

L. Preston Bryant, Jr.
Secretary of Natural Resources



Joseph H. Maroon
Director

COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA
DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION AND RECREATION

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Richmond, Virginia 23219-2010
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April 9, 2009

Judi Birkitt
County of Loudoun
1 Harrison Street S.E.
Leesburg, VA 20175

Re: Loud ZMAP-2008-0021, Kincora Village Center

Dear Ms. Birkitt:

The Department of Conservation and Recreation's Division of Natural Heritage (DCR) has searched its Biotics Data System for occurrences of natural heritage resources from the area outlined on the submitted map. Natural heritage resources are defined as the habitat of rare, threatened, or endangered plant and animal species, unique or exemplary natural communities, and significant geologic formations.

According to the information currently in our files, the Broad Run – Route 607 Stream Conservation Unit. Stream Conservation is within the project vicinity. Units (SCUs) identify stream reaches that contain aquatic natural heritage resources, including 2 miles upstream and 1 mile downstream of documented occurrences, and all tributaries within this reach. Stream Conservation Units are given a biodiversity significance ranking based on the rarity, quality, and number of element occurrences they contain. The Broad Run – Route 607 SCU has been given a biodiversity ranking of B5, which represents a site of general biodiversity significance. The natural heritage resource associated with this site is the yellow lampmussel, (*Lampsilis cariosa* G3G4/S2/NL/SC).

The yellow lampmussel averages about 70 mm in length but can reach a length of 130 mm (Johnson, 1970). The yellow lampmussel is found in larger streams and rivers where good currents exist over a sand and gravel substrate and in small creeks and ponds. This species is known to occur in the Potomac, York, and Chowan river basins (TNC, 1996). Please note that this species is currently classified as a special concern species by the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries (VDGIF); however, this designation has no official legal status.

Considered good indicators of the health of aquatic ecosystems, freshwater mussels are dependent on good water quality, good physical habitat conditions, and an environment that will support populations of host fish species (Williams et al., 1993). Because mussels are sedentary organisms, they are sensitive to water quality degradation related to increased sedimentation and pollution. They are also sensitive to habitat destruction through dam construction, channelization, and dredging, and the invasion of exotic mollusk species.

To minimize adverse impacts to the aquatic ecosystem as a result of the proposed activities, DCR recommends the implementation of and strict adherence to applicable state and local erosion and sediment control/storm water management laws and regulations.

Our files do not indicate the presence of any State Natural Area Preserves under DCR's jurisdiction in the project vicinity.

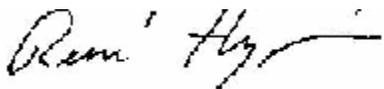
Under a Memorandum of Agreement established between the Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (VDACS) and the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR), DCR represents VDACS in comments regarding potential impacts on state-listed threatened and endangered plant and insect species. The current activity will not affect any documented state-listed plants or insects.

New and updated information is continually added to Biotics. Please contact DCR for an update on this natural heritage information if a significant amount of time passes before it is utilized.

The Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries maintains a database of wildlife locations, including threatened and endangered species, trout streams, and anadromous fish waters that may contain information not documented in this letter. Their database may be accessed from <http://vafwis.org/fwis/> or contact Shirl Dressler at (804) 367-6913.

Should you have any questions or concerns, feel free to contact me at 804-371-2708. Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "S. Rene' Hypes", with a stylized flourish extending to the right.

S. Rene' Hypes
Project Review Coordinator

Literature Cited

Johnson, R.I. 1970. The systematics and zoogeography of the Unionidae (Mollusca: Bilvava) of the southern Atlantic slope region. *Bulletin Museum of Comparative Zoology* vol 140(6): 362-365.

The Nature Conservancy. 1996. *Biological and Conservation Data System*. Arlington, Virginia, USA.