



Environmental Design & Research,
Landscape Architecture, Engineering & Environmental Services, D.P.C.
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February 10, 2017

Mr. Tim Bradley
Senior Associate
Stantec
61 Commercial Street, Suite 100
Rochester, NY 14614-1009
Sent via email to: tim.bradley@stantec.com

RE: Wetland Delineation Letter Report
MP 238.22, Oriskany Boulevard, Whitesboro, Oneida County, New York (BIN 5009929)
EDR Project No. 16134

Dear Mr. Bradley:

Environmental Design & Research, Landscape Architecture, Engineering & Environmental Services, D.P.C. (EDR) is pleased to provide you with this brief Wetland Delineation Letter Report for the above referenced project. As requested by Stantec (the Client), and on behalf of the New York State Thruway Authority (NYSTA), EDR conducted a wetland delineation within the Study Area, which is located at the intersection of the New York State Thruway (I-90) and Oriskany Boulevard in the Town of Whitesboro, Oneida County, New York (see Figures 1 and 2). The Study Area was defined by the Client. This letter report summarizes our review of background data, field visit, methodology, and findings. Supporting figures are attached.

Review of Background Data

A review of existing wetland and stream databases (National Wetland Inventory [NWI], New York State Department of Environmental Conservation [NYSDEC] mapped wetlands, and NYSDEC mapped streams) did not indicate the presence of mapped wetlands or streams within the Study Area. However, adjacent to the eastern portion of the Study Area along I-90, there are two NWI mapped wetlands and one NYSDEC mapped wetland. No streams are shown adjacent to the Study Area (See Figure 3).

Field Visit and Methodology

On November 10, 2016, EDR biologists conducted a site visit to determine if wetlands exist within the Study Area, and to delineate the extent of existing wetlands. The identification of wetland boundaries was made based on the methodology described in the *U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Wetland Delineation Manual* (Environmental Laboratory, 1987). The determination of wetland boundaries was also guided by the methodologies presented in the *Regional Supplement to the Corps of Engineers Wetland Delineation Manual: Northcentral and Northeast Region (Version 2.0)* (USACE, 2012). According to the U.S Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) methodologies, wetland hydrology, when combined with a hydrophytic plant community and hydric soils, indicate the presence of a wetland. Attention was also given to the identification of potential hydrologic connections between wetlands and areas that could influence their jurisdictional status.

Wetland boundaries were defined in the field and mapped using a Trimble GeoXH 6000 GPS unit with reported sub-meter accuracy. As discussed with the Client, wetland data forms were not completed due to field work being conducted outside of the growing season. If the Client indicates that delineated wetlands may be impacted by proposed Project construction, EDR will confirm wetland boundaries and collect wetland data from sample plots within the delineated wetlands in the spring of 2017, and data will be recorded on Routine Wetland Data forms. The data collected will include vegetation, hydrology indicators, and soils characteristics.

Findings

Based on our field investigations, wetlands are present within the Study Area. This includes one palustrine open water (POW) wetland and two palustrine forested (PFO) wetlands located in the eastern portions of the Study Area. The POW wetland was characterized by impounded surface water, while the PFO wetlands were characterized by standing water, drainage patterns, and visible saturation shown on aerial imagery. The POW wetland is located in an unvegetated, open lot, and appeared to be the result of the underlying substrate collapsing, forming a sink-hole. Hydrophytic vegetation observed at the two PFO wetlands includes red maple (*Acer rubrum*), American elm (*Ulmus americana*), and green ash (*Fraxinus pennsylvanica*). Please note that the eastern portion of the Study Area beyond Main Street was not accessible at the time of the site reconnaissance due to locked fencing. These wetland boundaries are based on EDR's review of aerial photography of this area and a driving survey. The Thruway remains as an elevated highway over active railroad tracks in this area, and allowed for direct observation of these wetlands. Additionally, one palustrine emergent (PEM) wetland was observed adjacent to the northeastern portion of the Study Area. Based on our observations, this wetland is characterized by hydrologic wetland indicators of soil saturation and surface water. Hydrophytic vegetation observed includes narrowleaf cattail (*Typha angustifolia*), common reed (*Phragmites australis*) and canary reed grass (*Phalaris arundinacea*). Vegetation observations will need to be confirmed during the growing season if this wetland may be disturbed. These wetlands are listed below in Table 1 and the locations are indicated in Figure 4.

