

June 4, 1996

Mr. C. Edmon Larrimore
 Maryland Department of the Environment
 Water Management Administration
 Minerals, Oil and Gas Division
 Tawes State Office building
 Annapolis MD 21401



Re: Permit 96-SP-0500, Chesapeake Terrace, Inc.

Dear Mr. Larrimore:

I am writing as a follow-up to last evening's public hearing on the subject permit application by Chesapeake Terrace, Inc. to conduct sand and gravel mining operations on a 46 acre site adjacent to the Wilson Town community on Conway Road. The proposed haul road, the third proposed by the applicant thus far, runs from the site to a point on Conway Road 200 feet East of Saint John AME Zion Church through the Wilson Town community.

Based on the community reaction last evening, it is obvious that there is considerable valid concern relative to impacts to the residents in the area, including safety hazards due to increased heavy truck traffic, air pollution due to dust and truck exhaust emissions, noise, vibration and potential loss of property values and a significant reduction in the quality of life in the neighborhood. Since these effects apparently fall within the purview of other State or County Agencies, I will limit my comments to environmental impacts which should, and must, fall within MDE's jurisdiction.

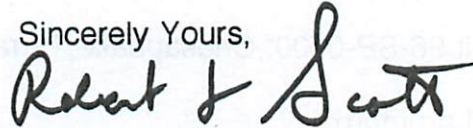
Clearly, the proposed operation will have a very serious negative impact on the environment. Richard Klein's testimony regarding the potential pollution of the wetlands of special state concern as well as the likelihood of flooding and flushing of mud and debris into wetlands and the Patuxent River must be a concern. Likewise, the impact to endangered fish and plantlife must be considered, along with impacts to historic sites and scenic and historic roads. Of particular concern is the fact that the applicant has changed the location of the proposed haul road three times, with little if any evaluation or public scrutiny of the environmental impact of the last two, which were not part of the initial public hearings or testimony. The impression that Mr. Halle is trying to "beat the system" is well founded. Hopefully, MDE will not take action that reinforces this impression.

You noted last evening that one of the key trade-offs that you will have to make is the relative economic value of the proposed operation versus the environmental impact. Recent data indicates that the total employment in sand and gravel mining in

Anne Aundel County is only a few hundred, less than 1/10th of one percent of the total 260,000 people employed in the County. Likewise, the economic benefit of mining is insignificant, particularly since the site has been heavily mined in the past. It is inconceivable to us that the potential economic benefit of the proposed mining operation could be considered sufficient to warrant the serious environmental impacts that it would produce, not to mention the toll on the quality of life of the people living in the area.

In summary, the Greater Crofton Council strongly recommends that the application by Chesapeake Terrace, Inc. for a permit to mine the site be rejected.

Sincerely Yours,



Robert J. Scott, President
Greater Crofton Council

cc: Senator John Cade
Deligate Marsha Perry
Deligate Janet Greenip
Deligate Robert Baldwin
Councilman Bert Rice
Councilman John Klocko
Tom Andrews, Land Use and Environment Office
Steve Cover, PACE
Kevin Dooley, PACE
Kathy De Haas, FOTPIA
Glen Akers, GOIA
Edwin Dosek, CCA