

617.20  
Appendix A  
State Environmental Quality Review  
FULL ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT FORM

**Purpose:** The full EAF is designed to help applicants and agencies determine, in an orderly manner, whether a project or action may be significant. The question of whether an action may be significant is not always easy to answer. Frequently, there are aspects of a project that are subjective or unmeasurable. It is also understood that those who determine significance may have little or no formal knowledge of the environment or may not be technically expert in environmental analysis. In addition, many who have knowledge in one particular area may not be aware of the broader concerns affecting the question of significance.

The full EAF is intended to provide a method whereby applicants and agencies can be assured that the determination process has been orderly, comprehensive in nature, yet flexible enough to allow introduction of information to fit a project or action.

**Full EAF Components:** The full EAF is comprised of three parts:

- Part 1:** Provides objective data and information about a given project and its site. By identifying basic project data, it assists a reviewer in the analysis that takes place in Parts 2 and 3.
- Part 2:** Focuses on identifying the range of possible impacts that may occur from a project or action. It provides guidance as to whether an impact is likely to be considered small to moderate or whether it is a potentially-large impact. The form also identifies whether an impact can be mitigated or reduced.
- Part 3:** If any impact in Part 2 is identified as potentially-large, then Part 3 is used to evaluate whether or not the impact is actually important.

---

**THIS AREA FOR LEAD AGENCY USE ONLY**

**DETERMINATION OF SIGNIFICANCE -- Type 1 and Unlisted Actions**

Identify the Portions of EAF completed for this project:



Part 1



Part 2



Part 3

Upon review of the information recorded on this EAF (Parts 1 and 2 and 3 if appropriate), and any other supporting information, and considering both the magnitude and importance of each impact, it is reasonably determined by the lead agency that:

- A. The project will not result in any large and important impact(s) and, therefore, is one which will not have a significant impact on the environment, therefore a **negative declaration will be prepared.**
- B. Although the project could have a significant effect on the environment, there will not be a significant effect for this Unlisted Action because the mitigation measures described in PART 3 have been required, therefore a **CONDITIONED negative declaration will be prepared.\***
- C. The project may result in one or more large and important impacts that may have a significant impact on the environment, therefore a **positive declaration will be prepared.**

\*A Conditioned Negative Declaration is only valid for Unlisted Actions

Adoption of the Town of Berlin Comprehensive Plan

---

Name of Action

Berlin Town Board

---

Name of Lead Agency

Rober Jaeger

Print or Type Name of Responsible Officer in Lead Agency

Supervisor

Title of Responsible Officer

Signature of Responsible Officer in Lead Agency

Signature of Preparer (If different from responsible officer)

07-14-11

Date

## PART 1--PROJECT INFORMATION

### Prepared by Project Sponsor

NOTICE: This document is designed to assist in determining whether the action proposed may have a significant effect on the environment. Please complete the entire form, Parts A through E. Answers to these questions will be considered as part of the application for approval and may be subject to further verification and public review. Provide any additional information you believe will be needed to complete Parts 2 and 3.

It is expected that completion of the full EAF will be dependent on information currently available and will not involve new studies, research or investigation. If information requiring such additional work is unavailable, so indicate and specify each instance.

Name of Action Adoption of the Town of Berlin Comprehensive Plan

Location of Action (include Street Address, Municipality and County)

The entire town of Berlin, Rensselaer County, New York

Name of Applicant/Sponsor Town of Berlin

Address P.O. Box 307; 65 South Main Street

City / PO Berlin State New York Zip Code 12022

Business Telephone 518 658-2060 fax

Name of Owner (if different) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City / PO \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Business Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

Description of Action:

The Berlin Town Board tentatively will adopt the Town of Berlin Comprehensive Plan which examines the environment, infrastructure, transportation, housing, economic development, community services and some planning issues. A comprehensive review of land use was not performed as a part of the Comprehensive Plan and will be a part of a separate plan being considered by the Planning Board and Zoning Board of Appeals.

Please Complete Each Question--Indicate N.A. if not applicable

**A. SITE DESCRIPTION**

Physical setting of overall project, both developed and undeveloped areas.

1. Present Land Use:  Urban  Industrial  Commercial  Residential (suburban)  Rural (non-farm)  
 Forest  Agriculture  Other State Park

2. Total acreage of project area: 38,270 acres.

| APPROXIMATE ACREAGE  | PRESENTLY           | AFTER COMPLETION    |
|--|---------------------|---------------------|
| Meadow or Brushland (Non-agricultural)                     | <u>2,000</u> acres  | <u>2,000</u> acres  |
| Forested   | <u>31,370</u> acres | <u>31,370</u> acres |
| Agricultural (Includes orchards, cropland, pasture, etc.)  | <u>3,150</u> acres  | <u>3,150</u> acres  |
| Wetland (Freshwater or tidal as per Articles 24,25 of ECL) | <u>1,090</u> acres  | <u>1,090</u> acres  |
| Water Surface Area   | <u>200</u> acres    | <u>200</u> acres    |
| Unvegetated (Rock, earth or fill)                          | <u>100</u> acres    | <u>100</u> acres    |
| Roads, buildings and other paved surfaces                  | <u>25</u> acres     | <u>25</u> acres     |
| Other (Indicate type) <u>Lawns, etc.</u>                   | <u>335</u> acres    | <u>335</u> acres    |

3. What is predominant soil type(s) on project site? Buckland, Glover, Macomber Taconi

- a. Soil drainage:  Well drained 50 % of site  Moderately well drained 30 % of site.  
 Poorly drained 20 % of site

- b. If any agricultural land is involved, how many acres of soil are classified within soil group 1 through 4 of the NYS Land Classification System? 1,485 acres (see 1 NYCRR 370).

4. Are there bedrock outcroppings on project site?  Yes  No

- a. What is depth to bedrock 0-50 (in feet)

5. Approximate percentage of proposed project site with slopes:

- 0-10% 15 %  10- 15% 27 %  15% or greater 56 %

6. Is project substantially contiguous to, or contain a building, site, or district, listed on the State or National Registers of Historic Places?  Yes  No

7. Is project substantially contiguous to a site listed on the Register of National Natural Landmarks?  Yes  No

8. What is the depth of the water table? 1-100 (in feet)

9. Is site located over a primary, principal, or sole source aquifer?  Yes  No

10. Do hunting, fishing or shell fishing opportunities presently exist in the project area?  Yes  No

11. Does project site contain any species of plant or animal life that is identified as threatened or endangered?  Yes  No

According to:

NYS Natural Heritage Program, NYS DEC.

Identify each species:

New England Cottontail (*Sylvilagus transitionalis*);  
Anderson's peat Moss (*Sphagnum andersonianum*)  
farwell's water-milfoil (*Myriophyllum farwellii*)

12. Are there any unique or unusual land forms on the project site? (i.e., cliffs, dunes, other geological formations?)

Yes  No

Describe:

two caves, several rock outcroppings with cliffs, Inland poor fen, spruce-fir swamp, spruce flats, dwarf shrub bog, shallow emergent marsh, maple-basswood rich mesic forest, rich sloping fen, black spruce-tamarack bog, sedge meadow, spruce-northern hardwood forest ~~beech maple mesic forest, hemlock-northern hardwood forest~~

13. Is the project site presently used by the community or neighborhood as an open space or recreation area?

Yes  No

If yes, explain:

The town includes the Cherry Plain State Park, the Capital District Wildlife Management Area, the Taconic Crest Trail, NYS snowmobile trails, a portion of the Dyken Pond Environmental Education Center and State fishing access areas as well as private rod and gun clubs.

14. Does the present site include scenic views known to be important to the community?  Yes  No

The Taconic Crest is considered an important scenic view in the NYS Open Space Plan. Other areas are also considered scenic by the community at large.

15. Streams within or contiguous to project area:

Black River, West Brook, Rocky Brook, Little Hoosick River, Kronk Brook, Greens Brook, Poesten Kill, numerous unnamed tributaries.

a. Name of Stream and name of River to which it is tributary

Black River, West Brook, Rocky Brook as well as unnamed tributaries flow into the Kinderhook Creek and thence to the Hudson River. The Kronk Brook, Greens Brook and unnamed tributaries flow into the Little Hoosick River which flows into the Hoosick River and thence into the Hudson River. The Poesten Kill flows into the Hudson River.

16. Lakes, ponds, wetland areas within or contiguous to project area:

Dyken Pond - 171 acres, Kendall Pond - 35 acres, Round Pond - 12 acres, Spring Lake - 25 acres, Black River Pond - 35 acres, numerous small ponds in the 1-11 acre size. State wetlands: H-1 - 167 acres, SC-1 - 616 acres, SC-2 - 177 acres, SC-3 - 436 acres, SC-5(pt) - 365 acres, SC-22(pt) - 1,046 acres, SC-25 - 207 acres, T-16 - 1,703 acres, T-17 - 203 acres, T-18 - 257 acres, T-19 - 543 acres, T-20 - 676 acres,

b. Size (in acres):

T-24 - 611 acres, T-25 - 250 acres, T-26 - 209 acres, T-27 - 587 acres, T-28 - 237 acres, T-29 - 336 acres, T-30 - 164 acres, T-35 - 298 acres, T-36 - 134 acres, T-37 - 199 acres, T-38 - 513 acres, T-39 - 213 acres, T-40 - 157 acres, T-41 - 478 acres, T-42 - 273 acres, T-46 - 944 acres, T-47 - 420 acres, T-48 - 178 acres, T-52 - 61 acres, T-54 - 97 acres, T-56 - 87 acres, T-60 - 277 acres. Wetland acres are the number of regulated acres.

