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Cumulative Impacts and Benefits: Windpark and Transmission

Section 2, Environmental Settings and Impacts, describes existing conditions, the expected impacts, and mitigation associated with the construction and operation of the Noble Allegany Windpark. As stated in Section 1.1, Description of Proposed Action, Noble also proposes to construct and operate a 13.1-mile Transmission Line and substation in conjunction with the Noble Allegany Windpark Project. The Department of Public Service has jurisdiction over the approval of this transmission part of the Project pursuant to Article VII of the Public Service Law and as such this portion of the Project is not subject to New York State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA) review. As discussed in Section 1.1, Description of Proposed Action, a detailed description of the Transmission Line and its anticipated impacts will be included in the application for a Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need (Article VII Application) that is expected to be submitted in the second quarter of 2008.

This section provides an analysis of the cumulative impact the construction and operation of the Transmission Line and substation are expected to have on the Windpark. The Project and Transmission Line facilities will be constructed concurrently.

4.1 Transmission Line and Associated Facilities Description

The 13.1-mile Transmission Line, as proposed, will travel along a 100-foot wide right-of-way (ROW) through primarily agricultural land in the Towns of Centerville, Freedom, Arcade and Yorkshire. The ROW avoids dense residential areas and utilizes existing facilities where possible. This line consists of three distinct sections (see Figure 1.1-3):

- Transmission Section 1 is comprised of approximately 3.5 miles of new transmission line that will be installed within a new ROW. Overhead poles and lines will be installed between the proposed Centerville substation and the existing Noble Bliss Windpark transmission ROW. Transmission Section 1 is located in the Towns of Centerville, Freedom, and Arcade.

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- Transmission Section 2 is comprised of approximately 5 miles of new transmission line that will be installed within the existing Noble Bliss transmission line corridor in the Town of Arcade.
- Transmission Section 3 is comprised of approximately 4.6 miles of new transmission line that will be installed within a new ROW corridor between the Freedom switchyard in the Town of Arcade and the 115-kilovolt (kV) National Grid Ellicottville-Springville Line in the Town of Yorkshire.

The Transmission Section 1 will be placed on new wooden single pole structures. Transmission Section 2 will be installed primarily on existing wooden single poles within the Noble Bliss Windpark transmission line corridor. An additional wooden single pole will be necessary at each turn of the existing transmission line and will be installed within the existing ROW. Transmission Section 3 will be placed on new wooden H-frame structures. The span between new poles for Transmission Sections 1 and 3 will range between 400 and 600 feet. Pole height will be approximately 70 feet in most locations. The substation in the Town of Centerville (Centerville Substation) will collect the power generated at the Noble Allegany Windpark (at 34.5 kV) and step it up to 115 kV. The substation footprint will be about 150 feet by 350 feet surrounded by a fence. The substation will contain a transformer and other equipment, along with a small control building. The Transmission Line will travel from the proposed substation, through an existing switchyard in the Town of Arcade (Freedom Switchyard), and will interconnect to the National Grid Ellicottville-Springville 115-kV line in the Town of Yorkshire, northwest of the Windpark. These proposed facilities will enable delivery of capacity and energy from the Windpark to the New York State power distribution grid.

4.2 Biological Resources

The Windpark and the proposed Transmission Line facilities were sited to minimize fragmentation of forested habitat, avoid wetlands and aquatic habitat, and minimize impacts on wildlife to the extent practicable. No specially designated unique, sensitive, or protected terrestrial habitats have been identified along the length of the Transmission Line or within the Windpark Project Area. The cumulative impact to biological resources due to the construction and operation of the Windpark and Transmission Line facilities is not expected to be significant.

Primary impacts on upland vegetation as a result of construction of the Transmission Line will include the removal of existing vegetation through clearing of forested, successional shrubland, and herbaceous vegetation as part of construction and maintenance activities. Secondary effects may include increased soil erosion and a localized reduction in available wildlife habitat.

Construction of the Transmission Line will result in a localized reduction in the amount of available forest habitat. Forested upland areas within the 100-foot ROW for the Transmission Line will be cleared to allow for access of construction equipment, actual installation of single pole structures, and stringing of wires

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for the new transmission facility. Once the Transmission Line is operational, Noble will enter into a maintenance contract with a reputable contractor normally employed in vegetation maintenance to support appropriate clearances from conductors.

