WI 208-06 Whitetail Subdivision SUB

MSA.S. 1829-6158

Martin O'Malley Governor

Anthony G. Brown Lt. Governor



Margaret G. McHale Chair

> Ren Serey Executive Director

STATE OF MARYLAND CRITICAL AREA COMMISSION CHESAPEAKE AND ATLANTIC COASTAL BAYS

1804 West Street, Suite 100. Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(410) 260-3460 Fax: (410) 974-5338
www.dnr.state.md.us/criticalarea/

August 1, 2008

Mr. Jimmy Sharp Wicomico County Department of Planning, Zoning, and Community Development PO Box 870 Salisbury, MD 21803-0870

Re: Whitetail Subdivision, Plat Revision

Dear Mr. Sharp:

Thank you for forwarding the above mentioned revised plat. The purpose of the plat revision is to add an access easement along the shared boundary of lots 2A and 3A for access to a proposed shared pier. This is consistent with what was discussed during a site visit to the property with staff from the County, Commission, National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) and Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE).

We note that there is an incorrect notation on the plat indicating that there are no Habitat Protection Areas on the site, when in fact, a Wetland of Special State Concern (WSSC) and an anadromous fish spawning area, which are both Habitat Protection Areas, are within and adjacent to the property. Therefore, the incorrect plat note must be removed before the plat is finalized. Also, we recommend that the plat include a note stating that no disturbance within the Buffer is allowed for cutting, clearing, grading, or locating structures or impervious surfaces, with the exception of the two piers, one to be shared by lots 8A and 9A, and one to be shared by lots 2A and 3A. It is this office's understanding that the property owner has received the necessary local and State permits for the proposed piers. The property owners must also provide mitigation plantings for the area of disturbance within the Buffer for the piers at a 2:1 ratio. Buffer disturbance includes the area of the footprint of structures, cutting or clearing, grading, or impervious surfaces.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment. Please telephone me if you have any questions at (410) 260-3481.

Sincerely,

Amber Widmayer Natural Resources Planner cc: WI 208-06

TTY for the Deaf Annapolis: (410) 974-2609 D.C. Metro: (301) 586-0450 Martin O'Malley Governor

Anthony G. Brown



Margaret G. McHale Chair

> Ren Serey Executive Director

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November 29, 2007

Mr. Joe Kincaid Maryland Department of the Environment 407 Race Street Cambridge, Maryland 21613

Re: Whitetail Subdivision, Wicomico County Individual Pier Requests

Dear Mr. Kincaid:

At your request, this office is providing the Maryland Department of the Environment with comments concerning the pier requests you are reviewing in the Whitetail subdivision in Wicomico County. The primary reason for these comments is to address the issue of the Barren Creek Wetland of Special State Concern (WSSC) that exists on the property. Specifically, the impacts that individual piers would have on this wetland, and our position that issuing individual pier licenses on lots within a WSSC would be inconsistent with the Wicomico County Critical Area Program and State Critical Area Law and Criteria in addition to the regulations governing WSSCs in the Environment Article.

As you are aware, the subdivision was approved with riparian lots that extend through the WSSC. This approval occurred despite letters from the Department of Natural Resources indicating the presence of the WSSC, and our comment letter requesting that the lot lines not extend to the water. In fact, the plat notes state that no Habitat Protection Areas are located on or adjacent to the site. Wetlands of Special State Concern qualify as significant plant and wildlife habitat that specifically requires protection under the County Program and State regulations. Nevertheless, the County approved the lot configuration without requiring this modification.

However, there are specific plat notes (copies enclosed) that prohibit dwellings or portions thereof in the Critical Area portions of lots 2-7. It is our position that these lots would also not be permitted accessory structures, which would include individual piers, in the Critical Area portions of the lots since the lots are located in the Resource Conservation Area (RCA), which

TTY for the Deaf Annapolis: (410) 974-2609 D.C. Metro: (301) 586-0450

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Mr. Joe Kincaid November 29, 2007 Page 2 of 2

restricts development density. This subdivision has already used its RCA density with the creation of lots 8 and 9 since these lots will have density (actual dwelling units) in the RCA. The result is lots 2-7 cannot have any development activities within the Critical Area. This would include individual piers.

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The developer was made aware of these restrictions and chose not to create an easement that would provide for a community pier. Simply drawing lot lines to the water does not constitute the right to a pier, especially when there is a State resource that has been specifically identified by the State and is afforded special protections due to its unique nature. Permitting individual piers through a WSSC is not consistent with the goals of the Critical Area Law in Natural Resources Article 8-1801, and 8-1808, and in the Critical Area Criteria found in the Code of Maryland Regulations 27.01.09.03., nor the Environment Article which has as its purpose to protect and conserve these unique State resources.

Any requests for individual piers on lots 2-7 should be denied due to the reasons outlined above, and any requests for individual piers on lots 8 and 9 should be carefully reviewed to determine whether those lots, particularly since they are adjoining, should utilize a shared pier to access Barren Creek since even one pier can have significant impacts to the WSSC. In accordance with the County's Critical Area Program, a Habitat Protection Plan should be provided by the applicant which demonstrates how impacts have been avoided, minimized and, if necessary, mitigated. The Habitat Protection Plan should be prepared with the recommendations of the Department of Natural Resources, Natural Heritage Program.

Thank you for soliciting Commission staff comments. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at (410) 260-3478.

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Sincerely,

isa a. Hoeyer

Lisa A. Hoerger Regional Program Chief

cc: Jimmy Sharp, Wicomico County Gary Setzer, MDE, Wetlands and Waterways Tim Larney, DNR, Wildlife and Heritage Wesley Knapp, DNR, Wildlife and Heritage Robert L. Ehrlich, Jr. Governor

Michael S. Steele Lt. Governor



Martin G. Madden Chairman

> Ren Serey **Executive Director**

STATE OF MARYLAND **CRITICAL AREA COMMISSION** CHESAPEAKE AND ATLANTIC COASTAL BAYS

1804 West Street, Suite 100. Annapolis, Maryland 21401 (410) 260-3460 Fax: (410) 974-5338 www.dnr.state.md.us/criticalarea/

April 19, 2006

Jim Sharp Wicomico County Department of Planning, Zoning and Community Development P.O. Box 870 Salisbury, Maryland 21803-0870

RE: WI 208-06 Whitetail Subdivision

Dear Mr. Sharp:

I have reviewed the plat for this subdivision. This 61.35-acre parcel contains 46.28 acres in the RCA and the remaining 15.07 acres are located outside of the Critical Area. Acreage that can be counted for density development within the RCA is 40.26 acres, allowing for two dwelling units.

As you are aware, there are strict limitations on density and land use within the RCA. These restrictions are intended to conserve, protect, and enhance the overall ecological values of land characterized as nature-dominated. Without the use of growth allocation, land within the RCA cannot be used to support development outside of the Critical Area, or to support density higher than one dwelling unit per twenty acres. This policy is consistent with previous Critical Area approvals within Wicomico County and within surrounding counties.

