

Appendix G – Natural Heritage Response Letter



State of New Jersey

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

State Forestry Services

Mail Code 501-04

ONLM -Natural Heritage Program

P.O. Box 420

Trenton, NJ 08625-0420

Tel. #609-984-1339

Fax. #609-984-1427

CHRIS CHRISTIE
Governor

KIM GUADAGNO
Lt. Governor

BOB MARTIN
Commissioner

May 22, 2014

Greg Brady
R3M Engineering, Inc.
1405 Route 18, Suite 208
Old Bridge, NJ 08857

Re: Middlesex County Utilities Authority - Flood Mitigation and Permanent Restoration of the Sayreville Pump

Dear Mr. Brady:

Thank you for your data request regarding rare species information for the above referenced project site in Sayreville Borough, Middlesex County.

Searches of the Natural Heritage Database and the Landscape Project (Version 3.1) are based on a representation of the boundaries of your project site in our Geographic Information System (GIS). We make every effort to accurately transfer your project bounds from the topographic map(s) submitted with the Request for Data into our Geographic Information System. We do not typically verify that your project bounds are accurate, or check them against other sources.

We have checked the Landscape Project habitat mapping and the Biotics Database for occurrences of any rare wildlife species or wildlife habitat on the referenced site. The Natural Heritage Database was searched for occurrences of rare plant species or ecological communities that may be on the project site. Please refer to Table 1 (attached) to determine if any rare plant species, ecological communities, or rare wildlife species or wildlife habitat are documented on site. A detailed report is provided for each category coded as 'Yes' in Table 1.

We have also checked the Landscape Project habitat mapping and Biotics Database for occurrences of rare wildlife species or wildlife habitat in the immediate vicinity (within one mile) of the referenced site. Additionally, the Natural Heritage Database was checked for occurrences of rare plant species or ecological communities within one mile of the site. Please refer to Table 2 (attached) to determine if any rare plant species, ecological communities, or rare wildlife species or wildlife habitat are documented within the immediate vicinity of the site. Detailed reports are provided for all categories coded as 'Yes' in Table 2. These reports may include species that have also been documented on the project site.

The Natural Heritage Program reviews its data periodically to identify priority sites for natural diversity in the State. Included as priority sites are some of the State's best habitats for rare and endangered species and ecological communities. Please refer to Tables 1 and 2 (attached) to determine if any priority sites are located on or in the vicinity of the site.

A list of rare plant species and ecological communities that have been documented from the project site, referenced above, can be downloaded from <http://www.state.nj.us/dep/parksandforests/natural/heritage/countylist.html>. If suitable habitat is present at the project site, the species in that list have potential to be present.

Status and rank codes used in the tables and lists are defined in EXPLANATION OF CODES USED IN NATURAL HERITAGE REPORTS, which can be downloaded from http://www.state.nj.us/dep/parksandforests/natural/heritage/nhpcodes_2010.pdf.

If you have questions concerning the wildlife records or wildlife species mentioned in this response, we recommend that you visit the interactive NJ-GeoWeb website at the following URL, <http://www.state.nj.us/dep/gis/geoweb splash.htm> or contact the Division of Fish and Wildlife, Endangered and Nongame Species Program at (609) 292-9400.

PLEASE SEE 'CAUTIONS AND RESTRICTIONS ON NHP DATA', which can be downloaded from <http://www.state.nj.us/dep/parksandforests/natural/heritage/newcaution2008.pdf>.

Thank you for consulting the Natural Heritage Program. The attached invoice details the payment due for processing this data request. Feel free to contact us again regarding any future data requests.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Robert J. Cartica', with a horizontal line extending to the right.

