



Terrestrial Environmental Specialists, Inc.

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October 22, 2018

Mr. Michael Keith, P.E.
Project Manager
Hunt Engineers/ Architects/ Surveyors
4 Commercial Street Suite 300
Rochester, NY 14614

Re: Northern long-eared bat (*Myotis septentrionalis*)
Town Homes at Dryden – Town of Dryden, Tompkins County, New York
TES File No. 4338

Dear Mr. Keith:

Terrestrial Environmental Specialists, Inc. (TES) conducted a northern long-eared bat assessment on an approximately 17-acre site consisting of three parcels located on NYS Route 366 (Dryden Road) in the Town of Dryden, Tompkins County, New York (Figure 1). This assessment was conducted on May 7 and September 21, 2018. The northern long-eared bat is a federal-listed threatened species and a state-listed threatened species. This species has experienced a 98% decline in abundance in New York State due to the spread of white-nose syndrome, a fatal fungal disease that affects cave roosting bats.

According to the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), IPaC report, there is potential for the northern long-eared bat to occur within the vicinity of the site. It should be noted that the USFWS considers all of New York State as suitable habitat for northern long-eared bat. TES consulted the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation list of northern long-eared bat occurrences by Town. As of June 28, 2018 there was no confirmed summer or winter records of northern long-eared bat in Tompkins County. The project site is located within the White Nose Syndrome Zone. The project will not disturb hibernating northern long-eared bats in a hibernaculum nor will it alter a known hibernaculum in any way. The project site, where tree clearing will occur, is not within 0.25 miles of a known hibernaculum. Tree clearing on the project site will not cut or destroy known occupied maternity roost trees, or any other trees within a 150-foot radius from a maternity roost tree.

The project site contains approximately 6 acres of deciduous forest and 0.4 acre of evergreen plantation. Typical trees species found on the site include black cherry (*Prunus serotina*), black locust (*Robinia pseudoacacia*), white ash (*Fraxinus americana*), Norway spruce (*Picea abies*), and box elder (*Acer negundo*). Tree heights ranged from 35 to 70 feet with a diameter at breast height ranging from 5 to 24 inches. TES did note trees with exfoliating bark and trees with cracks or crevices that could provide a roosting location for bats.

It is highly unlikely that northern long-eared bats roost on the project site due to the dramatic decline in its population. In order to avoid any potential incidental take, it is recommended that any tree clearing activity on the project site be conducted when there is no potential for northern long-eared bat summer maternity colonies to be present. The USFWS suggests that this period is

from June 1 to July 31. Limiting tree clearing to avoid this summer period will eliminate the potential for incidental take of northern long-eared bats.

According to Mr. Michael Uitvlugt, of the United States Army Corps of Engineers (Corps), the project site meets the criteria for the Northern Long-Eared Bat 4(d) Rule. Once the USFWS has agreed with the Corps determination, there will be no time of year tree clearing restrictions upon the project site allowing for incidental take. Tree clearing restrictions would be removed because it would be determined that any proposed actions may affect, but not adversely affect northern long-eared bats.

If you have any questions, please give me or Bernie Carr a call.

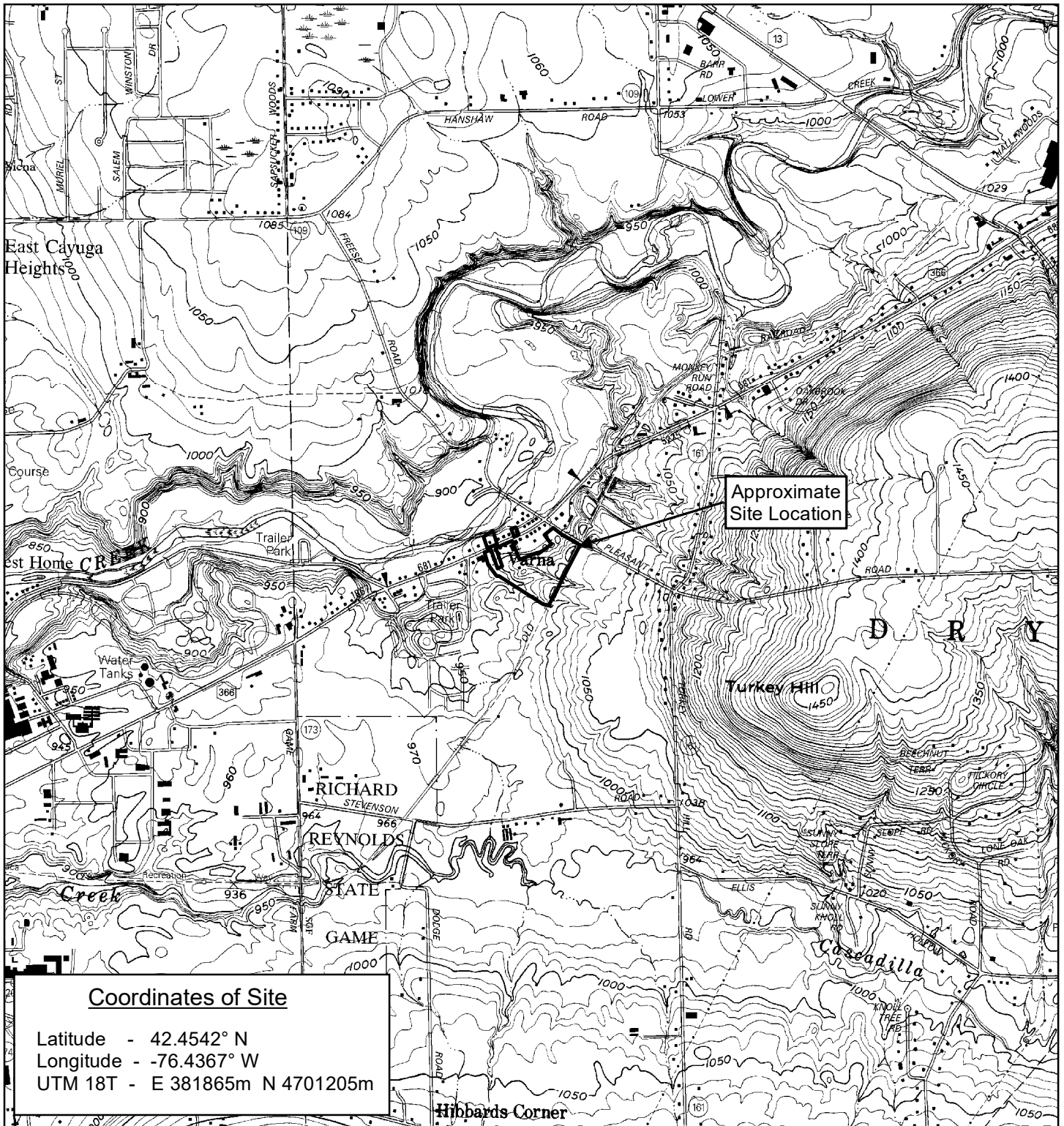
Sincerely,

TERRESTRIAL ENVIRONMENTAL SPECIALISTS, INC.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Nick P. Radford". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Nick P. Radford
Environmental Technician

BPC
Enclosure



**Figure 1. NYS DOT
Topographic Map**

Site Location

Ithaca East Quadrangle
1996

