

PUBLIC SUBMISSION

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Docket: MSHA-2014-0031

Exposure of Underground Miners to Diesel Exhaust

Comment On: MSHA-2014-0031-0076

Exposure of Underground Miners to Diesel Exhaust: Request for Information; Reopening of Rulemaking Record; Extension of Comment Period

Document: MSHA-2014-0031-0127

Comment from d d, NA

Submitter Information

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General Comment

Wind turbines development Might be in violation to Article 14, Section 4 of the New York State Constitution, which specifically states that the policy of the state is to "encourage the development and improvement of its agricultural lands for the production of food and other agricultural products [which]...shall include the protection of agricultural lands.". Wind Turbines are a hazard for terrestrial and aquatic habitat for 18 animal species listed as endangered or threatened in New York State that are protected under the State Endangered Species Law and associated regulations. Ecological and economic importance of insectivorous bats in Agriculture. the increased development of wind-power facilities are threatening populations of insectivorous bats Endangered and threatened wildlife may be adversely impacted through project actions such as clearing, grading and road building that occur within the habitats that they occupy. Certain species are unable to avoid direct impact due to their inherent poor mobility (e.g., Blanding's turtle, club shell mussel, and the brook floater and green floater). Bats are voracious predators of nocturnal insects, including many crop and forest pests. Analyses suggesting that loss of bats in North America could lead to agricultural losses estimated at more than \$3.7 billion/year. Bats play an incredibly important role in the ecosystem, eating billions of crop-destroying insects like moths and beetles, as well as mosquitoes. But in just four years, more than a million bats have been killed. The Indiana bat is a temperate, insectivorous, migratory bat. In spring, reproductive females migrate and form maternity colonies where they bear and raise their young in wooded areas. Accordingly, significant adverse impacts to ecosystems and wildlife would result. depending upon the level

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of development, some agricultural land could be lost. adverse impacts to organic agriculture. The potential significant adverse environmental impacts relating to agricultural land must be considered within the framework of the goals . The severity of impacts on community character in rural communities would be greater for those areas where development is focused in a particular location or region. New York State also has special or unique character, have been afforded additional protection to ensure their availability for public use, enjoyment, and provide important wildlife habitat and open space. Surface disturbance associated with wind turbines noise and visual effects could have negative impacts on habitats on state-owned lands, and recreational use of those lands, especially in large contiguous forest patches that are valuable because they sustain wide-ranging forest species and provide important habitat for forest interior species. significant increase of visual, noise, and traffic impacts of wind turbines results in greater significant site-specific and cumulative impacts to constitutionally protected Forest Preserve land, adversely impacting its mandated "forever wild" forest land character and preventing the public from having a Forest Preserve experience characterized by peace and quiet as envisioned by those who framed the Forest Preserve's constitutional protection.