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Flickinger  
WETLAND SERVICES  
GROUP, INC.

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WETLAND DELINEATION • MITIGATION DESIGN • STATE & FEDERAL • 401 & 404 PERMITTING

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554 WHITE POND DRIVE SUITE D FAIRLAWN OHIO 44130

July 2, 2007

Mr. Ron DeLorenzo  
Butternut Ridge Properties, Ltd., LLC  
26005 Butternut Ridge Road  
North Olmsted, Ohio 44070

RE: Cluster Homes, ± 10 acres  
North Olmsted, Ohio

Dear Mr. DeLorenzo:

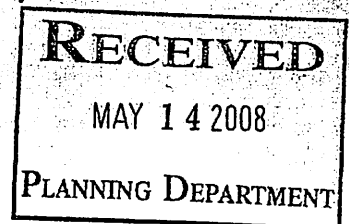
At your instance, **FLICKINGER WETLAND SERVICES GROUP, INC.** performed a routine level, on-site site wetland determination per the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers 'Manual for Identifying and Delineating Jurisdictional Wetlands' (1987).

The property is located in the city of North Olmsted, Cuyahoga County, Ohio. The property is bounded on the north by Butternut Ridge Road and on the west by Springvale Golf Course.

Wetlands are considered jurisdictional "waters of the United States" thus, any activity that would cause an adverse modification to these waters requires authorization from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, which administers the Sec. 404 Program for the U.S. EPA.

An area is considered a jurisdictional wetland if the following wetland indicators are present:

1. **HYDRIC SOILS:** To be considered a wetland, the presence of hydric soils must be confirmed. Hydric soils are those in which the soils are saturated, flooded or ponded long enough during the growing season to develop anaerobic conditions in the upper part. These anaerobic conditions favor the growth of hydrophytic vegetation. These soils fall into two broad categories, organic and mineral. Organic soils, or histosols, develop under conditions of nearly constant saturation that allows little or no degradation of the organic parent material. Histosols are often referred to as muck or peat. Mineral hydric soils are all soils having less than 50% organic material in the upper 32 inches. Below the surface horizon these soils are often gray or mottled.

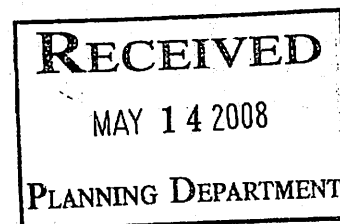


2. HYDROPHYTIC VEGETATION: Hydrophytic, meaning water plants, refers to macrophytic (visible to the naked eye) plant life that occurs where the frequency and duration of soil inundation or saturation exerts a controlling influence on the plant species present. There are five indicator categories which apply to wetland vegetation. They are:
  3. a) OBL: Obligate wetland plants, plants that under natural conditions almost always occur in wetlands under natural conditions, rarely in non-wetlands (less than 1% probability).
  - b) FACW: Facultative wetland plants, which usually occur in wetlands but may also occur in non-wetlands (1-33% probability).
  - c) FAC: Those plants with a similar likelihood of occurring in both wetlands and non-wetlands.
  - d) FACU: Facultative upland plants, which usually occur in uplands (non-wetlands), but may also occur in wetlands (less than 33% probability).
  - e) UPL: Obligate upland plants, rarely in wetlands (less than one percent).

If 50% of the dominant species in each vegetative layer (tree, shrub, herbaceous) are FAC, FACW, or OBL, the hydrophytic vegetation is present.

3. WETLAND HYDROLOGY: It must be established that the area under investigation is temporarily or periodically inundated with water or has saturated soils during the growing season. The presence of water has an overriding influence on hydrophytic vegetation and hydric soils due to anaerobic and reducing conditions. Wetland hydrology is present if an indicator of wetland hydrology are present. Indicators of hydrology include inundation, saturation, water marks, drift lines, sediment deposits and drainage patterns.

A site visit was done to determine the presence of wetlands and streams on the property. Using the three criteria, no wetlands were observed. At the extreme southern end of the property a stream with defined bed and bank and having an ordinary high water were observed.



Our findings are as follows:

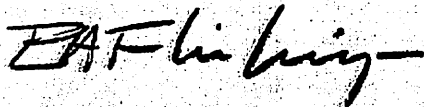
The property consists of somewhat poorly drained to moderately well drained, relatively flat, non-hydric soils supporting a mesophytic or non-wetland forested plant community. Slopes on the site increase in pitch to the south in association with the Root Creek riparian corridor. Root Creek is the only water resource present on the study site.

Vegetation on the study site consists of secondary successional forest community consisting primarily of *Prunus serotina*, black cherry (FACU); *Acer saccharum*, sugar maple (FACU); *Rubus allegheniensis*, blackberry (FACU), *Rosa multiflora*, multiflora rose (FACU), and *Parthenocissus quinquefolia*, Virginia creeper (FACU). A small plantation of mature *Pinus strobus* [white pine (FACU)] are present on the property, but are dominant only within their small planting area. The existing sanitary sewer easement is dominated by herbaceous species consisting of *Dactylis glomerata*, orchard grass (FCAU).

All three wetland indicators must be present for an area to be considered wetland. The lack of just one indicator is sufficient to disqualify an area from the classification. Outside of Root Creek, no water resources are present. No areas meeting the federal definition of wetland are present on the study site.

If you have any questions feel free to contact our office at (330) 865-0688.

Sincerely,



Erik A. Flickinger, President  
**FLICKINGER WETLAND SERVICES GROUP, INC.**

EAF/lis

2 attachments

