

Memo

TO: Nathan Grosse, AES Clean Energy, Project Manager, Permitting

FROM: James A. Sinclair, Skelly and Loy, Inc. *A Terracon Company*

CC: Woo Kim, AES Clean Energy
Pat Greene, AES Clean Energy
Tom Johnston, Skelly and Loy, Inc., *A Terracon Company*

DATE: October 23, 2024

RE: Altona Wind Park Bat Coordination

The purpose of this memo is to outline the coordination to date for the Valcour Altona Wind Park (Altona). AES Clean Energy contracted Skelly and Loy, Inc., *A Terracon Company* (Skelly and Loy) to perform a supplemental bat mist net survey for the Valcour Wind Parks at Chateaugay, Ellenburg, and Clinton project areas located in Clinton and Franklin Counties, New York during the summer mist net season of 2024. No surveys were conducted at the Altona project area in 2024 (Figure 1).

PROJECT BACKGROUND

Mist net surveys for listed bat species were conducted 2023 by Allstar Ecology at Chateaugay, Ellenburg, and Clinton Wind Parks, and Sanders Environmental, Inc. at the Altona Wind Park. A total of [REDACTED] were captured at Chateaugay and Clinton Wind Parks, [REDACTED] of which were tagged with telemetry equipment to locate [REDACTED]. No listed bat species were captured during the Altona mist netting effort.

2024 mist net surveys were conducted at Chateaugay, Ellenburg, and Clinton, only. [REDACTED] at the Chateaugay, Ellenburg, and Clinton Wind Parks. [REDACTED] were tagged with telemetry transmitters and tracked to [REDACTED]. No mist netting was conducted at Altona due to the negative results from the 2023 effort and following United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) *2024 Indiana Bat and Northern Long-eared Bat Survey Guidelines (2024 Guidelines) APPENDIX B: PHASE 2 OR 3 MIST-NETTING (2024 Guidelines)* states that for *Hibernating NLEB Range Mist-netting LOE: a) If no capture of NLEB(s), then no further summer surveys are recommended.*

2023 ALTONA SURVEY RESULTS

Sanders Environmental, Inc. performed mist net surveys at the Altona Wind Park Project Area in 2023 and the results are summarized in Table 1.

Table 1. Summary of 2023 Mist Netting Results Conducted at the Altona Wind Park

[REDACTED]

No captures of any listed-bat species were recorded as a result of the 2023 mist netting effort.

2024 ALTONA WIND PARK

Correspondence was initiated between AES and Skelly and Loy, and the USFWS New York Field Office (USFWS NYFO) in a memo dated July 15, 2024, regarding the necessity of further surveys at the Altona Project Area. A response from the USFWS NYFO regarding the July 15, 2024 memo was received on September 4, 2024. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

CONCLUSION

Negative survey results in 2023 at the Altona Wind Park and 2024 Guidance indicated that additional surveys were not recommended. It was AES decision, based on negative survey results in 2023, that further surveys were unnecessary and presence for [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] would be assumed for [REDACTED]. Communications with USFWS NYFO confirmed the decision to assume presence of the [REDACTED]. No [REDACTED] were captured at Chateaugay, Ellenburg, and Clinton and the presence of [REDACTED] would be assumed for the northern wind parks. Further discussion with USFWS NYFO is scheduled to discuss 'take clearance' for the ESA on November 4, 2024.

Skelly and Loy, Inc., A Terracon Company

James A. Sinclair
Senior Scientist, Threatened and
Endangered Species
USFWS Qualified Bat Surveyor

