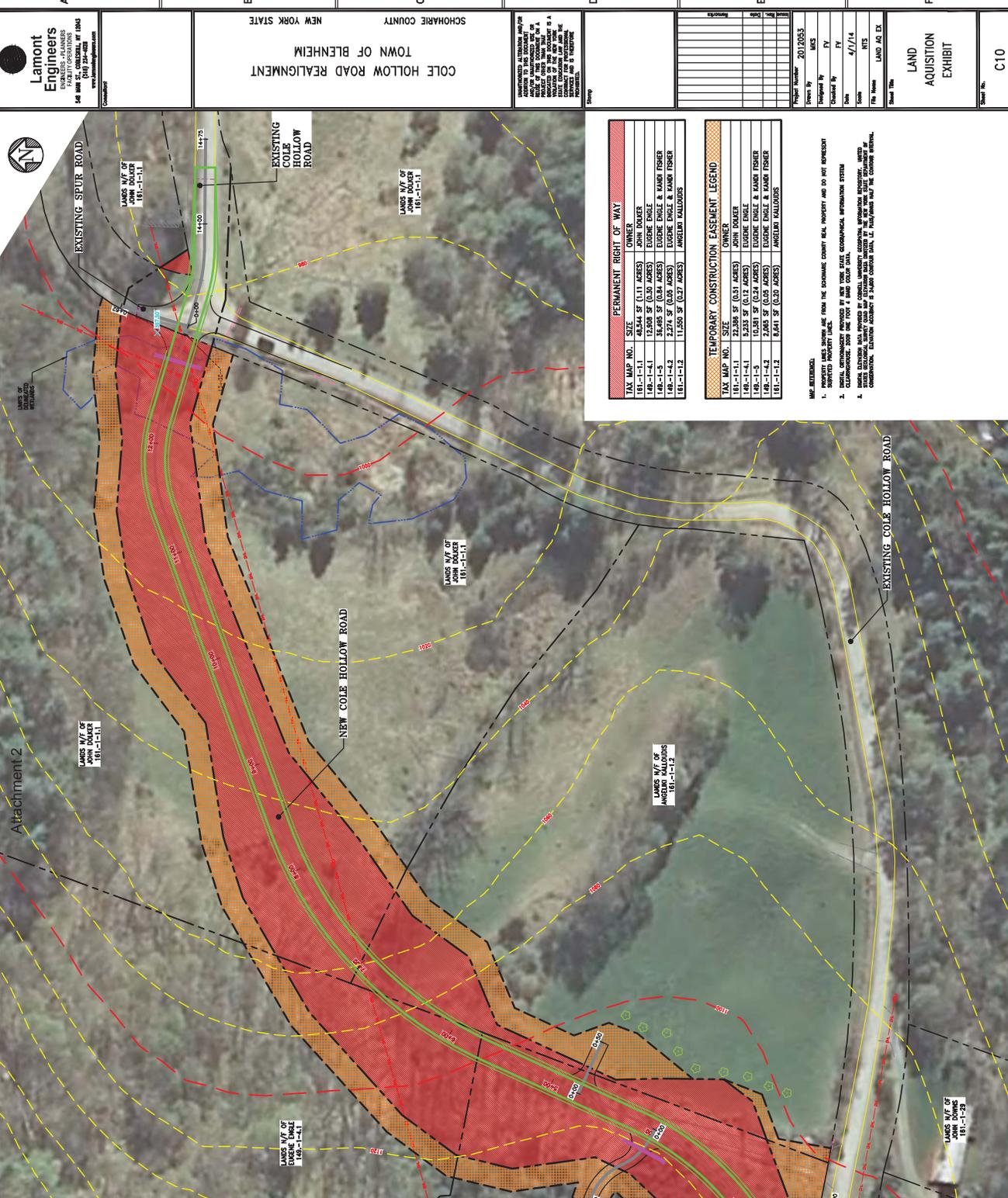


Figure 1 – Existing and proposed alignment (approximate). Source: USGS Breakabeen 7.5' Quadrangle, Schoharie County, NY.

