From:
 Murray, Joseph (ORES)

 To:
 Samouel Beguin; Molly Dunton

Cc: Rosenblatt, Daniel L (DEC); Denoncour, Brianna M (DEC); Hogan, Chris M (DEC); Higgins, Michael T (DEC);

Martin, Delaney (DEC); Thiel, Emily S (DEC); "Scott Biggar"; "Augusta Mead"; Jessica Klami; James Muscato;

Chris Liddle; Meg Lee; Gregory Liberman

Subject: ORES Winter Raptor Survey Study Work Plan Comments - Agricola Wind

 Date:
 Wednesday, November 10, 2021 11:14:02 AM

 Attachments:
 Agricola Wind WRS 21-22 DEC-SuggestedPoints.pdf

[EXTERNAL SENDER]

Pursuant to § 900-1.3(g)(4), Liberty Renewables, LLC developed a pre-construction study work plan titled *Winter Raptor Survey Work Plan, Agricola Wind Project, Towns of Venice, Scipio, and Moravia, Cayuga County, New York* dated October 2021. The Office of Renewable Energy Siting (ORES or Office) and New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) reviewed this study work plan in relation to following existing protocols.

Field Survey Protocol for State-listed Wintering Grassland Raptor Species

The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation Survey Protocol for State-listed Wintering Grassland Raptor Species (August 2021) describes requirements for the pre-construction study work plan to determine the presence and site use by New York State-listed threatened and endangered species during the winter raptor season. The Applicant shall comply with the requirements set forth in this protocol by implementing a study work plan that provides for full visual coverage of all open habitats greater than 25 acres in size in which project components and construction activities are proposed.

Any area of suitable grassland habitat that is not adequately surveyed, both in frequency and spatial viewshed, may (1) remain occupied habitat if preexisting data exist irrespective of survey results, OR (2) be determined to be occupied grassland bird habitat if essential behaviors are observed within ½ miles of said area.

Proposed Winter Raptor Survey Study Work Plan

Based on our desktop review of the submitted study work plan, this Office, in consultation with NYSDEC, offers the following comments.

It appears from review of the viewshed analysis that all fields within the facility site greater than 25 acres in size are not covered by proposed stationary points in the study work plan. It is recommend that evening stationary points be shifted and/or added to provide full visual coverage of all open habitats greater than 25 acres within the entire site.

Therefore, changes and additions to the proposed stationary points are recommended in the following approximate locations:

- It appears that the field containing proposed wind turbine T14 lacks coverage, and an
 additional stationary survey point could be sited along the tree line to the south/southwest of
 the proposed turbine location.
- It appears that the field southwest of proposed wind turbine T18 lacks coverage, and a stationary survey point is recommended along Long Hill Road/Route 43B assuming electric

lines, access roads, or other project infrastructure will be sited in that area.

To clarify the above comments, I have attached a map depicting the approximate locations of the stationary survey points recommended by this Office.

The study work plan may benefit from including some stationary points within and adjacent to the project area that cover areas not intended for development. Data on bird use of such areas provide information on potential siting options that may avoid or minimize impacts to State-listed species, areas that may serve as mitigation sites, and areas that can be used as reference areas for post-construction monitoring.

This Office also recommends evening survey stations be sited to cover all fields greater than 25 acres that are located within ½ mile of the currently proposed project boundary. Surveys following the NYSDEC 2021 protocol conducted in such areas will reduce the likelihood that additional surveys will be needed in the event the project location changes or expands to include surveyed fields.

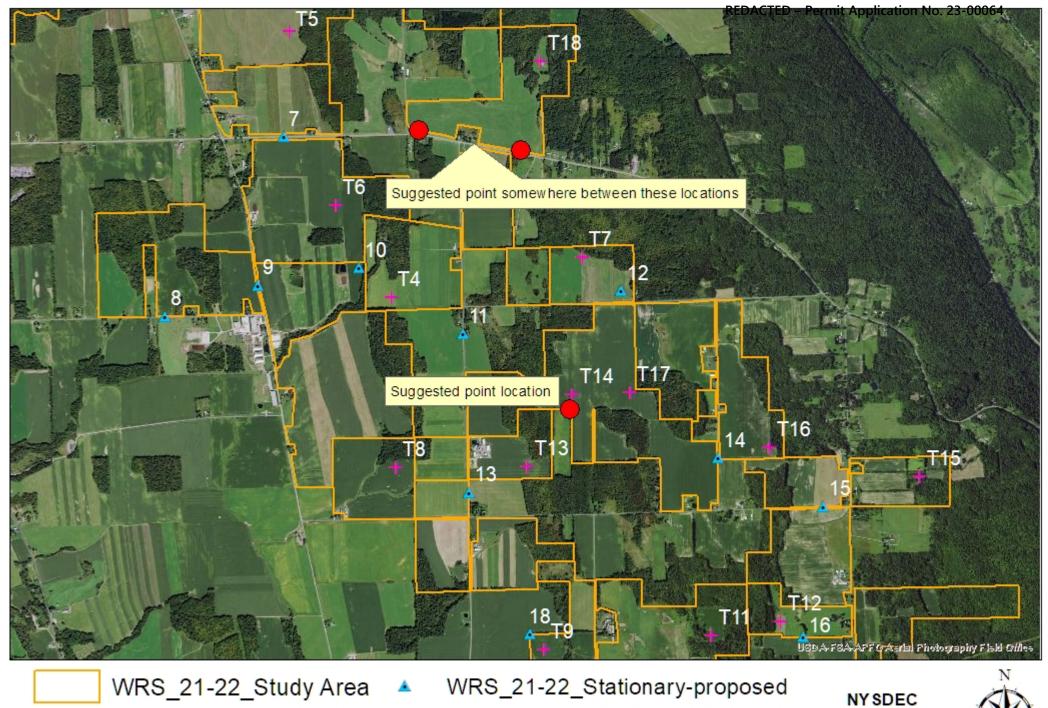
Please note that the comments above are based solely on desktop analysis of aerial imagery and open field size; therefore, the actual location of stationary points may need to be adjusted based on field verification of visibility or the existence of more suitable habitat. After initial field visits and the location of stationary points have been confirmed, please provide updated shapefiles of the final ground-truthed viewshed assessment for each point.

Joseph R. Murray

Environmental Analyst 2

Office of Renewable Energy Siting (ORES)

Empire State Plaza Swan Street Building – Core 1 Albany, NY 12239 P: 518-473-4361 www.ores.ny.gov



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NY SDEC
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Suggested Point Locations S

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.ny.gov

April 26, 2021

Benjamin Roosa EDR 41 State St, Suite 806 Albany, NY 12207

Re: Proposed Venice Wind Project (EDR Project No. 21029)

County: Cayuga Town/City: Moravia, Scipio, Venice

Dear Benjamin Roosa:

In response to your recent request, we have reviewed the New York Natural Heritage Program database with respect to the above project.

We have no records of rare or state-listed animals or plants, or significant natural communities at the project site or in its immediate vicinity. Due to the proposed number of turbines, I have enclosed a report of rare birds documented within 10 miles of the project site, and rare bats documented within 40 miles of the project site, for use in assessing potential impacts of bird and bat collisions. For information on NYSDEC's environmental review of proposed wind energy projects, and for the document Guidelines for Conducting Bird and Bat Studies at Commercial Wind Energy Projects, please contact the Bureau of Ecosystem Health at: fw.ecohealth@dec.ny.gov

For most sites, comprehensive field surveys have not been conducted. 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.

This response applies only to known occurrences of rare or state-listed animals and plants, significant natural communities, and other significant habitats maintained in the Natural Heritage database. Your project may require additional review or permits; 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 Region 7 Office, Division of Environmental Permits, at dep.r7@dec.ny.gov.

Sincerely,

Heidi Krahling

Environmental Review Specialist New York Natural Heritage Program



- * Conservation status in NYS as ranked by NY Natural Heritage Program on a 1 to 5 scale:
 - S1 = Critically imperiled
 - S2 = Imperiled
 - S3 = Rare or uncommon
 - S4 = Abundant and apparently secure
 - S5 = Demonstrably abundant and secure

B after one of the above ranks indicates the status rank is for breeding populations only.

N after one of the above ranks indicates the status rank is for nonbreeding wintering populations only.

