New York State Department of Environmental Conservation
Division of Environmental Permits
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Joe Martens
Commissioner

March 17, 2014

Lynda Schubring, PMP
Sr. Environmental Scientist
Williams
2800 Post Oak Blvd., Level 17
Houston, TX 77056

Dear Ms. Schubring:

Please find attached the revised Scope of Work for further evaluation of Alternative M prepared by the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) in response to the Scope of Work submitted by Constitution on January 29, 2014. As you are aware, the purpose of the work plan is to further evaluate routing sections of Alternative M within the I-88 controlled access area and is the result of the continuing dialog with DEC and other state and federal agencies regarding the feasibility of the proposed Alternative M. This revised Scope was prepared in consultation with staff from the U.S Army Corps of Engineers, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the Environmental Protection Agency, Region 2.

As you are likely aware, 40 CFR 1502.14 requires that an Environmental Impact Statement: (a) [r]igorously explore and objectively evaluate all reasonable alternatives, and for alternatives which were eliminated from detailed study, briefly discuss the reasons for their having been eliminated; (b) [d]evote substantial treatment to each alternative considered in detail including the proposed action so that reviewers may evaluate their comparative merits. As such, the Department would like to continue to work with Constitution to fully develop the record on Alternative M in order to meet this requirement.

Please let me know if you would like to set up a meeting to further discuss moving ahead with this analysis. If you have any questions or comments, please contact me by phone at (518) 486-9955, or by email at smtomasi@gw.dec.state.ny.us.

Sincerely,

Stephen Tomasik
Project Manager
Major Projects Management Section
Division of Environmental Permits

Attachment

cc: K. Silliman, VHB
K. Bruce, USACE
L. Knutson, EPA, Region 2
Tim Sullivan, USFWS
K. Bowman, FERC
DEC Review Team