A network of roadside ditches exists throughout the Study Area. These features collect surface water runoff from adjacent parking lots and roads, and appear to be created wholly in uplands for the purpose of controlling and conveying stormwater runoff from the surrounding impervious surfaces. At the time of the field work, flow was not present within these roadside ditches. According to the June 5, 2007 Clean Water Act jurisdiction guidance issued by the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Department of Army (DOA) following the Supreme Court's decision in *Rapanos and Carabell* (547 U.S., June 29, 2006), "Ditches (including roadside ditches) excavated wholly in and draining only uplands and that do not carry a relatively permanent flow of water" are not considered jurisdictional Waters of the U.S. Therefore, because the ditches within the Study Area do not exhibit an ordinary high water mark or relatively permanent flow, and do not drain jurisdictional wetlands, in EDR's opinion, the network of roadside ditches found throughout the Study Area are not jurisdictional (subject to USACE concurrence).

Table 1. Delineated Wetlands

Wetland ID	Community Type	Area ¹	Federal Jurisdiction ²	State Jurisdiction ²
A ³	PEM	0.05	Yes	No
B	POW	0.07	Yes	No
C	PFO	0.33	Yes	Yes – Article 24
D	PFO	0.39	Yes	Yes – Article 24

¹ Area is expressed in acres, and includes portions of wetlands within the Study Area only.

² Based on agency mapping and field observations of hydrologic connections. Final jurisdiction will be determined by the USACE and/or NYSDEC

³ Wetland located adjacent to the Study Area, outside of the Study Area boundary.

Conclusion

EDR delineated one POW wetland and two PFO wetlands in the eastern portion of the Study Area, as well as one PEM wetland adjacent the northeastern boundary of the Study Area. These wetlands were identified based on the presence of hydrophytic vegetation, hydric soils, and wetland hydrology. The forested and adjacent wetlands appear to have an indirect and direct surface water connection to the Mohawk River, and therefore are likely to be considered jurisdictional by the USACE under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act. The POW wetland is likely connected to Wetland A, C, and D, and is possibly a result of an underground drainage collapse. The POW wetland is also likely to be considered jurisdictional by the USACE under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act. However, final determination of the jurisdictional status must be made by the USACE. Because the PFO wetland in the southeastern portion of the Study Area is a mapped NYSDEC wetland, and due to the potentially large size of each PFO wetland and the likelihood of connectivity, in EDR's opinion, the two PFO wetlands may be regulated under Article 24 of the Environmental Conservation Law. Due to the lack of significant hydrologic or habitat connectivity, in EDR's opinion the POW wetland and adjacent PEM wetland should not be regulated under Article 24 of the Environmental Conservation Law.

If wetlands may be impacted by proposed Project construction, EDR plans to confirm wetland boundaries and collect wetland data in the spring of 2017.

Thank you for the opportunity to prepare this review. If you have any questions or require any additional information, please contact us at (315) 471-0688 or cgraff@edrdpc.com.