17. Is the site served by existing public utilities?  Yes  No
- a. If YES, does sufficient capacity exist to allow connection?  Yes  No
- b. If YES, will improvements be necessary to allow connection?  Yes  No
18. Is the site located in an agricultural district certified pursuant to Agriculture and Markets Law, Article 25-AA, Section 303 and 304?  Yes  No
19. Is the site located in or substantially contiguous to a Critical Environmental Area designated pursuant to Article 8 of the ECL, and 6 NYCRR 617?  Yes  No
20. Has the site ever been used for the disposal of solid or hazardous wastes?  Yes  No

**B. Project Description**

1. Physical dimensions and scale of project (fill in dimensions as appropriate).
- a. Total contiguous acreage owned or controlled by project sponsor: n.a. acres.
- b. Project acreage to be developed: n.a. acres initially; \_\_\_\_\_ acres ultimately.
- c. Project acreage to remain undeveloped: n.a. acres.
- d. Length of project, in miles: n.a. (if appropriate)
- e. If the project is an expansion, indicate percent of expansion proposed. n.a. %
- f. Number of off-street parking spaces existing n.a.; proposed \_\_\_\_\_
- g. Maximum vehicular trips generated per hour: n.a. (upon completion of project)?
- h. If residential: Number and type of housing units:
- |            | One Family | Two Family | Multiple Family | Condominium |
|------------|------------|------------|-----------------|-------------|
| Initially  | _____      | _____      | _____           | _____       |
| Ultimately | _____      | _____      | _____           | _____       |
- i. Dimensions (in feet) of largest proposed structure: \_\_\_\_\_ height; \_\_\_\_\_ width; \_\_\_\_\_ length.
- j. Linear feet of frontage along a public thoroughfare project will occupy is? \_\_\_\_\_ ft.
2. How much natural material (i.e. rock, earth, etc.) will be removed from the site? n.a. tons/cubic yards.
3. Will disturbed areas be reclaimed  Yes  No  N/A
- a. If yes, for what intended purpose is the site being reclaimed?
- 
- b. Will topsoil be stockpiled for reclamation?  Yes  No
- c. Will upper subsoil be stockpiled for reclamation?  Yes  No
4. How many acres of vegetation (trees, shrubs, ground covers) will be removed from site? n.a. acres.

5. Will any mature forest (over 100 years old) or other locally-important vegetation be removed by this project?

Yes  No

6. If single phase project: Anticipated period of construction: n.a. months, (including demolition)

7. If multi-phased:

a. Total number of phases anticipated \_\_\_\_\_ (number)

b. Anticipated date of commencement phase 1: \_\_\_\_\_ month \_\_\_\_\_ year, (including demolition)

c. Approximate completion date of final phase: \_\_\_\_\_ month \_\_\_\_\_ year.

d. Is phase 1 functionally dependent on subsequent phases?  Yes  No

8. Will blasting occur during construction?  Yes  No

9. Number of jobs generated: during construction n.a.; after project is complete \_\_\_\_\_

10. Number of jobs eliminated by this project n.a..

11. Will project require relocation of any projects or facilities?  Yes  No

If yes, explain:

12. Is surface liquid waste disposal involved?  Yes  No

a. If yes, indicate type of waste (sewage, industrial, etc) and amount \_\_\_\_\_

b. Name of water body into which effluent will be discharged \_\_\_\_\_

13. Is subsurface liquid waste disposal involved?  Yes  No Type \_\_\_\_\_

14. Will surface area of an existing water body increase or decrease by proposal?  Yes  No

If yes, explain:

15. Is project or any portion of project located in a 100 year flood plain?  Yes  No

16. Will the project generate solid waste?  Yes  No

a. If yes, what is the amount per month? \_\_\_\_\_ tons

b. If yes, will an existing solid waste facility be used?  Yes  No

c. If yes, give name \_\_\_\_\_; location \_\_\_\_\_

d. Will any wastes not go into a sewage disposal system or into a sanitary landfill?  Yes  No

e. If yes, explain:

17. Will the project involve the disposal of solid waste?  Yes  No

a. If yes, what is the anticipated rate of disposal? \_\_\_\_\_ tons/month.

b. If yes, what is the anticipated site life? \_\_\_\_\_ years.

18. Will project use herbicides or pesticides?  Yes  No

19. Will project routinely produce odors (more than one hour per day)?  Yes  No

20. Will project produce operating noise exceeding the local ambient noise levels?  Yes  No

21. Will project result in an increase in energy use?  Yes  No

If yes, indicate type(s)

22. If water supply is from wells, indicate pumping capacity \_\_\_\_\_ gallons/minute.

23. Total anticipated water usage per day n.a. gallons/day.

24. Does project involve Local, State or Federal funding?  Yes  No

If yes, explain:

Rensselaer County Industrial Development Agency Grant and Hudson River Greenway Planning Grant

25. Approvals Required:

|                                    |   |  | Type        | Submittal Date |
|------------------------------------|---|--|-------------|----------------|
| City, Town, Village Board          | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No            | Approval    | _____          |
|                                    |   |  | _____       | _____          |
|                                    |   |  | _____       | _____          |
| City, Town, Village Planning Board | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No | Review Only | _____          |
|                                    |   |  | _____       | _____          |
|                                    |   |  | _____       | _____          |
| City, Town Zoning Board            | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No | Review Only | _____          |
|                                    |   |  | _____       | _____          |
|                                    |   |  | _____       | _____          |
| City, County Health Department     | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes            | <input type="checkbox"/> No            |             | _____          |
|                                    |   |  |             | _____          |
|                                    |   |  |             | _____          |
| Other Local Agencies               | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No | Review Only | _____          |
|                                    |   |  | _____       | _____          |
|                                    |   |  | _____       | _____          |
| Other Regional Agencies            | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No | Review Only | _____          |
|                                    |   |  | _____       | _____          |
|                                    |   |  | _____       | _____          |
| State Agencies                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No | Review Only | _____          |
|                                    |   |  | _____       | _____          |
|                                    |   |  | _____       | _____          |
| Federal Agencies                   | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes            | <input type="checkbox"/> No            |             | _____          |
|                                    |   |  |             | _____          |
|                                    |   |  |             | _____          |

C. Zoning and Planning Information

1. Does proposed action involve a planning or zoning decision?  Yes  No

If Yes, indicate decision required:

- |   |   |   |                                      |
|---|---|---|--------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Zoning amendment | <input type="checkbox"/> Zoning variance    | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> New/revision of master plan | <input type="checkbox"/> Subdivision |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Site plan        | <input type="checkbox"/> Special use permit | <input type="checkbox"/> Resource management plan               | <input type="checkbox"/> Other       |



2. What is the zoning classification(s) of the site?

Rural Use, Residential 1, Residential 2, Public Use, Industrial & Commercial

3. What is the maximum potential development of the site if developed as permitted by the present zoning?

Topography/geology is limiting factor in development, not zoning.

4. What is the proposed zoning of the site?

Same

5. What is the maximum potential development of the site if developed as permitted by the proposed zoning?

Same.

6. Is the proposed action consistent with the recommended uses in adopted local land use plans?  Yes  No

No present adopted local land use plans other than zoning regulation.

7. What are the predominant land use(s) and zoning classifications within a ¼ mile radius of proposed action?

Land use - forest, agriculture, residential, industrial, recreational, commercial, meadow/brush.  
All zoning classifications of the Town of Berlin; no zoning in Petersburg or Grafton; Rural Use in Stephentown; Rural Residential 2 District in Poestenkill; Open Space District, Residential Agricultural 1 district in Sand Lake, and Rural Use in Nassau.

8. Is the proposed action compatible with adjoining/surrounding land uses with a ¼ mile?  Yes  No

9. If the proposed action is the subdivision of land, how many lots are proposed? n.a.

a. What is the minimum lot size proposed? \_\_\_\_\_

10. Will proposed action require any authorization(s) for the formation of sewer or water districts?  Yes  No

11. Will the proposed action create a demand for any community provided services (recreation, education, police, fire protection)?

Yes  No

a. If yes, is existing capacity sufficient to handle projected demand?  Yes  No

12. Will the proposed action result in the generation of traffic significantly above present levels?  Yes  No

a. If yes, is the existing road network adequate to handle the additional traffic.  Yes  No

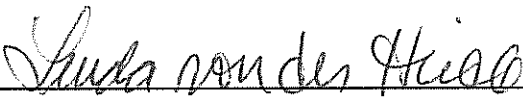
**D. Informational Details**

Attach any additional information as may be needed to clarify your project. If there are or may be any adverse impacts associated with your proposal, please discuss such impacts and the measures which you propose to mitigate or avoid them.

**E. Verification**

I certify that the information provided above is true to the best of my knowledge.

Applicant/Sponsor Name Town of Berlin Date 2/11/11

Signature 

Title Principal Planner, Rensselaer Co. Economic Dev't & Planning

If the action is in the Coastal Area, and you are a state agency, complete the Coastal Assessment Form before proceeding with this assessment.

## PART 2 - PROJECT IMPACTS AND THEIR MAGNITUDE

### Responsibility of Lead Agency

**General Information (Read Carefully)**

- ! In completing the form the reviewer should be guided by the question: Have my responses and determinations been **reasonable**? The reviewer is not expected to be an expert environmental analyst.
- ! The **Examples** provided are to assist the reviewer by showing types of impacts and wherever possible the threshold of magnitude that would trigger a response in column 2. The examples are generally applicable throughout the State and for most situations. But, for any specific project or site other examples and/or lower thresholds may be appropriate for a Potential Large Impact response, thus requiring evaluation in Part 3.
- ! The impacts of each project, on each site, in each locality, will vary. Therefore, the examples are illustrative and have been offered as guidance. They do not constitute an exhaustive list of impacts and thresholds to answer each question.
- ! The number of examples per question does not indicate the importance of each question.
- ! In identifying impacts, consider long term, short term and cumulative effects.