Robert J. Cartica
Administrator

c: NHP File No. 14-4007443-5574

Mail Code 501-04
 Department of Environmental Protection
 State Forestry Services
 Office of Natural Lands Management
 P.O. Box 420 Trenton, New Jersey 08625-0420
 (609) 984-1339 Fax: (609) 984-1427

Invoice

	Date	Invoice #
	5/22/2014	5574
Bill to: R3M Engineering, Inc. 1405 Route 18, Suite 208 Old Bridge, NJ 08857	Make check payable to: Office of Natural Lands Management And forward with a copy of this statement to: Mail Code 501-04 Office of Natural Lands Management P.O. Box 420 Trenton, New Jersey 08625-0420	

Quantity (hrs.)	Description	Rate (per hr.)	Amount
1	Charge for Natural Heritage Database search for rare species and ecological communities locational information. Project: 14-4007443-5574	\$ 70.00	\$ 70.00
Greg Greg Brady Project Name: Middlesex County Utilities Authority - Flood Mitigation and Permanent Restoration of the Sayreville Pump		Total	\$ 70.00

Table 1: On Site Data Request Search Results (7 Possible Reports)

Rare Plants/Ecological Communities Possibly On Site:	No
Rare Plants/Ecological Communities On Site/Immediate Vicinity:	No
Natural Heritage Priority Sites On Site:	No
Landscape 3.1 Species Based Patches On Site:	Yes
Landscape 3.1 Vernal Pool Habitat On Site:	No
Landscape 3.1 Stream/Mussel Habitat On Site:	No
Other Animals Tracked by ENSP On Site:	No

<p>Rare Wildlife Species or Wildlife Habitat on the Project Site Based on Search of Landscape Project 3.1 Species Based Patches</p>
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Class	Common Name	Scientific Name	Feature Type	Rank	Federal Protection Status	State Protection Status	Grank	Srank
<i>Aves</i>								
	Bald Eagle	Haliaeetus leucocephalus	Foraging	4	NA	State Endangered	G5	S1B,S2N
	Northern Harrier	Circus cyaneus	Breeding Sighting	4	NA	State Endangered	G5	S1B,S3N
	Northern Harrier	Circus cyaneus	Nest	4	NA	State Endangered	G5	S1B,S3N
	Northern Harrier	Circus cyaneus	Non-breeding Sighting	2	NA	Special Concern	G5	S1B,S3N
	Osprey	Pandion haliaetus	Foraging	3	NA	State Threatened	G5	S2B
	Osprey	Pandion haliaetus	Nest	3	NA	State Threatened	G5	S2B
	Yellow-crowned Night-heron	Nyctanassa violacea	Foraging	3	NA	State Threatened	G5	S2B,S2N

Table 2: Vicinity Data Request Search Results (6 possible reports)

Rare Plants/Ecological Communities within the Vicinity:	No
Natural Heritage Priority Sites within the Vicinity:	No
Landscape 3.1 Species Based Patches within the Vicinity:	Yes
Landscape 3.1 Vernal Pool Habitat within the Vicinity:	No
Landscape 3.1 Stream/Mussel Habitat within the Vicinity:	No
Other Animals Tracked by ENSP within the Vicinity:	No

<p>Rare Wildlife Species or Wildlife Habitat Within the Immediate Vicinity of the Project Site Based on Search of Landscape Project 3.1 Species Based Patches</p>
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Class	Common Name	Scientific Name	Feature Type	Rank	Federal Protection Status	State Protection Status	Grank	Srank
<i>Aves</i>								
	Bald Eagle	Haliaeetus leucocephalus	Foraging	4	NA	State Endangered	G5	S1B,S2N
	Great Blue Heron	Ardea herodias	Foraging	2	NA	Special Concern	G5	S3B,S4N
	Northern Harrier	Circus cyaneus	Breeding Sighting	4	NA	State Endangered	G5	S1B,S3N
	Northern Harrier	Circus cyaneus	Nest	4	NA	State Endangered	G5	S1B,S3N
	Northern Harrier	Circus cyaneus	Non-breeding Sighting	2	NA	Special Concern	G5	S1B,S3N
	Osprey	Pandion haliaetus	Foraging	3	NA	State Threatened	G5	S2B
	Osprey	Pandion haliaetus	Nest	3	NA	State Threatened	G5	S2B
	Snowy Egret	Egretta thula	Foraging	2	NA	Special Concern	G5	S3B,S4N
	Yellow-crowned Night-heron	Nyctanassa violacea	Foraging	3	NA	State Threatened	G5	S2B,S2N
	Yellow-crowned Night-heron	Nyctanassa violacea	Nesting Colony	3	NA	State Threatened	G5	S2B,S2N