

Invasive Species Control Plan for Construction Activities and Post Construction Monitoring Plan

PURPOSE

Wetland and stream corridors are a sensitive resource, and some Project construction activities have the potential to disturb these resources. A potential threat to wetland and stream resources is the risk of introduction or spread of invasive vegetative species, either through the movement of topsoil, fill, gravel, construction equipment, or during restoration activities. Invasive species are non-native species that can cause harm to the natural ecology of an area, often by out-competing native species. Although neither temporary nor permanent impacts to stream or wetland resources are anticipated, the Allegany Wind Power Project will initiate an Invasive Species Control Plan (ISCP) to minimize the spread of invasive species within federal and NYSDEC regulated wetlands, streams, and other riparian areas affected by wind development activities on-site.

No official list of invasive non-native vegetative species is available from the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC). However, the NYSDEC provides an *Interim Invasive Species Plant List* at <http://www.dec.ny.gov/animals/65408.html>, which includes a total of 15 "Floating and Submerged Aquatic" species and seven "Emergent Wetland and Littoral" species. This ISCP assumes targeted invasive species are as identified in the interim species list.

PROPOSED CONTROL MEASURES

Controlling the spread of the target species will be achieved through the implementation of four appropriate measures; 1) construction materials inspection; 2) target species treatment and removal; 3) construction equipment sanitation; and 4) restoration.

1. **Construction Materials Inspection:** Construction material to be used in (or immediately adjacent to) streams and wetlands, such as seed mixes, mulch topsoil, sand, gravel, crushed stone, and rock brought on the project site from an outside source shall be free of invasive plant material. The contractor shall be responsible for adhering to this requirement, and will provide documentation of such to the Environmental Monitor prior to using such materials in streams or wetlands. The Environmental Monitor will maintain copies of contractor-provided documentation.
2. **Target Species Treatment and Removal:** If unavoidable areas containing target invasive species are encountered within regulated wetlands/streams, then appropriate treatment and removal methods would be conducted. The preferred method of hand removal of all plant materials including root mass, rhizomes, and stolons would be performed within the project's area of disturbance, followed by proper disposal. Disposal methods of the removed plant material will be based upon density and quantity of invasive species encountered, and may include herbicide treatment, placement of an interim designated secure container, transport in a sealed container and proper offsite plant material disposal in a designated secure disposal container. Soil removal would adversely affect adjacent regulated areas by introducing disturbance and thereby promoting further spread of target invasive species, and therefore, soil removal is not considered a preferred method of control. To the extent hand removal is not effective for a given species, then herbicide treatment may be necessary. Any herbicide spot treatment will be applied

by a Commercial Certified Pesticide Application in accordance with NYSDEC approved herbicide and treatment measures.

3. **Construction Equipment Sanitation:** The contractor will be required to wash down all major construction equipment prior to entry into the project site using a mobile pressure washer. The washing of construction equipment will prevent invasive plant propagules from dispersing further into the project site. Truck washing will be coordinated with SPDES requirements to limit runoff, wash out areas will not be proximate to any stream/wetland resources and will not be allowed to drain into any stream/wetland resources, and wash out locations will be indicated on the contractor construction drawings.
4. **Restoration:** Regulated wetland and stream areas that are temporarily impacted during construction will be stabilized and restored in accordance with the project specific Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan.

POST CONSTRUCTION MONITORING

Assuming the ISCP is necessary (as indicated above, neither temporary nor permanent impacts to stream or wetland resources are anticipated), monitoring of the control of invasive species for the Allegany Wind Power Project will have two (2) phases. The first is monitoring the implementation of the ISCP during construction. The second is monitoring the success of the ISCP for a two-year period to coincide with the monitoring of other project restoration activities (e.g., agricultural resources). The potential change in invasive species coverage in on-site stream or wetland areas from pre-construction to post-construction will be conducted by visually inspecting the limits of disturbance during the growing season for two consecutive years following restoration. A report detailing the status of the ISCP will be included in an annual monitoring report, which will describe the monitoring methodologies, identify the monitoring locations, and discuss the success of the ISCP. The annual monitoring reports will be provided to the Town of Allegany and any other jurisdictional agency (e.g., NYSDEC, US Army Corps of Engineers), and at the end of the second year of monitoring, the need for follow-up activities will be addressed with the agencies, if necessary.