



18 Short Road
Earleville, MD 21919
October 21, 2014

Mr. Elder Ghigiarelli
Deputy Program Administrator
Wetlands and Waterways Programs
Water Management Administration
Maryland Department of the Environment
1800 Washington Boulevard, Suite 430
Baltimore, MD 21230

Dear Mr. Ghigiarelli,

I am writing regarding the proposed Water Quality Certification Application #14-WQC-02 and the subsequent modification to that application. The modification maintains the existing sluice discharge into Pearce Creek rather than move it to the Elk River as originally proposed. Questions have arisen about the reasoning for this change: is it based on a scientific assessment of the situation; is it based on a more economical way of discharging; is it based on engineering studies of the site? As MDE studies the full request, the community wishes to be informed regarding this change. In addition, what is the impact to the environment of either discharge site? We would appreciate MDE's assessment of this issue.

With regard to the application itself, the West View Shores community understands the economic impact of dredging for the Port of Baltimore; however, we remain insistent that more be done to expedite the installation of a public water system to serve our community and surrounding communities before the dredging occurs. The solution may be for MDE to issue the Water Quality Certificate with the contingency that dredging may occur only when the water system is in place. Although the outside timeline projection indicates 2017 for the installation, we believe that if easements for installation between Cecilton and our communities and for properties within our communities as well as necessary changes in the Cecil County water/sewer plan and other necessary permits are expedited, the installation can occur within a reasonable timeframe to accommodate everyone's needs. Having safe, potable water in our homes is our priority. This is a health issue for us as well as an economic one in that our property values have been affected and the ability to renovate or add on to our homes is jeopardized by the current water situation. With regard to potable water, we believe that a source of funding should be found to provide bottled water to those people in our communities who wish to receive it.

When the installation of the liner and other necessary work begins on the DMCF site, we want to be assured that every precaution will be taken to keep dust and other pollutants from affecting the air quality in our communities. We also want the construction staging area to be moved further into the site so that it is not an eyesore to the communities. As the area is disturbed we want mosquito spraying to be done on a regular basis, not just one time.

When the DMCF site is in full operation, we request that the following be done:

- Move the staging area for continuing work further into the site area itself, and not be left at the current site near Pond Neck Road.
- Mosquito spraying done on a regular basis, not just one flyover each season. Both WVS and BVE pay Cecil County to spray our communities for mosquitoes every summer. It seems reasonable to ask that the Corps site follow suit.
- Plant and maintain trees, shrubs and other appropriate, attractive vegetation along Pond Neck Road and on the part of the site that is visible from our communities to make the area more attractive.
- Monitor our beaches on a regular basis and make the results immediately available to the communities. This monitoring should go beyond the usual testing for bacteria and should include testing for pollutants that would be dangerous to people who frequent our beach areas.

We realize that the above list contains requests that are beyond the scope of MDE regulation; however, we believe that MDE can ensure that Memoranda of Agreement can be developed as addenda to the Water Quality Approval to ensure that these issues are addressed satisfactorily. We also believe that other entities which have the resources to address some of them can play a role. For example, Cecil County Council has urged MDE to move forward expeditiously but have pledged no solutions to our concerns. The County should monitor the beaches and possibly handle the mosquito spraying without charge to our communities.

We appreciate the work that has been done by Dave Blazer and Fran Flanagan to listen to our concerns and to work to resolve them. Their efforts to keep communication open and straightforward has been extremely helpful, especially given the Corps' poor record at communication with us. We also appreciate the professionalism of URS, the contractor for planning the water system.

As President of WVSCA I want to assure you that our entire board is confident that we can reach appropriate solutions in an amicable and cooperative fashion. We also want you to know that we will remain insistent that solutions be reached and we will be vigilant as this process moves forward.

Sincerely,



Valerie Woodruff

President

West View Shores Civic Association