

PETER D. TORGERSEN,
ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

110 Town Line Road, Pearl River New York 10965, 845 642 8939 petertorger271@gmail.com

April 4, 2020

Michael Lynch
Engineering & Surveying Properties PC
71 Clinton street
Montgomery, New York 12549

Re: Young Subdivision/Bald Eagle Habitat

Dear Mr. Lynch,

The above site is located about ½ mile from the west bank of the Hudson River which is a waterbody known to be used by Bald Eagles. Bald Eagles were once threatened but have made a comeback and in 2007 were removed from the Federal Endangered Species List. The Bald Eagle is now commonly sighted over the Hudson, Neversink, Rondout and Delaware Rivers. The NY City Reservoirs are also popular locations for seeing Bald Eagles There are still regulations that can inhibit construction if an eagle nest is located in the vicinity. If construction is visible from a known nest site a 660 foot buffer must be used. If construction is not visible from the nest than a 330 foot buffer must be used.

The Bald Eagle is one of the largest birds of prey found in North America. It's primary food is fish however if the opportunity presents itself it will also pursue small mammals, waterfowl, seabirds and during winter, carrion. They can live over 30 years and mate for life. Once a pair chooses a nest site they use it for the rest of their lives. Nests are always a short distance from a waterbody and almost always a White Pine. The White Pine is chosen because it usually rises above the forest canopy and the spacing of the limbs on large Pines allows the Eagles to glide into the nest. The close proximity to water is important because it allows the eagle bring fish back to the nest when feeding the young.

The project site is a 10.68 acre site that currently has 2 existing homes. The proposed subdivision will create lots for 2 additional homes. The onsite habitat is all early successional forest with the usual lawns and driveways for the two homes. There are no large towering White Pines onsite. The area south of Millhouse Road does have the occasional large White Pine however this location is just too far from the Hudson River to be considered potential habitat. Eagles nest along the edge of feeding areas where they can look from the nest out over the water. This site is located on the far side of a small hill that stands between it and the Hudson. The existing residences and their associated noises and lights also remove this location from consideration. I was limited to walking just the subject parcel however because of the seasonal lack of leaves I could see quite

far and observed no existing nests on any directly adjacent parcel. The DEC Environmental mapper does not indicate that any Bald Eagle nests are known to be in the vicinity just that it is close to the Hudson River. The proposed further development of this site will have no impacts and Eagles or potential Eagle habitat.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Peter Torgersen". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Peter Torgersen