



STATE OF DELAWARE  
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT  
OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET  
Budget Development, Planning and Administration  
State Planning Coordination

September 22, 2008

Mr. Bob Stronsky  
Landmark Engineering  
29 South State Street  
Dover, DE 19901

RE: PLUS review – 2008-08-08; Roxana Preferred Properties

Dear Mr. Stronsky:

Thank you for meeting with State agency planners on August 27, 2008 to discuss the proposed plans for the Roxana Preferred Properties project to be located on the south side of Zion Church Road, west of Bayard Road.

According to the information received, you are seeking site plan approval through Sussex County for 20 apartments and 23,200 sq. ft. of commercial space in Level 4.

Please note that changes to the plan, other than those suggested in this letter, could result in additional comments from the State. Additionally, these comments reflect only issues that are the responsibility of the agencies represented at the meeting. The developers will also need to comply with any Federal, State and local regulations regarding this property. We also note that as Sussex County is the governing authority over this land, the developers will need to comply with any and all regulations/restrictions set forth by the County.

This proposal is located in Investment Level 4 according to the *Strategies for State Policies and Spending*, and is within the Low Density area according to the Sussex County certified comprehensive plan. **The comments in this letter are technical, and are not intended to suggest that the State supports this development proposal. This letter does not in any way suggest or imply that you may receive or may be entitled to permits or other approvals necessary to construct the development you indicate or any subdivision thereof on these lands.**

This office has received the following comments from State agencies:

**Office of State Planning Coordination – Contact: Bryan Hall 739-3090**

The Office of State Planning and Coordination recognizes the proposed is located within the Sussex County Johnson Corner Sanitary Sewer District and as a result is within the Environmentally Sensitive Development District as defined within the 2007 Comprehensive Plan Update which is pending certification before the Governor at this time. As a result of this situation, this office will continue to recognize the project within a Level 4 area as defined by the State Strategies for Policy and Spending and will offer standard comments at this time. If, once the Sussex County comprehensive plan is certified and the Strategies for State Policies and Spending Document update reflects a different Investment Level, this Office will work with the County and the developer to clarify future comments on the proposed project.

This project represents a major land development that will result in 20 residential apartment units and 23,200 sq. ft. of commercial space in an Investment Level 4 area according to the *2004 Strategies for State Policies and Spending*. This proposal is located in Investment Level 4 according to the *Strategies for State Policies and Spending*, and is within the Low Density area according to the Sussex County certified comprehensive plan. Investment Level 4 indicates where State investments will support agricultural preservation, natural resource protection, and the continuation of the rural nature of these areas. New development activities and suburban development are not supported in Investment Level 4 areas. These areas are comprised of prime agricultural lands and environmentally sensitive wetlands and wildlife habitats, which should be, and in many cases have been preserved.

From a fiscal responsibility perspective, development of this site is likewise inappropriate. The cost of providing services to development in rural areas is an inefficient and wasteful use of the State's fiscal resources. The project as proposed is likely to bring new residents to an area where the State has no plans to invest in infrastructure upgrades or additional services. These residents will need access to such services and infrastructure as schools, police, and transportation. To provide some examples, the State government funds 100% of road maintenance and drainage improvements for the transportation system, 100% of school transportation and paratransit services, up to 80% of school construction costs, and about 90% of the cost of police protection in the unincorporated portion of Sussex County where this development is proposed. Over the longer term, the unseen negative ramifications of this development will become even more evident as the community matures and the cost of maintaining infrastructure and providing services increases.

Because the development is inconsistent with the *Strategies for State Policies and Spending*, the State is opposed to this proposed subdivision.

**State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) – Contact: Terrence Burns 739-5685**

No comments received

**Department of Transportation – Contact: Bill Brockenbrough 760-2109**

Roxana Preferred Properties seeks to develop 20 apartments and 23,300 square feet of commercial space on a 3.69-acre assemblage of parcels (Tax Parcels 5-33-11-45.05 and 45.06). The land is located on the south side of Delaware Route 20 between Deer Run Road (Sussex Road 388) and Bunting Road (Sussex Road 389).