Regarding the lot lines on the proposed subdivision of the Whitetail Subdivision I have the following comments:

- 1) It appears that lots 4 through 7 are drawn to include areas located in the RCA. Please note that no development activity, including, but not limited to dwelling units, patios, decks, sidewalks, garages, and sheds are not permitted in the RCA portion of these lots. Given the size of the lots 4 through 7 it is not clear that there is a large enough area outside of the RCA portion of the lots which would allow for a dwelling unit. The developer may want to redraw these lot lines so that the lots are entirely outside of the Critical Area. The note specifying allowable impervious surfaces on each lot must be revised to eliminate the allowable impervious surface numbers.
- 2) Lots 2 and 3 are drawn to include extensive areas that are within the RCA. As you know, the law permits only 1 dwelling unit per 20 acres in the RCA. Lots 8 and 9 each contain building envelopes that cover the 2 dwelling units permitted in this subdivision. While the lot lines for 2 and 3 may include portions in the RCA, please note that no

Jim Sharp April 19, 2006 Page 2

development activity is permitted in the Critical Area portions of lots 2 and 3. Development activity on lots 2 and 3 including, but not limited to, dwelling units, patios, decks, sidewalks, garages, sheds, driveways, roads, piers, gazebos, pools, and any and all other structures.

In addition to the lot lines, I have the following general comments on the subdivision plan:

 A determination letter must be obtained from the Department of Natural Resources Wildlife and Heritage Service (WHS) regarding the presence of rare, threatened and/or endangered species and/or their habitats on this site. All WHS comments must be addressed on the plat. A copy of the WHS comments must be provided to this office prior to final plat approval.

If you have any questions about my comments you can contact me at 410-260-3481. Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments.

Sincerely,

Jernifer B. Lester Natural Resources Planner

Robert L. Ehrlich, Jr. Governor



Martin G. Madden Chairman

Ren Serey Executive Director

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April 19, 2006

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Sincerely,

Jernifer B. Lester Natural Resources Planner

STATE OF MARYLAND CRITICAL AREA COMMISSION FOR THE CHESAPEAKE AND ATLANTIC COASTAL BAYS 1804 West Street, Suite 100 Annapolis, Maryland 21401 (410) 260-3460 FAX (410) 974-5338

FACSIMILE TRANSMITTAL

TO: Tim Larney and Wesley Knapp

FAX: 260-8595 829-5186

FROM: Lisa Hoerger

PHONE: 410-260-3478

DATE: 4/17/07

No. of Pages: 3 (Including Cover)

COMMENTS:

Tim and Wesley,

Here are the plat notes for the Whitehall subdivision in Wicomico County. They do not specify that there will be no development of any kind in the RCA; instead the note just references dwellings. I gave a copy of these notes to Joe Kincaid today and he asked me to send them along to both of you.

Based on our discussion today with MDE, it sounds like Joe will be trying to persuade the owners to either share piers or do one pier.

Tim, I would like to have a follow-up meeting with you in the future regarding our internal reviews. Let me know when you might have some free time.

Thank you both.

Lisa

CITY OF SALISBURY - WICOMICO COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING, ZONING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

P.02



WI 208-06

Tel: 410-548-4860

Planning & Zoning Commission Historic District Commission Metropolitan Planning Organization Fax: 410-548-4955

Wicomico County Board of Appeals Salisbury Board of Zoning Appeals Agricultural Land Preservation Advisory Board

Dear Mr. Kincaid,

It has been agreed upon that despite the statement on the plat that "no structures shall be permitted in the Critical Areas on" Lots 2 and 3 of the Whitetail development, a pier to be placed in an easement shared by both properties 2 and 3 can be permitted. If you have any questions please call 410-548-4860. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Jimmy Sharp Environmental Technical/Services Planner

GOVERNMENT OFFICE BUILDING—125 NORTH DIVISION—ROOM 203—P.O. BOX 870—SALISBURY, MARYLAND 21803-0870

From:	Jimmy Sharp [jsharp@wicomicocounty.org]
Sent:	Thursday, April 12, 2007 4:03 PM
To:	Hoerger, Lisa
Subject:	RE: Whitetail Subdivision

As far as responses Im not sure how its been done in the past but I ask that they do so that way I can see if they at least attempting to address any problems. I really don't know how it has been done in the past though.

-----Original Message-----From: Hoerger, Lisa [mailto:LHOERGER@dnr.state.md.us] Sent: Thursday, April 12, 2007 3:26 PM To: Jimmy Sharp Subject: Whitetail Subdivision

Jimmy,

I forgot to ask you about this yesterday, but can you tell me whether the County was aware that this subdivision was near a Wetland of Special State Concern prior to platting the subdivision? The last letter from DNR was dated May 25, 2006 from Lori Byrne to Ron Gatton.

Jennifer Lester sent a letter to the County on April 19th commenting on the request, but that was before we knew about the WSSC. I was wondering whether any of her comments were addressed? Apparently MDE now has requests in for multiple piers across this resource.

Can you tell me also whether the County requires applicants/consultants to respond in writing to agency comments?

Thank you!

Lisa

From:	Jimmy Sharp [jsharp@wicomicocounty.org]
Sent:	Thursday, April 12, 2007 3:48 PM
То:	Hoerger, Lisa
Subject:	RE: Whitetail Subdivision

I just pulled out the whitetail file. I was here for the last part of this so give me a little while to go through the files and I will let you know what I find. All her comments on the April 19th letter were addressed. Its stated on the plat that there is to be no development of any kind in the RCA portions of lots 2-7. The letter from WHS is also in the file. I will look into the letter from MDE about the Wetlands of Special State Concern.

-----Original Message-----From: Hoerger, Lisa [mailto:LHOERGER@dnr.state.md.us] Sent: Thursday, April 12, 2007 3:26 PM To: Jimmy Sharp Subject: Whitetail Subdivision

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I forgot to ask you about this yesterday, but can you tell me whether the County was aware that this subdivision was near a Wetland of Special State Concern prior to platting the subdivision? The last letter from DNR was dated May 25, 2006 from Lori Byrne to Ron Gatton.

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Can you tell me also whether the County requires applicants/consultants to respond in writing to agency comments?

Thank you!

Lisa



From:Knapp, Wesley M.Sent:Monday, April 09, 2007 11:48 AMTo:Limpert, Roland; Smith, Scott A.; Byrne, LoriCc:Hoerger, Lisa; Larney, Tim; Therres, GlennSubject:RE: MDE #200760634 (Wic. Co. Tax Map 17, p. 19)

Roland et. al,

This is a very serious issue that we have stumbled into and I'm looking for input from you all.

A subdivision was reviewed by Lori (ER# 2006.0946.WI) in May of 2006 and a subsequent letter was sent o Ron Gatton, the Environmental Consultant. In the letter Lori stated that a portion of the project fell within the Barron Creek WSSC. Did you (Roland) ever see/review this proposed sub-division? From the comments made by the developer at the site meeting, he was never made aware that the area was a WSSC. Does this fall on the shoulders of Ron Gatton? Joe Kincaid contacted me two weeks ago regarding THREE piers for review in the White Tail subdivision (lot 2, 3, & 8). Joe's e-mail to me stated the sites have been identified as "areas for endangered species". It looks like you only had the opportunity to review one of these piers. Which one did you review?

