

**PFIZER – JÄHNIG**  
**ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTING**

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March 27, 2025

Carolyn Stevens  
Chair and Members of the Planning/Architectural Review Board  
Town of Ossining  
John-Paul Rodrigues Operations Center  
101 Route 9A-P.O. Box 1166  
Ossining, NY 10562

Re: 94 Somerstown Road Property  
94 Somerstown Road (NY Route 133)  
Ossining, NY 10562

Chair and Members of the Planning/Architectural Review Board

Response to comment 4b.

Setting:

The wetland occupies a depression parallel to the road. Runoff enters the wetland primarily from the slopes to the south. The wetland drains to the west. The adjacent property has been filled and graded, resulting in impeded flow to the west from the wetland. Wood debris, tree trunks and branches have been placed on the edge of the property with fill beyond. Portions of the wetland are ponded from late fall into early spring.

The soils formed in glacial till with relatively shallow cover to bedrock. Hydric indicators are faintly developed on the edges of the wetland, possibly due to the fill to the west that prolongs the duration of ponding, and an increase in water detained in the wetland.

The vegetative community is not diverse. The buffer supports mature Norway maples, Norway maple seedlings and saplings, winged euonymus, and occasional Japanese barberry, multiflora rose, garlic mustard, all invasive. The wetland supports occasional mature red maples and white oak. One inkberry shrub was noted as well as one sensitive fern and a patch of sedges and rush species.

**Wetland Functions:**

The primary function of this wetland is to protect water resources. The wetland recharges the underlying fractured bedrock aquifer; controls flooding and stormwater runoff by retention; and during times of surface water ponding, late fall into early spring, provides a basin for chemical and biological oxidation as well as a settling basin for sedimentation.

The other functions that depend on a diverse and abundant vegetative cover are weak to missing. The functions include providing recreation uses; providing breeding and spawning grounds, nursery habitat and food for various species of fish, providing unique nesting, migratory and wintering habitats for diverse wildlife species; providing areas of unusually high plant productivity, which support significant wildlife diversity and abundance.

**Impacts to Buffer:**

The northernmost portion of the wooded buffer will be impacted by the construction of the common driveway and stormwater management purposes. Their construction will result in some tree removal and grading within the wetland buffer, as well as the addition of impervious surfaces from the driveway.

As noted in the letter from the project engineer to the Planning Board, of the 31 trees to be removed from the wetland buffer, only 4 are in good or fair condition. Eight of the trees were noted by the arborist to be poor or hazardous condition, four trees were dead, and 15 were invasive (Norway Maple). The removal of these trees from the northern portion of the wetland buffer, given the species of the trees and their condition, would not have a significant impact on the wetland buffer.

The removal of these plants will be offset by the proposed plantings in the disturbed portion of the wetland buffer. The plantings include a variety of native trees and shrubs which will increase the diversity of the wetland buffer.

The stormwater management basin has been designed as a micropool extended detention pond, and along with the proposed rain gardens in upland

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areas of the property, will provide water quality treatment of the runoff.  
Peak rate attenuation of the runoff in the stormwater management basin

means that the rate of runoff entering the basin will be slightly less than at the present; however, the duration of the flow entering the wetland and wetland buffer will increase slightly during a rainfall event.

The mitigation plantings proposed mainly in the southern portion of the wetland and buffer will greatly increase diversity of the plants in the wetland and wetland buffer and abundance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mary Jaehnig".

Mary Jaehnig  
soil scientist