Because this land is located in a Level 4 Area, commercial development of it is inconsistent with the *Strategies for State Policies and Spending*. As part of our commitment to support the *Strategies*, DelDOT refrains from participating in the cost of any road improvements needed to support this development and is opposed to any road improvements that will substantially increase the transportation system capacity in this area. DelDOT will only support taking the steps necessary to preserve the existing transportation infrastructure and make whatever safety and drainage related improvements are deemed appropriate and necessary. The intent is to preserve the open space, agricultural lands, natural habitats and forestlands that are typically found in Level 4 Areas while avoiding the creation of isolated development areas that cannot be served effectively or efficiently by public transportation, emergency responders, and other public services.

DelDOT strongly supports new development in and around existing towns and municipalities and in areas designated as growth zones in approved Comprehensive Plans. We encourage the use of transfer of development rights where this growth management tool is available.

If this development is approved, notwithstanding inconsistencies with the relevant plans and policies, DelDOT will provide technical review and comments.

**The Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control – Contact: Kevin Coyle 739-9071**

**Investment Level 4 Policy Statement**

This project is proposed for an Investment Level 4 area as defined by the *Strategies for State Policies and Spending* and is also located outside of a designated growth area in the relevant municipal and County certified comprehensive plans. According to the *Strategies*, this project is inappropriate in this location. In Investment Level 4 areas, the State's investments and policies, from DNREC's perspective, should retain the rural landscape and preserve open spaces and farmlands. Open space investments should emphasize the protection of critical natural habitat and wildlife to support a diversity of species, and the protection of present and future water supplies. Open space investments should also provide for recreational activities, while helping to define growth areas.

Additional State investments in water and wastewater systems should be limited to existing or imminent public health, safety or environmental risks only, with little provision for additional capacity to accommodate further development.

With continued development in Investment Level 4 areas, the State will have a difficult, if not impossible, time attaining water quality (e.g., TMDLs) and air quality (e.g., non-attainment areas for ozone and fine particulates) goals. Present and future investments in green infrastructure, as defined in Governor Minner's Executive Order No. 61, will be threatened. DNREC strongly supports new development in and around existing towns and municipalities and in areas designated as growth zones in certified Comprehensive Plans. We encourage the use of transfer of development rights where this growth management tool is available.

This particular development certainly compromises the integrity of the State Strategies and the preservation goals inherent in many of DNREC's programs. Of particular concern are the potential impacts to wetlands, the increase in impervious cover, and issues with tax ditch rights-of-way. While mitigating measures such as conservation design, central wastewater systems instead of individual on-site septic systems, and other best management practices may help mitigate impacts from this project, not doing the project at all is the best avenue for avoiding negative impacts. As such, this project will receive no financial, technical or other support of any kind from DNREC. Any required permits or other authorizations for this project shall be considered in light of the project's conflict with our State growth strategies.

## **Soils**

According to the Sussex County soil survey update, Hambrook and Askecksy were mapped in the immediate vicinity of the proposed construction. Hambrook is a well-drained upland soil that, generally, has few limitations for development. Askecksy is a poorly-drained wetland associated (hydric) soil that has severe limitations for development.

A significant portion of this parcel contains poorly to very poorly-drained hydric Askecksy soils (an estimated 50% of the parcel's land area). Hydric soils typically have a seasonal high water table at or near the soil surface (within one-foot of soil surface or less). Building in such soils is likely to leave prospective residents of this and adjoining properties susceptible to future flooding problems from groundwater-driven surface water ponding, especially during extended periods of high-intensity rainfall events such as tropical storms/hurricanes or "nor'easters." This is in addition to increased flooding probabilities from surface water runoff emanating from future created forms of structural imperviousness (e.g., rooftops, roads, sidewalks, and stormwater management structures).

Based on the Chapter 99, Section 16A of the Sussex County Code (paraphrased), lands compromised by improper drainage or flooding potential pose significant threats to the safety and general welfare of future residents and, therefore, shall not be developed. Soils mapped as Askecky fit the criterion for improper drainage or high flooding

potential, and should be avoided. The Watershed Assessment Section believes permitting development on such soils would be inconsistent with above-mentioned regulatory guidelines in the Sussex County Code.

