



## NEW YORK STATE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION

Division of Fish and Wildlife, New York Natural Heritage Program

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January 8, 2021

Teresa Cannone  
AKRF, Inc.  
440 Park Avenue South, 7th Floor  
New York, NY 10016

Re: Western Rail Yard Infrastructure Project  
County: New York Town/City: New York City

Dear Ms. Cannone:

In response to your recent request, we have reviewed the New York Natural Heritage Program database with respect to the above project.

Enclosed is a report of rare or state-listed animals and plants, and significant natural communities that our database indicates occur in the vicinity of the project site.

For most sites, comprehensive field surveys have not been conducted; the enclosed report only includes records from our database. We cannot provide a definitive statement as to the presence or absence of all rare or state-listed species or significant natural communities. Depending on the nature of the project and the conditions at the project site, further information from on-site surveys or other sources may be required to fully assess impacts on biological resources.

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 NYS DEC Region 2 Office, Division of Environmental Permits, at [dep.r2@dec.ny.gov](mailto:dep.r2@dec.ny.gov).

Sincerely,



Heidi Krahling  
Environmental Review Specialist  
New York Natural Heritage Program



**The following state-listed animals have been documented in the vicinity of the project site.**

The following list includes animals that are listed by NYS as Endangered, Threatened, or Special Concern; and/or that are federally listed.

**For information about any permit considerations for your project, please contact the Permits staff at the NYSDEC Region 2 Office at [dep.r2@dec.ny.gov](mailto:dep.r2@dec.ny.gov), (718) 482-4997.**

**The following species have been documented in the lower Hudson River and so could occur in the vicinity of the project site.**

<i>COMMON NAME</i>	<i>SCIENTIFIC NAME</i>	<i>NY STATE LISTING</i>	<i>FEDERAL LISTING</i>	
<b>Fish</b>				
<b>Shortnose Sturgeon</b>	<i>Acipenser brevirostrum</i>	Endangered	Endangered	1091
<b>Atlantic Sturgeon</b>	<i>Acipenser oxyrinchus</i>	No Open Season	Endangered	11464

This report only includes records from the NY Natural Heritage database.

If any rare plants or animals are documented during site visits, we request that information on the observations be provided to the New York Natural Heritage Program so that we may update our database.

Information about many of the listed animals in New York, including habitat, biology, identification, conservation, and management, are available online in Natural Heritage’s Conservation Guides at [www.guides.nynhp.org](http://www.guides.nynhp.org), and from NYSDEC at [www.dec.ny.gov/animals/7494.html](http://www.dec.ny.gov/animals/7494.html).



**The following rare animal has been documented in the vicinity of the project site.**

We recommend that potential impacts of the proposed project on this species be addressed as part of any environmental assessment or review conducted as part of the planning, permitting and approval process, such as reviews conducted under SEQ. Field surveys of the project site may be necessary to determine the status of a species at the site, particularly for sites that are currently undeveloped and may still contain suitable habitat. Final requirements of the project to avoid, minimize, or mitigate potential impacts are determined by the lead permitting agency or the government body approving the project.

**The following animal, while not listed by New York State as Endangered or Threatened, is rare in New York and is of conservation concern.**

<i>COMMON NAME</i>	<i>SCIENTIFIC NAME</i>	<i>NY STATE LISTING</i>	<i>HERITAGE CONSERVATION STATUS</i>
<b>Bees</b>			
<b>Yellow Bumble Bee</b>	<i>Bombus fervidus</i>	Unlisted	Critically Imperiled in NYS
Documented	[REDACTED]	2009-08-12.	

14800

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If any rare plants or animals are documented during site visits, we request that information on the observations be provided to the New York Natural Heritage Program so that we may update our database.

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