Sincerely,



Carin LeFevre
 Environmental Analyst



Michael Kopansky, PWS, CAE
 Project Manager



Caitlin Graff
 Project Manager

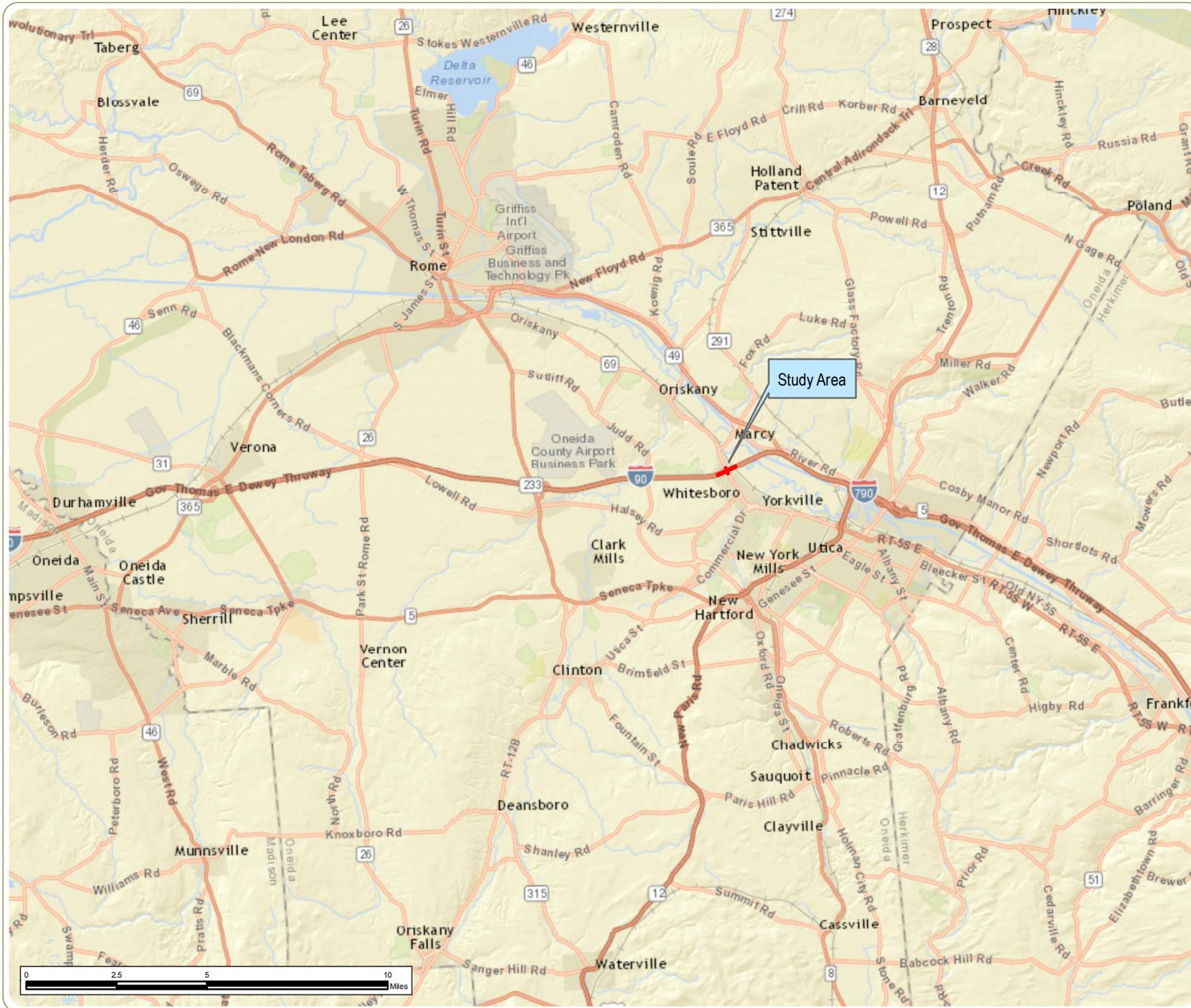
List of Attachments:

- Figure 1. Regional Project Location
- Figure 2. Study Area
- Figure 3. Mapped Wetlands and Streams
- Figure 4. Delineated Wetlands
- Photos of Representative Wetland Communities

References

Environmental Laboratory. 1987. *Corps of Engineers Wetland Delineation Manual*. Technical Report Y-87-1. U.S. Army Corps of Engineers: Waterways Experiment Station; Vicksburg, MS.

United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE). 2012. *Regional Supplement to the Corps of Engineers Wetland Delineation Manual: Northcentral and Northeast Region*. ERDC/EL TR-12-1. Vicksburg, MS: U.S. Army Engineer Research and Development Center.



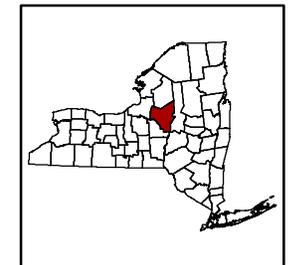
Replacement of Syracuse Division Bridges

Town of Whitesboro,
Oneida County, New York

Figure 1. Regional Project Location - Oriskany Boulevard, Whitesboro, NY, MP 238.22 (BIN 5009929)

February 2017

 Study Area



Notes:
 1. Basemap: ESRI ArcGIS Online "World Street Map" Map Service.
 2. This is a color graphic. Reproduction in grayscale may misrepresent the data.