### **Wetlands**

It appears that the two one-story buildings and some parking area will be built over or very close to a blue line stream. Furthermore, this blue line stream has been field verified by the Wetlands and Subaqueous Lands Section as falling under the State's jurisdiction. Consequently, the blue line feature(s) on the property are subject to the requirements of the State Subaqueous Lands Regulations and the blue line feature cannot be filled in without a permit from the Wetlands and Subaqueous Lands Section. The plans appear to pipe the stream and build over it. The piping of streams is generally acknowledged to cause negative environmental impacts by reducing or eliminating pollutant removal; removing habitat; reducing groundwater recharge; and causing or exacerbating flooding problems both locally and downstream of the piped reach of stream. In fact, a common stream restoration practice called "daylighting," where a piped stream is restored to an open body of water, is gaining popularity around the country. Options for the project include redesigning around the blue line feature. They may also be able to mitigate. To clarify permit requirements it is suggested that the applicant schedule a meeting with the Joint Permit Processing Committee by calling Denise Rawding at (302) 739-9943.

The applicant should also be reminded that they must avoid construction/filling activities in those areas containing wetlands or wetland associated hydric soils as they are subject to regulatory jurisdiction under Federal 404 provisions of the Clean Water Act. A site-specific field wetlands delineation using the methodology described in the 1987 United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE, or "the Corps") manual is the only acceptable basis for making a jurisdictional wetland determination for nontidal wetlands in Delaware. The applicant is forewarned that the Corps views the use of the National Wetlands Inventory (NWI) mapping or the Statewide Wetlands Mapping Project (SWMP) mapping as an unacceptable substitute for a field-based jurisdictional wetland delineation (i.e., 1987 USACE manual). To ensure compliance with said Corps regulatory requirements, it is strongly recommended that a field wetlands delineation using the above-referenced methodology be performed on this parcel before commencing any construction activities. It is further recommended that the Corps be given the opportunity to officially approve the completed delineation. In circumstances where the applicant or applicant's consultant delineates what they believe are nonjurisdictional isolated (SWANCC) wetlands, the Corps must be contacted to evaluate and assess the jurisdictional validity of such a delineation. The final jurisdictional authority for making isolated wetlands determinations rests with the Corps; they can be reached by phone at 736-9763.

Based on a review of existing buffer research by Castelle et al. (Castelle, A. J., A. W. Johnson and C. Conolly. 1994. *Wetland and Stream Buffer Requirements – A Review*. J. Environ. Qual. 23: 878-882), an adequately-sized buffer that effectively protects wetlands and streams, in most circumstances, is about 100 feet in width. In recognition of this

research and the need to protect water quality, the Watershed Assessment Section recommends that the applicant maintain/establish a minimum 100-foot upland buffer (planted in native vegetation) from the landward edge of all wetlands and water bodies (including all ditches).

### **Impervious Cover**

The applicant estimates this project's post-development surface imperviousness to reach 77 percent. However, given the scope and density of this project this projection appears to significantly understate the actual amount of created surface imperviousness (appears to be closer to 100% imperviousness). The applicant should realize that all forms of constructed surface imperviousness (i.e., rooftops, parking lots, sidewalks, open-water stormwater management structures, and roads) should be included in the calculation for surface imperviousness. Failure to do so will result in an underestimate of this project's likely post-construction environmental impacts. The calculation for surface imperviousness should be corrected and/or recalculated to reflect all the above-mentioned concerns.

Studies have shown a strong relationship between increases in impervious cover to decreases in a watershed's overall water quality. It is strongly recommended that the applicant implement best management practices (BMPs) that reduce or mitigate some of its most likely adverse impacts. Reducing the amount of surface imperviousness through the use of pervious paving materials ("pervious pavers") in lieu of asphalt or concrete in conjunction with an increase in forest cover preservation or additional tree plantings are some examples of practical BMPs that could easily be implemented to help reduce surface imperviousness.

### **ERES Waters**

This project is located adjacent to receiving waters of the Little Assawoman Bay designated as having waters of Exceptional Recreational or Ecological Significance (ERES). ERES waters are recognized as special assets of the State, and shall be protected and/ or restored, to the maximum extent practicable, to their natural condition. Provisions in Section 5.6 of Delaware's "Surface Water Quality Standards" (as amended July 11, 2004), specify that all designated ERES waters and receiving tributaries develop a "pollution control strategy" to reduce non-point sources of pollutants through implementation of Best Management Practices (BMPs). Best Management Practices as defined in subsection 5.6.3.5 of this section, expressly authorizes the Department to provide standards for controlling the addition of pollutants and reducing them to the greatest degree achievable and, where practicable, implementation of a standard requiring no discharge of pollutants.