4/26/2021 Page 2 of 2



Memorandum

To: Office of Renewable Energy Siting

(ORES)

New York State Department of

Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC)

From: Environmental Design & Research, Landscape Architecture, Engineering, &

Environmental Services, D.P.C. (EDR)

Date: June 16, 2021

Reference: Agricola Wind Project

Spring Raptor Migration Surveys

State-Listed Threatened or Endangered (T&E) Species Summary

EDR Project No: 21029

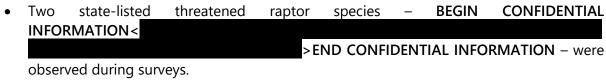
Facility Overview

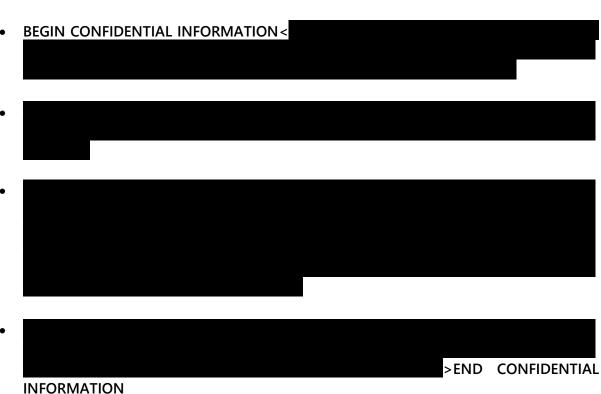
- Liberty Renewables, Inc. (the Applicant) is proposing to construct the Agricola Wind Project, an up to 100-megawatt (MW) wind-powered electric generating facility and associated infrastructure within the Towns of Venice, Scipio, and Moravia in Cayuga County, New York (the Facility).
- The Facility Area totals approximately 8,400 acres and consists primarily of open agricultural fields, along with deciduous forestland, successional communities, and disturbed/developed areas (e.g., roadways, rural residences, commercial buildings).

Spring Raptor Migration Surveys

- Surveys were designed and conducted following the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) 2016 Guidelines for Conducting Bird and Bat Studies at Commercial Wind Energy Projects. Surveys began on March 3, 2021, and the final survey was completed on May 25, 2021.
- The surveys were intended to document the species, number, and flight characteristics of raptors that move through the Facility Area during the spring migration period.
- All raptors were targeted for the study, along with large flocks of non-raptor birds and any special status species (i.e., endangered species, threatened species, species of special concern, and species of greatest conservation need).

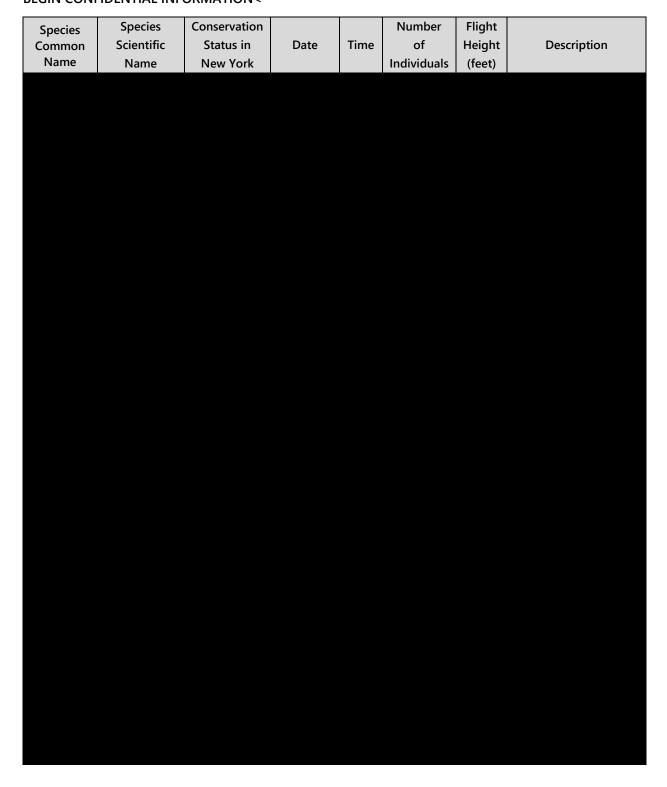
- The scope of these surveys was defined in a Spring Raptor Migration Survey Work Plan that was submitted to the Office of Renewable Energy Siting (ORES) in February 2021.
- EDR biologists conducted one survey per week at each of two survey locations, for a total of 26 surveys (more than 250 survey-hours).



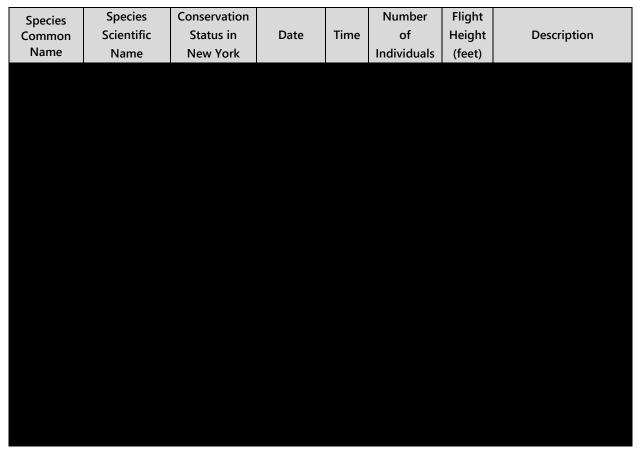


• State-listed threatened or endangered (T&E) species observations documented during the spring raptor migration surveys are summarized below in Table 1 and are depicted in the attached Figure 1.

Table 1. State-Listed T&E Species Observations (from March 3, 2021 to May 25, 2021)
BEGIN CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION <



Species Common Name	Species Scientific Name	Conservation Status in New York	Date	Time	Number of Individuals	Flight Height (feet)	Description



> END CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION

Next Steps

- Provide the full spring raptor migration survey report to ORES and NYSDEC by early July 2021.
- Meet with ORES and NYSDEC to discuss the Wildlife Site Characterization Report prepared for the Facility, review the results of the spring raptor migration surveys, and obtain recommendations for additional habitat assessments and/or field surveys.
- Once field surveys are completed, obtain a determination regarding the presence of statelisted threatened or endangered species occupied habitat and the potential for Facilityrelated impacts (if any).
- Determine whether or not a Net Conservation Benefit Plan (NCBP) will be required for the Facility.

Attachments: Figure 1. State-Listed T&E Species Observations

Copies To: Scott Biggar, Liberty Renewables, Inc.

Molly Dunton, Liberty Renewables, Inc. Augusta Mead, Liberty Renewables, Inc. James Muscato, Young/Sommer LLC



KATHY HOCHUL GOVERNOR HOUTAN MOAVENI EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Comments on Breeding Bird Survey Study Plan Agricola Wind Facility April 21, 2022

Pursuant to 19 NYCRR § 900-1.3(g), Liberty Renewables Inc. (Liberty or Applicant) has provided the *Breeding Bird Survey Work Plan, Agricola Wind Project, Town of Venice, Scipio, and Moravia, Cayuga County, New York* dated April 2022. The Office of Renewable Energy Siting (ORES or the Office) has reviewed this study plan in consultation with the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC). In compliance with 19 NYCRR § 900-1.3(g)(4) (Chapter XVIII, Title 19 New York Codes, Rules and Regulations (NYCRR) Part 900), the Office is providing the following comments:

Field Survey Protocols for State-listed Breeding Grassland Bird Species

For major renewable energy facilities subject to Executive Law § 94-c where breeding grassland bird surveys are recommended based upon the pre-application consultation process in 19 NYCRR § 900-1.3, the Applicant is responsible for developing a pre-construction study work plan (19 NYCRR § 900-1.3(g)(4)). The Applicant's work plan should follow existing protocols¹, to the maximum extent practicable. The Office is authorized to accept a field survey work plan that can be completed in the appropriate seasonal window within one year, in compliance with 19 NYCRR § 900-1.3(g)(2)(iv). The Office is available to discuss customization of these protocols to address site-specific, project-specific factors, including but not limited to the size of the project area, the amount of open habitat within the project area, and the visibility of that habitat from proposed survey points.

The attached Data Table (Attachment A) must be completed and submitted with the final report.² Upon conclusion of survey work, Office Staff will review survey effort, survey results and other factors in consultation with NYSDEC to make a site-specific, project-specific determination of presence and site use by New York State-listed threatened and endangered species during the breeding bird season.

All communications to and from the Office concerning this survey are subject to Public Officers Law Article 6 (Freedom of Information Law). Accordingly, if the Applicant seeks trade secret or other protection of any report or accompanying information from disclosure, the submission must be accompanied by: (a) an appropriate request in compliance with FOIL and § 19 NYCRR 900-1.4(a)(5); and (b) a proposed redacted version of the report or other information in searchable PDF format.

