



STATE OF DELAWARE
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT
OFFICE OF STATE PLANNING COORDINATION

June 22, 2016

Mr. Jamie Sechler
Davis, Bowen & Friedel, Inc.
23 North Walnut Street
Milford, DE 19963

RE: PLUS review 2016-05-03; Besche Property Apartment Complex

Dear Jamie:

Thank you for meeting with State agency planners on May 25, 2016 to discuss the Besche Property Apartment Complex project. According to the information received you are seeking review of a subdivision and a site plan for a 287 unit apartment complex on 26.96 acres in Sussex County.

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 the 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.**

Strategies for State Policies and Spending

This project represents land development that will result in 287 residential units in an Investment Level 4 area according to the *2015 Strategies for State Policies and Spending*. 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 will 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 apartment complex.

With that said, 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 build on this property, construct the development you indicate, or any subdivision thereof on these lands.

Code Requirements/Agency Permitting Requirements

Department of Transportation – Contact Bill Brockenbrough 760-2109

- The site access on US Route 9 must be designed in accordance with DelDOT's Development Coordination Manual. A copy of the Manual is available at <http://www.deldot.gov/information/business/subdivisions/changes/index.shtml>.
- Pursuant to Section P.3 of the Manual, a Pre-Submittal Meeting is required before plans are submitted for review. The form needed to request this meeting and guidance on what will be covered there and how to prepare for it is located at http://www.deldot.gov/information/business/subdivisions/Meeting_Request_Form.pdf. DelDOT has already had one meeting with the applicant on this project. The Applicant's engineer should contact our Subdivision Reviewer for this part of Sussex County, Mr. Derek Sapp, to verify that that meeting qualified as a Pre-Submittal Meeting. Mr. Sapp can be reached at (302) 760-4803.
- Section P.5 of the Manual addresses fees that are assessed for the review of development proposals. DelDOT anticipates collecting the Initial Stage Fee when the record plan is submitted for review and the Construction Stage Fee when construction plans are submitted for review.

- Per Section 2.2.2.1 of the Manual, Traffic Impact Studies (TIS) are warranted for developments generating more than 500 vehicle trip ends per day or 50 vehicle trip ends per hour in any hour of the day. From the PLUS application, we see that the total daily trips are estimated at 1,997 vehicle trip ends per day. We calculate this to be the Saturday daily trip generation, whereas the question on the application asks for the average weekday trip generation.

For developments generating less than 2,000 vehicle trip ends per day and less than 200 vehicle trip ends per hour, if the local government does not require a TIS, Section 2.2.2.2 of the Manual provides that DelDOT may accept an Area Wide Study Fee, calculated by multiplying the daily trip generation by \$10, in lieu of requiring a TIS. DelDOT has already discussed this matter with the applicant and is willing to accept such a fee in this instance.

An Area Wide Study Fee, when accepted, is set aside for use in funding future traffic studies in the same county as the subject development. Payment of the Fee does not relieve the payer of responsibility for off-site improvements where DelDOT has identified a need for improvements or from the need to provide a Traffic Operational Analysis (TOA) if DelDOT determines in the plan review process that a TOA is needed to address a concern about the proposed site entrance. While US Route 9 east of Georgetown is seasonally congested, DelDOT has not yet identified a need for specific off-site improvements that might be required of the applicant.

That said, the proposed site entrance is only about 400 feet west of the entrances to Besche Furniture and DelDOT's Gravel Hill maintenance yard, and only about 1,700 feet west of Delaware Route 30. Therefore, pending completion of the entrance plan review process, DelDOT will not rule out the possibility of off-site improvements on Route 9 between the site entrance and Route 30 or a TOA to evaluate the need for such improvements.