LEGEND

	APPROXIMATE PROPERTY BOUNDARY
	EXISTING EASE OF GRAVEL
	EXISTING EASE OF WATER
	PROPOSED EASE OF SHOULDER
	PROPOSED CENTERLINE
	PROPOSED RIGHT OF WAY
	TEMPORARY CONSTRUCTION EASEMENT AND LIMIT OF DISTURBANCE
	EXISTING CONTOURS
	PROPOSED CONTOURS
	SILT FENCE AND CONSTRUCTION FENCE
	EXISTING PIPE CHANNEL
	PROPOSED PIPE CHANNEL
	EXISTING EASE OF WATER WAY ON DITCH
	EXISTING OVER HEAD WIRES WITH UTILITY POLE
	EXISTING TREES AND TREELINE



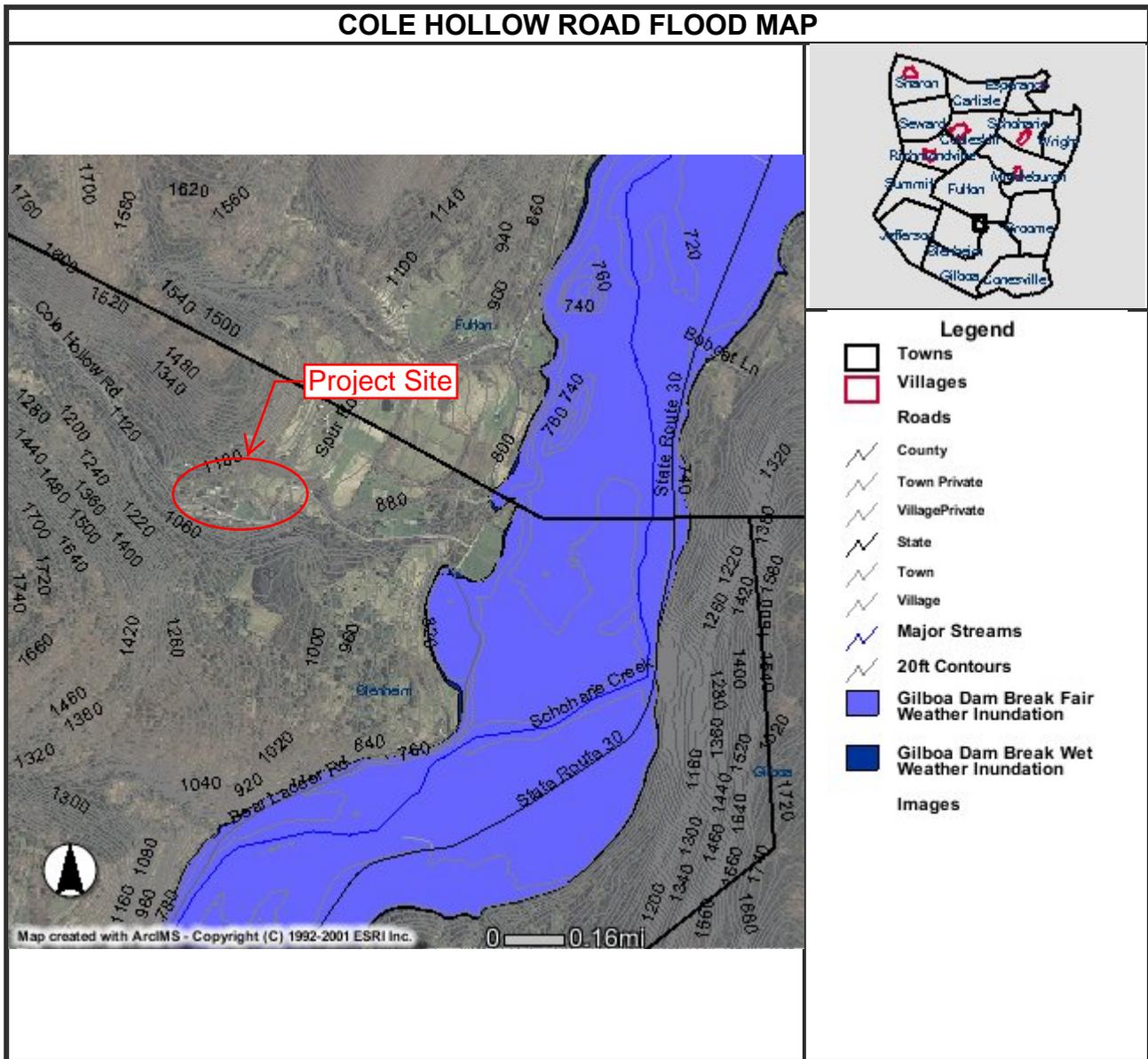
PERMANENT RIGHT OF WAY

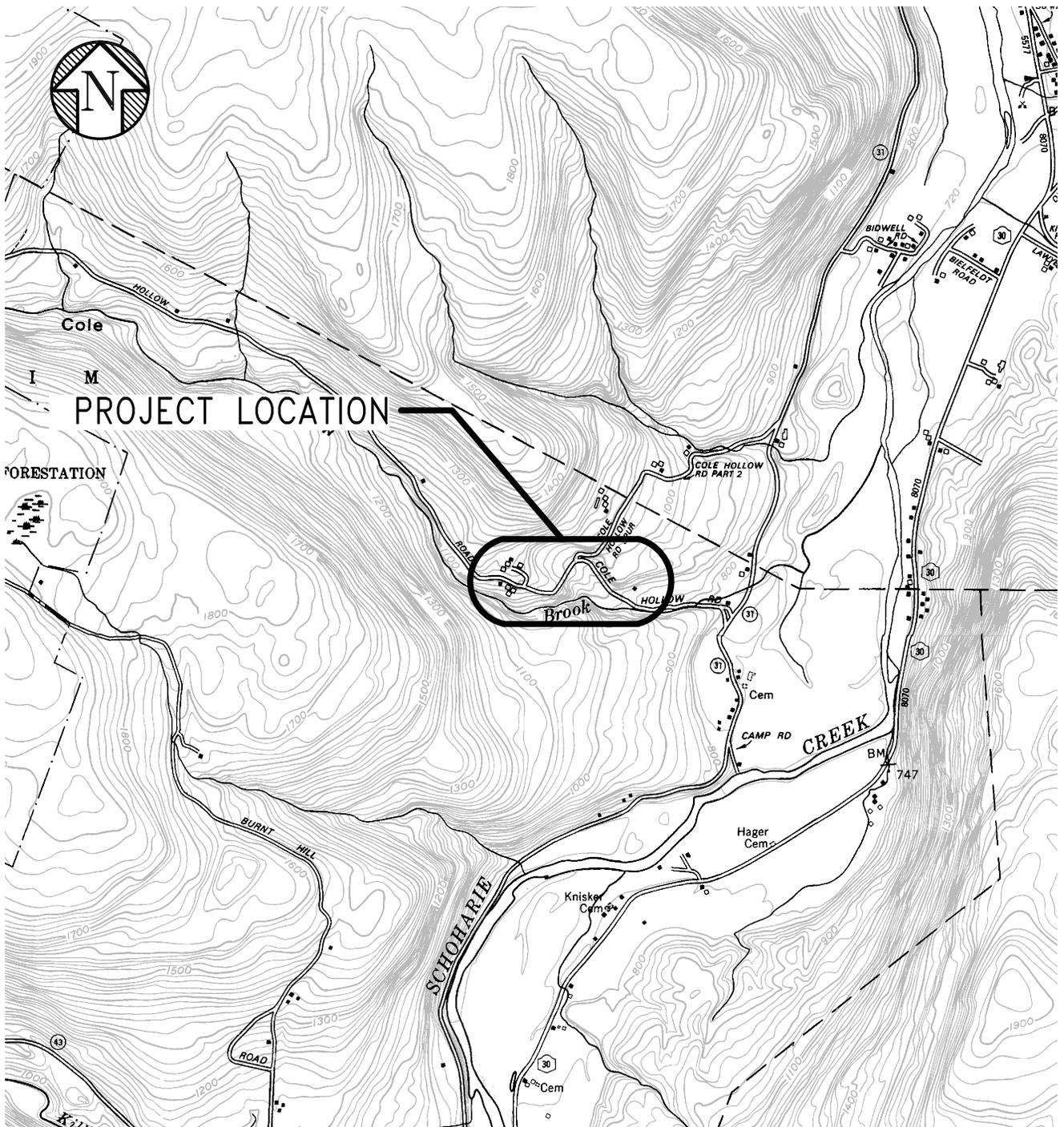
TAX MAP NO.	SIZE	OWNER
181-1-1.1	24.54 SF (1.11 ACRES)	JOHN DAULER
148-1-4.1	12,828 SF (0.29 ACRES)	EUGENE ENGLE
148-1-4.2	12,828 SF (0.29 ACRES)	EUGENE ENGLE & RANDY FISHER
148-1-4.3	12,828 SF (0.29 ACRES)	EUGENE ENGLE & RANDY FISHER
148-1-4.4	12,828 SF (0.29 ACRES)	EUGENE ENGLE & RANDY FISHER
148-1-4.5	12,828 SF (0.29 ACRES)	EUGENE ENGLE & RANDY FISHER
148-1-4.6	12,828 SF (0.29 ACRES)	EUGENE ENGLE & RANDY FISHER
148-1-4.7	12,828 SF (0.29 ACRES)	EUGENE ENGLE & RANDY FISHER
148-1-4.8	12,828 SF (0.29 ACRES)	EUGENE ENGLE & RANDY FISHER
148-1-4.9	12,828 SF (0.29 ACRES)	EUGENE ENGLE & RANDY FISHER
148-1-4.10	12,828 SF (0.29 ACRES)	EUGENE ENGLE & RANDY FISHER
148-1-4.11	12,828 SF (0.29 ACRES)	EUGENE ENGLE & RANDY FISHER
148-1-4.12	12,828 SF (0.29 ACRES)	EUGENE ENGLE & RANDY FISHER