¹ New York State Department of Environmental Conservation Survey Protocol for State-listed Breeding Grassland Bird Species (as updated March 2022).

² As an option, reportable data may be entered into the New York State Breeding Bird Atlas (NY BBA) portal while surveyors are in the field, using the eBird mobile app, and/or bulk uploaded to eBird by the party responsible for submitting the final report.

Agricola Wind Facility BBS Study Plan – ORES Comments (4/21/2022)

Proposed Breeding Bird Survey Study Work Plan

Based on our desktop review of the submitted study work plan, the Office, in consultation with NYSDEC, provides the following comments:



It is recommended that survey points be added to provide full visual and auditory coverage of all open habitats greater than 25 acres within the entire facility site, including in the following approximate locations:

- An additional survey point should be added within the field approximately 70 acres in size containing Point Count Location 1-2. Point Count Locations 1 and 2 may need to be shifted to maintain a distance of 250 meters between each point.
- An additional four (4) survey points should be added within the field approximately 200 acres in size containing Point Count Location 17-20. The existing points may need to be shifted to maintain a distance of 250 meters between each point.
- An additional survey point should be added within the field approximately 100 acres in size containing Point Count Location 21-23. The existing points may need to be shifted to maintain a distance of 250 meters between each point.
- An additional one to two survey points should be added within the field approximately 80 acres in size containing Point Count Location 24-25.
- An additional two or three survey points should be added within the field approximately 130 acres in size containing Point Count Location 26-29. The existing points may need to be shifted to maintain a distance of 250 meters between each point.
- An additional survey point should be added within the field approximately 115 acres in size containing Point Count Location 30-33.
- An additional survey point should be added within the field approximately 85 acres in size containing Point Count Location 34-36.
- An additional survey point should be added within the field approximately 80 acres in size containing Point Count Location 40-42.
- An additional two to three survey points should be added within the field approximately 180 acres in size containing Point Count Location 43-47. The existing points may need to be shifted to maintain a distance of 250 meters between each point.
- An additional three (3) survey points should be added within the field approximately 115 acres in size containing Point Count Location 51-52.
- An additional two (2) survey points should be added within the field approximately 125 acres in size containing Point Count Location 53-55.

Agricola Wind Facility BBS Study Plan – ORES Comments (4/21/2022)

- An additional three (3) survey points should be added within the field approximately 140 acres in size containing Point Count Location 56-58.
- An additional survey point should be added within the field approximately 125 acres in size containing Point Count Location 59-62.
- An additional three to four survey points should be added within the field approximately 160 acres in size containing Point Count Location 65-67.
- An additional two (2) survey points should be added within the field approximately 90 acres in size containing Point Count Location 69-70.
- An additional two to three survey points should be added within the field approximately 150 acres in size containing Point Count Location 71-74.
- An additional survey point should be added within the field approximately 75 acres in size containing Point Count Location 79-80.
- An additional three to four survey points should be added within the field approximately 150 acres in size containing Point Count Location 88-90.
- An additional two to three survey points should be added within the field approximately 130 acres in size containing Point Count Location 102-105.
- An additional survey point should be added within the field approximately 125 acres in size containing Point Count Location 108-111. Point 109 may be removed from the study in lieu one the recommend additional points; and
- The following survey points are located within fields that are less than 25 acres in size Point Count Location 63, 68, 81, 84, 104, 107, and 112. The applicant may choose to forgo surveying these points in order to focus their resources on providing the additional survey points recommended above.

To clarify the above, the Office provides the attached map depicting the approximate locations of the recommended survey points (Attachment B).

If are detected at the project site at any time during surveys or incidentally, it is recommended the Applicant contact ORES to discuss the addition of evening survey effort during this breeding season.

Please note that the comments above are based solely on desktop analysis of aerial imagery and open field size; therefore, the actual location of survey points may need to be adjusted based on field verification of visibility or the existence of more suitable habitat. After initial field visits and the location of stationary points are confirmed, the Applicant should provide updated shapefiles of the final ground-truthed viewshed assessment for each point.

Any area of suitable grassland habitat that is not adequately surveyed, both in frequency and spatial coverage, may (1) remain occupied habitat if preexisting data exist irrespective of survey results or the age of the data, OR (2) become occupied habitat if essential behaviors are observed within ½ miles of said area.

ATTACHMENT A - DATA TABLE ATTACHMENT B - RECOMMENDED SURVEY POINTS



Memorandum

To: Office of Renewable Energy Siting (ORES)

New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC)

From: Environmental Design & Research, D.P.C. (EDR)

Date: July 1, 2022

Reference: Agricola Wind Project

Breeding Bird Survey (BBS) Work Plan Comment Responses

EDR Project No.: 21029

Background

- Liberty Renewables Inc. (the Applicant) is proposing to construct the Agricola Wind Project, a wind energy generation facility of up to 100 megawatts (MW) within the Towns of Venice, Scipio, and Moravia, Cayuga County, New York (the Facility).
- The Applicant submitted a Breeding Bird Survey (BBS) Work Plan for the Facility to ORES and NYSDEC on April 11, 2022. ORES and NYSDEC provided comments on the BBS Work Plan to the Applicant on April 21, 2022.
- Revisions that have been made to the BBS study design and responses to agency comments are summarized below. Updated survey locations for this study are presented in the attached Figure 1.

Breeding Bird Survey Work Plan Comment Responses

•	BEGIN CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION <

>END CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION

- Agency Comment: It is recommended that survey points be added to provide full visual and auditory coverage of all open habitats greater than 25 acres within the entire facility site, including in the following approximate locations:
 - An additional survey point should be added within the field approximately 70 acres in size containing Point Count Location 1-2. Point Count Locations 1 and 2 may need to be shifted to maintain a distance of 250 meters between each point.
 - An additional four (4) survey points should be added within the field approximately
 200 acres in size containing Point Count Location 17-20. The existing points may
 need to be shifted to maintain a distance of 250 meters between each point.
 - An additional survey point should be added within the field approximately 100 acres in size containing Point Count Location 21-23. The existing points may need to be shifted to maintain a distance of 250 meters between each point.
 - An additional one to two survey points should be added within the field approximately 80 acres in size containing Point Count Location 24-25.
 - An additional two or three survey points should be added within the field approximately 130 acres in size containing Point Count Location 26-29. The existing points may need to be shifted to maintain a distance of 250 meters between each point.
 - An additional survey point should be added within the field approximately 115 acres in size containing Point Count Location 30-33.
 - An additional survey point should be added within the field approximately 85 acres in size containing Point Count Location 34-36.
 - An additional survey point should be added within the field approximately 80 acres in size containing Point Count Location 40-42.
 - An additional two to three survey points should be added within the field approximately 180 acres in size containing Point Count Location 43-47. The existing points may need to be shifted to maintain a distance of 250 meters between each point.
 - An additional three (3) survey points should be added within the field approximately 115 acres in size containing Point Count Location 51-52.
 - An additional two (2) survey points should be added within the field approximately
 125 acres in size containing Point Count Location 53-55.
 - An additional three (3) survey points should be added within the field approximately 140 acres in size containing Point Count Location 56-58.

ORES and NYSDEC July 1, 2022

- An additional survey point should be added within the field approximately 125 acres in size containing Point Count Location 59-62.
- An additional three to four survey points should be added within the field approximately 160 acres in size containing Point Count Location 65-67.
- An additional two (2) survey points should be added within the field approximately
 90 acres in size containing Point Count Location 69-70.
- An additional two to three survey points should be added within the field approximately 150 acres in size containing Point Count Location 71-74.
- An additional survey point should be added within the field approximately 75 acres in size containing Point Count Location 79-80.
- An additional three to four survey points should be added within the field approximately 150 acres in size containing Point Count Location 88-90.
- An additional two to three survey points should be added within the field approximately 130 acres in size containing Point Count Location 102-105.
- An additional survey point should be added within the field approximately 125 acres in size containing Point Count Location 108-111. Point 109 may be removed from the study in lieu one the recommend additional points; and
- The following survey points are located within fields that are less than 25 acres in size Point Count Location 63, 68, 81, 84, 104, 107, and 112. The applicant may choose to forgo surveying these points in order to focus their resources on providing the additional survey points recommended above.

Response: Point count locations have been added and shifted based on these recommendations. However, land access permission was not obtained for some parcels identified in the BBS Work Plan; therefore, the associated point count locations have been removed. Changes to the study design are summarized below, and the revised survey locations are presented in the attached Figure 1.