Among the issues with the piers are that if we had been given the opportunity to make comments on the development before the lots were finalized, sold, and buildings were being constructed (thought not on the lots in question), we would have suggested a community pier to alleviate impacts of many, adjacent landowners wanting access to the water. At the given time 3 waterfront lots are sold, with each landowner wanting their own pier. An additional lot, not sold yet, will almost assuredly want access also. The "marsh" the pier would have to cross is a red maple swamp! To cross this swamp will require the harvesting of ca. 50 trees (+/-) and very long piers.

Where do we go from here? I want to submit a letter based upon my site visit in the next day or two.

Wes

Wesley M. Knapp Eastern Region Heritage Biologist/Botanist PO Box 68 (909 Wye Mills Rd) Wye Mills, MD 21679

C: (410) 924-6989 O: (410) 827-8612 x 100

----Original Message----From: Limpert, Roland
Sent: Monday, April 09, 2007 11:24 AM
To: Smith, Scott A.; Byrne, Lori
Cc: Hoerger, Lisa; Larney, Tim; Therres, Glenn; Knapp, Wesley M.
Subject: RE: MDE #200760634 (Wic. Co. Tax Map 17, p. 19)

Scott,

Unless the application has changed, the project that was submitted for review in our copy of the application was for a single pier which was to be 375 by 3 feet across the marsh and 60 by 6 feet over water with a 10 by 20-foot "L" head. There was nothing in the application about 3 piers or a 15-unit subdivision. MDE has been grappling with the issue of long piers over the marsh for some time and seems to have come to the conclusion that the landowners have a riparian right to access the water in front of their property and that MDE will permit long pier with certain design requirements. I have attached a file with MDE's standard pier conditions. If you have additional questions please let me know.

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Roland << File: pier over marsh and deep water.doc >>

Roland Limpert Maryland Department of Natural Resources Environmental Review Unit Tawes State Office Building, B-3 Annapolis, MD 21401

410.260.8333 410.260.8339 (fax)

-----Original Message----From: Smith, Scott A.
Sent: Friday, April 06, 2007 10:40 AM
To: Byrne, Lori; Limpert, Roland
Cc: Hoerger, Lisa; Larney, Tim; Therres, Glenn; Knapp, Wesley M.
Subject: RE: MDE #200760634 (Wic. Co. Tax Map 17, p. 19)

I just received a call from Wes who is in the field today with Joe Kincaid of MDE reviewing this project, which is for 3 proposed piers going through a WSSC on Barren Creek (Wic. Co.) that will also be going through the Critical Area. What Wes did not know until he arrived on site was that a 15-unit subdivision had already been approved for this parcel, with 4 lots on the water. In this case "on the water" means "on the swamp" as Barren Creek in this areas is a floodplain forest. All the piers will need to be 200+ feet. Wes met with 1 of the lot owners and the developer, both of whom were completely unaware that this was a WSSC (and a little angry).

Lori, I would appreciate if you would go back through the ER files and find out how the proposed development at this site was handled, or if we even saw it. We should have recommended no lot lines in the WSSC & 100 foot CA buffer. Anyways, Wes and I are pushing for a community pier as there is one spot of open water at the NW corner of the parcel that pier installation will not impact the floodplain forest. Wes will be drafting a letter early next week for my review on this, but be forewarned that this could get hot, as at least 3 lots are sold, all waterfront. The WSSC and CA laws are supposed to protect pristine sites like this.

Scott

PS FYI: there is already a preexisting planted 100 foot vegetated buffer for most of the former agfields leading up to the flooodplain & Barren Creek.

Scott A. Smith Eastern Region Ecologist DNR-Wildlife & Heritage Services PO Box 68 Wye Mills, MD 21679 410-827-8612 x103

> -----Original Message-----From: Byrne, Lori Sent: Friday, March 23, 2007 3:01 PM To: Limpert, Roland Cc: Smith, Scott A.; Hoerger, Lisa Subject: MDE #200760634

Hi Roland,

Please see attached for comments on this site. Thanks.

Lori

<< File: 2007.0372.wi.doc >>

From:Smith, Scott A.Sent:Monday, April 09, 2007 2:11 PMTo:Limpert, Roland; Byrne, LoriCc:Hoerger, Lisa; Larney, Tim; Therres, Glenn; Knapp, Wesley M.Subject:RE: MDE #200760634 (Wic. Co. Tax Map 17, p. 19)

The issue is really before we get to the pier application. I think for all proposed developments in the CA where we have WSSC or NHA designation, lot lines should stop at the 100 foot buffer and remove the legal right to put in piers (because now they do not own the shoreline) and at worst only allow 1 community pier. The CA is being nickel-and-dimed to death by these types of projects. I would really like to see this become the standard used statewide in the CA.

Scott A. Smith Eastern Region Ecologist DNR-Wildlife & Heritage Services PO Box 68 Wye Mills, MD 21679 410-827-8612 x103

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Roland Limpert Maryland Department of Natural Resources Environmental Review Unit Tawes State Office Building, B-3 Annapolis, MD 21401

410.260.8333 410.260.8339 (fax)

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Scott A. Smith Eastern Region Ecologist DNR-Wildlife & Heritage Services PO Box 68 Wye Mills, MD 21679 410-827-8612 x103

> -----Original Message-----From: Byrne, Lori Sent: Friday, March 23, 2007 3:01 PM To: Limpert, Roland Cc: Smith, Scott A.; Hoerger, Lisa Subject: MDE #200760634

Hi Roland, Please see attached for comments on this site. Thanks.

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Lori

<< File: 2007.0372.wi.doc >>

TIDAL WETLANDS LICENSE 07-PR-Pier and Piling Construction

Under the authority of the Board of Public Works of the State of Maryland and in accordance with Title 16, Wetlands and Riparian Rights, Environment Article, Annotated Code of Maryland and COMAR 23.02.04 and COMAR 26.24 and the conditions of this license, the licensee is authorized to perform the following activity:

To construct a -foot long by three-foot wide pier over marsh and a -foot long by six-foot wide pier with a 20-foot long by 10-foot wide platform over open water as depicted on the attached plan modified by the Maryland Department of the Environment and dated*********

By applying for and receiving this Wetland License the licensee shall be considered to have knowledge of and to have accepted the special and general conditions of this license. Licensee agrees that all work shall be performed in compliance with these conditions. **PRIOR TO THE COMMENCEMENT OF ANY WORK AUTHORIZED BY THIS LICENSE, THE LICENSEE SHALL SIGN THE ACKNOWLEDGEMENT AND RETURN TO THE DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT.**

This license is subject to the following conditions:

SPECIAL CONDITIONS

- A. The pier and any associated platforms shall be supported by pilings. The lowest³ structure on the pier shall be a minimum of three feet above the marsh substrate.
- B. Wherever possible, construction of the pier and platform shall be from uplands, open water or from the structure itself. Marsh mats shall be used if equipment is placed in vegetated wetlands.
- C. The licensee shall restore all disturbed wetlands to original contours and plant species upon completion of construction.