TEMPORARY CONSTRUCTION EASEMENT LEGEND

TAX MAP NO.	SIZE	OWNER
181-1-1.1	24.54 SF (1.11 ACRES)	JOHN DAULER
148-1-4.1	12,828 SF (0.29 ACRES)	EUGENE ENGLE
148-1-4.2	12,828 SF (0.29 ACRES)	EUGENE ENGLE & RANDY FISHER
148-1-4.3	12,828 SF (0.29 ACRES)	EUGENE ENGLE & RANDY FISHER
148-1-4.4	12,828 SF (0.29 ACRES)	EUGENE ENGLE & RANDY FISHER
148-1-4.5	12,828 SF (0.29 ACRES)	EUGENE ENGLE & RANDY FISHER
148-1-4.6	12,828 SF (0.29 ACRES)	EUGENE ENGLE & RANDY FISHER
148-1-4.7	12,828 SF (0.29 ACRES)	EUGENE ENGLE & RANDY FISHER
148-1-4.8	12,828 SF (0.29 ACRES)	EUGENE ENGLE & RANDY FISHER
148-1-4.9	12,828 SF (0.29 ACRES)	EUGENE ENGLE & RANDY FISHER
148-1-4.10	12,828 SF (0.29 ACRES)	EUGENE ENGLE & RANDY FISHER
148-1-4.11	12,828 SF (0.29 ACRES)	EUGENE ENGLE & RANDY FISHER
148-1-4.12	12,828 SF (0.29 ACRES)	EUGENE ENGLE & RANDY FISHER