- One point count location (identified as point count location 3) was added south of point count locations 1 and 2. To maintain the proper distance, point count location 1 was shifted north slightly.
- o Four point count locations (identified as point count locations 19, 22, 23, 25) were added east of point count locations 17, 18, 19, and 20 (now identified as point count locations 18, 20, 21, and 24, respectively) to provide better coverage of the associated open fields.
- One point count location (identified as point count location 28) was added southeast
 of point count location 30 and northeast of point count location 33 (now identified
 as point count locations 26 and 30, respectively).
- One point count location (identified as point count location 33) was added southeast
 of point count location 35 and southwest of point count location 36 (now identified
 as point count locations 34 and 32, respectively).

ORES and NYSDEC July 1, 2022

- One point count location (identified as point count location 38) was added southwest of point count location 42 (now identified as point count location 37).
- One point count location (identified as point count location 39) was added northeast
 of point count location 43 and northwest of point count location 44 (now identified
 as point count locations 40 and 41, respectively).
- One point count location (identified as point count location 43) was added south of point count location 45 (now identified as point count location 42). To provide full coverage of the associated open field and maintain appropriate spacing, point count locations 46 and 47 (now identified as point count locations 47 and 48, respectively) were shifted south slightly.
- Three point count locations (identified as point count locations 62, 63, and 64) were added north of point count locations 56, 57, and 58 (now identified as 65, 66, and 67, respectively) to provide better coverage of the associated open fields.
- One point count location (identified as point count location 58) was added east of point count location 53 (now identified as point count location 57). Another point count location (identified as point count location 61) was added within the same open field west of point count location 55 (now identified as point count location 60).
- Two point count locations (identified as point count location 55 and 56) were added west of point count locations 51 and 52 (now identified as point count locations 54 and 53, respectively).
- Another point count location (identified as point count location 52) was added within the same open field east of the original point count location 51.
- One point count location (identified as point count location 68) was added northwest of point count location 61 (now identified as point count location 69).
- Three point count locations (identified as point count locations 73, 75, and 78) were added west and south of point count locations 65, 66, and 67 (now identified as 74, 76, and 77, respectively) to provide better coverage of the associated open fields.
- One point count location (identified as point count location 112) was added west of point count location 70 (now identified as point count location 111). To provide better coverage of the associated open fields, point count location 68 (now identified as point count location 110) was shifted south of point count location 69 (now identified as point count location 109).
- Four point count locations (identified as point count locations 80, 84, 85, 92) were added within the open fields containing point count locations 71, 72, 73, 74, 79, and 80 (now identified as point count locations 79, 81, 82, 83, 91, and 90, respectively) to provide improved coverage.
- Four point count locations (identified as point count locations 97, 99, 101, 103) were added within the open fields containing point count location 88, 89, and 90 (now identified as point count locations 98, 100, and 102, respectively) to provide improved coverage.
- o Point count location 104 (now identified as point count location 117) was shifted west of point count location 103 (now identified as point count location 118). Point count location 102 (now identified as point count location 116) was moved further northwest to maintain appropriate spacing relative to point count location 117.

ORES and NYSDEC July 1, 2022

- Two point count locations (identified as point count locations 120 and 121) were added south of point count location 105 (now identified as point count location 119) to provide improved coverage.
- Point count locations 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 64, 68, 93, 94, 98, 99, 100, 101, 108, 109, 110, 111, 112, 113, and 114 were removed from the study due to lack of land access permission.
- Agency Comment: As an option, reportable data may be entered into the New York State Breeding Bird Atlas (NY BBA) portal while surveyors are in the field, using the eBird mobile app, and/or bulk uploaded to eBird by the party responsible for submitting the final report.

Response: It is noted that entering reportable data into the New York State Breeding Bird Atlas via eBird is an optional data management tool and is not required. Therefore, as an alternative option, EDR and the Applicant have chosen to not enter the survey data into eBird at this time, and will instead provide the requested data as part of the 2022 Breeding Bird Survey Report.

Agency Comment: Please note that the comments above are based solely on desktop
analysis of aerial imagery and open field size; therefore, the actual location of survey points
may need to be adjusted based on field verification of visibility or the existence of more
suitable habitat. After initial field visits and the location of stationary points are confirmed,
the Applicant should provide updated shapefiles of the final ground-truthed viewshed
assessment for each point.

Response: A shapefile with the final ground-truthed viewshed assessment for each point count location will be provided with the 2022 Breeding Bird Survey Report.

Attachments: Figure 1. Open Fields and Survey Locations

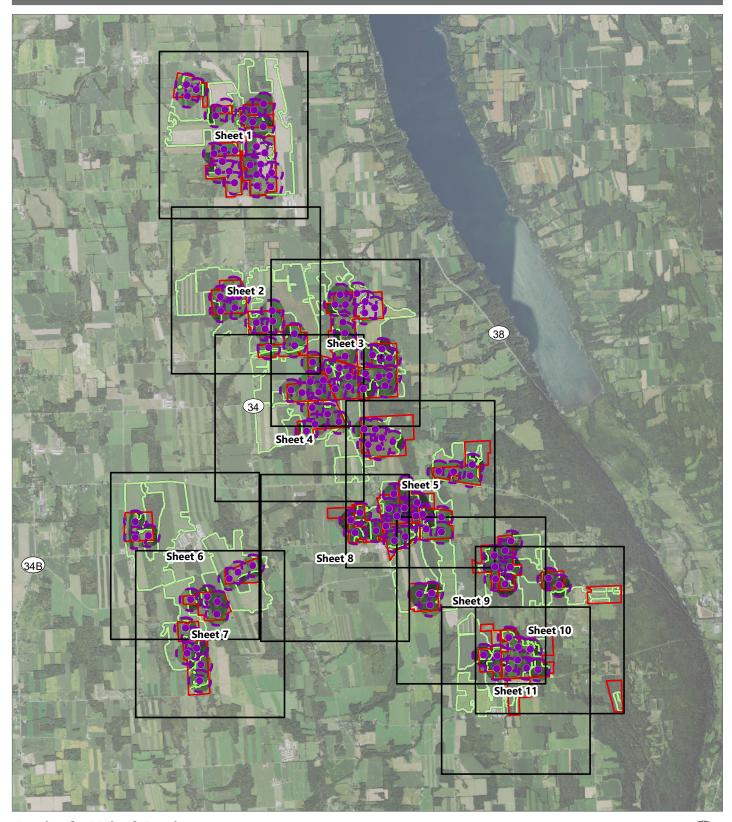
Copies To: Scott Biggar (Liberty Renewables Inc.)

James Muscato (Young/Sommer LLC)
Jessica Klami (Young/Sommer LLC)

Project File

Figure 1. Open Fields and Survey Locations

Index Sheet



Agricola Wind Project

Towns of Venice, Scipio, and Moravia, Cayuga County, New York

Breeding Bird Survey Work Plan Comment Response

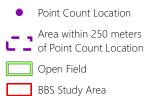






Figure 3. Open Fields and Survey Locations

Sheet 1 of 11



Agricola Wind Project

Towns of Venice, Scipio, and Moravia, Cayuga County, New York

Breeding Bird Survey Work Plan Comment Response

Point Count Location

Area within 250 meters of Point Count Location

Open Field

BBS Study Area





Feet

Sheet 1 of 11

Figure 3. Open Fields and Survey Locations

Sheet 2 of 11



Agricola Wind Project

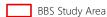
Towns of Venice, Scipio, and Moravia, Cayuga County, New York