**Instructions (Read carefully)**

- a. Answer each of the 20 questions in PART 2. Answer **Yes** if there will be **any** impact.
- b. **Maybe** answers should be considered as **Yes** answers.
- c. If answering **Yes** to a question then check the appropriate box(column 1 or 2)to indicate the potential size of the impact. If impact threshold equals or exceeds any example provided, check column 2. If impact will occur but threshold is lower than example, check column 1.
- d. Identifying that an Impact will be potentially large (column 2) does not mean that it is also necessarily **significant**. Any large impact must be evaluated in PART 3 to determine significance. Identifying an impact in column 2 simply asks that it be looked at further.
- e. If reviewer has doubt about size of the impact then consider the impact as potentially large and proceed to PART 3.
- f. If a potentially large impact checked in column 2 can be mitigated by change(s) in the project to a small to moderate impact, also check the **Yes** box in column 3. A **No** response indicates that such a reduction is not possible. This must be explained in Part 3.

| 1                        | 2                      | 3   |
|--------------------------|------------------------|---|
| Small to Moderate Impact | Potential Large Impact | Can Impact Be Mitigated by Project Change |

### Impact on Land

1. Will the Proposed Action result in a physical change to the project site?

NO  YES

**Examples** that would apply to column 2

- |  |                          |                          |                              |                             |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| • Any construction on slopes of 15% or greater, (15 foot rise per 100 foot of length), or where the general slopes in the project area exceed 10%. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| • Construction on land where the depth to the water table is less than 3 feet.   | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| • Construction of paved parking area for 1,000 or more vehicles.   | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| • Construction on land where bedrock is exposed or generally within 3 feet of existing ground surface.   | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| • Construction that will continue for more than 1 year or involve more than one phase or stage.  | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| • Excavation for mining purposes that would remove more than 1,000 tons of natural material (i.e., rock or soil) per year.                         | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No |

|  |                                |                              |   |  |
|--|--------------------------------|------------------------------|---|--|
|  | 1                              | 2                            | 3   |  |
|  | Small to<br>Moderate<br>Impact | Potential<br>Large<br>Impact | Can Impact Be<br>Mitigated by<br>Project Change |  |

- Construction or expansion of a sanitary landfill.    Yes  No
  - Construction in a designated floodway.    Yes  No
  - Other impacts:    Yes  No
- 

2. Will there be an effect to any unique or unusual land forms found on the site? (i.e., cliffs, dunes, geological formations, etc.)

NO  YES

- Specific land forms:    Yes  No
- 

**Impact on Water**

3. Will Proposed Action affect any water body designated as protected? (Under Articles 15, 24, 25 of the Environmental Conservation Law, ECL)

NO  YES

**Examples** that would apply to column 2

- Developable area of site contains a protected water body.    Yes  No
- Dredging more than 100 cubic yards of material from channel of a protected stream.    Yes  No
- Extension of utility distribution facilities through a protected water body.    Yes  No
- Construction in a designated freshwater or tidal wetland.    Yes  No
- Other impacts:    Yes  No

4. Will Proposed Action affect any non-protected existing or new body of water?

NO  YES

**Examples** that would apply to column 2

- A 10% increase or decrease in the surface area of any body of water or more than a 10 acre increase or decrease.    Yes  No
- Construction of a body of water that exceeds 10 acres of surface area.    Yes  No
- Other impacts:    Yes  No



|                                |                              |   |
|--------------------------------|------------------------------|---|
| 1                              | 2                            | 3   |
| Small to<br>Moderate<br>Impact | Potential<br>Large<br>Impact | Can Impact Be<br>Mitigated by<br>Project Change |

6. Will Proposed Action alter drainage flow or patterns, or surface water runoff?

NO       YES

**Examples** that would apply to column 2

- |  |                          |                          |                              |                             |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| • Proposed Action would change flood water flows                   | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| • Proposed Action may cause substantial erosion.                   | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| • Proposed Action is incompatible with existing drainage patterns. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| • Proposed Action will allow development in a designated floodway. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| • Other impacts:   | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No |

**IMPACT ON AIR**

7. Will Proposed Action affect air quality?

NO       YES

**Examples** that would apply to column 2

- |   |                          |                          |                              |                             |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| • Proposed Action will induce 1,000 or more vehicle trips in any given hour.  | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| • Proposed Action will result in the incineration of more than 1 ton of refuse per hour.  | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| • Emission rate of total contaminants will exceed 5 lbs. per hour or a heat source producing more than 10 million BTU's per hour. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| • Proposed Action will allow an increase in the amount of land committed to industrial use.                                       | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| • Proposed Action will allow an increase in the density of industrial development within existing industrial areas.               | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| • Other impacts:  | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No |

**IMPACT ON PLANTS AND ANIMALS**

8. Will Proposed Action affect any threatened or endangered species?

NO       YES

**Examples** that would apply to column 2

- |   |                          |                          |                              |                             |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| • Reduction of one or more species listed on the New York or Federal list, using the site, over or near the site, or found on the site. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------------|

|   | 1<br>Small to<br>Moderate<br>Impact | 2<br>Potential<br>Large<br>Impact | 3<br>Can Impact Be<br>Mitigated by<br>Project Change     |
|---|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|--|
| • Removal of any portion of a critical or significant wildlife habitat.                               | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input type="checkbox"/>          | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| • Application of pesticide or herbicide more than twice a year, other than for agricultural purposes. | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input type="checkbox"/>          | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| • Other impacts:  | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input type="checkbox"/>          | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No |
|   |                                     |                                   |  |

9. Will Proposed Action substantially affect non-threatened or non-endangered species?  
 NO  YES

**Examples** that would apply to column 2

|  |                          |                          |  |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|--|
| • Proposed Action would substantially interfere with any resident or migratory fish, shellfish or wildlife species.                          | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| • Proposed Action requires the removal of more than 10 acres of mature forest (over 100 years of age) or other locally important vegetation. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| • Other impacts:   | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No |
|  |                          |                          |  |

**IMPACT ON AGRICULTURAL LAND RESOURCES**

10. Will Proposed Action affect agricultural land resources?  
 NO  YES

**Examples** that would apply to column 2

|  |                          |                          |  |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|--|
| • The Proposed Action would sever, cross or limit access to agricultural land (includes cropland, hayfields, pasture, vineyard, orchard, etc.)                                 | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| • Construction activity would excavate or compact the soil profile of agricultural land.   | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| • The Proposed Action would irreversibly convert more than 10 acres of agricultural land or, if located in an Agricultural District, more than 2.5 acres of agricultural land. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No |

|   | 1<br>Small to<br>Moderate<br>Impact | 2<br>Potential<br>Large<br>Impact | 3<br>Can Impact Be<br>Mitigated by<br>Project Change     |
|---|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|--|
| • The Proposed Action would disrupt or prevent installation of agricultural land management systems (e.g., subsurface drain lines, outlet ditches, strip cropping); or create a need for such measures (e.g. cause a farm field to drain poorly due to increased runoff). | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input type="checkbox"/>          | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| • Other impacts:  | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input type="checkbox"/>          | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No |
|   |                                     |                                   |  |

**IMPACT ON AESTHETIC RESOURCES**

11. Will Proposed Action affect aesthetic resources? (If necessary, use the Visual EAF Addendum in Section 617.20, Appendix B.)  
 NO     YES

**Examples** that would apply to column 2

|   |                          |                          |  |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|--|
| • Proposed land uses, or project components obviously different from or in sharp contrast to current surrounding land use patterns, whether man-made or natural.                              | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| • Proposed land uses, or project components visible to users of aesthetic resources which will eliminate or significantly reduce their enjoyment of the aesthetic qualities of that resource. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| • Project components that will result in the elimination or significant screening of scenic views known to be important to the area.  | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| • Other impacts:  | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No |
|   |                          |                          |  |

**IMPACT ON HISTORIC AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCES**

12. Will Proposed Action impact any site or structure of historic, prehistoric or paleontological importance?  
 NO     YES

**Examples** that would apply to column 2

|   |                          |                          |  |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|--|
| • Proposed Action occurring wholly or partially within or substantially contiguous to any facility or site listed on the State or National Register of historic places. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| • Any impact to an archaeological site or fossil bed located within the project site.   | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| • Proposed Action will occur in an area designated as sensitive for archaeological sites on the NYS Site Inventory.   | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No |



|  |                                     |                                   |  |
|--|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|--|
|  | 1<br>Small to<br>Moderate<br>Impact | 2<br>Potential<br>Large<br>Impact | 3<br>Can Impact Be<br>Mitigated by<br>Project Change     |
|  | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input type="checkbox"/>          | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No |

• Other impacts:

**IMPACT ON OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION**

13. Will proposed Action affect the quantity or quality of existing or future open spaces or recreational opportunities?

NO  YES

**Examples** that would apply to column 2

- |   |                          |                          |  |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|--|
| • The permanent foreclosure of a future recreational opportunity. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| • A major reduction of an open space important to the community.  | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| • Other impacts:  | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No |

**IMPACT ON CRITICAL ENVIRONMENTAL AREAS**

14. Will Proposed Action impact the exceptional or unique characteristics of a critical environmental area (CEA) established pursuant to subdivision 6NYCRR 617.14(g)?

NO  YES

List the environmental characteristics that caused the designation of the CEA.