### **TMDLs**

Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) for nitrogen and phosphorus have been promulgated through regulation for the Little Assawoman watershed. A TMDL is the

maximum level of pollution allowed for a given pollutant below which a “water quality limited water body” can assimilate and still meet water quality standards to the extent necessary to support use goals such as, swimming, fishing, drinking water and shell fish harvesting. Although TMDLs are required by federal law, states are charged with developing and implementing standards to support these desired use goals. The TMDL nutrient reduction requirements for the Little Assawoman watershed require a 40 percent reduction in nitrogen and phosphorus. Additionally, the TMDL reduction requirement for bacteria is also 40 percent.

### **Compliance with TMDLs through the Pollution Control Strategy (PCS)**

As stated above, TMDLs for nitrogen and phosphorus have been promulgated through regulation for the Little Assawoman watershed. The TMDL calls for a 40 percent reduction in nitrogen and phosphorus from baseline conditions. Additionally, a 40 percent reduction in bacteria will also be required from baseline conditions. Additional nutrient reductions may be possible through the implementation of Best Management Practices such as wider vegetated buffers along watercourses or ditches, increasing passive, wooded open space, use of pervious paving materials to reduce surface imperviousness, and the use of green-technology stormwater management treatment trains. The Department has developed an assessment tool to evaluate how your proposed development may reduce nutrients to meet the TMDL requirements. Contact Lyle Jones at 302-739-9939 for more information on the assessment tool.

### **Water Supply**

The information provided indicates that Artesian Water Company will provide well water to the proposed project(s) through a public water system. Our files reflect that Artesian Water Company does not currently hold a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity (CPCN) to provide public water in these areas. They will need to file an application for a CPCN with the Public Service Commission, if they have not done so already. Information on CPCN requirements and applications can be obtained by contacting the Public Service Commission at 302-736-7547. Should an on-site public well be needed, it must be located at least 150 feet from the outermost boundaries of the project. The Division of Water Resources will consider applications for the construction of on-site wells provided the wells can be constructed and located in compliance with all requirements of the Regulations Governing the Construction and Use of Wells. A well construction permit must be obtained prior to constructing any wells.

Should dewatering points be needed during any phase of construction, a dewatering well construction permit must be obtained from the Water Supply Section prior to construction of the well points. In addition, a water allocation permit will be needed if the pumping rate will exceed 50,000 gallons per day at any time during operation.

All well permit applications must be prepared and signed by licensed water well contractors, and only licensed well drillers may construct the wells. Please factor in the necessary time for processing the well permit applications into the construction schedule.

Dewatering well permit applications typically take approximately four weeks to process, which allows the necessary time for technical review and advertising.

Should you have any questions concerning these comments, please contact Rick Rios at 302-739-9944.

### **Sediment and Erosion Control/Stormwater Management**

- A detailed sediment and stormwater plan will be required prior to any land disturbing activity taking place on the site. Contact the reviewing agency to schedule a pre-application meeting to discuss the sediment and erosion control and stormwater management components of the plan as soon as practicable. The site topography, soils mapping, pre- and post-development runoff, and proposed method(s) and location(s) of stormwater management should be brought to the meeting for discussion. The plan review and approval as well as construction inspection will be coordinated through the Sussex Conservation District. Contact Jessica Watson at the Sussex Conservation District at (302) 856-2105 for details regarding submittal requirements and fees.
- Because of the parcel's location in an impaired watershed and the amount of impervious surface, green technology BMPs and low impact development practices should be considered a priority to reduce stormwater flow and to meet water quality goals.