Breeding Bird Survey Work Plan Comment Response













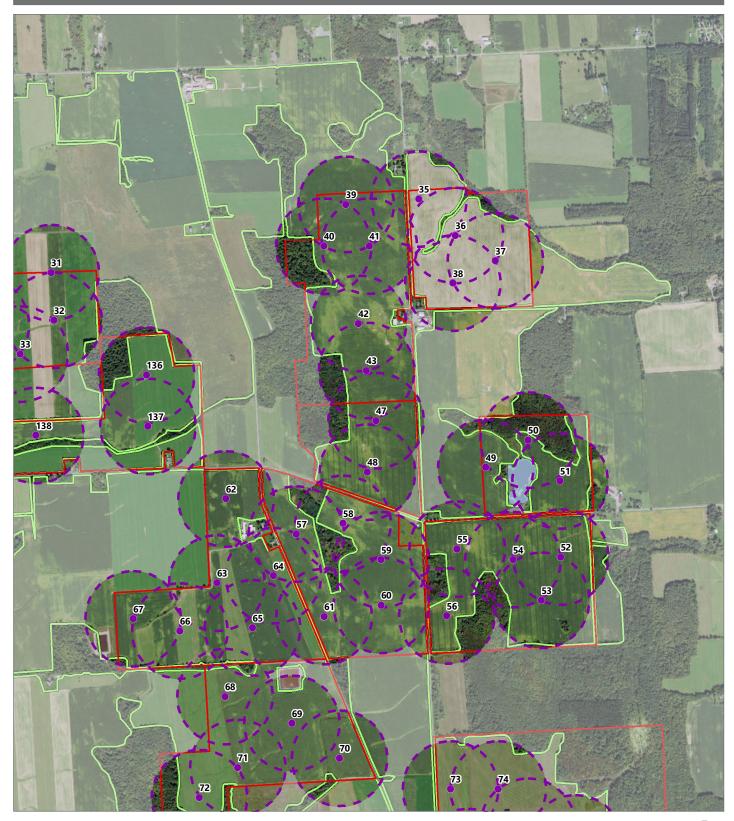
Sheet 2 of 11

Basemap: USDA NAIP "2019 New York 60cm" orthoimagery map service



Figure 3. Open Fields and Survey Locations

Sheet 3 of 11



Agricola Wind Project

Towns of Venice, Scipio, and Moravia, Cayuga County, New York

Breeding Bird Survey Work Plan Comment Response

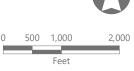
Point Count Location

Area within 250 meters of Point Count Location

Open Field

BBS Study Area





Sheet 3 of 11

Figure 3. Open Fields and Survey Locations

Sheet 4 of 11



Agricola Wind Project

Towns of Venice, Scipio, and Moravia, Cayuga County, New York

Breeding Bird Survey Work Plan Comment Response

Point Count Location

Area within 250 meters of Point Count Location

Open Field

BBS Study Area





Sheet 4 of 11

Figure 3. Open Fields and Survey Locations

Sheet 5 of 11



Agricola Wind Project

Towns of Venice, Scipio, and Moravia, Cayuga County, New York

Breeding Bird Survey Work Plan Comment Response

Point Count Location

Area within 250 meters of Point Count Location

Open Field

BBS Study Area





Sheet 5 of 11

Figure 3. Open Fields and Survey Locations

Sheet 6 of 11



Agricola Wind Project

Towns of Venice, Scipio, and Moravia, Cayuga County, New York

Breeding Bird Survey Work Plan Comment Response

Point Count Location

Area within 250 meters of Point Count Location

Open Field

BBS Study Area





Sheet 6 of 11



Figure 3. Open Fields and Survey Locations

Sheet 7 of 11



Agricola Wind Project

Towns of Venice, Scipio, and Moravia, Cayuga County, New York

Breeding Bird Survey Work Plan Comment Response

Point Count Location

Area within 250 meters of Point Count Location

Open Field

BBS Study Area





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Figure 3. Open Fields and Survey Locations

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Agricola Wind Project

Towns of Venice, Scipio, and Moravia, Cayuga County, New York

Breeding Bird Survey Work Plan Comment Response



Area within 250 meters of Point Count Location

Open Field

BBS Study Area



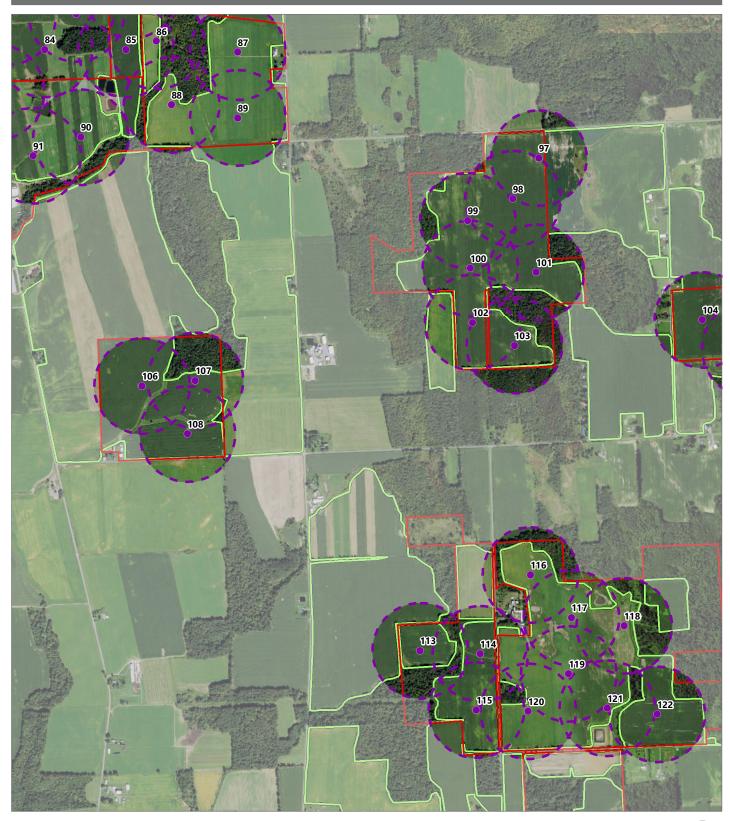


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Figure 3. Open Fields and Survey Locations

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Agricola Wind Project

Towns of Venice, Scipio, and Moravia, Cayuga County, New York

Breeding Bird Survey Work Plan Comment Response











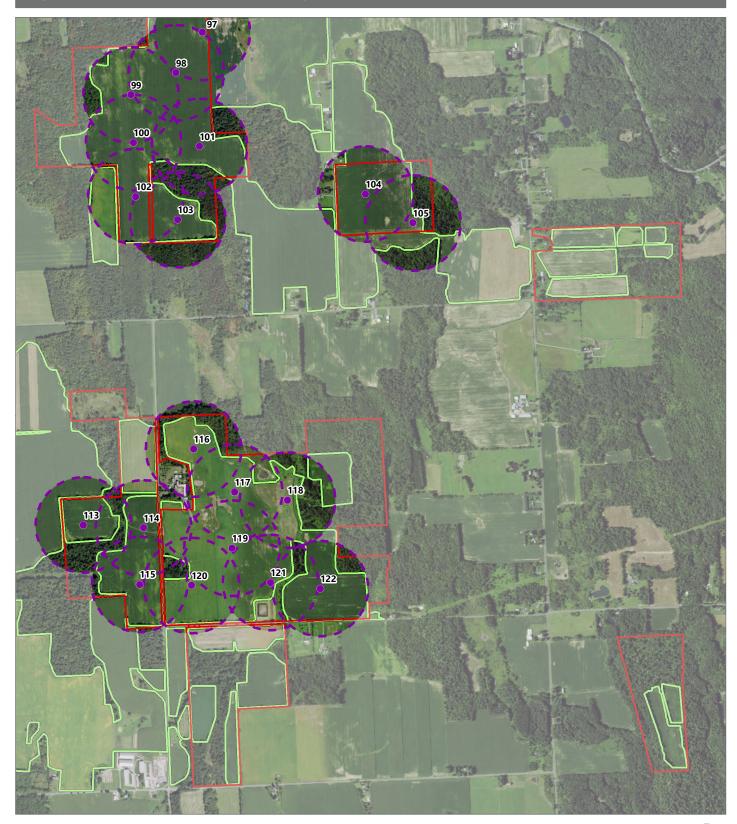


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Figure 3. Open Fields and Survey Locations

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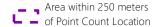


Agricola Wind Project

Towns of Venice, Scipio, and Moravia, Cayuga County, New York

Breeding Bird Survey Work Plan Comment Response









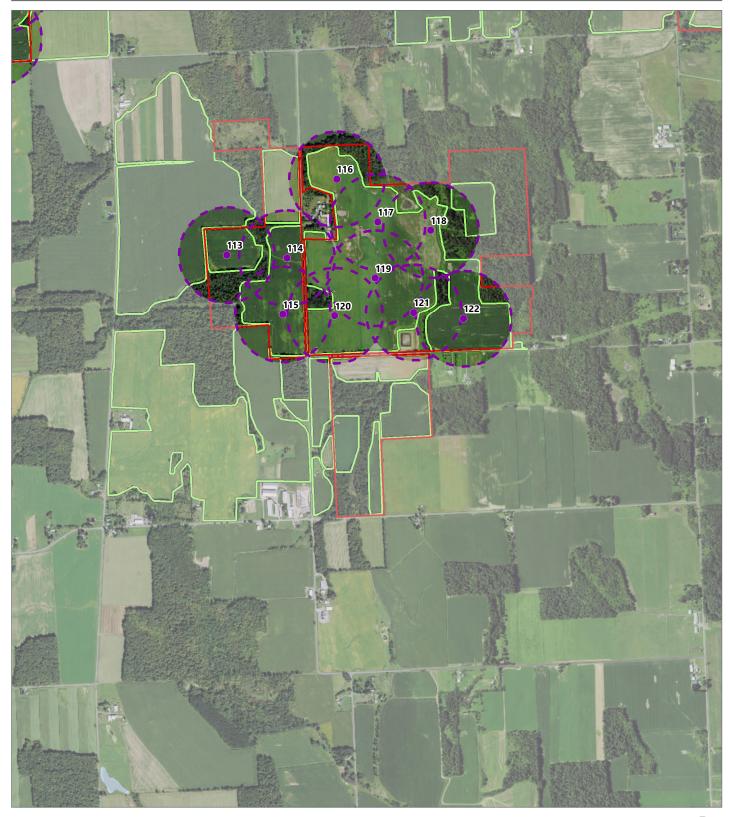




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Figure 3. Open Fields and Survey Locations

