



STATE OF DELAWARE
**DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND
ENVIRONMENTAL CONTROL**

DIVISION OF FISH & WILDLIFE
RICHARDSON & ROBBINS BUILDING
89 KINGS HIGHWAY
DOVER, DELAWARE 19901

**DIRECTOR'S
OFFICE**

PHONE
(302) 739-9910

February 3, 2022

Lisa A. Vest, Hearing Officer
Office of the Secretary
Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control
89 Kings Highway
Dover, DE 19901

Re: Public Hearing: Artesian Permits for the Sussex Regional Reclamation Facility

Dear Ms. Vest:

Thank you for contacting the Species Conservation and Research Program (SCRIP) about information on rare, threatened and endangered species, unique natural communities, and other significant natural resources as they relate to the above referenced project.

State Natural Heritage Site

A review of our database indicates that there are currently no records of state-rare or federally listed plants, animals or natural communities at this project site. As a result, at present, this project does not lie within a State Natural Heritage Site, nor does it lie within a Delaware National Estuarine Research Reserve which are two criteria used to identify "Designated Critical Resource Waters" in the Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE) Nationwide Permit General Condition No. 22. A copy of this letter shall be included in any permit application or pre-construction notification submitted to the Army Corps of Engineers for activities on this property.

Key Wildlife Habitat as per DEWAP

The Non-tidal Coastal Plain Stream adjacent to the property is mapped as Key Wildlife Habitat (KWH) in the Delaware Wildlife Action Plan (DEWAP) because it is part of a large wetland complex. KWH can support the full array of species across the landscape and the maps in DEWAP show areas of the state where conservation efforts can be focused. Although designation as KWH is non-regulatory, these maps are intended to help guide site-specific conservation planning efforts.

Wetland Buffer

Buffers are an integral component of aquatic and wetland habitats, reducing the amount of sediments, pollutants, and other non-point source material that may affect the function and

integrity of habitat and the condition and survivability of aquatic organisms. Forested buffers serve as habitat for many terrestrial species that are dependent on aquatic and wetlands habitats for a portion of their annual life cycle.

In the interest of water quality and wildlife habitat, we recommend maintaining an upland buffer of at least 100 ft along rivers, streams and wetlands. This recommendation is based on peer reviewed research that suggests that buffer values increase noticeably with widths of 100 or more feet. This buffer should *not* be a maintained lawn area, and should *not* contain lot lines or infrastructure. We recommend the buffer area be comprised of the existing vegetation or planted with Delaware native species of trees, shrubs, grasses or wildflowers.

Fisheries

After reviewing the project description, it does not appear that any waterways will be impacted; therefore, there are no fisheries concerns at present.

We are continually updating our records on Delaware's rare, threatened and endangered species, unique natural communities and other significant natural resources. If the start of the project is delayed more than a year past the date of this letter, please contact us again for the latest information.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions or if you require additional information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Danielle Ellis". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Danielle Ellis
Environmental Review Coordinator
Phone: (302) 223-2446
6180 Hay Point Landing Road
Smyrna, DE 19977