In accordance with Code of Maryland Regulation 26.24.03.03 D, dredging by means of a vessel's propeller in State wetlands is prohibited. The use of motorized boats in shallow water habitats may result in illegal propeller dredging. Best management practices that can be employed to minimize the risk of propeller dredging include:

1. Using an auxiliary motor for ingress and egress;

- 2. Using power trim and tilt for ingress and egress;
- 3. Limiting the size and horsepower of boats and boat motors if an auxiliary motor or power trim and tilt are not available;
- 4. Scheduling boat usage to coincide with high tides;
- 5. Using a vessel with a draft limited to 12 inches or less; and
- 6. Only using boatlifts in areas where water depths exceed two feet at mean low water.
- E. A person may not operate or give permission to operate a personal watercraft in excess of idle speed in any waters of the State less than 18 inches in depth, except when required to maintain speed in a crossing or overtaking situation pursuant to the Federal Inland or International Navigation Rules. It shall be a rebuttable presumption that the operator is aware that the depth of the water is less than 18 inches if:
 - 1. The area is marked as an idle speed limit area; or
 - 2. The operator was previously issued a warning or citation for exceeding idle speed in the same area.

F. The Maryland Department of the Environment is researching the effects of piers over marshes. As part of this ongoing research the Department will be performing a functional assessment of marshes surrounding piers and therefore must be able to access this site during normal business hours. The assessment will have no impact on the marsh or your property. Commencement of work on your pier will be considered as your consent to allow representatives of the Maryland Department of the Environment to enter your property at reasonable times to perform an assessment of the marsh surrounding the authorized pier.

GENERAL CONDITIONS.

- A. The licensee shall obtain an approved sediment and erosion control plan from the local soil conservation district when the area disturbed is greater than 5000 square feet.
- B. The licensee certifies real property interest in the contiguous upland;
- C. This license is valid only for use by the licensee of the Maryland Department of the Environment. Permission for transfer of the license shall be obtained from the Water Management Administration. The terms and conditions of this license shall be binding on any assignee or successor in interest of the license;

D.

- D. The licensee acknowledges that this license does not transfer any property interest in State tidal wetlands. This license allows the licensee to use State tidal wetlands only for the structure or activity authorized herein and in no way limits the use of waters of the State by the public;
- E. The construction of any structure or the performance of any activity under this license shall be evidence that the licensee has accepted all of the terms and conditions herein;
- F. This license is void if the licensee fails to obtain all required State, county, or local approvals before beginning work on the licensed structure or activity;
- G. The licensee shall allow representatives of the Maryland Department of the Environment to enter the property at reasonable times to inspect the ongoing or completed work under the license;
- H. The licensee shall make every reasonable effort to design and construct the structure or perform the activity authorized in this license in a manner which minimizes adverse impacts on natural resource values, including water quality, plants, wildlife, plant and wildlife habitat, and on historic property values;
- I. The licensee shall notify the Water Management Administration, Inspections and Compliance Division (410) 537-3532 at least 5 days before beginning the structure or activity;
- J. This license expires 3 years after the date of issuance. The licensee shall complete construction of the activity authorized under this license within the allowed 3 years, otherwise a new general license shall be obtained;
- K. The Maryland Department of the Environment may suspend or revoke this license upon written finding for good cause that suspension or revocation is in the State's best interest.
- L. This license provides no justification or assurances for future dredging. All dredging projects will be evaluated on the biological and physical characteristics of the site at the time an application is made.

Robert Tabisz, Chief License & Permit Section Tidal Wetlands Division

Date of Issuance:

ACCEPTANCE OF LICENSE

I have read and accept the terms and conditions of this license.

Licensee



Robert L. Ehrlich, Jr., Governor Michael S. Steele, Lt. Governor C. Ronald Franks, Secretary

May 25, 2006

Mr. Ronald D. Gatton Environmental Consultants, Inc. 28712 Island Creek Road P.O. Box 438 Trappe, MD 21673

RE: Environmental Review for Whitetail Subdivision Property, Tax Map 17, Parcel 19, Athol Road, Wicomico County, Maryland.

Dear Mr. Gatton:

The Wildlife and Heritage Service has determined that there are no State or Federal records for rare, threatened or endangered species within the boundaries of the project site as delineated. As a result, we have no specific comments or requirements pertaining to protection measures at this time. This statement should not be interpreted however as meaning that rare, threatened or endangered species are not in fact present. If appropriate habitat is available, certain species could be present without documentation because adequate surveys have not been conducted. It is also important to note that the utilization of state funds, or the need to obtain a state authorized permit may warrant additional evaluations that could lead to protection or survey recommendations by the Wildlife and Heritage Service. If this project falls into one of these categories, please contact us for further coordination.

We would like to bring to your attention that the portion of Barren Creek that overlaps with the project site is designated in state regulations as a Wetland of Special State Concern (WSSC) and regulated by Maryland Department of the Environment. Your project may need to be reviewed by Maryland Department of the Environment for any necessary wetland permits associated with the WSSC.

Thank you for allowing us the opportunity to review this project. If you should have any further questions regarding this information, please contact me at (410) 260-8573.

Sincerely,

Rou'a. Bym

Lori A. Byrne, Environmental Review Coordinator Wildlife and Heritage Service MD Dept. of Natural Resources

ER Cc: #2006.0946.wi R. Esslinger, CAC

Tawes State Office Building • 580 Taylor Avenue • Annapolis, Maryland 21401

410.260.8DNR or toll free in Maryland 877.620.8DNR • www.dnr.maryland.gov • TTY users call via Maryland Relay



Robert L. Ehrlich, Jr., Governor Michael S. Steele, Lt. Governor C. Ronald Franks, Secretary

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Robert L. Ehrlich, Jr. Governor

Michael S. Steele Lt. Governor Maryland Department of Natural Resources

Tawes State Office Building 580 Taylor Avenue Annapolis, Maryland 21401 June 23, 2004

DATE 6 38 CH. DUT

C. Ronald Franks

Secretary

W. P. Jensen

Deputy Secretary

RE: Environmental Review for Cedar Hill Homes Sketch, Eddie Morris, Athol Road, Tax Map 17 Parcel 19, Wicomico County, Maryland.

Dear Mr. Lenox:

Mr. John F. Lenox

Salisbury, MD 21803-0870

P.O. Box 870

Salisbury-Wicomico County Planning Office

The Wildlife and Heritage Service has determined that there are no State or Federal records for rare, threatened or endangered species within the boundaries of the project site as delineated. As a result, we have no specific comments or requirements pertaining to protection measures at this time. This statement should not be interpreted however as meaning that rare, threatened or endangered species are not in fact present. If appropriate habitat is available, certain species could be present without documentation because adequate surveys have not been conducted. It is also important to note that the utilization of state funds, or the need to obtain a state authorized permit may warrant additional evaluations that could lead to protection or survey recommendations by the Wildlife and Heritage Service. If this project falls into one of these categories, please contact us for further coordination.

We would also like to bring to your attention that Wildlife and Heritage Service's Natural Heritage database does indicate that there is a record for Seaside Alder (*Alnus maritima*), a Watchlist species in Maryland, known to occur within the vicinity of the project site. This species could potentially occur on the project site itself, if the appropriate habitat is present. Habitat for Seaside Alder is described as: Pond-shores and stream banks (Fernald 1950). The population of native plants mentioned here has declined historically and we encourage efforts that help to conserve it across the state. If you would like technical assistance regarding the conservation of this important species, please contact us.