The cumulative reduction in the amount of forested habitat associated with the construction of the Windpark and Transmission Line (approximately 164 acres) is minor in comparison with the overall acreage of forested land located in the total area associated with the combined projects (approximately 4,394 acres). Furthermore, the existing mosaic of land uses within the region, including agricultural lands and early successional stages of forest land, indicate that disturbance of existing forest habitat is a common occurrence in this landscape.

4.2.1 Wetlands

The cumulative impacts due to construction and operation of the Windpark and Transmission Line will not result in significant adverse permanent impacts on wetlands.

Wetland delineations for Transmission Section 2 were completed and verified by the United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) and New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) in 2006 in conjunction with the Noble Bliss Windpark. Wetland delineations for the Windpark and Transmission Section 1 were conducted during 2007. A desktop review of wetlands was conducted for Transmission Line Section 3 since formal wetland delineations have not yet been completed.

Permanent wetland impacts along the Transmission Line during operations will result from the placement of poles for the transmission lines. It is estimated that potential ground disturbance within wetlands associated with installation of the Transmission Line will result in approximately 4.5 acres of temporary wetland impact, resulting from staging areas required for installation of poles, and less than 0.01 acre of permanent wetland impacts, as a result of installation of poles. Collectively, the Windpark and Transmission Line will result in approximately 0.1 acre of permanent wetland impacts as a result of fill. Section 2.8, Wetlands: Impacts and Mitigation, and Appendix G present a detailed discussion of wetland impacts and remediation of temporary impacts associated with the Windpark.

Operation of facilities within the Windpark and along the Transmission Line route will cumulatively result in the permanent conversion of approximately 8.7 acres of federally jurisdictional forested wetlands to shrub-scrub or emergent wetlands. Of this amount, approximately 4.8 acres will occur along the Transmission Line ROW. Additionally, the Transmission Line ROW and Windpark facilities will cumulatively result in the clearing of approximately 1.2 acres of forest within the 100-foot adjacent upland buffer associated with NYSDEC wetlands.

Although minor localized and temporary impacts to wetland function and values may result from construction and operation of the Windpark and from the con-

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struction and operation of the Transmission Line, no significant adverse cumulative impacts are expected. It is expected that any localized wetland impacts will be offset by mitigation that will enhance wetland values. As stated in Section 2.8, Wetlands: Impacts and Mitigation, Noble has provided a Conceptual Mitigation Plan (see Appendix I) that takes into account the permanent and temporary loss of wetland functions and values provided by the impacted wetlands. A final mitigation plan will be developed in conjunction with the NYSDEC and USACE as part of the permitting process.

4.2.2 Wildlife

Significant cumulative impacts on wildlife species are not expected as a result of construction and operation of the Windpark and the Transmission Line. The habitat types that will be impacted by both projects are plentiful and common throughout the vicinity of these facilities. During construction some direct mortality of wildlife may occur but it is expected that it will be very limited, since most of the species in the area are mobile and can move away from the construction area and will avoid the area of construction during the active construction period. Some mortality may occur to less mobile species during construction.

Cumulatively, indirect impacts on wildlife will occur as a result of habitat alteration in association with the Project Facilities at the Windpark and along the Transmission Line. However, these impacts are not expected to be significant. The facilities required for both projects are expected to result in minimal loss of habitat as compared with available habitat in the region. Following construction, disturbed soils will be stabilized following acceptable best management practices (BMPs). Short-term ROW management will allow disturbed areas in open communities to revert to their preconstruction conditions. In addition, the impacts on habitat are consistent with activities and conditions that regularly occur throughout the Project Area and Transmission Line corridor, such as ground disturbance, mowing of vegetation and tree removal, and access road use associated with farming and logging activities. Wildlife in the vicinity of these facilities are likely accustomed to disturbance of this nature. Species that utilize the successional shrubland habitat may benefit from the operation of the Windpark and Transmission Line due to an increase in the amount of this habitat through the conversion of forested habitats.

