



Eric Burnside <eburnsid@somds.k12.nj.us>

RE: Ritzer

1 message

Todd S. Waskowitz <TWaskowitz@spiezle.com>

Tue, Feb 6, 2024 at 5:37 PM

To: Eric Burnside <eburnsid@somds.k12.nj.us>

Cc: "Scott E. Downie" <ScottD@spiezle.com>, Kevin Gilbert <kgilbert@somds.k12.nj.us>

Based on the civil engineering consultant (CME Associates), their site inspection observed no presence of wetlands. Therefore, no further action is necessary by SOMSD regarding this subject.

None of the required jurisdictional applications will require a Letter of Interpretation (LOI) from the DEP. A LOI would provide DEP's official determination on the presence or absence of wetlands. However, if an LOI is desired, please find the following bullets of the process involved. Beyond the \$1000 application fee, the engineering time required for completion of the application would be around \$3000. Completion of the application would take three to four weeks.

Freshwater Wetlands Presence/Absence Letter of Interpretation (LOI)

- A presence/absence LOI would identify whether any freshwater wetlands, State open waters or transition areas exist on site, or on a portion of a site. If wetlands are identified, the presence/absence LOI would also provide the resource value classification for any wetlands on site. This will not provide the location of wetlands or State open waters if identified.
- To apply for a presence/absence LOI, the Applicant must submit an application form, send out public notices to property owners within 200' of the site and to the construction official of the municipality, environmental commission of the municipality, planning board of the municipality, and planning board of the county. The application fee is \$1,000. They must also supply State plan coordinate of the center of the site, photos of the site, a tax map, location map, soil map, and quad map.
- If the presence/absence is for the entire site, no survey is required. If it is for a portion of the site, a topographical survey of the site is required. The survey must clearly identify the portion of the site, the flags or stakes identifying the portion of the site, and topo. Site boundaries must be flagged/staked out in the field.
- The DEP does not provide a timeframe on when an LOI should be approved as applications regulated under the Freshwater Wetland Protection Act Rules does not have a review clock. However, generally you can expect the application to take 6-8 months for approval. Depending on the DEP reviewers available schedule, this could be approved significantly faster.

Todd Waskowitz, LEEDap

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From: Eric Burnside <eburnsid@somsd.k12.nj.us>

Sent: Tuesday, February 6, 2024 4:07 PM

To: Todd S. Waskowitz <TWaskowitz@Spiezle.com>

Cc: Scott E. Downie <ScottD@spiezle.com>; Kevin Gilbert <kgilbert@somsd.k12.nj.us>

Subject: Re: Ritzer

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Hi Todd,

Is there any update on this? Thank you.

On Wed, Jan 31, 2024 at 4:56 PM Todd S. Waskowitz <TWaskowitz@spiezle.com> wrote:

I spoke with Matt from CME (civil engineer). He is following up with their wetlands lead engineer and will have an update for us tomorrow.

Todd Waskowitz, LEEDap

Associate Principal

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From: Eric Burnside <eburnsid@somds.k12.nj.us>
Sent: Wednesday, January 31, 2024 4:02 PM
To: Scott E. Downie <ScottD@spiezle.com>
Cc: Kevin Gilbert <kgilbert@somds.k12.nj.us>; Todd S. Waskowitz <TWaskowitz@Spiezle.com>
Subject: Re: Ritzer

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Hi Scott,

That is good news. But, can you tell us how fast we can get the final report/results? Thank you.

On Wed, Jan 31, 2024 at 1:36 PM Scott E. Downie <ScottD@spiezle.com> wrote:

We don't have anything formal from them but initial indication from taking the samples was no - they saw nothing in the soil that would suggest wetland characteristics

Scott Downie, AIA, LEEDap

Principal

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On Jan 31, 2024, at 12:32 PM, Eric Burnside <eburnsid@somds.k12.nj.us> wrote:

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Hello Scott & Todd,

Can you let us know when we will get the results for Ritzer Field being a wetland? We need to know as soon as possible for the Board of School Estimate. If it is a wetland we will also need a mitigation plan for them. I don't think it needs to be in great detail but we will need to have something to give them a level of comfort. Thanks.

On Thu, Jan 25, 2024 at 7:19 AM Scott E. Downie <ScottD@spiezle.com> wrote:

Eric – Regarding the comment that the field was shown on a DEP map, our engineers checked and confirmed that yes, it is. However, no, that does not mean it is “wetlands”. The current use has been in place since the mid-1900’s and an active athletic field and a wetland are somewhat opposite in characteristics.

Their comment was that the maps are often wrong in either direction or it is possible that the map reflects a soil or other condition in the area prior to the school/field being built. That said, we have asked to make a visit and do some initial investigation on site to confirm.

Their comments excerpted below:

“We would need to do a delineation to confirm the presence or absence of wetlands. Identification is based on particular vegetation, soil, and surface hydrology markers. There aren’t any obvious visible indicators present given the current condition of the field.”

I talked to our wetlands expert, he could potentially get out there next week and dig a few small holes if the school would like us to investigate. In the event a portion of the field is technically flagged as wetlands, the site is already highly disturbed and disconnected from other surface water systems. Based on aerial photos, this has been used as a sports field since at least the 50s, maybe even 30s. Accounting for situations like this, DEP has general permits on the books that would allow construction to proceed.”

If a full delineation is required to reclassify the area we will get a proposal from them after their initial look.

Scott Downie, AIA, LEEDap

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