The portion of Barren Creek that overlaps with the project site is designated in state regulations as a Wetland of Special State Concern (WSSC) and regulated by Maryland Department of the Environment. Your project may need to be reviewed by Maryland Department of the Environment for any necessary wetland permits associated with the WSSC.

TTY via Maryland Relay: 711 (within MD) (800) 735-2258 (Out of State) Toll Free in MD#: 1-877-620-8DNR ext. ð.

Page 2 June 23, 2004

Thank you for providing us the opportunity to review this project. If you should have any further questions regarding this information, please contact me at (410) 260-8573.

Sincerely,

doub.By

Lori A. Byrne, Environmental Review Coordinator Wildlife and Heritage Service MD Dept. of Natural Resources

ER #2004.0980.wi Cc: R. Esslinger, CAC

WETLANDS DELINEATION REPORT For Lands of Whitetail Subdivision

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<u>,</u> v

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February 20, 2006

Ronald D. Gatton Environmental Consultants, Inc. P. O. Box 438 Trappe, MD 21673

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Introduction

Our Company was retained by Mr. Edward Morris to delineate the tidal and nontidal wetlands on the proposed Whitetail subdivision property (Tax Map 17, Parcel 19) located along Athol Road, Wicomico County Maryland (See attached Map). The property contained tidal emergent, forested tidal and forested non-tidal wetlands. The forested non-tidal wetlands were delineated using the routine method described in the current (January 1987) Corps of Engineers Wetland Delineation Manual was used to determine if any wetlands are on the property. This manual uses three parameters to determine if an area is wetlands; the presence of wetland vegetation, hydric soils, and the presence of ground water within 12 inches of the surface for a period of 11 to 21 days during the growing season. In order to be classified as a wetland, all three parameters must be present. Note: the delineation was limited to the northern portion of the property.

The tidal wetlands boundary delineated to determine the 100' Chesapeake Bay Critical Area (CBCA) buffer. Guidance provided by the CBCA staff will be used to define this boundary. Generally, the present of vegetation, which grows predominately in tidal areas, will be used to delineate the tidal wetlands. In addition, these areas are generally flooded by spring tides each month.

Topography and Hydrology

The total area of the site is 61.35-acres. The site generally consists of agricultural fields, lesser amounts of tidal and nontidal wetlands. The site has gentle slopes, with the highest elevation being approximately 26 feet above NGVD, and the lowest at sea level. Drainage from the site sheet flows into tidal waters of the Barren Creek.

Soils

The Wicomico County Soil Conservation Service Survey maps indicate soils on the site are generally Galestown loamy sand, with lesser amounts of Downer sandy loam, Sassafras sandy loam, and muck soils occurring along Barren Creek. (See attached SCS soil survey map).

Site Investigation

Site was delineated during February of 2006. Transits were made through the site wetlands found there were delineated by making short transits along the probable boundary area. Transits along this interface area were sampled of soils, vegetation and hydrology. The boundary of wetland area was then determined by the type of soil, vegetation, and probable hydrological conditions. Location of the boundary was marked by tying a wetland delineation ribbon on a tree or shrub. Flags were spaced, as needed, but generally 20 to 30 feet apart. Each wetland flag was numbered in consecutive order.

Findings

Tidal Wetland Vegetation

The State tidal wetlands occurring below Mean High Water, were predominately vegetated with, Spatterdock (*Nuphar advena*). The remaining forested tidal wetlands were predominately vegetated with green ash (*Fraxinus pennsylvanica*), black gum (*Nyssa sylvatica*), red maple, (*Acer rubrum*), common alder (*Alnus serrulata*), with lesser amounts of lob-lolly pine (*Pinus taeda*), high bush blue berry (*Vaccinium amoenum*), swamp rose (*Rosa palustris*), sweet bay (*Magnolia virginiana*), and Swamp Azalea (*Rhododendron viscosum*). In addition, a tulip popular (*Liriodendron tulipifera*) was found to occur within this wetland. Based upon the vegetation found to exist in the wetlands they would be considered to occur above Mean High Water and therefore are considered private tidal wetlands. Note: species such as black gum, red maple, and specially loblolly pine will not survive in areas, which are regularly flooded by tides.

Forested Nontidal Wetland Vegetation

The forested wetland plant community was generally made up of red maple, (Acer rubrum), sweet gum (Liquidambar styraciflua), black gum (Nyssa sylvatica), and a few Water oak (Quercus nigra). The understory is predominately vegetated with; red maple, sweet gum, sweet bay (Magnolia virginiana), sweet pepper bush (Clethra alnifolia), high bush blue berry (Vaccinium amoenum), Fetter bush (Leucothoe racemosa), common greenbrier, and several ferns (Onoclea senibilis, Osmunda regalis, and Osmunda cinnamomea).

Upland Vegetation

l

The upland forest of this stand dominated by tulip popular (*Liriodendron tulipifera*), (size class 18"-29.9"), red (*Quercus falcata*), and white oak, (*Q. alba*), and sweet gum (*Liquidambar styracitlua*), (size class 10-18") with lesser amounts of red maple (*Acer rubrum*), and American Beech (*Fagus grandifolia*). The under story is dominated by American holly (*llex opaca*), with lesser amounts of flowering dogwood (*Cornus florida*), young sweet and black gum, sassafras trees (*Sassafras albidum*) and sweet bay. Other understory species sweet pepper bush (*Clethra alnifolia*), mountain laurel (*Kalmia latifolia*) southern arrowwood (*Viburnum recognitum*), green brier (*Smilax rotundifolia*), and partridge berry (*Mitchella repens*),

Farmed uplands

The open farm fields were planted in crops the previous summer.

Soils

1.

Soil samples taken indicated the soils were similar to those shown in the SCS survey (See Figure 2)

Hydrology

Test wells within the wetland had water levels at or above 12 inches, and some areas had standing water. While the tide was observed for several days at no time was tidal water observed in the area of the private forested wetlands.