**Examples** that would apply to column 2

- |   |                          |                          |  |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|--|
| • Proposed Action to locate within the CEA?                                   | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| • Proposed Action will result in a reduction in the quantity of the resource? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| • Proposed Action will result in a reduction in the quality of the resource?  | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| • Proposed Action will impact the use, function or enjoyment of the resource? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| • Other impacts:  | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No |

|                                     |                                   |  |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|--|
| 1<br>Small to<br>Moderate<br>Impact | 2<br>Potential<br>Large<br>Impact | 3<br>Can Impact Be<br>Mitigated by<br>Project Change |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|--|

**IMPACT ON TRANSPORTATION**

15. Will there be an effect to existing transportation systems?

NO       YES

**Examples** that would apply to column 2

- |  |                          |                          |                              |                             |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| • Alteration of present patterns of movement of people and/or goods. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| • Proposed Action will result in major traffic problems.             | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| • Other impacts:   | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No |

**IMPACT ON ENERGY**

16. Will Proposed Action affect the community's sources of fuel or energy supply?

NO       YES

**Examples** that would apply to column 2

- |   |                          |                          |                              |                             |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| • Proposed Action will cause a greater than 5% increase in the use of any form of energy in the municipality.   | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| • Proposed Action will require the creation or extension of an energy transmission or supply system to serve more than 50 single or two family residences or to serve a major commercial or industrial use. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| • Other impacts:  | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No |

**NOISE AND ODOR IMPACT**

17. Will there be objectionable odors, noise, or vibration as a result of the Proposed Action?

NO       YES

**Examples** that would apply to column 2

- |  |                          |                          |                              |                             |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| • Blasting within 1,500 feet of a hospital, school or other sensitive facility.  | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| • Odors will occur routinely (more than one hour per day).   | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| • Proposed Action will produce operating noise exceeding the local ambient noise levels for noise outside of structures. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| • Proposed Action will remove natural barriers that would act as a noise screen.   | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| • Other impacts:   | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No |



|  | 1<br>Small to<br>Moderate<br>Impact | 2<br>Potential<br>Large<br>Impact | 3<br>Can Impact Be<br>Mitigated by<br>Project Change     |
|--|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|--|
| • Proposed Action will set an important precedent for future projects. | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input type="checkbox"/>          | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| • Proposed Action will create or eliminate employment.                 | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input type="checkbox"/>          | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| • Other impacts:   | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input type="checkbox"/>          | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No |

20. Is there, or is there likely to be, public controversy related to potential adverse environment impacts?  
 NO     YES

**If Any Action in Part 2 Is Identified as a Potential Large Impact or If you Cannot Determine the Magnitude of Impact, Proceed to Part 3**

## Part 3 - EVALUATION OF THE IMPORTANCE OF IMPACTS

### Responsibility of Lead Agency

Part 3 must be prepared if one or more impact(s) is considered to be potentially large, even if the impact(s) may be mitigated.

**Instructions** (If you need more space, attach additional sheets)

Discuss the following for each impact identified in Column 2 of Part 2:

1. Briefly describe the impact.
2. Describe (if applicable) how the impact could be mitigated or reduced to a small to moderate impact by project change(s).
3. Based on the information available, decide if it is reasonable to conclude that this impact is **important**.

To answer the question of importance, consider:

- ! The probability of the impact occurring
- ! The duration of the impact
- ! Its irreversibility, including permanently lost resources of value
- ! Whether the impact can or will be controlled
- ! The regional consequence of the impact
- ! Its potential divergence from local needs and goals
- ! Whether known objections to the project relate to this impact.

## EVALUATION OF THE IMPORTANCE OF IMPACTS

No actions are proposed in the Town of Berlin Comprehensive Plan that will have the probability of creating a large, negative impact on the land, water, air, plants and animals, agricultural land, and historic and archaeological resources, open space and recreation, critical environmental areas, transportation, energy, noise and odor, public health, and growth and character of community. Instead, the Town of Berlin Comprehensive Plan attempts to mitigate the effects of previous actions as well as outside influences on such resources.

### Land

The Plan proposes the identification of important natural resources and agricultural lands for conservation and protection under conservation easement. Under the All Hazard Mitigation Plan, development in areas of flooding and landslide would be discouraged.

### Water

The Plan encourages best management practices for agriculture to reduce the effects of erosion for water quality, as well as maintaining flood infrastructure practices in the Little Hoosick River to reduce flooding and its effects. The maintenance of the existing waters systems as well as exploration of possible sewer systems in the hamlets of Berlin and Cherry Plain are also proposed to protect ground water.

### Air

Although the Plan encourages the review of the existing zoning for the sufficiency of lands zoned for industrial and commercial uses, it also encourages clean industries to provide local employment for the citizens of the town, instead of traveling 20 plus miles to work. The plan encourages car and van pools, promotes a trail that will connect the three hamlets with a non-motorized method of transportation and proposes a method to connect both sides of the Berlin hamlet for pedestrians.

### Plants and Animals

Although no specific action items mention plants and animals, the protection of natural resources which may contain threatened or endangered species by conservation easement and other methods is proposed. Also, the Plan's text recognizes that much of the town has a significant wildlife population, including large animals such as bears, moose, coyote and lynx, and that the human residents need to be cognizant of their wild neighbors.

### Endangered Species

The Plan does not outright address endangered species, although, the protection of natural resources which may contain threatened or endangered species by conservation easement and other methods is proposed. No action which will increase medium to large-sized predators is proposed. Many of the specific site communities are presently owned by the State of New York.

### **Agricultural Land Resources**

The Plan promotes the use of agricultural Best Management Practices to minimize soil erosion, preserve and increase soil fertility, maintain water and air quality and provide a healthy living environment for livestock. Additionally, the plan proposes to identify lands with significant ecological qualities or quality farmland to be preserved with conservation easements.

### **Aesthetic Resources**

The plan discourages ridge line development. The plan also encourages the reopening of several vistas along Plank Road/Co. Route 40 and the Taconic Crest Trail which have overgrown. The plan also proposes having a community clean up day yearly or biannually, creating a Hometown Maintenance Committee to assist homeowners with house and yard maintenance and encourages the restoration of historic buildings.

### **Historic and Archaeological Resources**

The plan encourages the restoration of historic buildings and also the creation of a list of historic buildings and historically relevant places. At this time, there are no listings in the town on the National Historic Register although there are several likely candidates that could be placed on the Register. The plan also encourages the revitalization of the hamlet areas.

### **Open Space and Recreation**

Since Berlin is a town rich with open space and recreation opportunities, open space and recreation have many items that will protect and enhance the open space and recreation opportunities in the town. The plan encourages the creation of an inventory of the natural resources of Berlin; work with NYS Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation to maintain and improve Cherry Plain State Park; improve signage to Taconic Trail trailheads and improve parking at trailheads where needed; properly maintain and advertise preserved and state lands with their passive and low-impact recreation areas; and create a multi-use trail along the railroad bed of the old Rutland Railroad bed running parallel to Route 22 and the Hoosic River. The plan also includes the basic items of improve entertainment and recreation and improve tourism. The Taconic Crest and the Rensselaer Plateau are both listed in New York State's Open Space Plan.

### **Critical Environmental Areas**

At present, there are no Critical Environmental Areas listed in or by the Town of Berlin. The creation of an inventory of natural resources in the town could lead to the listing of critical environmental areas, should sensitive areas be identified that are likely in the path of development.

### **Transportation**

The plan addresses transportation in its own chapter. Action items are: encourage the funding for New York State Department of Transportation to maintain Route 22; create alternative transportation modes such as public transportation, car pool, ride sharing

and van pools for trips to work, appointments and services; create a senior transportation mode such as vans or volunteer drivers to assist seniors in getting places; support or create an Adopt-a-Highway program for roadways; and create a multi-use trail along the railroad bed of the old Rutland Railroad bed running parallel to Route 22 and the Hoosic River. Additionally, the plan promotes economic development to provide jobs for the residents of the town, so that they will not need to travel long distances for meaningful employment. The plan also encourages working with neighboring towns to make Route 22 into a Scenic Byway.

### **Energy**

No specific energy policies were determined in the Comprehensive Plan, although Green Development, location of jobs near residents, and reuse of existing buildings are promoted. The Planning Board is presently reviewing Wind Energy and the issues that would occur with it. The following action items are listed that affect energy, its provision and use: Ensure that sufficient infrastructure exists in areas proposed for commercial and industrial use to support business growth; Examine the use of new technologies for infrastructure upgrades, including green technologies; and create alternative transportation modes such as public transportation, car pool, ride sharing and van pools for trips to work, appointments and services.

### **Noise and Odor**

It is hoped that none of the action items will create additional odors that presently exist in the town. Additional noise may occur with festivals and other community celebrations proposed in the Plan. It is hoped that most of the community will attend and not mind the additional sound.

### **Public Health**

Public health is promoted through the provision or exploration of clean drinking water to the hamlets, as well as the provision of health services in the town of people of all ages. The following are the action items cited in the plan: improve health services; work to get needed services in the community; provide opportunities for a secure environment for senior citizens; create a senior transportation mode such as vans or volunteer drivers to assist seniors in getting places; look into the development of water infrastructure in Cherry Plain and the development of sewer infrastructure in both Berlin and Cherry Plain to encourage the development in these areas; maintain water and other infrastructure to support the Berlin hamlet area; and encourage development in areas of existing public water infrastructure where smaller lot sizes can be used. It should be noted that residents are required to travel distances to receive health care.

### **Growth and Character of Community**

During the past two decades, the town of Berlin has lost population and is in danger of losing its character. Full-time residents have had to move elsewhere due to lack of jobs. Lack of youth has made Berlin an aging community. Most of the Plan is based on maintaining character while increasing opportunities for employment, recreation and services. Most of the action items listed within the Comprehensive Plan are meant to maintain the character of the community while maintaining or reversing the trend of



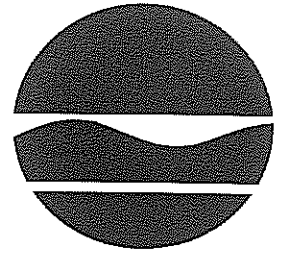
population loss. Included are items meant to push new development away from significant lands or areas.

### **Alternatives**

The Berlin Comprehensive Plan attempts to address the issues that are foremost in the town. Not creating and adopting a comprehensive plan would provide no guidance to the community in their future development, as well as removing guidance from Rensselaer County and New York State as to the desires of the Town of Berlin. A lack of comprehensive plan would also place many applications for funding in jeopardy. The adoption of a comprehensive plan that is based on urban or suburban issues would provide little or no guidance to the Town and may provide bad guidance at worst. Due to the quality of its natural and scenic resources as well as its drop in population, care must be taken to preserve its character and prevent it from becoming a ghost town or Disney-esque tourist town.