- Section 3.2.4.2 of the Manual addresses the placement of right-of-way monuments (markers) along the roads on which a property fronts, in this case US Route 9. Monuments sufficient to re-establish the permanent rights-of-way after the dedication discussed below should be shown on the plan and provided in the field in accordance with this section.
- As necessary, in accordance with Section 3.2.5 and Figure 3.2.5-a of the Manual, DelDOT will require dedication of right-of-way along the site's frontage on US Route 9. By this regulation, this dedication is to provide a minimum of 40 feet of right-of-way from the road centerline. The following right-of-way dedication note is required, "**An X-foot wide right-of-way is hereby dedicated to the State of Delaware, as per this plat.**"
- In accordance with Section 3.2.5.1.2 of the Manual, DelDOT will require the establishment of a 15-foot wide permanent easement across the property frontage on US

Route 9. The location of the easement shall be outside the limits of the ultimate right-of-way. The easement area can be used as part of the open space calculation for the site. The following note is required, **“A 15-foot wide permanent easement is hereby established to the State of Delaware, as per this plat.”**

- In accordance with Section 3.4 of the Manual, a record plan shall be prepared prior to issuing “Letter of No Objection”. The following information will be required for the “Letter of No Objection” review:
 - Initial Stage Fee Calculation Form
 - Initial Stage Review Fee
 - Gate-Keeping Checklist – Site Plan
 - Design Checklist - Record Plan
 - Sight Distance Spreadsheet
 - Owners and Engineers’ name and e-mail address
 - Record Plan
 - Conceptual Entrance Plan
 - Submission of the Area-Wide Study Fee (If applicable)

- Referring to Section 3.4.2.1 of the Manual, the following items, among other things, are required on the Record Plan:
 - A Traffic Generation Diagram. See Figure 3.4.2-a for the required format and content.
 - Depiction of all existing entrances within 600 feet of the proposed entrance.
 - Notes identifying the type of off-site improvements, agreements (signal, letter) contributions and when the off-site improvements are warranted.

- Section 3.5.5.2 of the Manual provides that residential developments involving more than 50 dwelling units shall be required to designate and reserve locations for transit and school bus stop accommodations within and/or adjacent to the proposed development, as directed by DelDOT or the Delaware Transit Corporation (DTC). The proposed development is located on DART Route 206, which provides service along US Route 9 between Lewes and Georgetown. The developer’s engineer should contact Ms. Catherine Smith, Planning Manager in DTC’s Service Development Section, to determine what transit-related facilities should be provided. Ms. Smith may be reached at (302) 576-6071.

- Referring to Section 4.3 of the Manual, an entrance plan shall be prepared prior to issuing entrance approval. The following information will be required for Entrance Plan review:
 - Construction Stage Fee Calculation Form
 - Construction Review Fee
 - Gate-Keeping Checklist – Entrance Plan

- Design Checklist - Entrance Plan
 - Auxiliary Lane Spreadsheet
 - Entrance Plan
 - Pipe/Angle Spreadsheet (If applicable)
 - SWM Report and Calculations (If applicable)
-
- In accordance with Section 5.2.5.6 of the Manual, Turning Movement Diagrams shall be provided to verify vehicles can safely enter and exit the site entrance. As per Section 5.2.3 of the Manual, the entrance shall be designed for the largest vehicle using the entrance.
 - In accordance with Section 5.2.9 of the Manual, the Auxiliary Lane Worksheet should be used to determine whether auxiliary lanes are warranted at the site entrance and how long those lanes should be. The worksheet can be found at http://www.deldot.gov/information/business/subdivisions/auxiliary_lane_worksheet.xls.
 - In accordance with Section 5.4 of the Manual, sight distance triangles are required and shall be established in accordance with American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO) standards. A spreadsheet has been developed to assist with this task. It can be found at <http://www.deldot.gov/information/business/subdivisions/Intersection-Sight-Distance.xls>.
 - In accordance with Section 5.14 of the Manual, all existing utilities must be shown on the plan and a utility relocation plan will be required for any utilities that need to be relocated.
 - Section 7.7.2 of the Manual addresses the need to provide 20-foot wide drainage easements for all storm drainage systems, open or closed, that fall outside the existing right-of-way or the drainage/utility easement. In accordance with this section, metes and bounds and total areas need to be shown for any drainage easements. The easements should be shown and noted on the record plan.
 - This project is located within the regulated airspace zones of the Sussex County Airport (GED), which is a public-use facility. Federal Aviation Regulation (FAR) Part 77 imposes height restrictions on any structures within these zones. DelDOT requires that the applicant for this project submit a "Proposed Construction/Alteration in Airport Zones Notification Form" in accordance with Delaware Code (2 Del. C. § 602).