- MAP REFERENCES:**
- PROPERTY LINES SHOWN ARE FROM THE SCHENECTADY COUNTY REAL PROPERTY AND DO NOT REPRESENT SURVEYED PROPERTY LINES.
 - CONTRIBUTION TO THE STATE OF NEW YORK FOR THE STATE HIGHWAY IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM.
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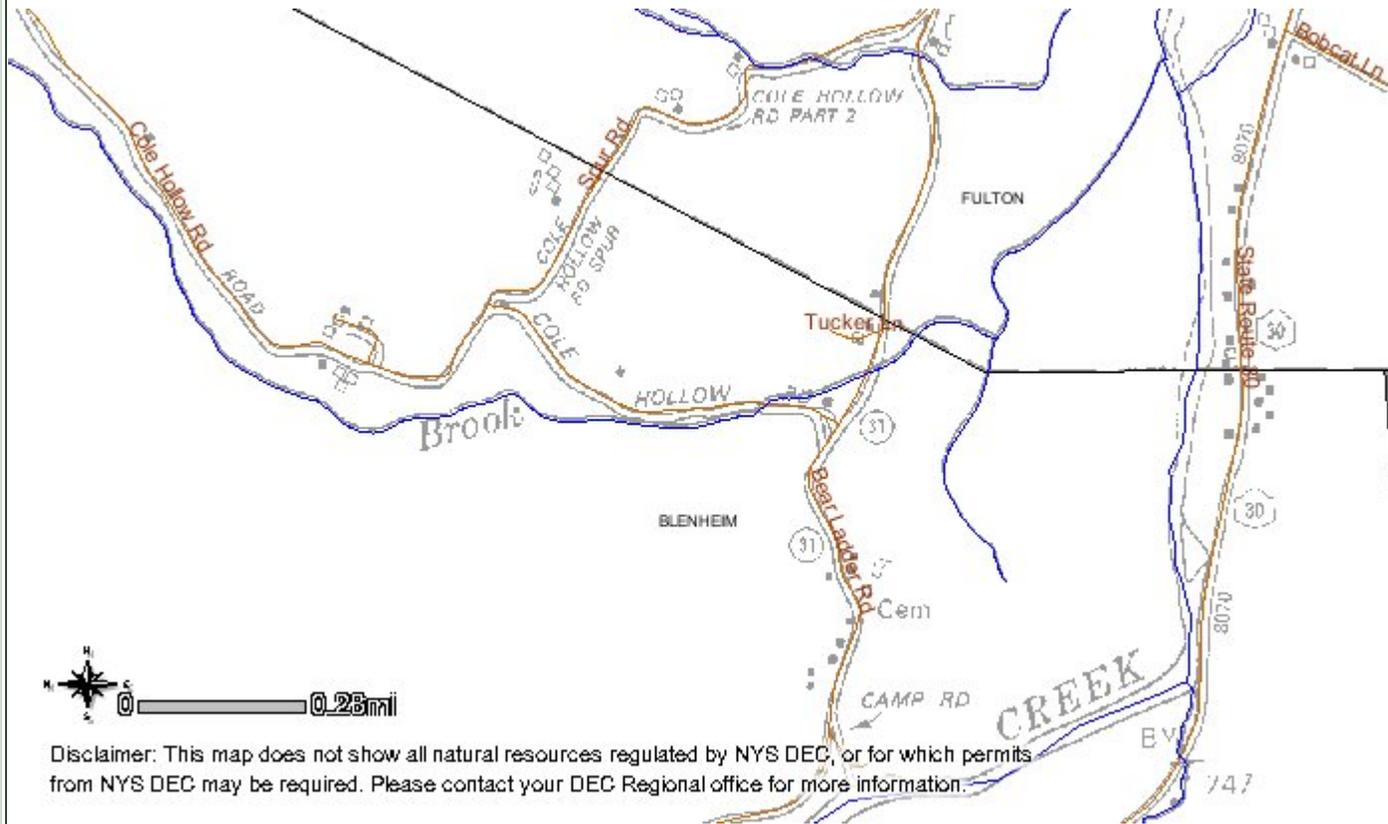
LOCATION MAP
SCALE: 1" = 2,000'

[print page] [close window]

Please set your printer orientation to "Landscape".

Cole Hollow Road Realignment, Blenheim NY

Visible Layers



Disclaimer: This map does not show all natural resources regulated by NYS DEC, or for which permits from NYS DEC may be required. Please contact your DEC Regional office for more information.

MinX: 545391, MaxX: 547853, MinY: 4706451, MaxY: 4704707



U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service National Wetlands Inventory

Cole Hollow Road Realignment

Aug 24, 2015



Wetlands

- Freshwater Emergent
- Freshwater Forested/Shrub
- Estuarine and Marine Deepwater
- Estuarine and Marine
- Freshwater Pond
- Lake
- Riverine
- Other

Riparian

- Herbaceous
- Forested/Shrub

Riparian Status

- Digital Data

This map is for general reference only. The US Fish and Wildlife Service is not responsible for the accuracy or currentness of the base data shown on this map. All wetlands related data should be used in accordance with the layer metadata found on the Wetlands Mapper web site.

User Remarks:



Disclaimer: This map was prepared by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation using the most current data available. It is deemed accurate but is not guaranteed. NYS DEC is not responsible for any inaccuracies in the data and does not necessarily endorse any interpretations or products derived from the data.