Construction of the transmission lines will require the crossing of 10 trout or trout spawning streams (Class C(t) or C(ts)): six by Transmission Section 1, two by Transmission Section 2, and two by Transmission Section 3. Impacts to these streams are considered temporary. Trout may be affected by the alteration of water quality through sedimentation and runoff from construction activities, the alteration of riparian resources through the loss of shelter/cover due to tree removal for transmission line construction, and the loss of food in the form of plant debris and vegetation invertebrates at the Windpark and the Transmission Line. Noble will avoid and mitigate impacts by limiting the clearing of natural vegetation adjacent to streams to the material which poses a hazard or hindrance to construction or Project facilities. Stream banks will be stabilized immediately following

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disturbance. Noble will implement a Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) in conformance with the NYSDEC State Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (SPDES) General Permit for Stormwater Discharges from Construction Activities to avoid or minimize runoff and erosion. This and other mitigation measures are described in Section 2.10.3. Furthermore, any construction or disturbance in or near protected streams will be permitted through the Joint Application for Permit to the NYSDEC and the USACE. The conditions contained within the permits issued by the agencies will serve to further protect these important natural resources. Construction of the Windpark will not impact trout streams.

4.2.3 Birds and Bats

Construction-related activities (e.g., clearing for road construction, infrastructure construction, equipment noise, and increased vehicle traffic) at both the Windpark and Transmission Line can potentially impact birds and bats. Displacement from habitat due to construction activities is the primary concern. However, these potential impacts are generally only temporary in nature and will not be significant even if the Transmission Line and Windpark are constructed simultaneously.

No significant adverse impacts on migratory birds, including raptors, passerines, and waterbirds; breeding birds; and bats are expected as a result of construction of the Transmission Line route. The Transmission Line route is not located within a major migratory corridor for birds. Minor indirect impacts on birds and bats may occur as a result of habitat alteration or loss in association with construction; however, these impacts are not expected to have a significant affect on bird and bat populations. In addition, the impacts on habitat are consistent with activities and conditions that currently occur throughout the area, such as ground disturbance and tree removal associated with farming and logging activities. Most species are expected to avoid the area of construction during the active construction period. Upon completion of construction, it is anticipated that birds and bats would resume use of the area. Outside of localized construction disturbance, no significant cumulative impacts on birds and bats are anticipated from construction of the Windpark and the Transmission Line.

Collisions are the primary concern with operation-related impacts. The potential for an increase in cumulative bird and bat collisions as a result of the Transmission Line and Windpark would be additive simply because there are more objects to fly into. Noble will jacket and insulate all overhead transmission line conductors, and all power carrying hardware for the transmission lines will be covered. In addition spacing of transmission lines will conform to the 60-foot standard referenced in the Avian Power Line Interaction Committee (APLIC) guidelines. The cumulative impact is not considered significant to the bird and bat populations in the area.

The dynamics of migration and the potential impacts from the operation of the Windpark and Transmission Line differ among groups of birds. The majority of passerines and bats migrate during the night while raptors migrate almost exclu-

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sively during the day. Waterbirds migrate during the day and night (Richardson 1998).

For diurnally migrating species such as raptors and many waterbirds, migration in the region is diffuse. There are no geographical or topographical features in the Project Area that attract or concentrate diurnally migrating birds. Therefore, low numbers of migrant birds are anticipated in the Project Area and along the Transmission Line. No biologically significant adverse impacts on diurnally migrant birds are anticipated from operation of the Project.

A collision risk exists for nocturnal migrant passerines and bats at all tall structures, including transmission lines and poles. There are no geographical or topographical features on or near the Transmission Line route that attract or concentrate nocturnal migrant passerines, and these facilities are not proximate to any large waterbodies where nocturnal migrants tend to concentrate at stopover areas. Outside of such concentration areas, passerine migration is typically diffuse over a broad front. For bats, a number of factors including the proximity to hibernacula, known migration corridors, and topography influence the potential risk for collision. There is an increase for potential impacts when adverse weather conditions cause birds and bats to fly at lower altitudes. Studies have shown that collisions with communication and television towers (much taller than wind turbines) are increased during low cloud ceilings, heavy fog, and precipitation. However, the potential cumulative mortality risk to migrant passerines and bats is considered low-to-moderate based on the location of the Windpark and Transmission Line, the passage rate and altitude data from the radar study (and other regional radar studies), and the avoidance behavior of passerines typically exhibited at wind energy facilities. Cumulatively, no biologically significant adverse impacts are anticipated for any species from operation of the Windpark (see Appendix J) and Transmission Line.

4.2.4 Threatened and Endangered Species

According to the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), except for transient individuals, no federally listed or proposed endangered or threatened animal species are known to occur within the Project Area (Stilwell 2006). In addition, no federally designated or proposed “critical habitat” exists within the Project Area. As suggested by USFWS in a letter dated September 17, 2007, a county-level list of federally listed animal species was reviewed for this Project (Niver 2007), and the Bald Eagle has been observed in Allegany County, Cattaraugus County, and Wyoming County (USFWS 2007a). Although they are no longer protected by the federal Endangered Species Act (USFWS 2007b), they are still protected by the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act (see Appendix J for more detail). Clubshell (*Pleuobema clava*), an endangered freshwater mussel species, and Rayed Bean (*Villusia fabalits*), a candidate freshwater mussel species for federal listing, were also listed by USFWS as occurring in Cattaraugus County.