This notification form can be submitted during the plan approval process with the local land use jurisdiction, but DelDOT's Office of Aeronautics is willing to test hypothetical height numbers to prevent any future project complications. Please contact Josh Thomas with the Office of Aeronautics at (302) 760-4834 with any questions or concerns. A copy of the notification form can be found at this address:

http://www.deldot.gov/information/community_programs_and_services/airports/pdfs/aviation_obstruction_review_form.pdf

Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control – Contact Michael Tholstrup 735-3352

Executive Summary

While the conservation and protection of this area will have benefit for wildlife, neighboring parcels, water quality and air quality, there remain several opportunities to protect and improve water quality, and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. As discussed at the PLUS meeting, the Department recommends minimizing the amount of tree clearing and increasing buffers adjacent to the wetland habitats.

The State of Delaware is threatened by climate change and has a goal of reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 30% by 2030. Appropriate development and re-development that provides access to public transportation, opportunities to walk and bike to shopping and recreation, and that employs energy efficient building standards are among key strategies to meet these goals. DNREC encourages the use of high performance building standards and consideration of alternative energy sources to promote clean sustainable energy and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. This could mean siting the buildings to take advantage of solar and geothermal systems, and/or including infrastructure for electric vehicle charging stations. They further recommend an abundant use of native vegetation and shade trees throughout the landscape, as well as pervious pavement and green infrastructure, where practicable, to absorb carbon dioxide, protect water quality and provide relief to residents on hot days.

The following pages provide information about applicable regulations and detailed recommendations associated with this project, from various DNREC Divisions. We would like to be a partner in creating appropriate development that protects and highlights the environment as a natural amenity of the landscape. The Department has resources and expertise that are available to help make this a reality, often at no expense to the landowner. Contact information for specific offices are listed below or you can contact Michael Tholstrup at (302) 735-3352.

TMDLs.

- The project is located in the greater Delaware River and Bay drainage area, specifically within the Broadkill River watershed. In this watershed, the State of Delaware has developed specific Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) pollutant reduction targets for nitrogen, phosphorus, and bacteria (under the auspices of Section 303(d) of the Clean Water Act). The TMDL for the Broadkill River watershed calls for a 40 percent reduction in nitrogen and phosphorus from baseline conditions. The TMDL also calls for a 75 percent reduction in bacteria from baseline conditions.

A TMDL is the maximum level of pollution allowed for a given pollutant below which a “water quality limited waterbody” can assimilate and still meet State water quality standards (e.g., dissolved oxygen, nutrients, and bacteria; State of Delaware Surface Water Quality Standards, as amended July 11, 2004) to the extent necessary to support use goals such as, swimming, fishing, drinking water and shell fish harvesting.

A nutrient management plan is required under the *Delaware Nutrient Management Law* (3 Del.C., Chapter 22) for all persons or entities who apply nutrients to lands or areas of open space in excess of 10 acres. This project’s open space may exceed this 10-acre threshold. Please contact the Delaware Nutrient Management Program at (302) 739-4811 for further information concerning compliance requirements, or view additional information here: <http://dda.delaware.gov/nutrients/index.shtml>

Water Supply.

- The information provided indicates that Artesian Water Company will provide water to the proposed project through a public water system. DNREC 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/miscellaneous public well be needed, a minimum isolation distance of 150 feet is required between the well and any potential source of contamination, such as a septic tank and sewage disposal areas, and 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 take approximately four weeks to process, which allows the necessary time for technical review and advertising.

Potential Contamination Sources exist in the area, and any well permit applications will undergo a detailed review that may increase turnaround time and may require site specific conditions/recommendations. In this case there is an Underground Storage Tank

and a Landfill site at the DELDOT Gravel Hill Yard, located within 1000 feet of the proposed project. 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. 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 the Sussex Conservation District at (302) 856-7219 for details regarding submittal requirements and fees.

Air Quality.

