

DEIS Appendix 9.7 – Ecological Reports

Comment A9.7-1-34P: Regarding Appendix 9.7, page 1. The statement that approximately 394 acres of the 668 acres will remain undeveloped. This is another confusing open space metric that does not agree to the open space calculations presented under 3.4-18. And again, the metric does not distinguish the ecologically valuable open space. [Dr. Michael W. Klemens, LLC, Letter, March 18, 2008, Comment P, page 4]

Response A9.7-1-34P: Please see Response 3.4-8-34I. Appendix 9.7 has been reorganized and reformatted and is included as Appendix I of this FEIS. The new version of this Appendix eliminates the confusion noted in this comment.

Comment A9.7-2-34Q: Regarding Appendix 9.7, page 4. The packaging of the various studies together is not very useful—for example Table 2.1.1 Work Field Days reflects the first phases of the Applicant’s work prior to my involvement with the project. Subsequently a considerable amount of additional work was required. I was quite critical of the amount of field time that the Applicant had expended as reflected in the table—especially as it was quite evident that most of the wildlife observations were incidental to the wetlands delineations. Having this table as in the introduction to Appendix 9.7 does not serve the Applicant well. Certainly this chapter should lead off with a summary of the totality of the effort expended, and then append the earlier studies. [Dr. Michael W. Klemens, LLC, Letter, March 18, 2008, Comment Q, page 4]

Response A9.7-2-34Q: Appendix 9.7 has been reorganized and reformatted and is included as Appendix I of this FEIS. The Appendix includes a summary table of all field investigations conducted at the site. This summary table includes the field investigations conducted during the initial Habitat Assessment and any investigations conducted during supplementary studies. The amount of person-hours dedicated to each specific task (i.e., wetland delineation, habitat assessment, breeding bird survey, etc.) is specified within the table.

Comment A9.7-3-34R: Regarding Appendix 9.7, page 27, Table 4.3.3. At least two species recorded by the Applicant are not included in this table, i.e., dusky and two-lined salamanders. Again, this introductory portion is quite illogical in its construction, and it should completely summarize all species and all efforts. [Dr. Michael W. Klemens, LLC, Letter, March 18, 2008, Comment R, page 4]

Response A9.7-3-34R: Appendix 9.7 has been reorganized and reformatted and is included as Appendix I of this FEIS. A summary table of all species identified during the initial habitat assessment and subsequent studies will

be prepared by TCC. Dusky and two-lined salamanders have been added to the table. A brief paragraph summarizing the table has been added to the introductory portion of the revised Appendix 9.7.

Comment A9.7-4-34S: Regarding Appendix 9.7, page 14 of the Supplemental Report. Table 3.3.1 omits the two-lined salamander. [Dr. Michael W. Klemens, LLC, Letter, March 18, 2008, Comment S, page 4]

Response A9.7-4-34S: Appendix 9.7 has been reorganized and reformatted and is included as Appendix I of this FEIS. The new Appendix includes the two-lined salamander in the table.

Comment A9.7-5-34T: Regarding Appendix 9.7, page 15. I believe it should read “Snake and turtle egg shells”. [Dr. Michael W. Klemens, LLC, Letter, March 18, 2008, Comment T, page 4]

Response A9.7-5-34T: Appendix 9.7 has been reorganized and reformatted and is included as Appendix I of this FEIS. The revised text includes the correction noted in this comment.

Comment A9.7-6-34U: Regarding Appendix B (of Appendix 9.7). The Applicant should specifically address for each of the following species the anticipated impacts, and the proposed mitigation measures, for these species of conservation concern (recorded by the Applicant’s breeding bird survey): Cooper’s Hawk (*Accipiter striatus*); Red-shouldered Hawk (*Buteo lineatus*); Prairie Warbler (*Dendroica discolor*); Willow Flycatcher (*Empidonax traillii*); Worm-eating Warbler (*Helmitheros vermivorus*); Wood Thrush (*Hylocichla mustelina*); Virginia Rail (*Rallus limicola*); American Woodcock (*Scolopax minor*); Blue-winged Warbler (*Vermivora pinus*). [Dr. Michael W. Klemens, LLC, Letter, March 18, 2008, Comment U, pages 4 and 5]

Response A9.7-6-34U: A Habitat Management Plan has been created and is included in Appendix F. This Plan addresses the anticipated impacts to the above-referenced species and the mitigation measures used to reduce these impacts.

Comment A9.7-7-34V: Regarding Appendix 9.7, page 13. Note that Dr. Smith recommends an un-mowed buffer around wetlands. To that I would add that the buffer be a mixture of shrubs and herbaceous plants. [Dr. Michael W. Klemens, LLC, Letter, March 18, 2008, Comment V, page 5]

Response A9.7-7-34V: A Habitat Management Plan (Appendix F) has been prepared and is included with this FEIS. The Plan includes a Buffer

Management Plan which addresses buffers that will be created around the onsite wetlands.

Comment A9.7-8-34W: In conclusion, I would recommend that the Appendix 9.7 be redesigned to consolidate the information into a user-friendly format. As it exists, it is several reports bound together with a summary that doesn't accurately summarize effort or all the species found. The resumes of key staff are appended to each report; certainly they could be pulled into a single section, and the duplicates and triplicates of the same resume, e.g., Tompkins, be removed. [Dr. Michael W. Klemens, LLC, Letter, March 18, 2008, Comment W, page 5]

Response A9.7-8-34W: Appendix 9.7 has been reorganized and reformatted and is included as Appendix I of this FEIS.

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