Sheet 11 of 11



Agricola Wind Project

Towns of Venice, Scipio, and Moravia, Cayuga County, New York

Breeding Bird Survey Work Plan Comment Response

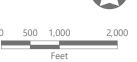


Area within 250 meters of Point Count Location

Open Field

BBS Study Area





Sheet 11 of 11

Prepared June 23, 2022 Basemap: USDA NAIP "2019 New York 60cm" orthoimagery map service



Memorandum

To: Office of Renewable Energy Siting (ORES)

New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC)

From: Environmental Design & Research, Landscape Architecture, Engineering &

Environmental Services, D.P.C. (EDR)

Date: August 12, 2022

Reference: Agricola Wind Project

Breeding Bird Surveys

State-Listed Threatened or Endangered (T&E) Species Summary

EDR Project No.: 21029

Facility Overview

 Liberty Renewables Inc. (the Applicant) is proposing to construct the Agricola Wind Project, an up to 100-megawatt wind energy generation facility and associated infrastructure within the Towns of Venice, Scipio, and Moravia in Cayuga County, New York (the Facility).

- The parcels under consideration for the Facility (the Facility Site) currently total approximately 4,300 acres and are primarily composed of agricultural land that is actively managed to produce row crops (primarily soybeans and corn), hayfields, and pastureland. In addition, areas of deciduous, mixed, and evergreen forest, woody wetlands, emergent herbaceous wetlands, successional shrubland, and developed land (primarily rural single-family houses, farms, and associated yards) are also present.
- The current Facility Site directly corresponds with the Breeding Bird Survey (BBS) Study Area that was surveyed in 2022 (see below).

Breeding Bird Survey Summary

- The 2022 surveys were designed and conducted following the 2022 NYSDEC Survey
 Protocol for State-listed Breeding Grassland Bird Species. The scope of these surveys was
 defined in a Breeding Bird Survey Work Plan that was submitted to ORES on April 11, 2022.
 ORES and NYSDEC reviewed the Breeding Bird Survey Work Plan and provided comments
 on April 21, 2022. Revisions were made to the study design based on agency feedback.
- The purpose of the breeding bird survey was to identify and document avian species, (including state-listed species) that utilize habitats within the lands being evaluated to host the Facility during the breeding season.

ORES and NYSDEC August 12, 2022

- Based on recommendations from ORES and NYSDEC, EDR conducted early surveys for point count locations within 0.5 mile of BEGIN CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION < PROPERTY > END CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION observations that were previously documented during spring raptor migration surveys that were conducted by EDR in 2021. These early breeding bird surveys initiated on May 5, 2022, and specifically focused on areas within 0.5 mile of previously documented BEGIN CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION < PROPERTY > END CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION observations that included essential behavior. 1
- Surveys for the other point count locations began the week of May 16, 2022, and the final surveys were completed on July 21, 2022. EDR biologists conducted morning surveys approximately weekly throughout the season, and the majority of the point count locations were visited eight to 10 times each.
- No state-listed endangered species were documented during the surveys. BEGIN CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION
 > END

CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION

- State-listed T&E species documented during the 2022 breeding bird survey season are depicted in the attached **Figure 1**.
- The observations noted herein are not intended, in and of themselves, to be a basis for conclusions regarding potential occupied habitat, as the mere observation of a species is not sufficient, based on the NYSDEC's guidance, to identify occupied habitat. Rather, the species must exhibit one or more essential behaviors. Additional details and evaluation of behaviors and potential habitat will be presented in a full Breeding Bird Survey Report.

Attachments: Figure 1. State-Listed T&E Species Observations

Copies To: Scott Biggar (Liberty Renewables Inc.)

Toni Secreti (Liberty Renewables Inc.)
Augusta Mead (Liberty Renewables Inc.)

Jessica Klami (Young/Sommer LLC)
James Muscato (Young/Sommer LLC)

-

¹ 6 NYCRR Part 182.2(f) defines essential behavior as any of the behaviors exhibited by a species listed as endangered or threatened (in New York State) that are a part of its normal or traditional life cycle and that are essential to its survival and perpetuation. Essential behavior includes behaviors associated with breeding, hibernation, reproduction, feeding, sheltering, migration and overwintering.

This attachment has been redacted from this publicly available document because it contains protected/confidential information regarding species listed as endangered, threatened, or special concern in New York.



KATHY HOCHUL
GOVERNOR
HOUTAN MOAVENI
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Comments on Breeding Bird Survey Study Plan Agricola Wind Facility May 2, 2023

Pursuant to 19 NYCRR § 900-1.3(g), Liberty Renewables Inc. (Liberty or Applicant) has provided the *Breeding Bird Survey Work Plan, Agricola Wind Project, Towns of Venice, Scipio, and Moravia, Cayuga County, New York* April 2023. The Office of Renewable Energy Siting (ORES or the Office) has reviewed this study plan in consultation with the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC). In compliance with 19 NYCRR § 900-1.3(g)(4) (Chapter XVIII, Title 19 New York Codes, Rules and Regulations (NYCRR) Part 900), the Office is providing the following comments:

Field Survey Protocols for State-listed Breeding Grassland Bird Species

For major renewable energy facilities subject to Executive Law § 94-c where breeding grassland bird surveys are recommended based upon the pre-application consultation process in 19 NYCRR §900-1.3, the Applicant is responsible for developing a pre-construction study work plan (19 NYCRR § 900-1.3(g)(4)). The Applicant's work plan should follow existing protocols¹, to the maximum extent practicable. The Office is authorized to accept a field survey work plan that can be completed in the appropriate seasonal window within one year, in compliance with 19 NYCRR § 900-1.3(g)(2)(iv). The Office is available to discuss customization of these protocols to address site-specific, project-specific factors, including but not limited to the size of the project area, the amount of open habitat within the project area, and the visibility of that habitat from proposed survey points.

The attached Data Table (Attachment A) must be completed and submitted with the final report.² Upon conclusion of survey work, Office Staff will review survey effort, survey results and other factors in consultation with NYSDEC to make a site-specific, project-specific determination of presence and site use by New York State-listed threatened and endangered species during the breeding bird season.

All communications to and from the Office concerning this survey are subject to Public Officers Law Article 6 (Freedom of Information Law). Accordingly, if the Applicant seeks trade secret or other protection of any report or accompanying information from disclosure, the submission must be accompanied by: (a) an appropriate request in compliance with FOIL and § 19 NYCRR 900-1.4(a)(5); and (b) a proposed redacted version of the report or other information in searchable PDF format.

¹ New York State Department of Environmental Conservation Survey Protocol for State-listed Breeding Grassland Bird Species (as updated March 2022).

² As an option, reportable data may be entered into the New York State Breeding Bird Atlas (NY BBA) portal while surveyors are in the field, using the eBird mobile app, and/or bulk uploaded to eBird by the party responsible for submitting the final report.

Agricola Wind Facility BBS Study Plan – ORES Comments (5/2/2023)

Proposed Breeding Bird Survey Study Work Plan

Based on our desktop review of the submitted study work plan, the Office, in consultation with NYSDEC, provides the following comments.