- The applicant shall comply with all applicable Delaware air quality regulations. Please note that the following regulations in Table 1 – Potential Regulatory Requirements may apply to your project:

Table 1: Potential Regulatory Requirements	
Regulation	Requirements
7 DE Admin. Code 1106 - Particulate Emissions from Construction and Materials Handling	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use dust suppressants and measures to prevent transport of dust off-site from material stockpile, material movement and use of unpaved roads. • Use covers on trucks that transport material to and from site to prevent visible emissions.
7 DE Admin. Code 1113 – Open Burning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prohibit open burns statewide during the Ozone Season from May 1-Sept. 30 each year. • Prohibit the burning of land clearing debris. • Prohibit the burning of trash or building materials/debris.

<p>7 DE Admin. Code 1135 – Conformity of General Federal Actions to the State Implementation Plan</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Require, for any “federal action,” a conformity determination for each pollutant where the total of direct and indirect emissions would equal or exceed any of the de minimus levels (See Section 3.2.1)
<p>7 DE Admin. Code 1141 – Limiting Emissions of Volatile Organic Compounds from Consumer and Commercial Products</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use structural/ paint coatings that are low in Volatile Organic Compounds. • Use covers on paint containers when paint containers are not in use.
<p>7 DE Admin. Code 1144 – Control of Stationary Generator Emissions</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure that emissions of nitrogen oxides (NO_x), non-methane hydrocarbons (NMHC), particulate matter (PM), sulfur dioxide (SO₂), carbon monoxide (CO), and carbon dioxide (CO₂) from emergency generators meet the emissions limits established. (See section 3.2). • Maintain recordkeeping and reporting requirements.
<p>7 DE Admin. Code 1145 – Excessive Idling of Heavy Duty Vehicles</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Restrict idling time for trucks and buses having a gross vehicle weight of over 8,500 pounds to no more than three minutes.

Please see a complete listing of applicable Delaware regulations, here: <http://www.awm.delaware.gov/AQM/Pages/AirRegulations.aspx>.

Tank Management.

- If a release of a Regulated Substance occurs at the proposed project site, compliance of 7 Del.C., Chapter 60; 7 Del.C., Chapter 74; and DE Admin. Code 1351, State of Delaware *Regulations Governing Underground Storage Tank Systems* (the UST Regulations) is required.

The following (LUST) projects are located within a quarter mile of the proposed project:

- B & S Development ID: 5-001168, Project: S1605081, (Inactive)
- DelDOT Gravel Hill Yard Facility ID: 5-000414, Project: S9908158, (Inactive)

Tax Ditch/ROW.

- The developer/engineer will need to discuss the required Sussex County tree buffer within the Tax Ditch Right-of-Way, during the project application meeting with the Sussex Conservation District. The Tax Ditch Program will be present at the project application meeting to provide guidance.

State Historic Preservation Office – Contact Terrence Burns 736-7404

- There are no known archaeological sites or National Register-listed properties on this parcel. If a development project proceeds, the developer should be aware of the Unmarked Human Burials and Human Skeletal Remains Law, in Chapter 54, of Title 7, of the Delaware Code.

Abandoned or unmarked family cemeteries are very common in the State of Delaware. They are usually in rural or open space areas, and sometimes near or within the boundary of an historic farm site. Even a marked cemetery can frequently have unmarked graves or burials outside of the known boundary line or limit. Disturbing unmarked graves or burials triggers the Delaware's Unmarked Human Burials and Human Skeletal Remains Law (7 Del. C. Ch. 54), and such remains or discoveries can result in substantial delays while the procedures required under this law are carried out. If there is a discovery of any unmarked graves, burials or a cemetery, it is very costly to have them archaeologically excavated and the burials moved. The Division of Historical & Cultural Affairs recommends that owners and/or developers have a qualified archaeological consultant investigate their project area, to the full extent, to see if there is any unmarked cemetery, graves, or burial sites. In the event of such a discovery, the Division of Historical & Cultural Affairs also recommends that the plans be re-drawn to leave the full extent of the cemeteries or any burials on its own parcel or in the open space area of the development, with the responsibility for its maintenance lying with the landowner association or development. If you would like to know more information pertaining to unmarked human remains or cemeteries, please go to the following websites for additional information: www.history.delaware.gov/preservation/umhr.shtml and www.history.delaware.gov/preservation/cemeteries.shtml.

