NEW YORK STATE | Department of Environmental Conservation

KATHY HOCHUL
Governor

AMANDA LEFTON
Commissioner

Dear Michael Hartner,

On April 17th, 2026, at 3:30pm we met at the Gardiner Transfer Station located at 131 Stevens Ln, Gardiner, NY 12525, to discuss mitigation strategies to prevent bears from accessing the refuse bays on site.

To remain compliant under NYS Conservation Law Part 187.1 (Black Bear Feeding), we recommend that the Gardiner transfer station install an electric fence that would remain active while the transfer station Is closed.

The energizer for the electric fencing should be capable of outputting at least 6,000 volts, or 0.5 joules of energy. We also recommend 2-3 wires, spaced 8-10 inches apart, for the initial set up. If bears continue to bypass a minimal wire setup, we discussed the possibly of adding additional wires above the existing metal guard rail height.

In some cases, habituated bears may quickly overwhelm a newly installed fence. It is recommended to add a small amount of peanut butter or grease onto a portion of fence closest to the bears eye level (3 – 3.5' off the ground). This may ensure that the bear more gently approaches the fence, and receives a shock in a more sensitive location, such as its nose. – This may yield a higher degree of deterrence and negative conditioning.

You also mentioned some concerns regarding animal welfare and electric fencing. I would like to note that electric fencing is considered humane for livestock, pets, and wildlife alike. A properly installed electric fence utilizes a high-voltage, but low-amperage pulsed shock that simply causes discomfort, rather than lasting injury or electrocution.

Thank you for taking the time to meet with us. Please don't hesitate to reach out if you have any questions or if the conflict persists.

Best,

John Milo
Bear Biologist
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