





**ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES, LLC**  
CONSULTING SERVICES

July 14, 2008

Ms. Yelann Yu  
Bergman Associates  
28 East Main Street  
200 First Federal Plaza  
Rochester, New York 14614

**Re: Habitat evaluation for presence of threatened and endangered plant species; City Gate Project Site, Town of Brighton, Monroe County, New York.**

Dear Ms. Yu:

Environmental Resources, LLC (ERS) conducted an assessment of the above referenced 18± acre project site, which occupies the southeast portion of the former Monroe County Iola Campus, located northeast of the intersection of East Henrietta Road and the Erie Canal. (Appendix A – Figure 1). Our assessment consisted of site field evaluations on January 7 and June 26, 2008 conducted by ERS staff ecologist Gene Pellett and wildlife biologist John Hauber, written requests for file information concerning threatened and endangered species from New York Natural Heritage Program, and a review of U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service website for federally listed endangered and threatened species.

## RESULTS

### Site Description

The focus of this investigation is the largely undeveloped eastern third of the former Monroe County Iola Campus property known as City Gate, which consists of approximately 18-acres of land. The study area is bound by the existing Iola Campus to the west, an office campus and undeveloped lands to the east, Westfall Road to the north, and the Erie Canal and Interstate 590 to the south.

The undeveloped portion of the project site appears to have been utilized as a storage area for maintenance equipment and construction materials. Although no buildings are currently present, evidence of past disturbance includes extensive fills resulting from parking areas, driveways, and disposal, construction and demolition of buildings, and storage of construction materials.

As such, the vegetation communities currently characterizing this area are consistent with successional old-field and forest “pioneer” communities typical of disturbed sites. Successional old-field vegetation typically includes: mugwort (*Altissima vulgaris*), common reed (*Phragmites australis*), Queen Ann’s lace (*Daucus carota*), teasel (*Dipsicus sylvestris*), garlic mustard (*Alliara petiolata*), and others.

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Pioneer forest communities consists primarily of box elder (*Acer negundo*) and eastern cottonwood (*Populus deltoids*) trees, with a shrub understory of honeysuckle (*Lonicera tatarica*) and summer grape (*Vitis aestivalis*) vines.

Poor grading during these disturbance activities have altered hydrology and resulted in isolated pockets of standing water, which now exhibit wetland character.

#### Resource Information

Response from New York Natural Heritage Program indicate there to be no "known occurrences of rare, or state-listed animals or plants, significant natural communities, or other significant habitats, on or in the immediate vicinity" of the City Gate project site. (See Appendix B – Agency Correspondence).

A review of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service database (last updated June 30, 2008) suggests the bog turtle (*Clemmys muhlenbergii*) may occur in the western Monroe County Towns of Riga and Sweden. (See Appendix B). Slow moving, spring-fed shallow surface waters present year round, soft muck or mucky-like soils, and hummocks of grasses and/or sedges. These habitat conditions are not characteristic of the site wetlands, and do not occur on or near the project site.


#### CONCLUSIONS

Based on available resource information, and conditions observed during our field investigations, it is our professional opinion that no rare, threatened, or endangered species or ecological communities occur on the City Gate project site. New York Natural Heritage Program has no records of rare, threatened or endangered plants, animals or natural communities on or in the immediate vicinity of the study area.

The U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service has identified the bog turtle to potentially exist in the Monroe County, Towns of Riga and Sweden. While wetlands are present on the project site, habitat conditions required for the presence of bog turtle are not. No turtles of any species were observed nor were the needed spring seeps, shallow waterways, tussock sedge and low grass areas, small ponds and other critical habitat needs of the species of concern.

No further action is necessary at this time.

