



STATE OF DELAWARE
**DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
 AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONTROL**
 89 KINGS HIGHWAY
 DOVER, DELAWARE 19901

Office of the
 Secretary

Phone: (302) 739-9000
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October 16, 2009

The Honorable Vance C. Phillips
 President, Sussex County Council
 2 The Circle
 Georgetown DE 19947

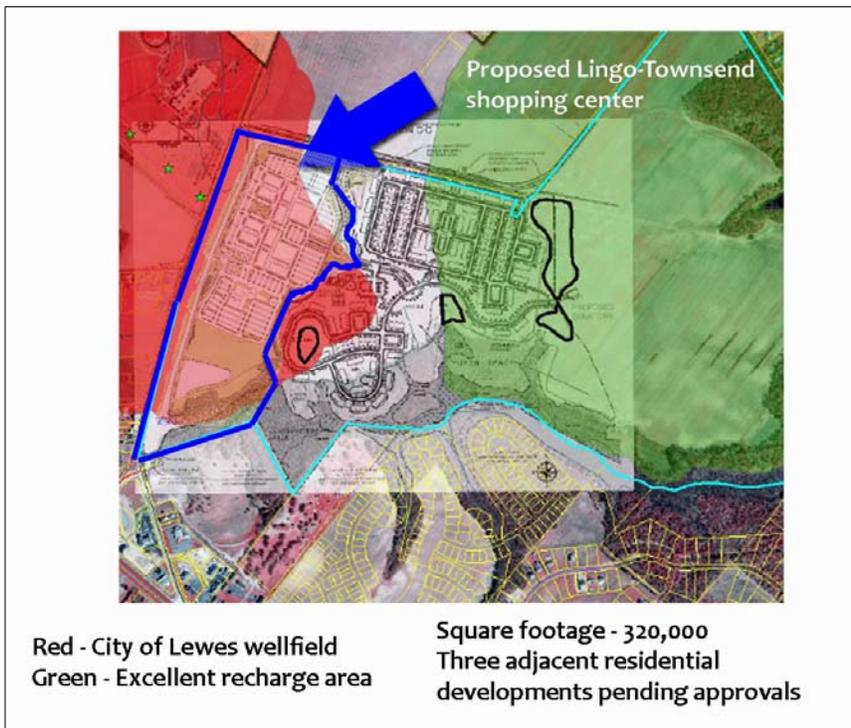
RE: C/Z #1690 (LT Associates LLC)

Dear Mr. Phillips:

We appreciate the opportunity to restate our concerns about the proposed shopping center on Kings Highway outside Lewes. DNREC expressed these concerns both in our April 2009 PLUS comments and in our March 2007 PLUS comments.

DNREC's chief concern is the percentage of impervious cover in an area that includes the City of Lewes' well fields. While we believe the developer adequately estimates impervious cover for the project at 59 percent, this amount – added to the existing impervious cover of the Cape Henlopen High School and planned neighboring developments – has the potential to reduce ground-water recharge of the city's well field.

The field consists of a series



of shallow public wells that draw water from the shallow unconfined aquifer that receives recharge directly from precipitation. Maintenance of water levels in this aquifer is critical to this coastal community due to long-term risks of salt water intrusion.

Our Groundwater Protection Branch recommended reducing impervious cover to 50 percent and performing an environmental assessment report prepared by a Delaware Registered Professional Engineer and/or Professional Geologist. In addition, because the wellhead protection area is the source of public drinking water for the City of Lewes, the storage of hazardous substances or wastes should not be allowed within the area unless specific approval is obtained from the relevant state, federal, or local program.

Studies have shown a strong relationship between increases in impervious cover and decreases in a watershed's overall water quality. In our PLUS comments, we also urged the applicant to protect water quality by using green-technology best-management practices that reduce some of the project's most likely adverse impacts.

We respectfully request that you consider the impacts of this project on water quality and the long-term safety of the City of Lewes' water supply.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lee Ann Walling". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Lee Ann Walling
Chief of Planning

cc: Lawrence Lank