

National Marine Fisheries Service
Habitat Conservation Division
Milford Field Office, 212 Rogers Avenue
Milford, Connecticut 06460

TO: Mr. John Rollino, Ecologist
Earth Tech
One World Financial Center
New York, New York 10281

DATE: 25 January 2005

SUBJECT: Tallman Island Water Pollution Control Plant at Powell Cove, East River,
Long Island Sound in Queens, New York



Diane Rusanowsky
(Reviewing Biologist)

This communication is in response to an information request addressed to Michael Ludwig of NOAA/Fisheries on February 6, 2004. We have reviewed the information provided to us regarding the above subject project and offer the following preliminary comments pursuant to the Endangered Species Act, the Marine Mammals Protection Act, the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act and the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act:

Endangered and Threatened Species

There are no endangered or threatened species under NOAA/Fisheries' jurisdiction in the project area.

The following endangered or threatened species may be present in the project area:

shortnose sturgeon (*Acipenser brevirostrum*) as possible (likely rare) transients

sea turtles: loggerhead (*Caretta caretta*) Kemp's ridley (*Lepidochelys kempii*)
 green (*Chelonia mydas*) leatherback (*Dermochelys coriacea*)

Candidate Species: Atlantic sturgeon (*Acipenser oxyrinchus*)

Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act Species

The following may be present in the project area: Anadromous and resident fish, forage and benthic species

Please contact the appropriate Regional Office of the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation to confirm the presence of anadromous or resident aquatic populations. Habitat use may be seasonal.

Essential Fish Habitat

The project area has been designated as Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) for one or more species. A full EFH assessment will be necessary. When details of the project are made available and permit applications have been made, conservation recommendations may be given. For a listing of EFH and further information, please go to our website at: <http://www.nero.nmfs.gov/ro/doc/webintro.html>.

No EFH presently designated in the project area.

May 27, 2005

Ms. Diane Rusanowsky
National Marine Fisheries Service
Habitat Conservation Division
Milford Field Office
212 Rogers Avenue
Milford, CT 06460

Dear Ms Rusanowsky:

Re: Tallman Island Water Pollution Control Plant at Powell Cove, Queens, NY

Thank you for your letter dated January 25, 2005 that provided information regarding endangered and threatened species and other protected species that may be present in the project area.

Telephone

212.798.8500

We note from your letter that the project area has been designated as Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) for one or more species and that a full EFH assessment will be necessary. Regarding this issue, we would like to provide to you information concerning this project in the enclosed document.

Facsimile

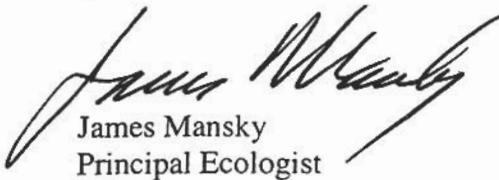
212.798.8501

Because the Plant Upgrade Program for the Tallman Island Water Pollution Control Plant would not require a federal action (i.e., no federal permits are required for the proposed work) and the plant upgrade would result in an improvement in the water quality of the discharge, the preparation of a full EFH assessment is not warranted since the work would not have an adverse affect on EFH. There would be no physical alteration to the outfall and there would be no other changes in the water or on the waterfront.

If you have any questions concerning the information presented in this letter or the attached document, please contact me.

Very truly yours,

Earth Tech


James Mansky
Principal Ecologist

Enclosure



Plant Upgrade Program for the Tallman Island Water Pollution Control Plant

Introduction

The New York City Department of Environmental Protection (NYCDEP) owns and operates the Tallman Island Water Pollution Control Plant (WPCP) in the College Point section of the Borough of Queens. The facility serves the northeast portion of the Borough of Queens, approximately 17,400 acres of land with an estimated population of nearly 400,000 residents.

The facility requires upgrading to ensure continued compliance with permit limitations and to maintain a safe working environment. Accordingly, NYCDEP has instituted a Plant Upgrade Program (PUP) for the Tallman Island WPCP. The PUP Program has identified and would remedy major plant deficiencies to allow the plant to improve operations and continue to meet its SPDES permit. Equally important, the program would identify and remedy safety and health issues, and evaluate and upgrade the plant's infrastructure to support all systems and functions.