Based on correspondence with the New York State Natural Heritage Program (NHP) (Ketcham 2005, Conrad 2006, Seoane 2007), state-listed endangered or

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threatened animal species that are known to occur within 10 miles of the Project Area, which would include the Transmission Line route, include Short-eared Owl, Upland Sandpiper, and Pied-billed Grebe. No threatened or endangered bat species were specifically identified by NHP. Although no significant bat communities were identified within the Project Area, the NHP identified a bat colony within nine miles of the Project Area, at Letchworth State Park in the Town of Portage, Livingston County (Conrad 2006, Seoane 2007). No significant wildlife communities under state protection were identified within the Project Area or within the proposed Transmission Line route.

Only limited use of the combined Windpark and Transmission Line area is anticipated by endangered, threatened, and special concern species during construction and operation as most of any occurrences would be related to migration or transient (i.e., limited) use. Therefore, the overall potential for cumulative impact of construction and operation of the Windpark and Transmission Line on these species is considered very low.

4.3 Land Use

The Transmission Line will be constructed primarily on agricultural (44 acres) and forest lands (50 acres). Approximately 3 acres of open land in various stages of succession will also be impacted. For the most part, transmission structures have been sited to avoid interference with farming activities and minimize the loss of active agricultural land and other environmental resources. Where possible, facilities have been located near the edge of agricultural field to minimize loss of land to agriculture as well as avoid forest impacts. Throughout the design process for the Transmission Line, structures located on active farms were sited, to the extent practicable, to be consistent with New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets (NYSDAM) siting recommendations and guidelines. Input from the landowners was also considered to avoid or minimize impacts to current and future farm operations. After construction is completed, agricultural land that will be used to accommodate the Transmission Line will continue to be used for agricultural purposes. Where the location of poles and associated structures within agricultural fields could not be avoided, all efforts have been made to minimize the land needed for structure placement and to allow the continued agricultural use around the structure(s).

Operation of facilities within the Windpark and along the Transmission Line route will cumulatively result in impacts to approximately 201 acres of agricultural land, 164 acres of forest lands, and 8 acres of open land in various stages of succession. The cumulative impacts due to construction and operation of the Windpark and Transmission Line will not result in significant adverse permanent impacts on land use. Some agricultural field acreage, approximately 24 acres, will be permanently lost due to installation of the substation, turbines, access roads, and transmission lines; however, these facilities have been situated to minimize total loss to the extent possible. This cumulative loss represents less than 6% of the total area impacted by construction of the Windpark and Transmission Line.

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4.4 Visual Impacts

Construction of the Transmission Line and substation will require use of mobile cranes and other large construction vehicles. Components will be delivered via large semi-trucks. However, the overall construction period is expected to be relatively short (approximately five months) and the construction impacts at any single receptor location will be limited. As such, construction-related visual impacts are not expected to result in adverse prolonged visual impacts to area residents or visitors.

The proposed Transmission Line and associated substation will be visible and be within the view of few local residents or passers-by. The proposed Transmission Line structures will range from between 65 and 84 feet in height. Saratoga Associates, Landscape Architects, Architects, Engineers and Planners, P.C. (Saratoga) prepared an analysis of the potential visibility and visual impact of the Windpark only (see Appendix K). The regional visual impacts of the proposed Transmission Line are not anticipated to be significant. Potential adverse visual impacts associated with the Transmission Line will be primarily localized. It is expected that screening from existing vegetation and topography will partially screen the proposed Transmission Line in many locations. The proposed Transmission Line will be similar in appearance to other existing transmission lines in the area.

Portions of the proposed Transmission Line (e.g. Transmission Section 1) will be in close proximity to 11 turbines resulting in the increased potential to see both in the same view. Other portions, such as Transmission Section 3, are more than five miles from the Windpark and the potential cumulative impact is reduced, it is expected that the introduction of turbines and transmission structures within the same viewshed will increase the number of structures visible from the most affected vantage points, thus creating a potential higher density of visual structures. While the turbines will be unique and prominent visible features of the landscape from many locations, transmission lines are common in the area. As such, the construction of the transmission lines will result in minor additional impacts to visual resources that will be affected by the Windpark.

