

**ROBERT G. TORGERSEN, LA, CPESC**

**LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES**

271 Squaw Trail, Andover, NJ 07821

Tel. & Fax 973 810 3129 E-mail [rtorger271@gmail.com](mailto:rtorger271@gmail.com)

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NJS LA LIC # 148

CPESC Cert. # 899

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Tomas Matias, EIT  
H2M Architects  
2 Executive Blvd.  
Suffern, New York 10901

Re: Onsite Wetlands/Lakeview Shopping Center

Dear Mr.

I was onsite today and found no onsite wetlands or wetland like conditions other than the existing manmade storm water basin located at the north end of the site. The east side of the site where the proposed work is to be done is a steeply sloping forest that ends at the shores of Bog Brook Reservoir. The work area is about 700 feet in width, nowhere along this stretch is there any hydric soils or dominant plant communities of FACW plant species. The dominant tree species are White Ash and Red Maple with an occasional Black Cherry. The dominant shrubs are Spice Bush, Multiflora Rose and Barberry. The existing ground cover is Maple sprouts, Virginia Creeper, Poison Ivy and Christmas Fern. The soil chroma across the site ranged from 7.5YR  $\frac{3}{4}$  to 7.5YR  $\frac{4}{4}$  at a depth of 16 inches. These soil colors are indicative of a dry upland habitat. The Spice Bush has a FACW- rating which means it has a weak wetland indicator status. Because there are no hydric soils present the Spice Bush themselves do not constitute a positive wetland identification. Because the shopping center collects all the surface runoff the existing watershed for this hillside has been effectively removed and is now directed to the previously mentioned storm water pond. Because this pond is a manmade feature designed for the existing building it is not under the jurisdiction of the United States Army Corps of Engineers. The existing survey shows a headwall type structure at the north west side of the site. I found an old pipe along with a scour channel however at this location there were no hydric soils or FACW plant species. It does not appear that this pipe is still discharging any water. The USACOE does have jurisdiction over ephemeral streambeds but they do not have jurisdiction over erosion features. The scour below this old pipe disappears a few feet lower within the upland forest habitat.

Yours truly

  
Peter Torgersen