



MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT

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Martin O'Malley
Governor

Robert M. Summers, Ph.D.
Secretary

Anthony G. Brown
Lieutenant Governor

November 14, 2014

Mr. John Nickerson, Director
Queen Anne's County Environmental Health
206 N. Commerce Street
Centreville, MD 21617

Re: Southern Kent Island Public Health Area of Concern & Public Sewer Project

Dear Mr. Nickerson:

Thank you for your letter dated August 28, 2014, certifying Southern Kent Island (SKI) as a public health area of concern, as well as supporting the construction of a sewage collection system to transport the wastewater from the existing nine communities of SKI to the existing ENR sewage treatment plant on Kent Island with funding from the Bay Restoration Fund (BRF) and the State Revolving Loan Fund.

Chapter 80 (House Bill 11) of the 2014 legislative session requires the County Environmental Health Director to certify a public health area of concern and requires the Department of the Environment (MDE or "the Department") to concur with that assessment (Environment §9-1605.2(h)(5)(IV)2.B.) in order to utilize BRF Septic Funds to connect septic systems to public sewer in areas located outside of the Priority Funding Area (PFA). This letter is to acknowledge the Department's receipt of your letter certifying the SKI Communities as a public health area of concern. The Department concurs with your certification and this letter serves as documentation that Queen Anne's County has met the requirements of Environment §9-1605.2 (h)(5)(IV)2.B.

As you are aware, the County, MDE and the Department of Planning staff have worked together for over a year to minimize the impact of potential new development from the SKI sewer project, culminating in the Smart Growth Coordinating Committee's approval of the PFA exception on July 17, 2014. This is a major accomplishment, which will now allow State BRF septic grant funding for the SKI sewer project. Additionally, the County Commissioners have agreed to the terms and conditions stipulated in the BRF grant agreement, and both the County and the Department have executed the agreement. Once completed, this project will eliminate a significant public health issue and provide a reliable advanced level of wastewater treatment for the residents of the SKI service area, as well as reduce nitrogen loading to the Chesapeake Bay by over 13,000 lbs/year.

John Nickerson
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Thank you very much for your support in helping to resolve a long standing public health and environmental issue in SKI. If you have questions or need further assistance, please feel free to contact me or Mr. Jag Khuman, Director of Maryland Water Quality Financing Administration at 410-537-3119 or by email at jag.khuman@maryland.gov

Sincerely,



Robert M. Summers, Ph.D.
Secretary

cc: Jag Khuman, Director of Maryland Water Quality Financing Administration