4.5 Sound

Sound emissions relating from construction (including construction traffic) of the Transmission Line have the potential to impact nearby receptors. Construction noises such as those from operating heavy equipment will be of a temporary nature. Construction sound impacts will be limited in duration and to the hours of 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. Some minor increase in noise due to facility construction and associated traffic at several receptors within the Project Area (e.g., Cadwell and Smith Cross roads) is anticipated as a result of construction of the Windpark and Transmission Line concurrently. Cumulative impacts due to construction of facilities are considered minor.

Transmission lines can produce sound via corona discharge, which is ionization of the air surrounding a high-voltage conductor. Corona discharge noise from moderate voltage transmission lines, even under humid or wet conditions, is generally

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very low in magnitude and normally only audible directly under the lines or just beyond the ROW boundaries. Moreover, it is usually only noticeable under very calm and still conditions and not when the wind blows and the background sound level is raised by the natural sound of tree rustle. The nearest non-participating residence to the Transmission Line is approximately 120 feet away from the line. At this distance the foul weather sound level of the Transmission Line would be approximately 40 A-weighted decibel level (dbA), which would be inaudible at most times so there would be no significant cumulative noise impact from the superposition of turbine and Transmission Line noise at any residence. In addition, corona discharge noise is reduced by regular maintenance.

4.6 Transportation

Cumulative impact of contemporaneous construction of the transmission line and the Project will result from broader geographic range of roads accessed by construction vehicles. Nevertheless, the impact is not expected to be significant because roads in the Project Area are not currently congested. Impacts will also be mitigated by limiting construction vehicle traffic to delivery vehicles for poles and materials and personal vehicles for workers. Delivery vehicles will range in size from oversized load tractor-trailers to smaller vehicles such as dump trucks, concrete trucks, fuel delivery trucks, mechanics vans, and pickup trucks. Personnel vehicles will consist of automobiles and light trucks. Small construction vehicles will not have difficulty reaching the Transmission Line construction site using any local roads while complying with all Town, county, and state ordinances. Construction vehicle traffic will be limited to the hours of 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. and will typically be scheduled between 7:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. Additional measures will be taken to avoid impacts on school bus routes and to avoid school zones during drop-off and pick-up times, 7:00 a.m. to 8:30 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., respectively. The roads in the Project Area are not currently congested. Thus, minimal delay for local traffic is expected.

As stated in Section 2.21, Traffic and Transportation: Environmental Setting, existing road traffic is comfortably below capacity and existing traffic conditions are light. A limited number of light trucks will occasionally access the Windpark and Transmission Line facilities for service and maintenance, and are not likely to result in permanent impacts on local traffic and transportation. The cumulative impact to traffic due to the construction and operation of the Windpark and Transmission Line facilities is not expected to be significant.

4.7 Socioeconomic Impacts

Construction and operation of the Transmission Line is not expected to have any long-term impacts on housing and populations in the Towns of Centerville, Rushford, Freedom, Arcade or Yorkshire. However, recent studies have shown a slight decrease in property value based on proximity to transmission lines (Pitts and Jackson 2007). The decrease in value is attributable to the visual impacts of lines, potential health hazards, noise, and safety concerns. These impacts diminish as distance from the line increases and can be reduced considerably if the structures are at least partially screened from view by trees, landscaping, or topography.

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The potential decrease in property value will be offset by the easement payments paid by Noble to the landowner whose property is crossed.

The sales data collected in existing wind farm markets indicate that the construction and operation of wind farms has no influence on property values (see Section 2.26, Socioeconomics: Impacts and Mitigation, and Appendix P); therefore, cumulative impacts on property value are not expected as a result of construction of the Windpark and Transmission Line.

Construction of the Windpark and Transmission Line will have a temporary positive economic impact on the surrounding area through the creation of construction jobs during an approximate 10-month period. Providers of local services, suppliers, and area manufacturers will be used extensively during construction.

Landowners who have signed easement agreements with Noble for both the Transmission Line and the Windpark will receive payments related to the Windpark and transmission facilities. It is expected that the increase in landowner personal income will be used towards savings and debt reduction, but also an increase in local goods and services purchased thus an additional improvement in the local economy.