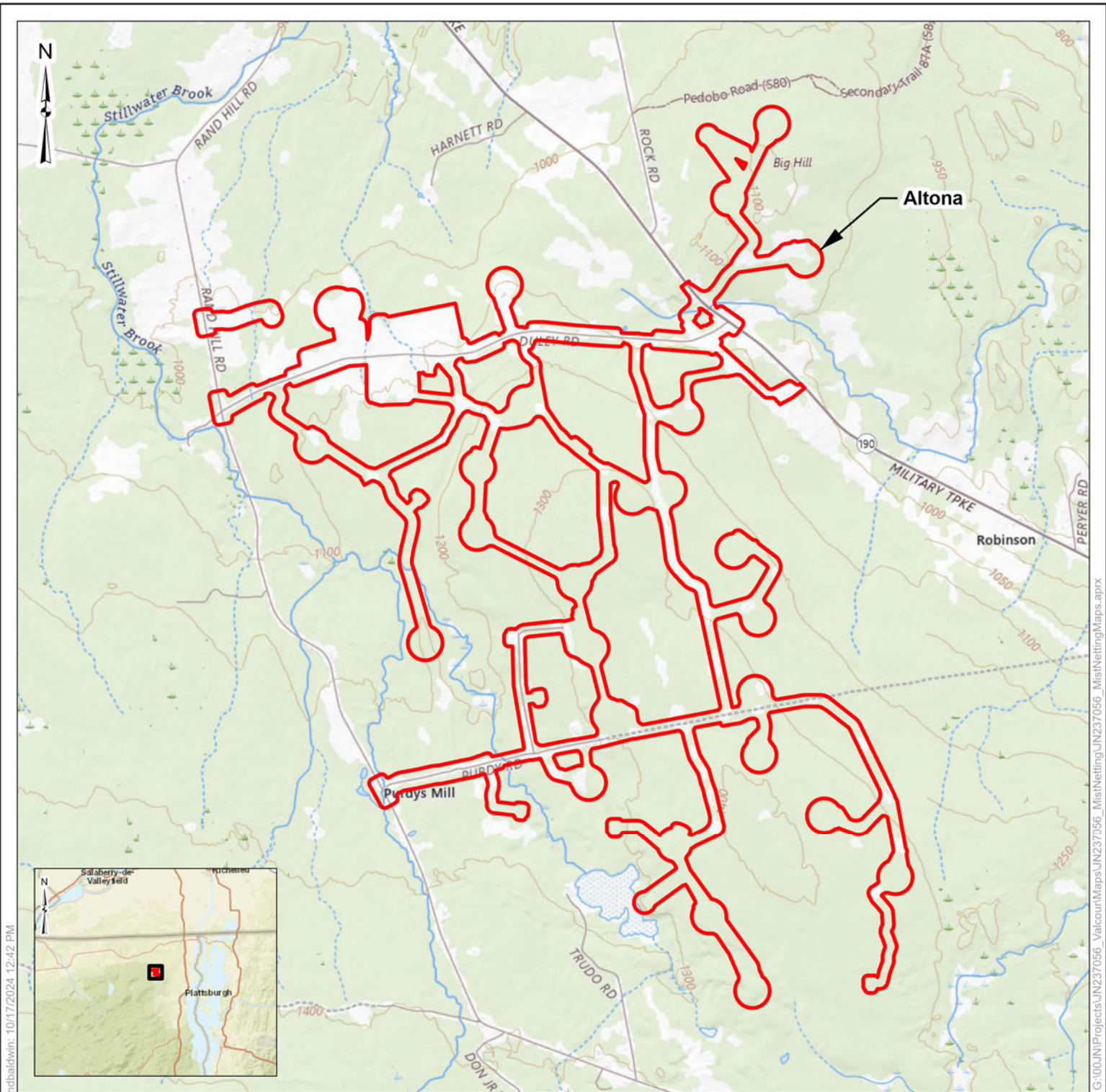
Marv H. Klinger
Senior Associate
Department Manager, Regulatory
Compliance

Attachments:

File: JN237056_Valcour Altona_Coordination Memo_10.23.2024

ATTACHMENTS

FIGURE 1 – PROJECT LOCATION MAP



Legend

Facility Study Area

Feet
0 1,500 3,000 6,000

DATA SOURCE(S):
USGS Quadrangle - Jericho, New York 2023

Project No.:	JN237056
Date:	October 2024
Drawn By:	NDB
Reviewed By:	BSR

A Terracon Company

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Altona Project Location
AES Valcour Altona, New York

Figure
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