### **Drainage**

- This project is located within the Batson Branch Tax Ditch. The placement of permanent obstructions within tax ditch rights-of-way is prohibited. Any change to the location of the tax ditch, or the existing tax ditch rights-of-way, will require a change to the Batson Branch Tax Ditch court order. Please contact Brooks Cahall of the Drainage Program to resolve the issues with the tax ditch. It is suggested to include Brooks Cahall in the pre-application meeting with the Sussex Conservation District to discuss drainage, stormwater management, tax ditch maintenance, and the release of stormwater into the tax ditch.
- The Drainage Program requests that the engineer take precautions to ensure the project does not hinder any off site drainage upstream of the project or create any off site drainage problems downstream by the release of on site storm water. The Drainage Program requests that the engineer check existing downstream ditches and pipes for function and blockages prior to the construction. Notify downstream landowners of the change in volume of water released on them.
- Have all drainage easements recorded on deeds and place restrictions on obstructions within the easements to ensure access for periodic maintenance or future re-construction. Future property owners may not be aware of a drainage easement on their property if the easement is only on the record plan. However,

by recording the drainage easement on the deed, the second owner, and any subsequent owner of the property, will be fully aware of the drainage easement on their property.

## **Recreation**

Bicycle racks should be provided at the commercial buildings. This will increase accessibility to these sites from the neighboring area and reduce the dependence on automobiles.

### **State Fire Marshal's Office – Contact: Duane Fox 856-5298**

These comments are intended for informational use only and do not constitute any type of approval from the Delaware State Fire Marshal's Office. At the time of formal submittal, the applicant shall provide; completed application, fee, and three sets of plans depicting the following in accordance with the Delaware State Fire Prevention Regulation (DSFPR):

- a. **Fire Protection Water Requirements:**
  - Water distribution system capable of delivering at least 1500 gpm for 2-hour duration, at 20-psi residual pressure is required. Fire hydrants with 800 feet spacing on centers.
  - Where a water distribution system is proposed for mercantile, business, and multi-family sites, the infrastructure for fire protection water shall be provided, including the size of water mains for fire hydrants and sprinkler systems.
  
- b. **Fire Protection Features:**
  - All structures over 10,000 sq.ft. aggregate will require automatic sprinkler protection installed.
  - Buildings greater than 10,000 sq.ft., 3-stories or more, over 35 feet, or classified as High Hazard, are required to meet fire lane marking requirements. Additionally, no parking is permitted between a fire lane and the building where the fire lane is on a side of the building where a main entrance to the building is located.
  
  - Show Fire Department Connection location (Must be within 300 feet of fire hydrant), and detail as shown in the DSFPR.
  - Show Fire Lanes and Sign Detail as shown in DSFPR
  
- c. **Accessibility:**
  - All premises, which the fire department may be called upon to protect in case of fire, and which are not readily accessible from public roads, shall be provided with suitable gates and access roads, and fire lanes so that all buildings on the premises are accessible to fire apparatus. This means that

the access must be constructed so fire department apparatus may negotiate it.

- Fire department access shall be provided in such a manner so that fire apparatus will be able to locate within 100 ft. of the front door.
- The use of speed bumps or other methods of traffic speed reduction must be in accordance with Department of Transportation requirements.
- The local Fire Chief, prior to any submission to our Agency, shall approve in writing the use of gates that limit fire department access into and out of the development or property.

d. **Gas Piping and System Information**

- Provide type of fuel proposed, and show locations of bulk containers on plan.

e. Required **Notes**:

- Provide a note on the final plans submitted for review to read “ All fire lanes, fire hydrants, and fire department connections shall be marked in accordance with the Delaware State Fire Prevention Regulations”
- Proposed Use
- Alpha or Numerical Labels for each building/unit for sites with multiple buildings/units
- Square footage of each structure (Total of all Floors)
- National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) Construction Type
- Maximum Height of Buildings (including number of stories)
- Note indicating if building is to be sprinklered
- Name of Water Provider
- Letter from Water Provider approving the system layout
- Provide Lock Box Note (as detailed in DSFPR) if Building is to be sprinklered
- Provide Road Names, even for County Roads

Preliminary meetings with fire protection specialists are encouraged prior to formal submittal. Please call for appointment. Applications and brochures can be downloaded from our website: [www.statefiremarshal.delaware.gov](http://www.statefiremarshal.delaware.gov) technical services link, plan review, applications or brochures.

**Department of Agriculture - Contact: Scott Blaier 739-4811**

The Department is opposed to development in areas designated as Investment Level 4 under the *Strategies for State Policies and Spending*. The *Strategies* do not support isolated development of these areas. The intent of this plan is to preserve the agricultural lands, forestlands, recreational uses, and open spaces that are preferred uses in Level 4 areas. The Department of Agriculture opposes development which conflicts with the preferred land uses, making it more difficult for agriculture and forestry to succeed, and increases the cost to the public for services and facilities.