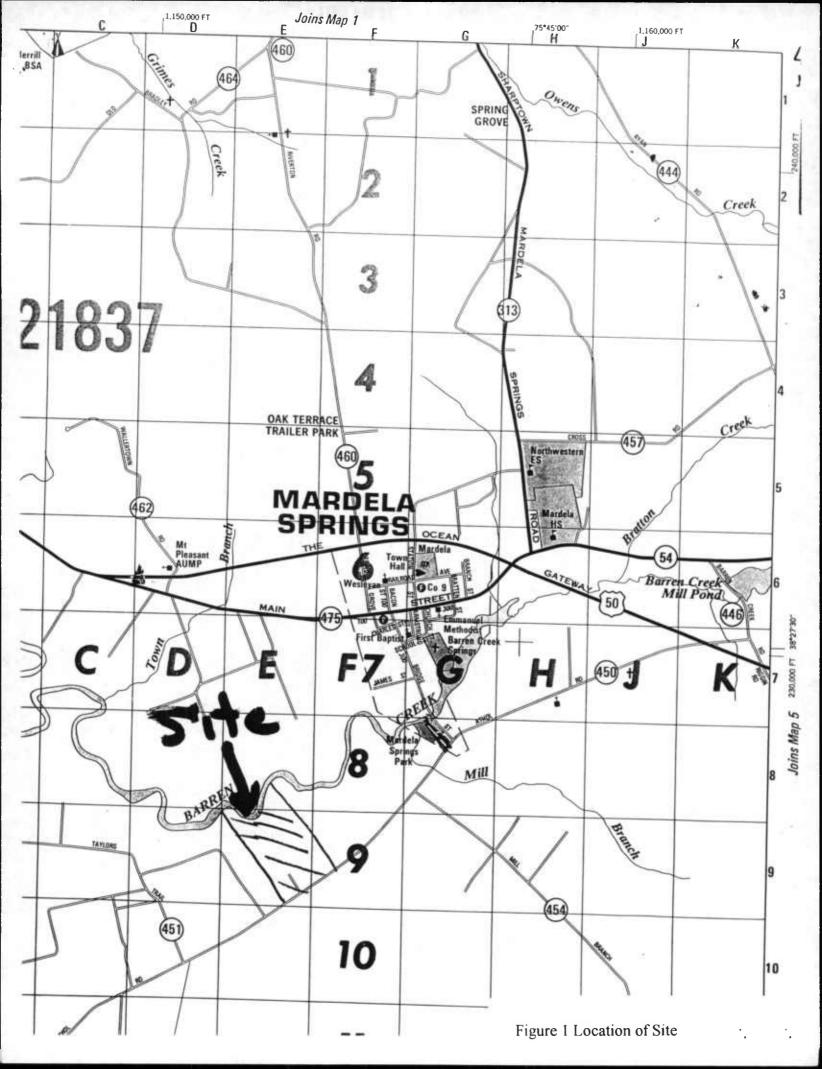
Man-Made Alternations

As stated above much of the area subject to this delineation is an open farm fields with a cleared right-of-way for a utility crossing.

Conclusion

After soil and vegetative sampling, at each surveyed point along the boundary, the wetland boundary was flagged in the field, located, and plotted of the attached plat. The presence of predominately upland vegetation and upland soils were the primary factors used to determine the wetlands boundary, and was applied at each survey or flag location along the wetland/upland boundary. For the most part the presence of black cherry, black berry and/or honey suckle indicated the upland community. The wooded wetland community was dominated by red maple, sweet gum, willow oak and high bush blue berry, and with scattered sweet bay trees being the major wetland indicator plants.

Note, jurisdictional guidance and site conditions can change, thus a wetland determination is usually only certified, by the Corps of Engineers, for a period of five years.





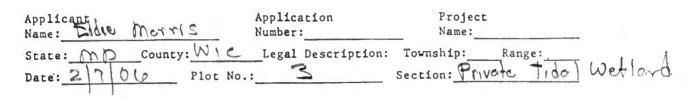
WETLAND DETERMINATION

Applicant Name: Eddle Morris	Application Number:	Name: White tail
State: MD, County: Wic	Legal Description:	Township:Range:
Date: 2/7/00 Plot No.	:	Section: NT1-14
/ /		

Vegetation [list the three dominant species in each vegetation layer (5 if only 1 or 2 layers)]. Indicate species with observed morphological or known physiological adaptations with an asterisk.

	only 1 or 2 layers)]. Indicate species with observed morphological or known
Vrail	physiological adaptations with an asterisk.
NANCE OOK	Mr Species <u>Treestan</u> <u>Am. Beach</u> <u>Saplings/shrubs</u> <u>Indicator</u> <u>Status</u> <u>Indicator</u> <u>Species</u> <u>Species</u> <u>Species</u> <u>Species</u> <u>Species</u> <u>Species</u> <u>Species</u> <u>Species</u> <u>Status</u> <u>Status</u> <u>Status</u> <u>Status</u> <u>Status</u> <u>Species</u> <u>Status</u> <u>Status</u> <u>Status</u> <u>Status</u> <u>Species</u> <u>Status</u> <u>Status</u> <u>Species</u> <u>Status</u> <u>Species</u> <u>Species</u> <u>Species</u> <u>Species</u> <u>Species</u> <u>Species</u> <u>Status</u> <u>Species</u> <u>Species</u> <u>Species</u> <u>Species</u> <u>Species</u> <u>Status</u> <u>Status</u> <u>Status</u> <u>Status</u> <u>Status</u> <u>Status</u> <u>Status</u> <u>Status</u> <u>Status</u> <u>Species</u> <u>Status</u> <u>Status</u> <u>Species</u> <u>Species</u> <u>Species</u> <u>Species</u> <u>Species</u> <u>Species</u> <u>Species</u> <u>Species</u> <u>Species</u> <u>Species</u> <u>Species</u> <u>Species</u> <u>Status</u> <u>Species</u> <u>Status</u> <u>Species</u> <u>Status</u> <u>Status</u> <u>Species</u> <u>Status</u> <u>Species</u> <u>Species</u> <u>Species</u> <u>Species</u> <u>Species</u> <u>Species</u> <u>Species</u> <u>Species</u> <u>Species</u> <u>Species</u> <u>Species</u> <u>Species</u> <u>Species</u> <u>Species</u> <u>Species</u> <u>Species</u> <u>Species</u> <u>Species</u> <u>Species</u> <u>Species</u> <u>Species</u> <u>Species</u> <u>Species</u> <u>Species</u> <u>Species</u> <u>Species</u> <u>Species</u> <u>Species</u> <u>Species</u> <u>Species</u> <u>Species</u> <u>Species</u> <u>Species</u> <u>Species</u> <u>Species</u> <u>Species</u> <u>Species</u> <u>Species</u> <u>Species</u> <u>Species</u> <u>Species</u> <u>Species</u> <u>Species</u> <u>Species</u> <u>Species</u> <u>Species</u> <u>Species</u> <u>Species</u> <u>Species</u> <u>Species</u> <u>Species</u> <u>Species</u> <u>Species</u> <u>Species</u> <u>Species</u> <u>Species</u> <u>Species</u> <u>Species</u> <u>Species</u> <u>Species</u> <u>Species</u> <u>Species</u> <u>Species</u> <u>Species</u> <u>Species</u> <u>Species</u> <u>Species</u> <u>Species</u> <u>Species</u> <u>Species</u> <u>Species</u> <u>Species</u> <u>Species</u> <u>Species</u> <u>Species</u> <u>Species</u> <u>Species</u> <u>Species</u> <u>Species</u> <u>Species</u> <u>Species</u> <u>Species</u> <u>Species</u> <u>Species</u> <u>Species</u> <u>Species</u> <u>Species</u> <u>Species</u> <u>Species</u> <u>Species</u> <u>Species</u> <u>Species</u> <u>Species</u> <u>Species</u> <u>Species</u> <u>Species</u> <u>Species</u> <u>Species</u> <u>Species</u> <u>Species</u> <u>Species</u> <u>Species</u> <u>Species</u> <u>Species</u> <u>Species</u> <u>Species</u> <u>Species</u> <u>Species</u> <u>Species</u> <u>Species</u> <u>Species</u> <u>Species</u> <u>Species</u> <u>Sp</u>
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6 Sol	Hydrophytic vegetation: Yes No X. Basis: 7 to 4 Vp.
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a.	Soil
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	Gleyed: Yes No X Other indicators: Hydric soils: Yes No X; Basis:
	Hydric soils: Yes Nox; Basis: Dowdy Soil.
	Hydrology
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	Saturated soils: Yes 🗶; No Depth to saturated soil:
	Other indicators:
	Wetland hydrology: Yes; Not Basis:
	Atypical Situation: Yes; No X
	Normal Circumstances? Yes X No
	Wetland Determination: Wetland ; Nonwetland
	Comments:
	Determined by:
	B2

WETLAND DETERMINATION



Vegetation [list the three dominant species in each vegetation layer (5 if only 1 or 2 layers)]. Indicate species with observed morphological or known physiological adaptations with an asterisk.