Replacement of Syracuse Division Bridges

Town of Whitesboro,
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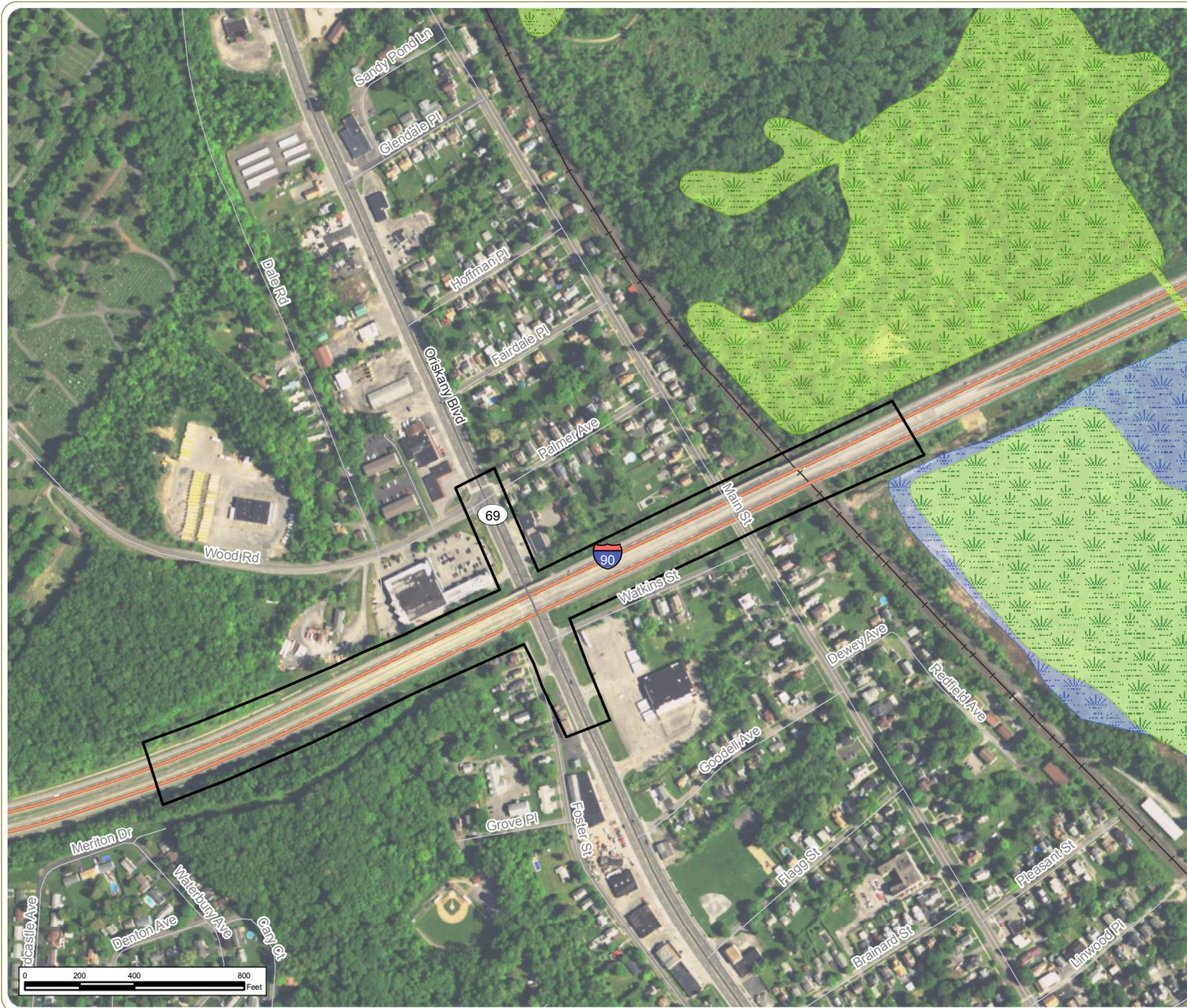
**Figure 2. Study Area -
Oriskany Boulevard,
Whitesboro, NY
MP 238.22
(BIN 5009929)**

February 2017

 Study Area

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Figure 3. Mapped Wetlands and Streams - Oriskany Boulevard, Whitesboro, NY MP 238.22 (BIN 5009929)

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-  Study Area
-  NWI Wetland
-  NYSDEC Wetlands

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Figure 4. Delineated Wetlands and Streams - Oriskany Boulevard, Whitesboro, NY MP 238.22 (BIN 5009929)

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-  Study Area
-  Delineated Wetland

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Site Photograph Locations-
Oriskany Boulevard,
Whitesboro, NY
MP 238.22
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February 2017

-  Photo Locations
-  Study Area
-  Delineated Wetland
-  Wetland Continue

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Photo 1

Wetland F, view to the east.



Photo 2

Wetland F, view to the west.

Replacement of Syracuse Division Bridges

Town of Whitesboro, Oneida County, New York

Site Photographs - Oriskany Boulevard, Whitesboro, NY, MP 238.22 (BIN 5009929)

Sheet 1 of 1