



Community residents and organizations attended the kick off meeting of the Cricket Valley Energy Advisory Working Group on Water, Wetlands, and Wildlife February 17 to discuss the results of preliminary environmental assessments at the site.

Fred Sellars and Lynn Gresock, environmental consultants to project developer Advanced Power, described the process of identifying wetlands at the site, guidance received from the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation and the US Army Corps of Engineers in delineating wetland boundaries, and efforts to minimize impact on wetlands in siting the project, including:

1. Locating the project east of the train tracks, leaving much of the wetland area undisturbed.
2. Incorporating a compact substation that will reduce the size of the facility's footprint.
3. Using the existing building footprint for much of the project.

In addition to continued study and documentation of wetlands, the project team will also propose a plan to restore existing, damaged wetlands. While no hazardous material has been identified at the site, the clean up to restore the wetlands will nonetheless be significant. The project will also incorporate a stormwater management approach that will include best practices such as bio-retention areas (or "raingardens") on the site.

Assessments by NYS DEC and US Fish and Wildlife Service have identified no endangered species habitats on the property. The project team has completed first phase assessments of bog turtles and timber rattlesnakes -- additional analysis will be conducted through the SEQR process.

In the area of water, the CVE project will incorporate efficient air cooling technology that will require from about 10 gallons per minute in winter to 60 gallons per minute in summer to operate. Exploration wells drilled into the bedrock aquifer confirmed the availability of sufficient water as well as a back-up supply. The next step is testing to confirm negligible impact on neighboring water levels and wetlands -- letters to residence owners in the area will invite their participation in the test.

The group identified the topics of interest for their next meeting to include:

- Species inventory (animals and herbaceous plants)
- Stormwater plans
- Results of the long-term pump tests

To join one or more Advisory Working Groups, please contact Matt Martin by email: info@cricketvalley.com or by phone: 845-877-0596. No specialized knowledge is required.

For more information please visit www.cricketvalley.com