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WETLAND DETERMINATION

Project Uhto Applicant // Dom's Application Number: County: NIC Legal Description: Township: Range 7/06 Plot No .: 4 Section: At www only 1 or 2 layers)]. Indicate species with observed morphological or known physiological adaptations with an anti-Vegetation [list the three dominant species in each vegetation "layer (5 if physiological adaptations with an asterisk. Indicator Indicator Species Status Species Status C Trees Herbs XI. Oerfryder Burry PACh 8. Lacy Slipper Scaturol 1. Am. Beac K×13. Over 9. Saplings/sh X4. HM. Woody vines 10. C. G. Brier s. M. Lo 11. K. Pepper Bus *12. X of species that are OBL, FACW, and/or FAC: ____ Other indicators: Hydrophytic vegetation: Yes ____ No ___. Basis:____ Some FS Soil Series and phase: Wa On hydric soils list? Yes___; No Gleyed: Yes ____ No ___ Other indicators: _____ Hydric soils: Yes____ No___; Basis:_____ Hydrology Inundated: Yes___; No X. Depth of standing water:_ Saturated soils: Yes_; Nox. Depth to saturated coil: Some Arca S Other indicators: Wetland hydrology: Yes___; No Basis: Atypical situation: Yes_; No Normal Circumstances? Yes X No____ Wetland Determination: Wetland ; Nonwetland Comments: -muck + Fa Wetland And made Sweet & m Am Hall , Ooppor Bush Determined by B2 C G. Brin.

Cm. For

WETLAND DETERMINATION

Applicant Name: Edere	Morris	Application Number:	Project Whitetail
State: MP Date: 21711	County: Wic Ole Plot No.	Legal Description: : 2	Township:Range: Section:
			NT wetlande

Vegetation [list the three dominant species in each vegetation layer (5 if only 1 or 2 layers)]. Indicate species with observed morphological or known physiological adaptations with an asterisk.

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Antes Charles

	Indicator Indicator	
	Species Status Species Status	
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	Normal Circumstances? Yes No Wetland Determination: Wetland; Nonwetland	
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	Saturating to surface	Ξ

Page 1 of 1

MERLIN Online Map - Whitetail

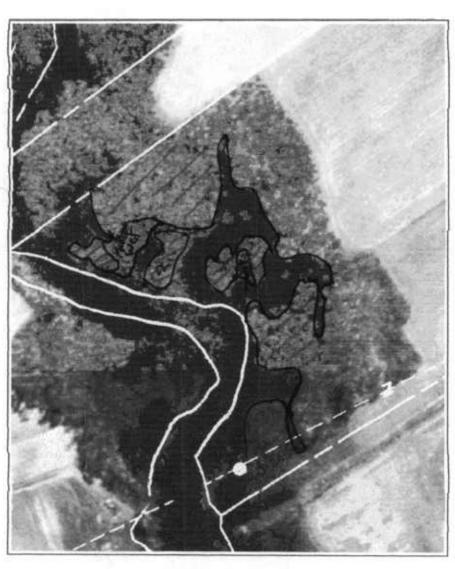
Property Maps WI Property Map 17



Photo 88-95 1m Marde101 / Marde_NE_CIR



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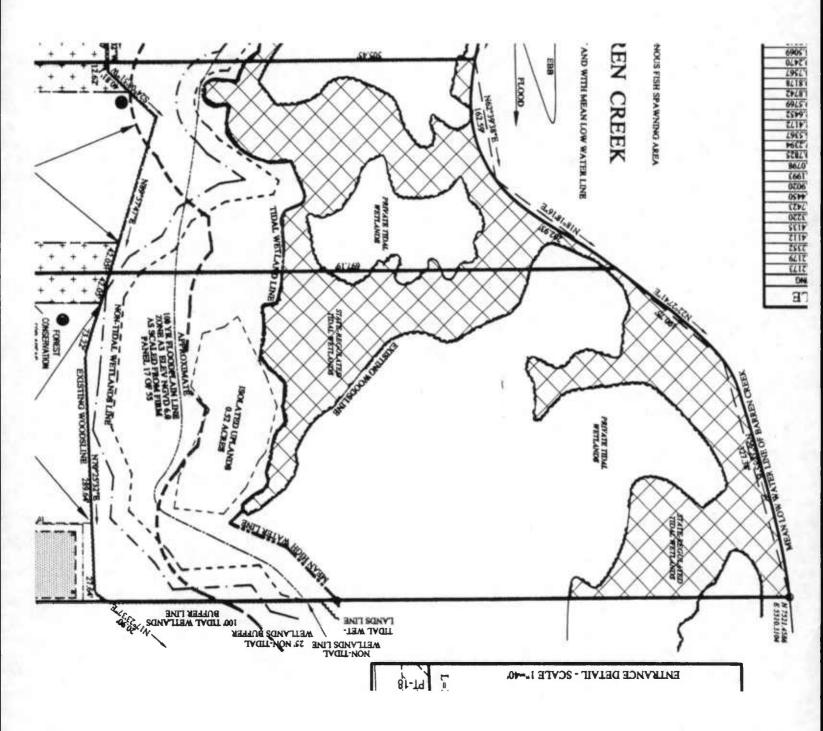
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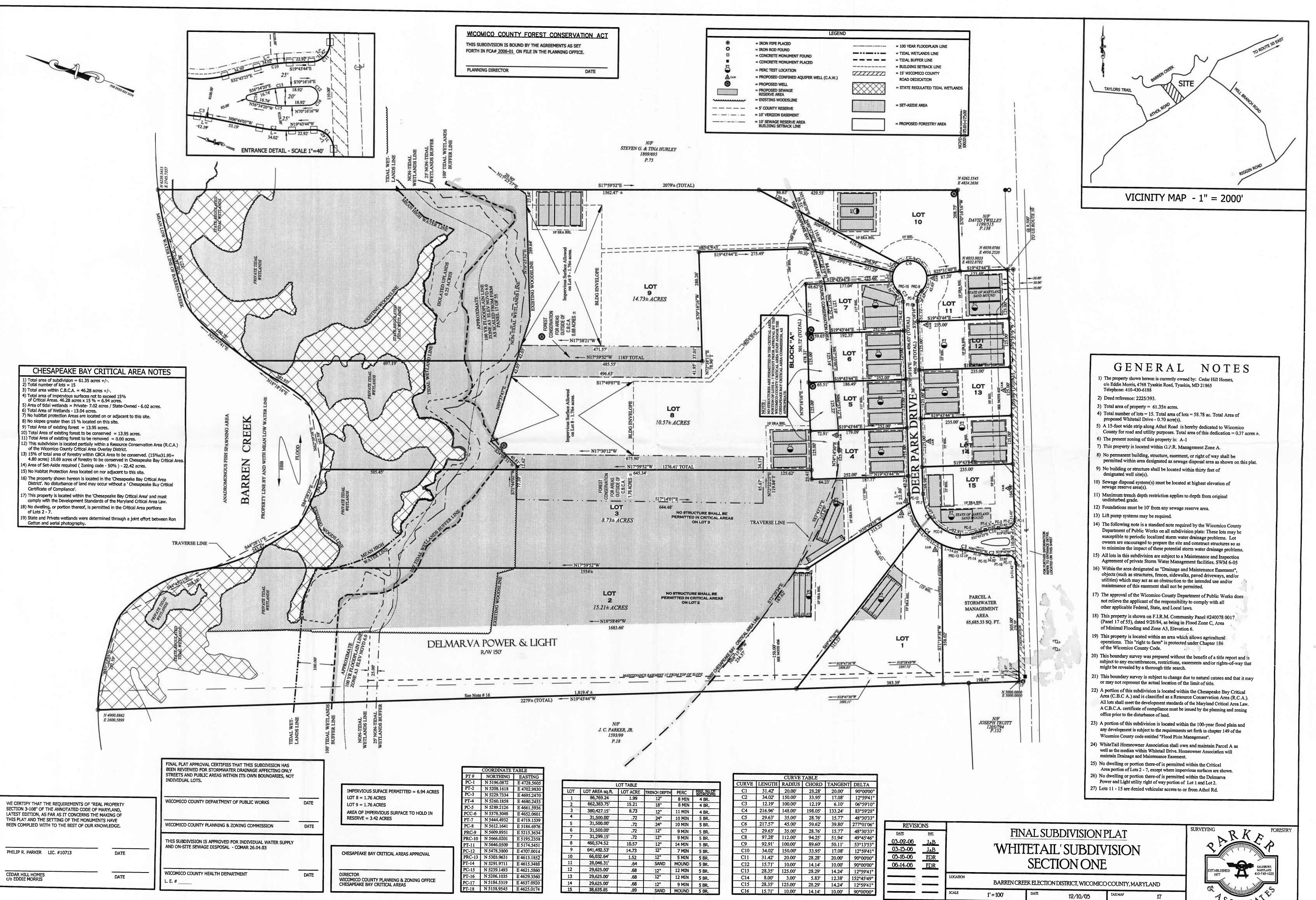