Sincerely,  
Environmental Resources, LLC

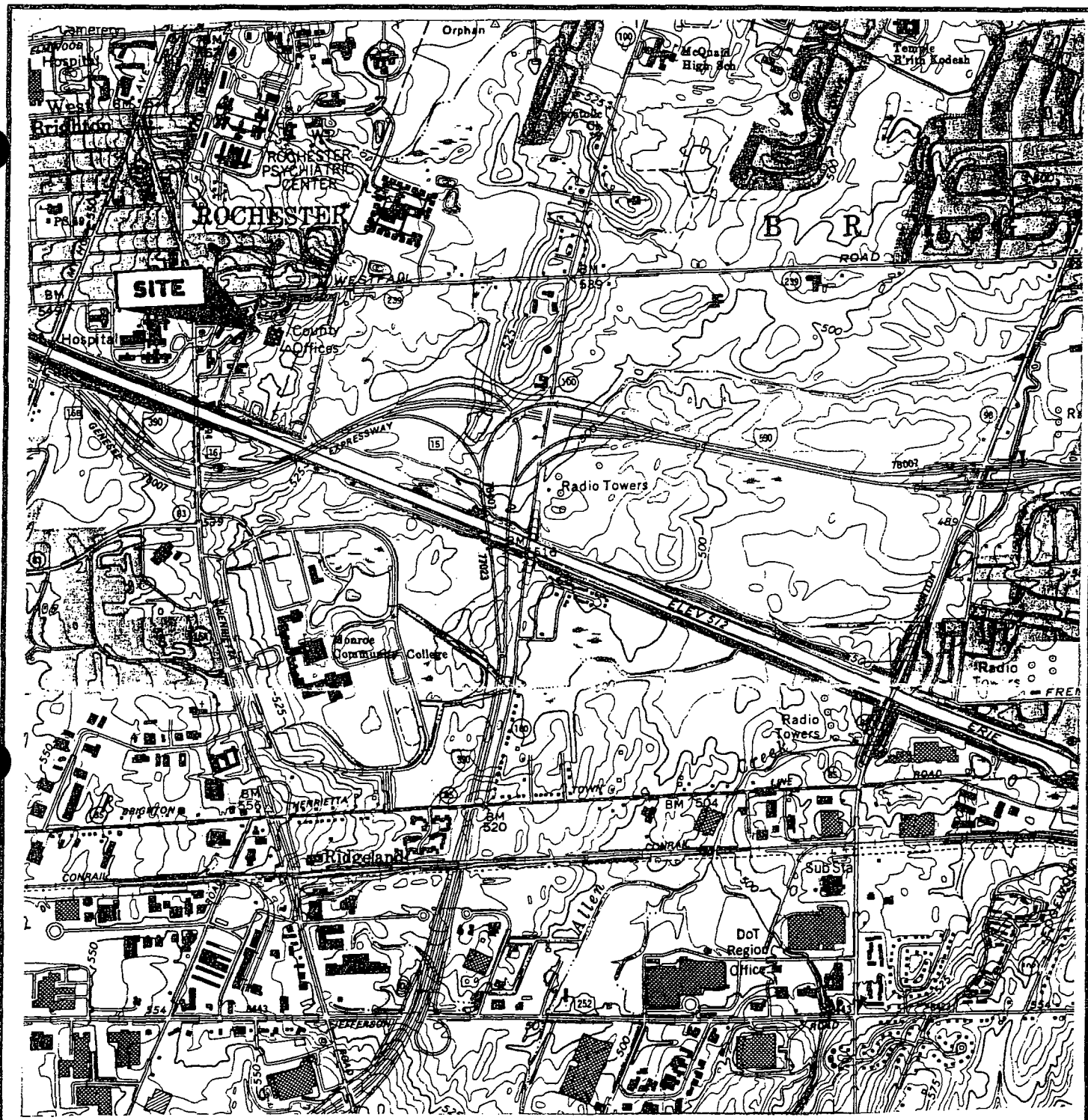


Gene Pellett  
Wetlands Ecologist

Attachments.

APPENDIX A

*Figure 1*




Legend:  Site Boundary  
 Base Map: USGS 7.5 Minute Topographic Map - Pittsford, NY (1978)

FIGURE 1. SITE LOCATION

Prepared By: *Environmental Resources, LLC*



APPENDIX B

*Agency Correspondence*

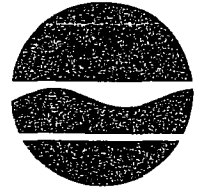
NEW YORK STATE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION

Division of Fish, Wildlife & Marine Resources

New York Natural Heritage Program

625 Broadway, Albany, New York 12233-4757

Phone: (518) 402-8935 • FAX: (518) 402-8925



Alexander B. Grannis  
Commissioner

July 10, 2008

Gene Pellett  
Environmental Resources  
33 Kress Hill Drive  
Spencerport, NY 14559

Dear Mr. Pellett:


In response to your recent request, we have reviewed the New York Natural Heritage Program database with respect to an Environmental Assessment for the proposed Unknown Project on 15 acres at the Iola Campus, site as indicated on the map you provided, located in the Town of Brighton, Monroe County.

We have no records of known occurrences of rare or state-listed animals or plants, significant natural communities, or other significant habitats, on or in the immediate vicinity of your site.

The absence of data does not necessarily mean that rare or state-listed species, natural communities or other significant habitats do not exist on or adjacent to the proposed site. Rather, our files currently do not contain any information which indicates their presence. For most sites, comprehensive field surveys have not been conducted. For these reasons, we cannot provide a definitive statement on the presence or absence of rare or state-listed species, or of significant natural communities. This information should not be substituted for on-site surveys that may be required for environmental assessment.

Our databases are continually growing as records are added and updated. If this proposed project is still under development one year from now, we recommend that you contact us again so that we may update this response with the most current information.

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 Data bases. 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 appropriate NYS DEC Regional Office, Division of Environmental Permits, at the enclosed address.

Sincerely,  
  
Tara Seoane, Information Services  
NY Natural Heritage Program

Enc.

cc: Reg. 8, Wildlife Mgr.



**Monroe County**

**Federally Listed Endangered and Threatened Species and Candidate Species**

This list represents the best available information regarding known or likely County occurrences of Federally-listed and candidate species and is subject to change as new information becomes available.

<u>Common Name</u>	<u>Scientific Name</u>	<u>Status</u>
Bog turtle (Riga and Sweden Townships)	<i>Clemmys muhlenbergii</i>	T

Status Codes: E=Endangered T=Threatened P=Proposed C=Candidate D=Delisted

Information current as of: 6/30/2008

[Print Species List](#)