Via e-mail

**NEW YORK STATE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION**  
**Division of Fish, Wildlife & Marine Resources**  
**Habitat Inventory Unit**  
625 Broadway, 5<sup>th</sup> Floor, Albany, New York 12233-4757  
Phone: (518) 402-8935 • Fax: (518) 402-8925  
Website: [www.dec.ny.gov](http://www.dec.ny.gov)



Joe Martens  
Commissioner

June 10, 2011

Linda von der Heide  
Principal Planner  
Rensselaer County Economic Development and Planning  
1600 Seventh Avenue  
Troy, NY 12180

Dear Ms von der Heide:

In response to your recent request, we have reviewed the New York Natural Heritage Program Database with respect to an Environmental Assessment for the Town of Berlin, Rensselaer, Co. NY.

Enclosed is a report of rare or state-listed animals and plants, significant natural communities and other significant habitats, which our databases indicate occur, or may occur, on your site or in the immediate vicinity of your site. For most sites, comprehensive field surveys have not been conducted; the enclosed report only includes records from our databases. We cannot provide a definitive statement as to the presence or absence of all rare or state-listed species or natural communities. This information should not be substituted for on-site surveys that may be required for environmental impact assessment.

The enclosed report may be included in documents that will be available to the public. However, any enclosed maps displaying locations of rare species are considered sensitive information and are intended only for the internal use of the recipient; they should not be included in any document that will be made available to the public, without permission from the New York Natural Heritage Program.

The presence of the plants and animals identified in the enclosed report may result in this project requiring additional review or permit conditions. For further guidance, and 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, as listed at [www.dec.ny.gov/about39381.html](http://www.dec.ny.gov/about39381.html).

I have also noted the presence of Cherry Plain State Park and Capital District Wildlife Management Area.

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.

Sincerely,

Katherine F. Barnes, GISP  
Cartographic technician 3  
Habitat Inventory Unit

Enc.

cc: Region 4  
Tom Lyons, NYS OPRHP, Empire State Pl, Bldg #1, 17<sup>th</sup> Floor, Albany, 12238

## Natural Heritage Report on Rare Species and Ecological Communities

NY Natural Heritage Program, NYS DEC, 625 Broadway, 5th Floor,  
Albany, NY 12233-4757  
(518) 402-8935



### HISTORICAL RECORDS

The following plants and animals were documented in the vicinity of the project site at one time, but have not been documented there since 1979 or earlier, or there is uncertainty regarding their continued presence.

There is no recent information on these plants and animals in the vicinity of the project site and their current status there is unknown. In most cases the precise location of the plant or animal in this vicinity at the time it was last documented is also unknown and therefore location maps are generally not provided.

If appropriate habitat for these plants or animals is present in the vicinity of the project site, it is possible that they may still occur there.

## Natural Heritage Report on Rare Species and Ecological Communities



### MAMMALS

#### *Sylvilagus transitionalis*

|                                     |   |   |                     |
|-------------------------------------|---|---|---------------------|
| <b>New England Cottontail</b>       | <b>NY Legal Status:</b> Special Concern   | <b>NYS Rank:</b> S1S2 - Critically imperiled      | Office Use<br>12123 |
|                                     | <b>Federal Listing:</b> Candidate   | <b>Global Rank:</b> G3 - Vulnerable               |                     |
|                                     | <b>Last Report:</b> 1954-04-01  | <b>EO Rank:</b> Historical, no recent information | USFWS               |
| <b>County:</b>                      | Rensselaer  |   |                     |
| <b>Town:</b>                        | Berlin, Nassau, Poestenkill, Stephentown  |   |                     |
| <b>Location:</b>                    | Berlin and Stephentown  |   |                     |
| <b>Directions:</b>                  | The New England cottontails were found at two locations in the town of Berlin (Bucks Corners and 0.5 mi south of Dutch Church Road) and at two locations in the town of Stephentown (near Fire Tower Road and near Garfield). |   |                     |
| <b>General Quality and Habitat:</b> | The New England cottontails were found at four locations, mostly near roads.  |   |                     |

1 Records Processed

More detailed information about many of the rare and listed animals and plants in New York, including biology, identification, habitat, conservation, and management, are available online in Natural Heritage's Conservation Guides at [www.acris.nynhp.org](http://www.acris.nynhp.org), from NatureServe Explorer at <http://www.natureserve.org/explorer>, from NYSDEC at <http://www.dec.ny.gov/animals/7494.html> (for animals), and from USDA's Plants Database at <http://plants.usda.gov/index.html> (for plants).

Natural Heritage Report on Rare Species and Ecological Communities



NY Natural Heritage Program, NYS DEC, 625 Broadway, 5th Floor,  
Albany, NY 12233-4757  
(518) 402-8935

- The information in this report includes only records entered into the NY Natural Heritage databases as of the date of the report. This report is not a definitive statement on the presence or absence of all rare species or significant natural communities at or in the vicinity of this site.
- Refer to the User's Guide for explanations of codes, ranks and fields.
- Location maps for certain species and communities may not be provided 1) if the species is vulnerable to disturbance, 2) if the location and/or extent is not precisely known, 3) if the location and/or extent is too large to display, and/or 4) if the animal is listed as Endangered or Threatened by New York State.

Natural Heritage Report on Rare Species and Ecological Communities



COMMUNITIES

**Inland poor fen**

This occurrence of Inland Poor Fen is considered significant from a statewide perspective by the NY Natural Heritage Program. It is either an occurrence of a community type that is rare in the state or a high quality example of a more common community type. By meeting specific, documented significance criteria, the NY Natural Heritage Program considers this occurrence to have high ecological and conservation value.

Office Use

|                                     |  |                     |    |      |
|-------------------------------------|--|---------------------|----|------|
| <b>NY Legal Status:</b>             | Unlisted   | <b>NYS Rank:</b>    | S3 | 8863 |
| <b>Federal Listing:</b>             |  | <b>Global Rank:</b> | G4 |      |
| <b>Last Report:</b>                 | 1995-08-24   | <b>EO Rank:</b>     |    |      |
| <b>County:</b>                      | Rensselaer   |                     |    | S    |
| <b>Town:</b>                        | Berlin   |                     |    |      |
| <b>Location:</b>                    | At, or in the vicinity of, the project site.   |                     |    |      |
| <b>General Quality and Habitat:</b> | A relatively small 1-5 acre open peat mat with no open water, but having concentric zones of vegetation. The center is a dwarf shrub, Sphagnum dominated carpet with Rubus hispidus, scattered island/hummocks of dwarf (1 m) spruce and highbush blueberry. T |                     |    |      |

**Spruce-fir swamp**

This occurrence of Spruce-Fir Swamp is considered significant from a statewide perspective by the NY Natural Heritage Program. It is either an occurrence of a community type that is rare in the state or a high quality example of a more common community type. By meeting specific, documented significance criteria, the NY Natural Heritage Program considers this occurrence to have high ecological and conservation value.

Office Use

|                                     |  |                     |      |      |
|-------------------------------------|--|---------------------|------|------|
| <b>NY Legal Status:</b>             | Unlisted   | <b>NYS Rank:</b>    | S3   | 4711 |
| <b>Federal Listing:</b>             |  | <b>Global Rank:</b> | G3G4 |      |
| <b>Last Report:</b>                 | 1995-09-07   | <b>EO Rank:</b>     |      |      |
| <b>County:</b>                      | Rensselaer   |                     |      | S    |
| <b>Town:</b>                        | Berlin   |                     |      |      |
| <b>Location:</b>                    | Buck Rock Woods  |                     |      |      |
| <b>General Quality and Habitat:</b> | Small, relatively undisturbed swamp, surrounded by successional northern hardwoods and hemlock northern hardwoods. May have been selectively logged in past (>50 years ago). An approximately 5 acre spruce-fir swamp dominated by equal portions of spruce, balsam fir, hemlock, and yellow birch. Each one can dominate in spots. Swamp drains to south into beaver-flooded marsh that has standing dead trees. The spruce-fir swamp does not have any old/large trees, but there is no evidence of recent logging, and the regeneration of canopy trees seems excellent. The swamp is surrounded by middle successional age hemlock-northern hardwoods. |                     |      |      |



**Spruce flats**

This occurrence of Spruce Flats is considered significant from a statewide perspective by the NY Natural Heritage Program. It is either an occurrence of a community type that is rare in the state or a high quality example of a more common community type. By meeting specific, documented significance criteria, the NY Natural Heritage Program considers this occurrence to have high ecological and conservation value.

Office Use

|                                     |   |                     |     |      |
|-------------------------------------|---|---------------------|-----|------|
| <b>NY Legal Status:</b>             | Unlisted  | <b>NYS Rank:</b>    | S4  | 7067 |
| <b>Federal Listing:</b>             |   | <b>Global Rank:</b> | G4? |      |
| <b>Last Report:</b>                 | 1999-08-31  | <b>EO Rank:</b>     |     |      |
| <b>County:</b>                      | Rensselaer  |                     |     |      |
| <b>Town:</b>                        | Berlin, Poestenkill   |                     |     |      |
| <b>Location:</b>                    | Poestenkill Headwaters  |                     |     |      |
| <b>General Quality and Habitat:</b> | An extensive forest with diverse physiognomy and species composition, and with natural processes intact. Some mature forest, but much has been selectively logged. No exotic species and excellent recovery potential (with possibility of upgrading to an "A" rank). In an extensive forested landscape, but the forest is bisected by two paved roads. Could be "A" ranked with extensive recovery from logging. The spruce flats occupy the moist lowlands within an extensive, mostly forested landscape and surrounding an intricate wetland mosaic of spruce-fir swamp, shallow emergent marsh, sedge meadow, and areas of dwarf shrub bog where peat has accumulated and Chamaedaphne has established. Other small areas within the wetland complex are succeeding to shrub swamp. This entire mosaic is embedded within a mixture of two matrix forest types, beech-maple mesic forest and hemlock-northern hardwood forest. All forested communities have been and are currently being selectively logged by the forestry company that owns the land, possibly preferentially selecting spruce. Cut stumps are found in most areas. Species composition and structure have been affected and some ar |                     |     |      |

**Dwarf shrub bog**

This occurrence of Dwarf Shrub Bog is considered significant from a statewide perspective by the NY Natural Heritage Program. It is either an occurrence of a community type that is rare in the state or a high quality example of a more common community type. By meeting specific, documented significance criteria, the NY Natural Heritage Program considers this occurrence to have high ecological and conservation value.