Coordinates at center of image in Maryland State Plane, NAD 1933 meters

2005, Maryland Department of Natural Resources, www mdmerlin.net Created with $TNTserver^{7M}$ from MicroImages. Inc







S1621/Final

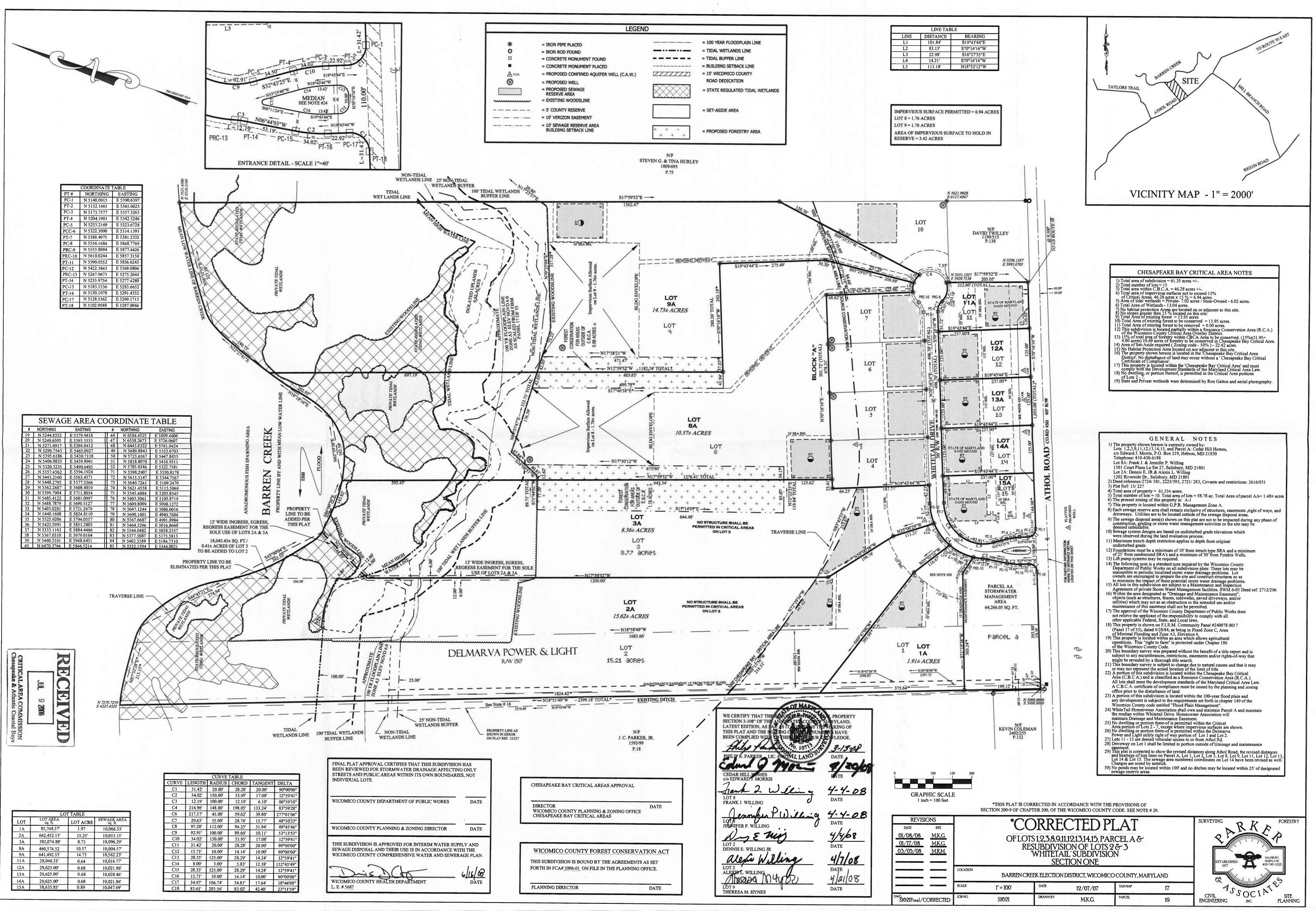
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RAWNBY

S1621

ASSOCIA CIVIL ENGINEERING SITE PLANNING INC.



	LOCATION	BARREN CREEK ELECTION DISTRICT, WICOMICO COUNTY, MARYLAND					
-	SCALE	1" = 100'	DATE	12/07/07	ТАХМАР	17	
TED	JOB NO.	S1621	DRAWNBY	M.K.G.	PARCEL	19	