Plant Upgrade Program

A summary of the improvements is as follows:

- *Mixed Flow Pumping Station Modifications*
 - Replace the Mixed Flow Pumps, spray water pumps, piping and valves.
- *Return Activated Sludge (RAS) Pump Station (New Facility)*
 - Provide a new RAS pumping station and Blower Building to replace existing RAS airlift pumps.
- *Blower Building (New Facility)*
 - Replace the existing five (5) process air blowers and five (5) dual-fuel engine drive units in the Pump and Blower Building with four (4) new motor-driven process air blowers in the new Blower Building.
- *27 KV Electrical Substation (New Facility)*
 - Upgrade the power supply necessary for the WPCP.
- *Three Electrical Buildings (New Facilities)*
 - Provide the necessary power supply to the East and West batteries of Aeration Tanks and to the Sludge Thickeners and Digesters.
- *Aeration System Improvements/Tank Modifications*
 - Replace existing coarse bubble diffusers with fine bubble membrane-type diffusers, new air headers, control valves and piping.
 - Modify tanks to provide for the step-feed biological nutrient removal (BNR) processes.

- *Main Sewage Pumping Station*
 - Replace the existing five (5) main sewage pumps, piping and valves with five (5) new 60 mgd main sewage pumps.
 - Replace the existing five (5) dual-fuel engine drive units with five (5) new 550 horsepower motors.
 - Replace the existing East and West Battery Force mains.

- *Sludge Digesters Improvements*
 - Replace existing covers with new fixed aluminum geodesic covers and associated piping.

- *Sludge Thickeners Improvements*
 - Replace south thickeners' mechanisms.
 - Replace existing sludge pumps with new pumps and grinders.

- *Process Control System*
 - Provide an updated process control/instrumentation/system for the new and modified systems.

- *Centrate Pumping Station*
 - A new Centrate Pumping Station would be constructed east of Chlorine Contact Tank No. 1 to convey centrate to the aeration tanks.

- *Demolition of Gas Holder Tank*

- *Demolition and Replacement of Waste Gas Burner*

- *Temporary Field Office Complex*
 - A temporary field office complex would be erected north of the North Sludge Thickeners.

Benefits to the Environment

The key objective of the proposed project is the improvement of the Tallman Island WPCP facilities to ensure continued compliance with current water-quality based permit limitations. During construction, best management practices would be adhered to reduce the potential for impacts to natural resources. No construction activities are proposed to occur waterward and/or along the bulkhead line. It is anticipated that this project will not increase in the water volumes or change the effluent's temperature discharged to the East River. Indeed, the PUP improvements are intended to improve the quality of the water discharged into the East River. Thus, it is anticipated that the project would result in no direct or indirect adverse impacts to the aquatic environment or and/or tidal wetlands.

January 18, 2005

Mr. David VanLuven
Information Services
New York Natural Heritage Program
625 Broadway, 5th Floor
Albany, NY 12233-4757

Dear Mr. VanLuven:

Re: Request for Information on Protected Species and Habitats of Concern Within A
One-mile Radius of the Tallman Island Water Pollution Control Plant in Queens,
New York.

Telephone

212.798.8500

Facsimile

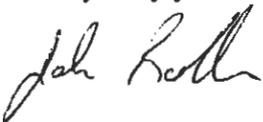
212.798.8501

TAMS Consultants, Inc., *an Earth Tech Company*, is preparing an Environmental Assessment Statement (EAS) for the proposed upgrade to the Tallman Island Water Pollution Control Plant in Queens, New York. The plant is currently owned and operated by the New York City Department of Environmental Protection.

As part of the EAS process, we hereby request all available information on protected species and habitats of concern within a one-mile distance of the plant. The plant is bordered by Long Island Sound to the north and Powell Cove to the east. Enclosed please find a copy of the Flushing USGS quadrangle that identifies the plant's location.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call. Thank you for your assistance.

Very truly yours,



John Rollino
Ecologist

enclosures



New York State Department of Environmental Conservation
Division of Fish, Wildlife & Marine Resources
New York Natural Heritage Program
625 Broadway, 5th floor, Albany, New York 12233-4757
Phone: (518) 402-8935 • **FAX:** (518) 402-8925
Website: www.dec.state.ny.us



February 14, 2005

John Rollino
Earth Tech
One World Financial Center
New York, NY 10281

Dear Mr. Rollino:

In response to your recent request, we have reviewed the New York Natural Heritage Program databases with respect to an Environmental Assessment for the proposed Upgrade to the Tallman Island Water Pollution Control Plant, site as indicated on the map you provided, located in Queens, New York.

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

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

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

This response applies only to known occurrences of rare or state-listed animals and plants, significant natural communities and other significant habitats maintained in the Natural Heritage Data bases. Your project may require additional review or permits; for information regarding other permits that may be required under state law for regulated areas or activities (e.g., regulated wetlands), please contact the appropriate NYS DEC Regional Office, Division of Environmental Permits, at the enclosed address.

Sincerely,


Betty A. Ketcham, Information Services
New York Natural Heritage Program

Enc.

cc: Reg. 2, Wildlife Mgr.