Office Use

|                                     |   |                     |    |      |
|-------------------------------------|---|---------------------|----|------|
| <b>NY Legal Status:</b>             | Unlisted  | <b>NYS Rank:</b>    | S3 | 3884 |
| <b>Federal Listing:</b>             |   | <b>Global Rank:</b> | G4 |      |
| <b>Last Report:</b>                 | 1999-08-11  | <b>EO Rank:</b>     |    |      |
| <b>County:</b>                      | Rensselaer  |                     |    |      |
| <b>Town:</b>                        | Berlin  |                     |    |      |
| <b>Location:</b>                    | Poestenkill Headwaters  |                     |    |      |
| <b>General Quality and Habitat:</b> | Moderate size, undisturbed, and not diverse (young community recently succeeded from graminoid wetland). In five nearby patches within an extensive and contiguous wetland complex. Surrounding forest intact with widespread selective logging, in an extensive forested landscape. Could increase in size and diversity over time. The dwarf shrub bog occurs as five patches within an extensive, contiguous mosaic of sedge meadow and shallow emergent marsh, with several points intermediate between the graminoid types. The shrub bog appears to be succeeding from the graminoid wetlands where Sphagnum peat has accumulated and Chamaedaphne has established. Sedge meadow is also succeeding from shallow emergent marsh where Carex stricta dominates and graminoid peat accumulates. Other small areas within the wetland complex are succeeding to alder-dominated shrub swamp. This dynamic mosaic of herb and shrub dominated wetlands, with varying degrees of peat development, most likely shifts temporally as beaver flooding is followed by abandonment and water draw down. Along the periphery of the |                     |    |      |



**Spruce-fir swamp**

This occurrence of Spruce-Fir Swamp is considered significant from a statewide perspective by the NY Natural Heritage Program. It is either an occurrence of a community type that is rare in the state or a high quality example of a more common community type. By meeting specific, documented significance criteria, the NY Natural Heritage Program considers this occurrence to have high ecological and conservation value.

Office Use

|                                     |   |                     |      |      |
|-------------------------------------|---|---------------------|------|------|
| <b>NY Legal Status:</b>             | Unlisted  | <b>NYS Rank:</b>    | S3   | 9187 |
| <b>Federal Listing:</b>             |   | <b>Global Rank:</b> | G3G4 |      |
| <b>Last Report:</b>                 | 1999-08-31  | <b>EO Rank:</b>     |      |      |
| <b>County:</b>                      | Rensselaer  |                     |      |      |
| <b>Town:</b>                        | Berlin, Poestenkill   |                     |      |      |
| <b>Location:</b>                    | Poestenkill Headwaters  |                     |      |      |
| <b>General Quality and Habitat:</b> | This is a large, diverse swamp consisting of numerous nearby patches. Mostly mature with large trees, gap dynamics, and excellent canopy species regeneration. Part of an extensive wetland complex within a matrix of young to mature forests. Some selective logging occurs within and surrounding the swamps. In an extensive forested landscape, but the swamp patches are separated by two paved roads. The spruce-fir swamp occurs as numerous patches within an extensive wetland complex, often bordering an intricate mosaic of shallow emergent marsh and sedge meadow, and at other spots completely filling basins within the same wetland complex. Also within the mosaic of marsh and meadow are areas of dwarf shrub bog where peat has accumulated and Chamaedaphne has established. Other small areas within the wetland complex are succeeding to shrub swamp. Spruce flats generally surround the entire wetland complex. This entire mosaic is embedded within a mixture of two matrix forest types, beech-maple mesic forest and hemlock-northern hardwood forest. Much of the forested communities have been and are currently being selectively logged by the forestry company t |                     |      |      |

**Shallow emergent marsh**

This occurrence of Shallow Emergent Marsh is considered significant from a statewide perspective by the NY Natural Heritage Program. It is either an occurrence of a community type that is rare in the state or a high quality example of a more common community type. By meeting specific, documented significance criteria, the NY Natural Heritage Program considers this occurrence to have high ecological and conservation value.

Office Use

|                                     |   |                     |    |      |
|-------------------------------------|---|---------------------|----|------|
| <b>NY Legal Status:</b>             | Unlisted  | <b>NYS Rank:</b>    | S5 | 5042 |
| <b>Federal Listing:</b>             |   | <b>Global Rank:</b> | G5 |      |
| <b>Last Report:</b>                 | 1999-08-31  | <b>EO Rank:</b>     |    |      |
| <b>County:</b>                      | Rensselaer  |                     |    |      |
| <b>Town:</b>                        | Berlin, Poestenkill   |                     |    |      |
| <b>Location:</b>                    | Poestenkill Headwaters  |                     |    |      |
| <b>General Quality and Habitat:</b> | An extensive, diverse, minimally disturbed wetland complex with intact hydrological processes and almost no exotic species. Surrounding forest intact with widespread selective logging. In an extensive forested landscape, but the marsh patches are separated by two paved roads. Rank could decrease if succession claims significant acreage. The shallow emergent marsh forms an intricate mosaic with sedge meadow and several points are intermediate between the two. Dominance by Carex stricta and accumulation of peat results in sedge meadow and over time, shallow marsh patches may succeed to sedge meadow. Also within the mosaic of marsh and meadow are areas of dwarf shrub bog where peat has accumulated and Chamaedaphne has established. Other small areas within the wetland complex are succeeding to shrub swamp. This dynamic mosaic of herb and shrub dominated wetlands, with varying degrees of peat development, most likely shifts temporally as beaver flooding is followed by abandonment and water draw down. Along the periphery of the open canopy wetlands are numerous spruce fir swamps, and spruce |                     |    |      |



**Maple-basswood rich mesic forest**

This occurrence of Maple-Basswood Rich Mesic Forest is considered significant from a statewide perspective by the NY Natural Heritage Program. It is either an occurrence of a community type that is rare in the state or a high quality example of a more common community type. By meeting specific, documented significance criteria, the NY Natural Heritage Program considers this occurrence to have high ecological and conservation value.

Office Use

|                                     |  |                     |    |      |
|-------------------------------------|--|---------------------|----|------|
| <b>NY Legal Status:</b>             | Unlisted   | <b>NYS Rank:</b>    | S3 | 7912 |
| <b>Federal Listing:</b>             |  | <b>Global Rank:</b> | G4 |      |
| <b>Last Report:</b>                 | 1996-07-14   | <b>EO Rank:</b>     |    |      |
| <b>County:</b>                      | Rensselaer   |                     |    |      |
| <b>Town:</b>                        | Berlin, Stephentown  |                     |    |      |
| <b>Location:</b>                    | Butternut Hill   |                     |    |      |
| <b>General Quality and Habitat:</b> | This is a moderately small community essentially without exotic plants. It is mature, diverse and intact, but in a moderately fragmented landscape. Restorable to a "B" rank if allowed to attain old-growth state. A rich, deciduous forest covering the summit and upper slopes of a calcareous hill isolated in the Taconic Valley. The lower slopes grade into more acidic beech-maple mesic forest plus cultural communities including agricultural fields and pine plantations. On the west side of the hill, the lower slopes grade into a small forested to open canopy fen. The landscape is only locally intact and is separated from a large intact landscape of the Taconic Mountains by corridor displacements. |                     |    |      |

**Rich sloping fen**

This occurrence of Rich Sloping Fen is considered significant from a statewide perspective by the NY Natural Heritage Program. It is either an occurrence of a community type that is rare in the state or a high quality example of a more common community type. By meeting specific, documented significance criteria, the NY Natural Heritage Program considers this occurrence to have high ecological and conservation value.

Office Use

|                                     |   |                     |      |      |
|-------------------------------------|---|---------------------|------|------|
| <b>NY Legal Status:</b>             | Unlisted  | <b>NYS Rank:</b>    | S1S2 | 4518 |
| <b>Federal Listing:</b>             |   | <b>Global Rank:</b> | G3   |      |
| <b>Last Report:</b>                 | 1997-06-01  | <b>EO Rank:</b>     |      |      |
| <b>County:</b>                      | Rensselaer  |                     |      |      |
| <b>Town:</b>                        | Berlin, Stephentown   |                     |      |      |
| <b>Location:</b>                    | Butternut Hill  |                     |      |      |
| <b>General Quality and Habitat:</b> | This is a moderate size community, well-buffered upslope with natural forest. Small amount of slightly invasive exotics. Recent severe hydrological alteration from nearby agricultural land. "B" ranked before this alteration and restorable to this level. May change to a "C" rank from long-term effects of ditching. A small forested to open canopy fen on a gentle slope at the base of a calcareous foothill of the Taconic Mountains. Downslope, the fen is bordered by a narrow strip of successional hardwoods (?) then pasture/successional old field. Upslope, the fen is bordered by a maple-basswood rich mesic forest. The community is at the edge of a locally intact forested landscape of several hundred acres. |                     |      |      |

**Inland poor fen**

This occurrence of Inland Poor Fen is considered significant from a statewide perspective by the NY Natural Heritage Program. It is either an occurrence of a community type that is rare in the state or a high quality example of a more common community type. By meeting specific, documented significance criteria, the NY Natural Heritage Program considers this occurrence to have high ecological and conservation value.