- Prior to any demolition or ground-disturbing activities, the developer should hire an archaeological consultant, to examine the parcel for archaeological resources, especially a cemetery or unmarked human remains. Furthermore, if there is any federal involvement with the project, in the form of licenses, permits, or funds, the federal agency, often through its client, is responsible for complying with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (36 CFR 800) and must consider their project's effects on any known or potential cultural or historic resources. Owners and developers who may plan to apply for an Army Corps of Engineers permit or for federal funding, such as HUD or USDA grants, should be aware of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (as amended). Regulations promulgated for Section 106 of this Act stipulate that no ground-disturbing or demolition activities should take place before the Corps or other involved federal agency determines the area of potential effect of the project undertaking. These stipulations are in place to allow for comment from the public, the Delaware State

Historic Preservation Office, and the Advisory Council for Historic Preservation about the project's effects on historic properties. Furthermore, any preconstruction activities without adherence to these stipulations may jeopardize the issuance of any permit or funds. If you need further information or additional details pertaining to the Section 106 process and the Advisory Council's role, please review the Advisory Council's website at www.achp.gov.

In addition to the comments above our office has received a letter from Brandy Nauman, Sussex County Housing Coordinator & Fair Housing Compliance Officer. A copy of that letter is enclosed with this letter.

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, Office of State Planning Coordination

CC: Sussex County

Enclosure

BRANDY BENNETT NAUMAN
HOUSING COORDINATOR &
FAIR HOUSING COMPLIANCE OFFICER

(302) 855-7777 T
(302) 854-5397 F

bnauman@sussexcountyde.gov



Sussex County
DELAWARE
sussexcountyde.gov

May 4, 2016

Mr. Jamie Sechler
Davis, Bowen & Friedel, Inc.
23 N. Walnut Street
Milford, DE 19963

RE: PLUS Review (PLUS 2016-05-03)

Dear Mr. Sechler,

Sussex County endeavors to promote non-discrimination and affordable housing whenever possible throughout the County. In this regard, the developer and associated financial institutions are encouraged to provide and finance affordable housing opportunities to Sussex County residents in all new developments, and affirmatively market those affordable housing units to diverse populations.

For questions about opportunities available for affordable housing projects within Sussex County, please consult Sussex County's "Affordable Housing Support Policy". The policy along with other resources are available on the County's Affordable & Fair Housing Resource Center website: www.sussexcountyde.gov/affordable-and-fair-housing-resource-center. The County's Community Development & Housing Department can advise about existing affordable housing opportunities in Sussex County and the appropriate County Department to contact regarding specific development issues concerning future affordable housing projects within Sussex County.

The Community Development & Housing Department can also explain and assist with any financial support or incentives that may be available to a project from federal, state and county sources, as well as private funding sources that also promote affordable housing in Sussex County.

Please understand that all residential projects, including Affordable Housing Projects are subject to the applicable provisions of the Sussex County Subdivision and Zoning Codes, and the approval processes set forth in those Codes.

On behalf of Sussex County, we look forward to cooperating with you and your project as it moves forward.

Thank you,

Brandy B. Nauman
*Housing Coordinator &
Fair Housing Compliance Officer*



COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES WEST COMPLEX
22215 DUPONT BOULEVARD | PO BOX 589
GEORGETOWN, DELAWARE 19947

Review and Discussion: Besche Property Apartment Complex (2016-05-03)

Location: Intersection of Rt. 9 and Rt. 30, Sussex County

Project: Review of a site plan for a 287 unit apartment complex on 26.96 acres in Sussex County.

The project proposes to develop using a central community wastewater system. Artesian Wastewater Management, Inc. is the service provider as stated on the PLUS application. Sussex County requires design and construction of the private collection and transmission system to meet Sussex County sewer standards and specification. A review and approval of the private treatment and disposal system by the Sussex County Engineering Department is required.

The proposed project is in an area designated by Sussex County as being a secondary service area for sanitary sewer service where an application and approval is required for private community wastewater systems in accordance with Sussex County Code Chapter 110, Part 7.

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