The Delaware Department of Agriculture supports growth which expands and builds on existing urban areas and growth zones in approved State, county and local plans. Where additional land preservation can occur through the use of transfer of development rights, and other land use measures, we will support these efforts and work with developers to implement these measures. If this project is approved we will work with the developers to minimize impacts to the agricultural and forestry industries.

#### *Right Tree for the Right Place*

The Delaware Department of Agriculture Forest Service encourages the developer to use the “Right Tree for the Right Place” for any design considerations. This concept allows for the proper placement of trees to increase property values in upwards of 25% of appraised value and will reduce heating and cooling costs on average by 20 to 35 dollars per month. In addition, a landscape design that encompasses this approach will avoid future maintenance cost to the property owner and ensure a lasting forest resource.

#### *Native Landscapes*

The Delaware Department of Agriculture and the Delaware Forest Service encourages the developer to use native trees and shrubs to buffer the property from the adjacent land-use activities near this site. A properly designed forested buffer can create wildlife habitat corridors and improve air quality to the area by removing six to eight tons of carbon dioxide annually and will clean our rivers and creeks of storm-water run-off pollutants. To learn more about acceptable native trees and how to avoid plants considered invasive to our local landscapes, please contact the Delaware Department of Agriculture Plant Industry Section at (302) 698-4500.

#### *Tree Mitigation*

The Delaware Forest Service encourages the developer to implement a tree mitigation program to replace trees at a 1:1 ratio within the site and throughout the community. This will help to meet the community’s forestry goals and objectives and reduce the environmental impacts to the surrounding natural resources. To learn more, please contact our offices at (302) 349-5754.

#### **Public Service Commission - Contact: Andrea Maucher 739-4247**

Any expansion of natural gas or installation of a closed propane system must fall within Pipeline Safety guidelines. Contact: Malak Michael at (302) 739-4247.

#### **Delaware Division of Public Health- Health Promotion Bureau- contact Michelle Eichinger (302) 744-1011**

Ensuring that new residential and commercial development incorporates pedestrian- and bicycle-friendly features allows people to travel by foot or by bicycle and promotes physical activity as part of daily routines. Regular physical activity offers a number of

health benefits, including maintenance of weight and prevention of heart disease, type 2 diabetes and other chronic diseases.<sup>1</sup> Research shows that incorporating physical activity into daily routines has the potential to be a more effective and sustainable public health strategy than structured exercise programs.<sup>2</sup> This is particularly important considering about 65% of adult Delawareans are either overweight or obese.<sup>3</sup> This current obesity crisis is also affecting children. Approximately 37% of Delaware's children are overweight or obese<sup>4</sup>, which places them at risk for a range of health consequences that include abnormal cholesterol, high blood pressure, type 2 diabetes, asthma, depression and anxiety.<sup>1</sup>

In Delaware, as in other states across the nation, certain patterns of land use can act as a barrier to physical activity and healthy eating for children and adults alike. Examples of such barriers include neighborhoods constructed without sidewalks or parks and shopping centers with full-service grocery stores situated too far from residential areas to allow for walking or biking between them.

This proposed development is in a Level 4 area. Developing in such an area is inconsistent with the *Strategies for State Policies and Spending*. DPH is committed to the *Strategies* and therefore, does not support development in the proposed area.

DPH supports new development in and around existing towns and municipalities where compact and mixed land use patterns facilitate physical activity.

<sup>1</sup> Nemours Health and Prevention Services (2005). *Delaware Children's Health Chartbook*, Newark, DE.

<sup>2</sup> Active Living by Design. *Transportation Fact Sheet*. Retrieved May 17, 2007, from [http://www.activelivingbydesign.org/fileadmin/template/documents/factsheets/Transportation\\_Factsheet.pdf](http://www.activelivingbydesign.org/fileadmin/template/documents/factsheets/Transportation_Factsheet.pdf).

<sup>3</sup> Delaware Health and Social Services (2008), *Division of Public Health, Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS), 1990-2007*.

<sup>4</sup> Nemours Health and Prevention Services (2007). *2006 Delaware Survey of Children's Health Descriptive Statistics Summary, Volume 1*.

