

**NEW YORK STATE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION**  
**Division of Fish, Wildlife & Marine Resources**  
**New York Natural Heritage Program**  
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Joe Martens  
Commissioner

January 17, 2014

James M. Becker  
Pacific Northwest National Laboratory

Dear Mr. Becker:

In response to your request, we have reviewed the New York Natural Heritage Program database with respect to the Tioga and Chemung Rivers in New York, waters that will be affected by increased water flows under the consumptive use mitigation plan for the proposed Bell Bend Nuclear Power Plant.

The Tioga and Chemung Rivers along most of their course through New York State support the following rare freshwater mussel species:

Brook floater	<i>Alasmidonta varicose</i>	listed by NYS as Threatened
Green floater	<i>Lasmigona subviridis</i>	listed by NYS as Threatened
Yellow lampmussel	<i>Lampsilis cariosa</i>	not listed, but rare in NYS

Freshwater mussels, or the fish species that serve as their larval hosts, may be affected by changes in flow rates and flow cycles, increased sedimentation, lower oxygen levels, and increased water temperatures. (The online Natural Heritage Conservation Guide ([www.guides.nynhp.org](http://www.guides.nynhp.org)) for brook floater includes information on conservation and management.)

Swallowtail shiner (*Notropis procne*), a rare fish not listed by NYS, has been documented in the Chemung River south of Corning, NY.

Longtail salamander (*Eurycea longicauda*), listed by NYS as a Species of Special Concern, has been documented .2 mile from the Tioga River along a tributary stream, near Presho in the Town of Lindley.

Active nests of bald eagles (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*, Threatened) have been documented within 300 feet of the Chemung River in two locations: outside of the City of Corning and south of Big Flats. While close to the Chemung River, the nest trees are situated on steep slopes well above the river.

No rare or listed plants are known to currently occur in or along the banks of the Tioga and Chemung Rivers in New York. The following three historical records, while their precise locations are unknown, may have occurred along the river. We have no recent information on these populations, including whether they are still present.

Michaux' blue-eyed-grass (*Sisyrinchium mucronatum*, Endangered): 1946, "South side of Chemung River near bridge, south of Big Flats".

Toothed rock-cress (*Boechera dentate*, Threatened): 1887, "Chemung River, Ashland, riverbanks".

Spreading Chervil (*Chaerophyllum procumbens*, Endangered): 1882, "In moist ground" near the Chemung River, Ashland.

The above information only includes records in the NY Natural Heritage database. Comprehensive field surveys have not been conducted, and may provide further information on the biological resources of the project area.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Nick Conrad".

Nicholas Conrad  
Information Resource Coordinator  
New York Natural Heritage Program