It is recommended that survey points be added to provide full visual and auditory coverage of all open habitats greater than 25 acres within the entire project area where any above or below ground components may be sited, construction/storage activities may occur, or are within 250 m of turbines, including in the following approximate locations:

- Shift Survey Point 2 south to Location A for fuller coverage of open area towards the southern end of the field east of Carter Road which continues further south.
- An additional survey point should be added at Location B for coverage of large field east of Wyckoff Road and large connected open area to the south.
- Shift Survey Point 5 southeast to Location C for fuller coverage of open area east of State Route 34.
- An additional survey point should be added at Location D for fuller coverage of open area east of State Route 23.
- An additional survey point should be added at location DD, north of Survey Point 9 and south of Burtless Road for improved coverage of north end of study area and large connected filed to the east and north.
- Shift Survey Point 10 south to Location E for fuller coverage of the southern portion of the study area east of Wyckoff Road and field beyond.
- Shift Survey Point 23 southeast to Location F for fuller coverage of the southern portion of the study area and field beyond.
- An additional survey point should be added at Location G for coverage of western portion of study area connected open areas south of Sherwood Road.
- An additional survey point should be added at Location H for coverage of open areas at the intersection of Carter Road and Sherwood Road.
- Shift Survey Point 22 west southeast to location HH for fuller coverage to the western portion of the study area and the field below.
- An additional survey point should be added at Location I for improved coverage of northern portion of study area and connected open area west of Burns Road.
- An additional survey point should be added at Location II, south of Sherwood Road for improved coverage of north end of the study area and connected field to the east.
- An additional survey point should be added at Location J for coverage of field south of Long Hill Road and surrounding open areas.
- An addition survey point should be added at Location K for field west of Stewarts Corners Road and connected open areas.
- An additional survey point should be added at Location L for coverage of open area south of Ford Road and connected open areas.

Agricola Wind Facility BBS Study Plan – ORES Comments (5/2/2023)

• Shift Survey Point 35 south to improve coverage of southeastern end of field and to provide greater distance from Survey Point 34.

To clarify the above, the Office provides the attached map depicting the approximate locations of the recommended survey points (Attachment B).

If are detected at the project site at any time during surveys or incidentally, it is recommended the Applicant contact ORES to discuss the addition of evening survey effort during this breeding season.

Please note that the comments above are based solely on desktop analysis of aerial imagery and open field size; therefore, the actual location of survey points may need to be adjusted based on field verification of visibility or the existence of more suitable habitat. After initial field visits and the location of stationary points are confirmed, the Applicant should provide updated shapefiles of the final ground-truthed viewshed assessment for each point.

Any area of suitable open habitat that the Office determines has not been adequately surveyed, either in frequency, spatial coverage, or duration, may (1) become occupied habitat if essential behaviors are observed in habitat within ½ miles of said area, OR (2) become or remain occupied habitat if the Office determines that the Applicant's stationary survey points or protocols were not sufficient to reliably and accurately detect presence and behaviors within the facility boundary, OR (3) remain occupied habitat if preexisting data exist irrespective of survey results or the age of the data.

ATTACHMENT A - DATA TABLE

ATTACHMENT B - RECOMMENDED SURVEY POINTS



Memorandum

To: Office of Renewable Energy Siting (ORES)

New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC)

From: Environmental Design & Research, Landscape Architecture, Engineering &

Environmental Services, D.P.C. (EDR)

Date: July 3, 2023

Reference: Agricola Wind Project

Breeding Bird Survey (BBS) Work Plan Comment Responses

EDR Project No.: 21029

Background

- Liberty Renewables Inc. (the Applicant) is planning to develop the Agricola Wind Project, a proposed wind energy generation facility and associated infrastructure of up to 100 megawatts (MW) within the Towns of Venice, Scipio, and Moravia in Cayuga County, New York.
- On behalf of the Applicant, EDR submitted a Breeding Bird Survey (BBS) Work Plan for the Facility to the Office of Renewable Energy Siting (ORES) and the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) on April 7, 2023. ORES and NYSDEC staff responded with comments on this submittal on May 2, 2023.
- The BBS study design was revised based on this feedback and additional field review conducted by EDR. Responses to agency comments are summarized below. Revised survey locations are presented in the attached **Figure 1**.

Breeding Bird Survey Work Plan Comment Responses

 Agency Comment: Shift Survey Point 2 south to Location A for fuller coverage of open area towards the southern end of the field east of Carter Road which continues further south.

Response: The previously completed 2022 BBS provided coverage of open field areas to the south and east (**Figure 1**); therefore, Point 2 was not shifted south.

 Agency Comment: An additional survey point should be added at Location B for coverage of large field east of Wyckoff Road and large connected open area to the south.

Response: The previously completed 2022 BBS provided coverage of these open field areas (**Figure 1**); therefore, an additional survey point is not needed.

 Agency Comment: Shift Survey Point 5 southeast to Location C for fuller coverage of open area east of State Route 34

Response: The previously completed 2022 BBS provided coverage of open field areas to the south and southeast (**Figure 1**); therefore, Point 5 was not shifted southeast.

• Agency Comment: An additional survey point should be added at Location D for fuller coverage of the open area east of State Route 23.

Response: EDR assumes that this comment is referring to State Route 34. The previously completed 2022 BBS provided coverage of open field areas west and east of State Route 34 in this portion of the BBS Study Area (**Figure 1**); therefore, an additional survey point is not needed.

• Agency Comment: An additional survey point should be added at location DD, north of Survey Point 9 and south of Burtless Road for improved coverage of the north end of study area and large connected field to the east and north.

Response: Point 9.1 was added at the recommended location to provide improved coverage of on- and off-site open fields.

• Agency Comment: Shift Survey Point 10 south to Location E for fuller coverage of the southern portion of the study area east of Wyckoff Road and field beyond.

Response: Point 10.1 was added at the recommended location to provide improved coverage of on-site open fields.

• Agency Comment: Shift Survey Point 23 southeast to Location F for fuller coverage of the southern portion of the study area and field beyond.

Response: The previously completed 2022 BBS provided coverage of the open field areas to the south and east (**Figure 1**); therefore, an additional survey point is not needed.

 Agency Comment: An additional survey point should be added at Location G for coverage of the western portion of study area connected open areas south of Sherwood Road.

Response: This land parcel has been removed from consideration for the Facility; therefore, an additional survey point is not needed.

 Agency Comment: An additional survey point should be added at Location H for coverage of open areas at the intersection of Carter Road and Sherwood Road.

Response: This land parcel has been removed from consideration for the Facility; therefore, an additional survey point is not needed.

 Agency Comment: Shift Survey Point 22 west southeast to location HH for fuller coverage to the western portion of the study area and the field below.

Response: The previously completed 2022 BBS provided coverage of open field areas to the northwest, north, and east (**Figure 1**). The additional survey points proposed in 2023 provide full coverage of on-site open fields in this area; therefore, Point 22 was not shifted south.

 Agency Comment: An additional survey point should be added at Location I for improved coverage of the northern portion of study area and connected open area west of Burns Road.

Response: Point 40.1 was added at the recommended location to provide improved coverage of on-site open fields.

 Agency Comment: An additional survey point should be added at Location II, south of Sherwood Road for improved coverage of the north end of the study area and connected field to the east.

Response: The previously completed 2022 BBS provided coverage of these open field areas (**Figure 1**); therefore, an additional survey point is not needed.

 Agency Comment: An additional survey point should be added at Location J for coverage of fields south of Long Hill Road and surrounding open areas.

Response: The previously completed 2022 BBS provided coverage of these open field areas (**Figure 1**); therefore, an additional survey point is not needed.

• Agency Comment: An additional survey point should be added at Location K for the field west of Stewarts Corners Road and connected open areas.

Response: Point 55.2 was added at the recommended location to provide improved coverage of on-site open fields.

 Agency Comment: An additional survey point should be added at Location L for coverage of open area south of Ford Road and connected open areas.

Response: Point 55.1 was added to provide improved coverage of on-site open fields. The survey point was placed outside of a fenced cattle pasture due to safety concerns.

 Agency Comment: Shift Survey Point 35 south to improve coverage of southeastern end of field and to provide greater distance from Survey Point 34.

Response: The previously completed 2022 BBS provided coverage of open field areas to the north, east, and south (**Figure 1**); therefore, Points 34 and 35 (now identified as Points 32 and 33) were not shifted.

Agency Comment: If **BEGIN CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION** > **END CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION** are detected at the project site at any time during surveys or incidentally, it is recommended the Applicant contact ORES to discuss the addition of evening survey effort during this breeding season.

Response: If the state-listed threatened BEGIN CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION < Pre>>END CONFIDENTIAL

INFORMATION are detected during the BBS, the Applicant and EDR will contact ORES to establish an evening survey effort based on the NYSDEC March 2022 Survey Protocol for State-listed Breeding Grassland Bird Species.

