



*Martin O'Malley, Governor*  
*Anthony G. Brown, Lt. Governor*  
*John R. Griffin, Secretary*  
*Joseph P. Gill, Deputy Secretary*

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February 17, 2012

Ms. Bridgette Garner  
Coastal Resources, Inc.  
25 Old Solomons Island Road  
Annapolis, MD 21401

**RE: Environmental Review for Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission (WSSC), Sanitary Sewer System Rehabilitation, Seneca and Monocacy Basins, Priority One area, Montgomery County, Maryland.**

Dear Ms. Garner:

The Wildlife and Heritage Service has determined that there are no records for rare, threatened or endangered plants or animals occurring in any of the proposed work sites as shown on your map, with the exceptions as described below:

In the Montgomery Village area, there is a Great Blue Heron colony site located on a small manmade island in Lake Whetstone. We generally discourage construction activities within a ¼ mile buffer around the colony site during the herons breeding season, in order to prevent significant disturbance that may result in harm to the nesting birds. Given the location of this heron colony in a highly-developed area, however, we would not have concerns for the proposed work unless there was ground disturbance proposed for the island itself.

In the Watkins Mill development, along Cabin Branch and west of Watkins Mill Road, there is a site that supports a population of state-listed endangered wildflower in habitat described as "oak forest in loamy deep soil among rock outcrops." As long as there is to be no disturbance to existing native vegetation in forested habitat, then we would not have concerns for direct impacts to this plant population.

Thank you for allowing us the opportunity to review this project. If you should have any further questions regarding this information, please contact me at (410) 260-8573.

Sincerely,

Lori A. Byrne  
Environmental Review Coordinator  
Wildlife and Heritage Service  
MD Dept. of Natural Resources

ER # 2011.1656.mo  
Cc: G. Golden, DNR