Office Use

|                                     |   |                     |    |      |
|-------------------------------------|---|---------------------|----|------|
| <b>NY Legal Status:</b>             | Unlisted  | <b>NYS Rank:</b>    | S3 | 3230 |
| <b>Federal Listing:</b>             |   | <b>Global Rank:</b> | G4 |      |
| <b>Last Report:</b>                 | 1999-06-22  | <b>EO Rank:</b>     |    |      |
| <b>County:</b>                      | Rensselaer  |                     |    |      |
| <b>Town:</b>                        | Sand Lake   |                     |    |      |
| <b>Location:</b>                    | Cranberry Vly   |                     |    |      |
| <b>General Quality and Habitat:</b> | This is a large, contiguous fen with diverse species and physiognomy, intact ecological processes, and no exotic species or disturbances. Surrounded by an extensive forested landscape with some selective logging. The large inland poor fen forms the matrix of an extensive peatland and contains patches of black spruce-tamarack bog and dwarf shrub bog. A marsh headwater stream meanders through the peatland with apparently intact hydrology. About 50% of the wetland perimeter has spruce-fir swamp before grading into the forested uplands that surround the wetlands. The upland forests are a mosaic of beech-maple mesic forest and hemlock-northern hardwood forest. These forests have active selective logging, but their integrity is largely intact with few or no exotic species, nearly closed canopy, and inherent diversity maintained. The wetland complex is centrally located within a 9,000 acre, forested roadless block, although the southern end approaches the more disturb |                     |    |      |



**Dwarf shrub bog**

This occurrence of Dwarf Shrub Bog is considered significant from a statewide perspective by the NY Natural Heritage Program. It is either an occurrence of a community type that is rare in the state or a high quality example of a more common community type. By meeting specific, documented significance criteria, the NY Natural Heritage Program considers this occurrence to have high ecological and conservation value.

Office Use

|                                     |   |                     |    |      |
|-------------------------------------|---|---------------------|----|------|
| <b>NY Legal Status:</b>             | Unlisted  | <b>NYS Rank:</b>    | S3 | 7583 |
| <b>Federal Listing:</b>             |   | <b>Global Rank:</b> | G4 |      |
| <b>Last Report:</b>                 | 1999-06-22  | <b>EO Rank:</b>     |    |      |
| <b>County:</b>                      | Rensselaer  |                     |    |      |
| <b>Town:</b>                        | Sand Lake   |                     |    |      |
| <b>Location:</b>                    | Cranberry Vly   |                     |    |      |
| <b>General Quality and Habitat:</b> | This is a small, diverse bog in very good condition, within a large peatland complex, and surrounded by an extensive forested landscape with some selective logging. The dwarf shrub bog forms islands within a complex of similar peatland communities dominated by inland poor fen and also including black spruce-tamarack bog and medium fen. A marsh headwater stream meanders through the peatland with apparently intact hydrology. About 50% of the wetland perimeter has spruce-fir swamp before grading into the forested uplands that surround the wetlands. The upland forests are a mosaic of beech-maple mesic forest and hemlock-northern hardwood forest. These forests have active selective logging, but their integrity is largely intact with few or no exotic species, nearly closed canopy, and inherent diversity maintained. The wetland complex is centrally located within a 9,000 acre, forested roadless block, although the southe |                     |    |      |

**Black spruce-tamarack bog**

This occurrence of Black Spruce-Tamarack Bog is considered significant from a statewide perspective by the NY Natural Heritage Program. It is either an occurrence of a community type that is rare in the state or a high quality example of a more common community type. By meeting specific, documented significance criteria, the NY Natural Heritage Program considers this occurrence to have high ecological and conservation value.

Office Use

|                                     |   |                     |      |      |
|-------------------------------------|---|---------------------|------|------|
| <b>NY Legal Status:</b>             | Unlisted  | <b>NYS Rank:</b>    | S3   | 1053 |
| <b>Federal Listing:</b>             |   | <b>Global Rank:</b> | G4G5 |      |
| <b>Last Report:</b>                 | 1999-06-22  | <b>EO Rank:</b>     |      |      |
| <b>County:</b>                      | Rensselaer  |                     |      |      |
| <b>Town:</b>                        | Sand Lake   |                     |      |      |
| <b>Location:</b>                    | Cranberry Vly   |                     |      |      |
| <b>General Quality and Habitat:</b> | This is a small, diverse bog in very good condition, within a large peatland complex, and surrounded by an extensive forested landscape with some selective logging. The black spruce-tamarack bog forms islands within a complex of similar peatland communities dominated by inland poor fen and also including dwarf shrub bog and medium fen. A marsh headwater stream meanders through the peatland with apparently intact hydrology. About 50% of the wetland perimeter has spruce-fir swamp before grading into the forested uplands that surround the wetlands. The upland forests are a mosaic of beech-maple mesic forest and hemlock-northern hardwood forest. These forests have active selective logging, but their integrity is largely intact with few or no exotic species, nearly closed canopy, and inherent diversity maintained. The wetland complex is centrally located within a 9,000 acre, forested roadless block, although the southe |                     |      |      |





**Sedge meadow**

This occurrence of Sedge Meadow is considered significant from a statewide perspective by the NY Natural Heritage Program. It is either an occurrence of a community type that is rare in the state or a high quality example of a more common community type. By meeting specific, documented significance criteria, the NY Natural Heritage Program considers this occurrence to have high ecological and conservation value.

Office Use

|                                     |  |                     |    |      |
|-------------------------------------|--|---------------------|----|------|
| <b>NY Legal Status:</b>             | Unlisted   | <b>NYS Rank:</b>    | S4 | 7139 |
| <b>Federal Listing:</b>             |  | <b>Global Rank:</b> | G5 |      |
| <b>Last Report:</b>                 | 1999-08-31   | <b>EO Rank:</b>     |    |      |
| <b>County:</b>                      | Rensselaer   |                     |    |      |
| <b>Town:</b>                        | Berlin, Poestenkill  |                     |    |      |
| <b>Location:</b>                    | Poestenkill Headwaters   |                     |    |      |
| <b>General Quality and Habitat:</b> | An extensive, diverse, minimally disturbed wetland complex with intact hydrological processes and almost no exotic species. Surrounding forest intact with widespread selective logging. In an extensive forested landscape, but the meadow patches are separated by two paved roads. Rank could decrease if succession claims significant acreage. The sedge meadow forms an intricate mosaic with shallow emergent marsh and several points are intermediate between the two. Dominance by <i>Carex stricta</i> and accumulation of peat results in sedge meadow and over time, shallow marsh patches may succeed to sedge meadow. Also within the mosaic of marsh and meadow are areas of dwarf shrub bog where peat has accumulated and <i>Chamaedaphne</i> has established. Other small areas within the wetland complex are succeeding to alder-dominated shrub swamp. This dynamic mosaic of herb and shrub dominated wetlands, with varying degrees of peat development, most likely shifts temporally as beaver flooding is followed by abandonment and water draw down. Along the periphery of the open canopy wetlands are numerous spruce fir sw |                     |    |      |

**Spruce-fir swamp**

This occurrence of Spruce-Fir Swamp is considered significant from a statewide perspective by the NY Natural Heritage Program. It is either an occurrence of a community type that is rare in the state or a high quality example of a more common community type. By meeting specific, documented significance criteria, the NY Natural Heritage Program considers this occurrence to have high ecological and conservation value.

Office Use

|                                     |   |                     |      |      |
|-------------------------------------|---|---------------------|------|------|
| <b>NY Legal Status:</b>             | Unlisted  | <b>NYS Rank:</b>    | S3   | 1492 |
| <b>Federal Listing:</b>             |   | <b>Global Rank:</b> | G3G4 |      |
| <b>Last Report:</b>                 | 2000-06-04  | <b>EO Rank:</b>     |      |      |
| <b>County:</b>                      | Rensselaer  |                     |      |      |
| <b>Town:</b>                        | Grafton, Poestenkill  |                     |      |      |
| <b>Location:</b>                    | Dustin Swamp  |                     |      |      |
| <b>General Quality and Habitat:</b> | This is a moderate-sized swamp forest with diverse species and physiognomic variants, some mature to maturing stands, low levels of disturbance, and in an extensive, largely forested landscape. The swamp is surrounded by a largely undeveloped, largely forested matrix of beech-maple mesic forest and hemlock-northern hardwood forest. There is little development or clearing in the vicinity, but much of the forest is actively logged. Many other wetlands nearby contain additional spruce-fir swamp as well as sedge meadow, shallow emergent marsh, dwarf shrub bog, and inland poor fen. Small areas of spruce flats are also found adjacent to the swamp, and larger patches of this community are found nearby, surrounding other wetland complexes. |                     |      |      |

**Spruce-northern hardwood forest**

This occurrence of Spruce-Northern Hardwood Forest is considered significant from a statewide perspective by the NY Natural Heritage Program. It is either an occurrence of a community type that is rare in the state or a high quality example of a more common community type. By meeting specific, documented significance criteria, the NY Natural Heritage Program considers this occurrence to have high ecological and conservation value.

Office Use

|                                     |  |                     |      |      |
|-------------------------------------|--|---------------------|------|------|
| <b>NY Legal Status:</b>             | Unlisted   | <b>NYS Rank:</b>    | S3S4 | 5553 |
| <b>Federal Listing:</b>             |  | <b>Global Rank:</b> | G3G4 |      |
| <b>Last Report:</b>                 | 2001-07-20   | <b>EO Rank:</b>     |      |      |
| <b>County:</b>                      | Rensselaer   |                     |      |      |
| <b>Town:</b>                        | Berlin   |                     |      |      |
| <b>Location:</b>                    | Berlin Mountain  |                     |      |      |
| <b>General Quality and Habitat:</b> | This is a small, southern occurrence in good condition within a very good landscape setting. A small-patch spruce-northern hardwood forest community within a matrix of AB-ranked beech-maple mesic forest. This community crosses over into Berkshire County, Massachusetts. The summit of Berlin Mountain, adjacent to the north, is open, but heavily disturbed and may have once been this community type. |                     |      |      |



**Beech-maple mesic forest**

This occurrence of Beech-Maple Mesic Forest is considered significant from a statewide perspective by the NY Natural Heritage Program. It is either an occurrence of a community type that is rare in the state or a high quality example of a more common community type. By meeting specific, documented significance criteria, the NY Natural Heritage Program considers this occurrence to have high ecological and conservation value.