The Transmission Line will not promote additional development in the Towns of Centerville, Freedom, Arcade and Yorkshire although the structures themselves will provide revenue to the host towns in the form of taxes or other arranged payments. However, the Transmission Line is critical to the transmission of electricity generated by the 100.5-megawatt (MW) Allegany Windpark, which will have a positive economic impact on the region. The Transmission Line will enable the electricity generated at the Windpark to be transmitted to the existing National Grid Transmission Line in Yorkshire, which will, in turn, be transmitted to the New York State power grid.

The construction and operation of the Transmission Line will enable the connection of the Windpark to the State power grid, and thus will contribute to the supply of clean, reliable electricity to the competitive market. Cumulatively, electricity generated from the Windpark and transmitted over the proposed Transmission Line will contribute to New York State's goal of meeting the 25% Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS), as described in Section 1.4: Project Purpose, Needs, and Benefits.

4.8 Cultural Resources

4.8.1 Archaeological

Results of a Phase 1A Survey of the Transmission Section 1 completed by Panamerican Consultants, Inc. (Panamerican) in December 2007 indicated that no previously recorded Native American or historic archaeological sites are present within this portion of the Transmission Line study area.

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Noble consulted with New York State Historic Preservation Office (NYSHPO) regarding Transmission Section 2 as part of the permitting for Noble Bliss Windpark. At that time it was determined that the study area was not within an area considered by the NYSHPO as sensitive for archaeological resources and no further evaluation was required.

A formal NYSHPO consultation for Transmission Section 3 has not yet been initiated, however, given the low archaeological sensitivity of the area, limited potential for impacts due to pole placements and ability to relocate poles to avoid impacts, no significant impacts on archaeological resources are anticipated.

Panamerican found that no prehistoric or historic archaeological sites were identified during the site investigation of the Windpark and that the Windpark will not have any impacts on archeological resources in the Project Area (see Section 2.31, Cultural Resources: Impacts and Mitigation). On December 7, 2007, the NYSHPO issued a letter of concurrence with Panamerican's finding that no archaeological sites were identified and stated that they have no further archaeological concerns with the Project (see Appendix C). Based on studies that have been performed in the Windpark and the transmission line no archeological concerns have been identified. If previously unidentified areas of concern are identified during construction the project design will be modified to avoid impacts. As such, no impacts, cumulative or otherwise, are anticipated from construction and operation of the Windpark and Transmission Line.

4.8.2 Architectural

As part of the Section 106 consultation required for the permitting of the Windpark Panamerican conducted an architectural study to identify properties, districts, and sites that are listed or may be eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) within a 5-mile radius of the outermost structures of the Windpark (see Appendix S). The 5-mile distance around the outer ring of proposed tower locations included the majority of the proposed Transmission Line. That study concluded that operation of the Windpark will not have any direct impacts on architectural resources (i.e., demolition of any National Register Listed [NRL] or National Register Eligible [NRE] buildings) but may result in temporary noise impacts during construction and long term visual impacts on two NRL and 25 NRE structures within the 5-mile Noble Allegany Windpark study area. One or more turbines may be visible from most of the structures.

The architectural survey was submitted to the NYSHPO on October 17, 2007. Approval of the architectural survey and a determination of adverse affect were received from the NYSHPO on November 13, 2007. Copies of all correspondence are provided in Appendix C. As a result of the adverse affect determination, a mitigation program is being developed. The mitigation program will be designed to offset impacts to individual structures through the enhancement of other significant resources in the area.

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Subsequent to the completion of the October 17, 2007, survey, Panamerican conducted a supplemental desktop evaluation within 1 mile of the proposed Transmission Line to address any additional structures that may be impacted by views of the Transmission Line but that were not included in the original Windpark 5-mile study area. This supplemental investigation did not identify any previously unidentified listed properties. Consultation with the NYSHPO regarding the Transmission Line is ongoing and it is anticipated that additional surveys will be required to identify potentially eligible NRHP structures within the supplemental study area. Impacts to historical properties due to the construction and operation of Transmission Line may be reduced by a number of factors including topography, distance from the Transmission Line, existing landscaping and vegetation, and surrounding land uses. If additional structures are identified the mitigation program for the Windpark will be modified to address any additional impacts.

There may be some cumulative impact to a limited number of NRHP listed and eligible properties as a result of the construction and operation of the transmission line and Windpark. These impacts will be addressed through the mitigation program being developed as part of the ongoing SHPO consultation. A proposed Historic Resource Impacts Mitigation Plan is provided in Appendix S.