 Agency Comment: As an option, reportable data may be entered into the New York State Breeding Bird Atlas (NY BBA) portal while surveyors are in the field, using the eBird mobile app, and/or bulk uploaded to eBird by the party responsible for submitting the final report.

Response: It is noted that entering reportable data into the New York State Breeding Bird Atlas via eBird is an optional data management tool and is not required. Therefore, as an alternative option, EDR and the Applicant have chosen to not enter the survey data into eBird at this time, and will instead provide the requested data with the 2023 BBS Report. All data collected for the Facility are confidential. ORES and NYSDEC are not allowed to publicly disclose the data or share the data with anyone or any third party database.

Agency Comment: Please note that the comments above are based solely on desktop
analysis of aerial imagery and open field size; therefore, the actual location of survey points
may need to be adjusted based on field verification of visibility or the existence of more
suitable habitat. After initial field visits and the location of stationary points are confirmed,
the Applicant should provide updated shapefiles of the final ground-truthed viewshed
assessment for each point.

Response: A shapefile with the final ground-truthed viewshed assessment for each point count location will be provided with the 2023 BBS Report.

Additional Revisions

- Points 8 and 64-84 (as identified in the BBS Work Plan) were removed from the study, as the associated land parcels are no longer under consideration for the Facility.
- Additional land parcels were added to the BBS Study Area following submittal of the BBS Work Plan. Accordingly, Points 58.1, 58.2, and 64-69 (as identified in **Figure 1**) were added to the study to provide coverage of associated open field areas.
- Points 11, 26, 59, 60, and 61 were shifted slightly during the initial surveys to improve ground visibility of surrounding open field areas and maintain 250-meter spacing between/among survey points.
- Point 69 (as identified in **Figure 1**) was shifted west slightly to avoid a fenced livestock pasture containing a bull. Even with this change, surveys at this location may not be feasible throughout the entire survey period due to safety concerns.

Attachments: Figure 1. Open Fields and Revised Survey Locations

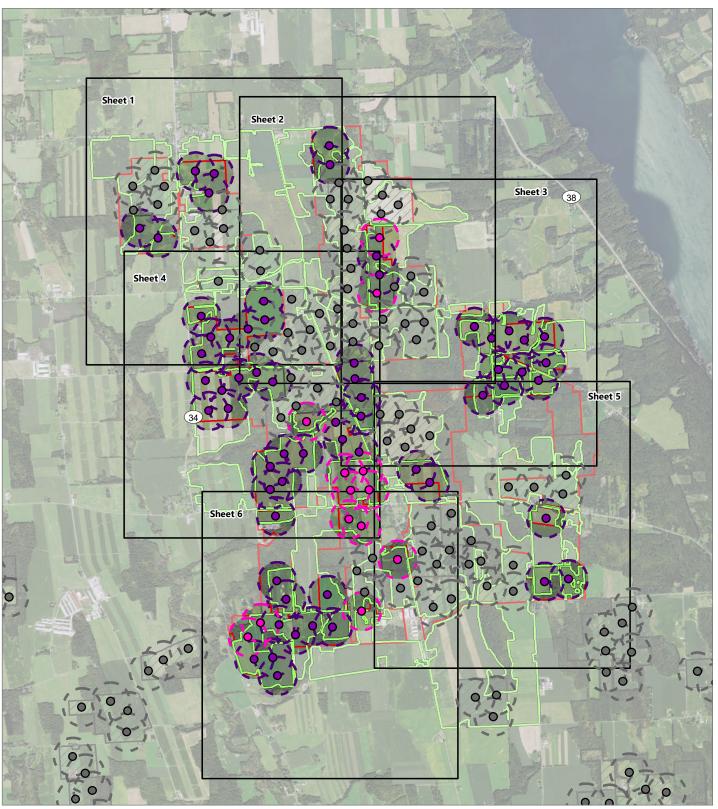
Copies To: Meg Lee (Liberty Renewables Inc.)

Scott Biggar (Liberty Renewables Inc.)
Jessica Klami (Young/Sommer LLC)
James Muscato (Young/Sommer LLC)

Project File

Figure 1. Open Fields and Revised Survey Locations

Index



Agricola Wind Project

Towns of Venice, Scipio, and Moravia, Cayuga County, New York

Breeding Bird Survey Comment Response

- Previously Surveyed BBS
 Point Count Location (2022)
- Point Count Location
- Additional Point Count Location
- Area within 250 meters of Previously Surveyed BBS Point Count Location (2022)

Area within 250 meters ofPoint Count Location

Area within 250 meters of Additional Point Count Location

Open Field

BBS Study Area (2023)
BBS Study Area (2022)



Prepared June 20, 2023 Basemap: NYSDOP "2019" orthoimagery map service



Figure 1. Open Fields and Revised Survey Locations

Sheet 1 of 6



Agricola Wind Project

Towns of Venice, Scipio, and Moravia, Cayuga County, New York

Breeding Bird Survey Comment Response

- Previously Surveyed BBS
 Point Count Location (2022)
- Point Count LocationAdditional Point Count
- Location
- Area within 250 meters of Previously Surveyed BBS Point Count Location (2022)
- Area within 250 meters ofPoint Count Location
- Area within 250 meters of Additional Point Count Location



BBS Study Area (2023)
BBS Study Area (2022)





Prepared June 20, 2023 Basemap: NYSDOP "2019" orthoimagery map service

FDR

Figure 1. Open Fields and Revised Survey Locations

Sheet 2 of 6



Agricola Wind Project

Towns of Venice, Scipio, and Moravia, Cayuga County, New York

Breeding Bird Survey Comment Response

- Previously Surveyed BBS Point Count Location (2022)
- Point Count LocationAdditional Point Count
- Location

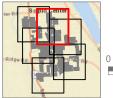
Area within 250 meters of Previously Surveyed BBS Point Count Location (2022)

- Area within 250 meters ofPoint Count Location
- Area within 250 meters of Additional Point Count Location



BBS Study Area (2023)





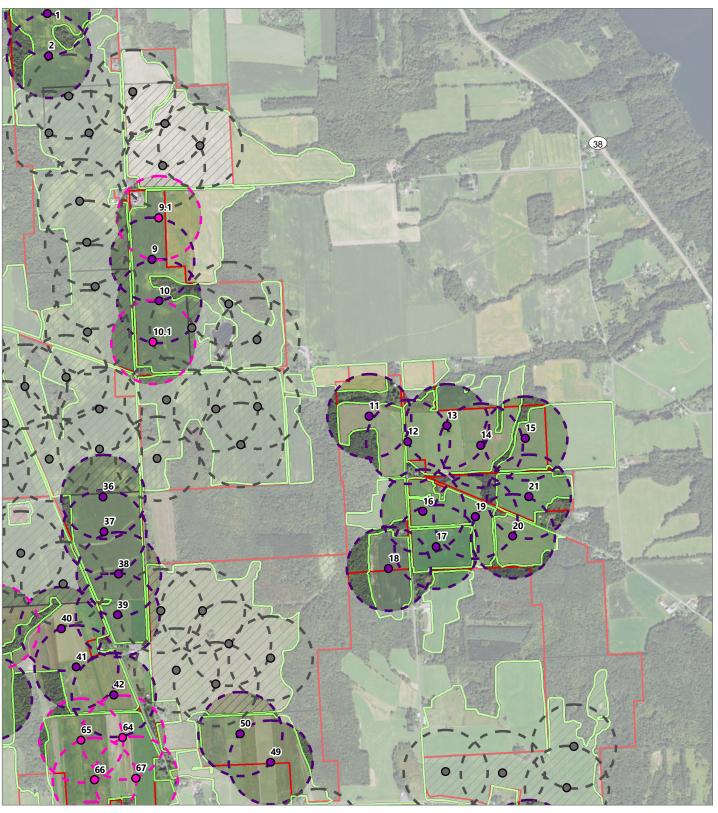


Prepared June 20, 2023 Basemap: NYSDOP "2019" orthoimagery map service

EDR

Figure 1. Open Fields and Revised Survey Locations

Sheet 3 of 6



Agricola Wind Project

Towns of Venice, Scipio, and Moravia, Cayuga County, New York

Breeding Bird Survey Comment Response

- Previously Surveyed BBS Point Count Location (2022)
- Point Count Location Additional Point Count
- Area within 250 meters of

Location

- Previously Surveyed BBS Point Count Location (2022)
- Area within 250 meters of Point Count Location
- Area within 250 meters of Additional Point Count Location
 - Open Field
 - BBS Study Area (2023)
 - BBS Study Area (2022)





Prepared June 20, 2023 Basemap: NYSDOP "2019" orthoimagery map service