Office Use

|                                     |   |                     |    |      |
|-------------------------------------|---|---------------------|----|------|
| <b>NY Legal Status:</b>             | Unlisted  | <b>NYS Rank:</b>    | S4 | 8043 |
| <b>Federal Listing:</b>             |   | <b>Global Rank:</b> | G4 |      |
| <b>Last Report:</b>                 | 2002-10-09  | <b>EO Rank:</b>     |    |      |
| <b>County:</b>                      | Rensselaer  |                     |    |      |
| <b>Town:</b>                        | Berlin, Grafton, Petersburg, Poestenkill, Sand Lake, Stephentown  |                     |    |      |
| <b>Location:</b>                    | Central Rensselaer Plateau Forest   |                     |    |      |
| <b>General Quality and Habitat:</b> | This is a large forest with excellent species diversity, moderate maturity recovering well from historical logging and in a moderately large and intact recovering forested landscape. This is one of two northern Appalachian forest types forming a second-growth matrix forest mosaic on a rocky, poorly drained, rolling high elevation plateau. This forest type is interspersed with hemlock-northern hardwood forest to form about 80% of the landscape. It is associated with recovering successional northern hardwoods and small to large patches of other mature forest types including spruce-northern hardwood forest, spruce flats, and maple-basswood rich mesic forest. It contains small embedded wetlands and lakes. Maturity varies from large areas of less than 100 years old, to small areas of potential old growth. Road density is low to moderately low. The community is centered within an area of about 100,000 acres with about 95% cover of natura |                     |    |      |

**Hemlock-northern hardwood forest**

This occurrence of Hemlock-Northern Hardwood Forest is considered significant from a statewide perspective by the NY Natural Heritage Program. It is either an occurrence of a community type that is rare in the state or a high quality example of a more common community type. By meeting specific, documented significance criteria, the NY Natural Heritage Program considers this occurrence to have high ecological and conservation value.

Office Use

|                                     |  |                     |      |      |
|-------------------------------------|--|---------------------|------|------|
| <b>NY Legal Status:</b>             | Unlisted   | <b>NYS Rank:</b>    | S4   | 8562 |
| <b>Federal Listing:</b>             |  | <b>Global Rank:</b> | G4G5 |      |
| <b>Last Report:</b>                 | 2002-08-21   | <b>EO Rank:</b>     |      |      |
| <b>County:</b>                      | Rensselaer   |                     |      |      |
| <b>Town:</b>                        | Berlin, Grafton, Petersburg, Poestenkill, Sand Lake, Stephentown   |                     |      |      |
| <b>Location:</b>                    | Central Rensselaer Plateau Forest  |                     |      |      |
| <b>General Quality and Habitat:</b> | A very large community with excellent species diversity, moderately mature and recovering well from historical logging and in a large, very intact recovering forested landscape. A very large moderately mature hemlock-northern hardwood forest that is one of two northern Appalachian forest types forming a second-growth matrix forest mosaic on a rocky, poorly drained, rolling high elevation plateau. This forest type is interspersed with beech maple mesic forest to form about 80% of the landscape. It is associated with recovering successional northern hardwoods and small to large patches of other mature forest types including spruce-northern hardwood forest, spruce flats and maple-basswood rich mesic forest. It contains small embedded wetlands and lakes. Maturity varies from large areas of less than 100 years old to small areas of potential old growth. Road density is low to moderately low. The community is centered within an area |                     |      |      |



**Beech-maple mesic forest**

This occurrence of Beech-Maple Mesic Forest is considered significant from a statewide perspective by the NY Natural Heritage Program. It is either an occurrence of a community type that is rare in the state or a high quality example of a more common community type. By meeting specific, documented significance criteria, the NY Natural Heritage Program considers this occurrence to have high ecological and conservation value.

Office Use

|                                     |   |                     |    |      |
|-------------------------------------|---|---------------------|----|------|
| <b>NY Legal Status:</b>             | Unlisted  | <b>NYS Rank:</b>    | S4 | 2614 |
| <b>Federal Listing:</b>             |   | <b>Global Rank:</b> | G4 |      |
| <b>Last Report:</b>                 | 2008-09-05  | <b>EO Rank:</b>     |    |      |
| <b>County:</b>                      | Rensselaer  |                     |    |      |
| <b>Town:</b>                        | Berlin, Petersburg, Stephentown   |                     |    |      |
| <b>Location:</b>                    | Northern Taconic Range  |                     |    |      |
| <b>General Quality and Habitat:</b> | This is very large forest with excellent diversity in predominantly good condition and in recovery from repeated historical disturbances. It is centered within and well connected to its moderately large and moderately intact landscape. Invasive exotic species are nearly lacking but weedy natives may be a threat. This deciduous northern hardwood forest blankets the northern extent of the Taconic Mountains. It contains several small to large patches of embedded communities including maple-basswood rich mesic forest, spruce-northern hardwood forest, rocky summit grassland, successional old field, successional shrubland, spruce-fir rocky summit, mountain spruce-fir forest, and intermittent streams. Lower slopes of the community border other forest types both natural (including Appalachian oak-pine, Appalachian oak-hickory, chestnut oak, and hemlock-northern hardwood forests), and cultural (plantations). The forest is centered in a landscape of about 40,000 acres with greater than 90% natural communities. The forest spans two blocks bordered by roads, one of about |                     |    |      |

**NON-VASCULAR PLANTS**

*Sphagnum andersonianum*

|                                     |  |                      |                     |                           |                    |
|-------------------------------------|--|----------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|--------------------|
| <b>Anderson's peat moss</b>         | <b>NY Legal Status:</b>  | Unlisted             | <b>NYS Rank:</b>    | S1 - Critically imperiled | Office Use<br>6085 |
|                                     | <b>Federal Listing:</b>  |                      | <b>Global Rank:</b> | G3? - Vulnerable          |                    |
|                                     | <b>Last Report:</b>  | 1995-08-24           | <b>EO Rank:</b>     | Extant                    |                    |
|                                     | <b>County:</b>   | Rensselaer           |                     |                           | S                  |
|                                     | <b>Town:</b>   | Berlin               |                     |                           |                    |
|                                     | <b>Location:</b>   | Miller Road Wetlands |                     |                           |                    |
| <b>General Quality and Habitat:</b> | One specimen collected from releve plot. Distribution in fen uncertain. A relatively small 1-5 acre open peat mat with no open water, but having concentric zones of vegetation. The center is a dwarf shrub, Sphagnum dominated carpet with Rubus hispidus, with scattered island/hummocks of dwarf (1 m) spruce and highbush blueberry. This is surrounded by a zone of (0.5 m) Scirpus microcarpus to the north; Typha latifolia (1 m) to the west; and Eriophorum virginicum (up to 1 m) to the south. A beaver pond is to the northwest. The fen grades into a small spruce-fir swamp to the south. |                      |                     |                           |                    |

**VASCULAR PLANTS**

*Myriophyllum farwellii*

|                                     |  |            |                     |                |                    |
|-------------------------------------|--|------------|---------------------|----------------|--------------------|
| <b>Farwell's Water-milfoil</b>      | <b>NY Legal Status:</b>  | Threatened | <b>NYS Rank:</b>    | S2 - Imperiled | Office Use<br>9976 |
|                                     | <b>Federal Listing:</b>  |            | <b>Global Rank:</b> | G5 - Secure    |                    |
|                                     | <b>Last Report:</b>  | 1997-07-27 | <b>EO Rank:</b>     | Extant         |                    |
|                                     | <b>County:</b>   | Rensselaer |                     |                |                    |
|                                     | <b>Town:</b>   | Berlin     |                     |                |                    |
|                                     | <b>Location:</b>   | Dyken Pond |                     |                |                    |
| <b>General Quality and Habitat:</b> | Very shallow stagnant black water of a reservoir/artificial impoundment. |            |                     |                |                    |



*Myriophyllum farwellii*

Farwell's  
Water-milfoil

NY Legal Status: Threatened

NYS Rank: S2 - Imperiled

Office Use  
36

Federal Listing:

Global Rank: G5 - Secure

Last Report: 1999-07-15

EO Rank: Good

County: Rensselaer

Town: Berlin

Location: Black River Pond

General Quality  
and Habitat:

There are hundreds of plants scattered within an artificial pond in a state park. Plants are found in an artificial impoundment of the Black River presumably dammed for flood control measures. Pond used recreationally for swimming, fishing and boating. A swimming/beach area is located along the west side of the pond and a public boataccess ramp is present at the northwest end. Canoe, john boat and paddle boat rentals are available, but outside private boats are also allowed on the pond. At the south end of the pond, a dam and spillway are present. Most of the remaining pond is surrounded by woodlands. The pond bottom is gravelly to slightly silty. Very few other aquatics are present as the water appears very acidic. Plants are found along the entire perimeter of pond, but most common along west side.

---

20 Records Processed

More detailed information about many of the rare and listed animals and plants in New York, including biology, identification, habitat, conservation, and management, are available online in Natural Heritage's Conservation Guides at [www.acris.nynhp.org](http://www.acris.nynhp.org), from NatureServe Explorer at <http://www.natureserve.org/explorer>, from NYSDEC at <http://www.dec.ny.gov/animals/7494.html> (for animals), and from USDA's Plants Database at <http://plants.usda.gov/index.html> (for plants).

More detailed information about many of the natural community types in New York, including identification, dominant and characteristic vegetation, distribution, conservation, and management, is available online in Natural Heritage's Conservation Guides at [www.acris.nynhp.org](http://www.acris.nynhp.org). For descriptions of all community types, go to <http://www.dec.ny.gov/animals/29384.html> and click on Draft Ecological Communities of New York State.