

2012 APPLICATION SCHEDULE ANNOUNCED FOR HABITAT ENHANCEMENT AND RESTORATION FUND

As part of the New York Power Authority's (NYPA's) license commitments for the Niagara Power Project in Lewiston, NY, a Fish and Wildlife Habitat Enhancement and Restoration Fund (HERF) was established to address the impacts of power project operations on the ecology of the Niagara River and its tributary watershed. The schedule for proposal submission in 2012 is:

March 15: Conceptual pre-proposals due to the Ecological Standing committee (ESC)

April 15: ESC determination on pre-proposals

July 15: Full proposals due to ESC

Dec. 1: Final determination

The following is a short list of the criteria that will guide funding decisions, with priority given to projects that:

- Address a demonstrated Power Project impact;
- Have a strong scientific foundation;
- Contribute to long-term protection and enhancement of RTE plant, aquatic, or terrestrial species and/or their habitat in the Niagara Basin;
- Achieve multiple ecological goals;
- Involve multi-stakeholder collaboration;
- Are time-sensitive, such as land acquisition;
- Are consistent with applicable local, State, and Federal resource management plans;

Note: the HERF is not a Greenway fund, and therefore consultation with the Greenway Commission is not required.

Guidelines for Ecological Standing Committee/HERF Applications can be found at:
<http://niagara.nypa.gov/RelicensingGreenwayFunds/EcologicalGreenway/EcolDefault.htm>

The Ecological Standing Committee includes the New York Power Authority, the US Fish and Wildlife Service, the Tuscarora Nation, the Tonawanda Seneca Nation, the State Department of Environmental Conservation, and the Niagara Relicensing Environmental Coalition. The ESC manages the \$16.2 million Habitat Enhancement and Restoration Fund.

For additional information, please contact Steve Schoenwiesner, ESC Chairman, at 914-287-3457.