



**South Ripley Solar
Determination of Occupied Habitat, Incidental Take and Net Conservation Benefit
April 19, 2021**

Wildlife Site Characterization

Pursuant to § 900-1.3(g)(2), ConnectGen Inc (Applicant) provided a wildlife characterization report for the proposed South Ripley Solar facility dated February 2021.

Avian Surveys

Pursuant to § 900-1.3(g)(5), the Applicant provided a Breeding Bird Survey Report dated September 2020 and a Winter Grassland Raptor Survey Report dated May 2020. The Applicant completed the associated breeding bird surveys for the project site from June 4, 2020 – July 31, 2020 and completed the winter grassland raptor surveys from November 25, 2019 – April 1 2020.

Determination

Pursuant to § 900-1.3(g)(7), the Office of Renewable Energy Siting (the Office or ORES), in consultation with the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC), hereby provides its determination regarding whether occupied habitat for one or more New York State (NYS) threatened or endangered species exists within the facility site, the boundary of the occupied habitat, and, if applicable, the amount of mitigation funding that may be necessary if impacts cannot be avoided or mitigated.

The following determinations are based on the above reference Wildlife Characterization Report, Breeding Bird Survey Report and Winter Grassland Raptor Survey Report.

Northern Long Eared Bat

The project site is not within one and a half (1.5) miles of a maternity roost site or five (5) miles of a hibernaculum site. To avoid and minimize impacts to NLEB project, construction shall adhere to the Uniform Standards and Conditions (see § 900-6.4(o)(4)(iii)(c)).

Bald Eagle

There are no bald eagle nests identified within close proximity of the project site. To avoid and minimize impacts to bald eagles, construction shall adhere to the Uniform Standards and Conditions (see §§ 900-6.4 (o)(6)(i) and (ii)).



**Office of
Renewable
Energy Siting**

ANDREW M. CUOMO
GOVERNOR

HOUTAN MOAVENI
ACTING EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Grassland Birds

The project will not result in the potential take of any threatened or endangered grassland bird species.

Please note that the basis for the Office's determination regarding occupied habitat and potential take for this project only applies to major renewable energy facilities covered by Section 94-c of New York Executive Law. This determination is valid for a period of five years from the date of this letter.

The Applicant shall provide the wildlife site characterization report, habitat assessment and/or survey reports, and Net Conservation Benefit Plan (if required) as part of Exhibit 12 (§ 900-2.13) in support of an application to the Office for a major renewable energy facility. Given the facility's present boundaries and project layout, and given the information currently provided, the project results in no take of listed species. Hence, neither mitigation funding nor a Net Conservation Benefit Plan is presently required.

CC:NYSDEC