



Environmental Design & Research,
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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 225.48, County Road 53 EB and WB, Schuyler, Herkimer County, New York
(EB BIN 5516072, WB BIN 5516071)
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 overpass of the New York State Thruway (I-90) and County Road 53 in the Town of Schuyler, Herkimer 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) indicates the presence of one NWI riverine resource within the Study Area, Bridenbecker Creek, which is a NYSDEC Class C unprotected stream. No NYSDEC mapped wetlands or protected streams were identified in the Study Area (See Figure 3).

Field Visit and Methodology

On November 2, 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 field investigations, wetlands and other waters (i.e., a stream) are present within the Study Area. This includes three palustrine emergent (PEM) wetlands, one palustrine scrub-shrub (PSS) wetland, one perennial stream (R3), Bridenbecker Creek (a NYSDEC Class C unprotected Stream), and one unnamed intermittent stream (R4). All wetlands are located north of I-90, along the northern boundary of the Study Area. Bridenbecker Creek bisects I-90 in the southern portion of the Study Area and flows south. The unnamed intermittent stream flows along the eastern edge of County Road 53, located in the central portion of the Study Area. The wetlands were characterized by hydrologic indicators including soil saturation and surface water. Hydrophytic vegetation observed at the PEM wetlands include common reed (*Phragmites australis*), canary reed grass (*Phalaris arundinacea*), carex (*Carex sp.*), juncus (*Juncus sp.*), and narrowleaf cattail (*Typha angustifolia*). Hydrophytic vegetation observed at the PSS wetland includes willow (*Salix sp.*) and dogwood (*Cornus sp.*) species. Vegetation observations will need to be confirmed during the growing season if the wetlands may be disturbed. The wetlands and streams are listed below in Table 1 and locations of each wetland and stream 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 and Streams

Wetland/Stream ID	Community Type	Area or Length ¹	Federal Jurisdiction ²	State Jurisdiction ²
A	PSS	0.06	YES	NO
B	PEM	0.03	YES	NO
C	PEM	0.08	YES	NO
D	PEM	0.11	YES	NO
Stream 1	R3	372	YES	NO
Stream 2	R4	410	YES	NO

¹ Area is expressed in acres, streams are expressed in feet, and both are specific to 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.

Conclusion

EDR delineated three PEM wetlands, one PSS wetland, and two streams within the Study Area. The wetlands were identified based on the presence of hydrophytic vegetation, hydric soils, and wetland hydrology and total approximately 0.27 acre within the Study Area. Portions of Bridenbecker Creek were also delineated as Stream 1, which is a NYSDEC Class C unprotected stream. Stream 2 is an unnamed intermittent drainage with connections to Wetland D and Bridenbecker Creek. The streams total approximately 782 linear feet within the Study Area. Total surface area of wetlands and streams within the Study Area is approximately 0.50 acre. The wetlands and streams appear to have a surface water connection to other waters of the United States, and therefore are likely to be considered jurisdictional by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act. However, final determination of the jurisdictional status must be made by the USACE. Due to the distance from the nearest NYSDEC regulated wetland (approximately 0.7 mile), and the small area of each delineated wetland, in EDR's opinion these wetlands 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 when plants can be identified prior to mowing and maintenance activities.

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

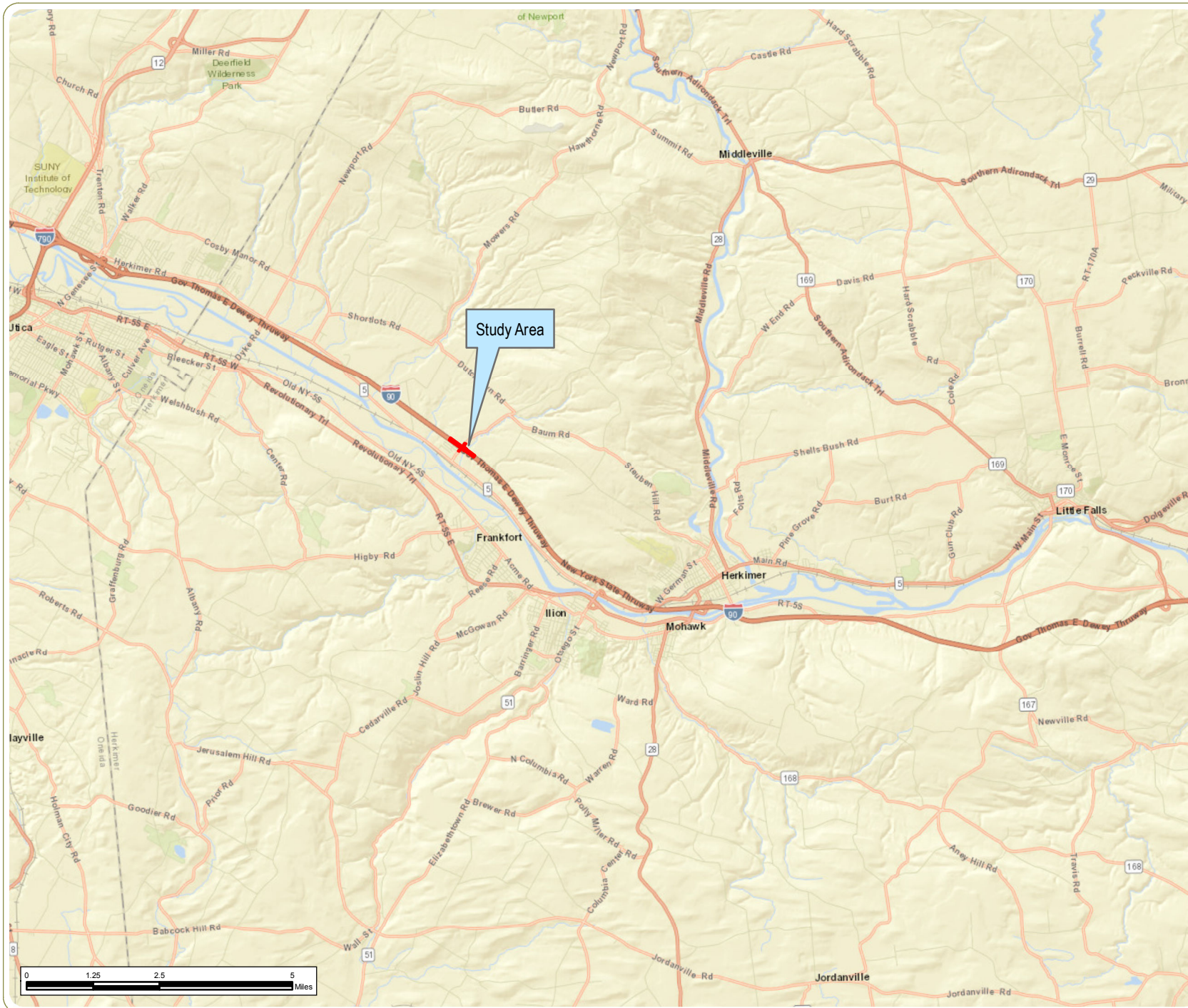
List of Attachments:

- Figure 1. Regional Project Location
- Figure 2. Project Site
- Figure 3. Mapped Wetlands and Streams
- Figure 4. Delineated Wetlands
- Photos of Representative Wetland and Stream 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.




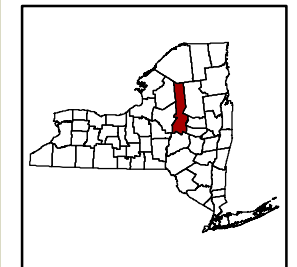
Replacement of Syracuse Division Bridges

Town of Schuylerville,
Herkimer County, New York

**Figure 1. Regional
Project Location -
County Road 53,
EB and WB,
Schuylerville, NY,
MP 225.48
(EB BIN 5516072)
(WB BIN 5516071)**

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.



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Town of Schuyler,
Herkimer County, New York

**Figure 2. Study Area -
County Road 53,
EB and WB,
Schuyler, NY,
MP 225.48
(EB BIN 5516072)
(WB BIN 5516071)**

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 Study Area

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Replacement of Syracuse Division Bridges

Town of Schuyler,
Herkimer County, New York

**Figure 3. Mapped
Wetlands and Streams -
County Road 53,
EB and WB,
Schuyler, NY,
MP 225.48
(EB BIN 5516072)
(WB BIN 5516071)**

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Study Area

NWI Wetland

NYSDEC Stream Classification

NYS Protected Stream

Unprotected Stream

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Town of Schuyler,
Herkimer County, New York

**Figure 4. Delineated
Wetlands and Streams -
County Road 53,
EB and WB,
Schuyler, NY,
MP 225.48
(EB BIN 5516072)
(WB BIN 5516071)**

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- Study Area
- Delineated Stream
- Delineated Wetland
- Wetland Continue
- Culvert Connection

Notes:
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Replacement of Syracuse Division Bridges

Town of Schuyler,
Herkimer County, New York

**Site Photograph
Locations -
County Road 53,
EB and WB,
Schuyler, NY,
MP 225.48
(EB BIN 5516072)
(WB BIN 5516071)**

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

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Photo 1

Wetland A, view to the northwest.



Photo 2

Wetland B, view to the northeast.

Replacement of Syracuse Division Bridges

Town of Schuyler, Herkimer County, New York

Site Photographs - County Road 53, EB and WB, Schuyler, NY, MP 225.48 (EB BIN 5516072) (WB BIN 5516071)

Sheet 1 of 4



Photo 3

Wetland C, view to the southeast.



Photo 4

Wetland D, view to the northwest.

Replacement of Syracuse Division Bridges

Town of Schuyler, Herkimer County, New York

Site Photographs - County Road 53, EB and WB, Schuyler, NY, MP 225.48 (EB BIN 5516072) (WB BIN 5516071)

Sheet 2 of 4



Photo 5

Stream 1, south side of I-90, view to the southwest.



Photo 6

Stream 1, north side of I-90, view to the northeast.

Replacement of Syracuse Division Bridges

Town of Schuyler, Herkimer County, New York

Site Photographs - County Road 53, EB and WB, Schuyler, NY, MP 225.48 (EB BIN 5516072) (WB BIN 5516071)

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Photo 7

Stream 2, view to the southeast.

Replacement of Syracuse Division Bridges

Town of Schuyler, Herkimer County, New York

Site Photographs - County Road 53, EB and WB, Schuyler, NY, MP 225.48 (EB BIN 5516072) (WB BIN 5516071)

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