### **Delaware State Housing Authority – Contact Vicki Powers 739-4263**

This proposal is for a site plan review of 51,200 sq. ft. of commercial property to include 20 apartments and 23,300 sq. ft. of commercial property located on the South side of Zion Church Road, 1,660 ft. West of Bayard Road near Frankford. According to the *State Strategies Map*, the proposal is located in an Investment Level 4 area. As a general planning practice, DSHA encourages residential development only in areas where residents will have proximity to services, markets, and employment opportunities, such as Investment Level 1 and 2 areas outlined in the State Strategies Map. Since the proposal is located in an area targeted for agricultural and natural resource protection, and therefore inconsistent with where the State would like to see new residential development, DSHA does not support this proposal.

**Department of Education – Contact: John Marinucci 735-4055**

DOE recognizes that this development project request is in level 4 of the State Strategies for Policies and Spending and as such, DOE does not support the approval of projects in level 4 of the State Strategies for Policies and Spending. This proposed development is within the Indian River School District boundaries. DOE offers the following comments on behalf of the Indian River School District.

1. Using the DOE standard formula, this development will generate an estimated 10 students.
2. DOE records indicate that the Indian River School Districts' *elementary schools are at or beyond 100% of current capacity* based on September 30, 2007 elementary enrollment.
3. DOE records indicate that the Indian River School Districts' *secondary schools are not at or beyond 100% of current capacity* based on September 30, 2007 secondary enrollment.
4. In multiple correspondences from the Indian River School District administration, the district asserts that while the Indian River High Schools have capacity, the Indian River Middle Schools' student population exceeds student capacity.
5. This development will create additional elementary school and middle school student population growth which will further compound the existing shortage of space.
6. The developer is strongly encouraged to contact the Indian River School District Administration to address the issue of elementary and middle school overcrowding that this development will exacerbate.

**Sussex County – Contact: Richard Kautz 855-7878**

The Sussex County Zoning Ordinance Section 115-166 C states, "Parking within front yard setback shall be discouraged and subject to site plan review." The developer should be aware that the Planning and Zoning Commission is reluctant to approved parking in the front setback and so the design should be revised to show compliance with the setback requirement.

The buildings fronting on Zion Church Road should be oriented toward the road with parking to the side and rear.

The Sussex County Engineer Comments:

The project proposes to connect to the Johnson's Corner Sanitary Sewer District (JCSSD). The project is within the boundary of the JCSSD that was approved by voters in a referendum held on July 21, 2007. The preliminary schedule indicates sewer service could become available as early as the summer of 2010.

The Sussex County Engineering Department has slight concerns since the proposed project exceeds planning study and system design assumptions for sewer service. Sewer

capacity has been allocated on the basis of 4.0 EDUs per acre for residential zoned parcels of 1 acre or more and 1.0 EDU for each residential zoned parcel that is less than 1.0 acre. The planning and design assumption for the combined parcels is 11.84 total EDUs. The estimated EDU assessment for the proposed project is at least 27.6 EDUs.

As a result, the Sussex County Engineering Department will recommend conditions of approval including that a Memorandum of Understanding be executed between the developer and Sussex County that provides for a contribution of funds toward the cost of constructing future sewer facilities to serve the Roxanna Preferred Properties project. The MOU would be similar to one in place for a proposed development on adjoining property (PMP Associates) and two other nearby proposed developments.

The proposed development will require a developer installed collection system in accordance with Sussex County standard requirements and procedures. The Sussex County Engineer must approve the connection point. In addition, the developer will be required to complete or participate in offsite sewer construction and upgrades, at the developer's expense.

The Sussex County Engineering Department requires that a Sewer Concept Plan be submitted for review and approval. A checklist for preparing conceptual plans was handed out at the PLUS meeting.

For questions regarding these comments, contact Rob Davis, Sussex County Engineering Department at (302) 855-7820.

**Following receipt of this letter and upon filing of an application with the local jurisdiction, the applicant shall provide to the local jurisdiction and the Office of State Planning Coordination a written response to comments received as a result of the pre-application process, noting whether comments were incorporated into the project design or not and the reason therefore.**

Thank you for the opportunity to review this project. If you have any questions, please contact me at 302-739-3090.

Sincerely,



Constance C. Holland, AICP  
Director

CC: Sussex County