

Mary S. Heisler and Thomas R. Gatens
2439 Mistletoe Lane
Millville, NJ 08332

May 7, 2014

Judith Piccinni Yeany
Chief Bureau of Legal Services and Stewardship
NJDEP Green Acres
P.O. Box 420
Trenton, NJ 08625-0420

Dear Ms. Piccinni Yeany;

My husband and I are very concerned that the land in dispute, Menantico Ponds WMA, Block 578, Lot 19, is being considered to be taken out of preservation and used for industrial purposes. We object on many levels, which we will list, but not write lengthy paragraphs about all of them. Others can explain it better than us, but we do understand the various issues.

As residents of part of Millville that borders the Menantico WMA and is less than a mile from where the plant would be located, we worry about quality of life issues- noise, air and water pollution, from traffic, fumes and industrial waste, pollutants seeping into the groundwater. There are plenty of vacant properties in Millville's industrial parks that would seem to be suitable for the proposed use. It would make sense to cleanup, adapt and reuse brown fields, rather than develop untouched land.

We applaud the NJDEP for their original decision to preserve that property. Your own investigations determined that it is a significant and high priority area, one in which preservation would be very beneficial to the Green Acres philosophy and purpose. It saddens us to think that 'preserved in perpetuity,' in this case lasts about one year. We find it hard to believe that it could lose its environmental value that quickly. Once a piece of property is developed there is no going back and recovering the original ecosystem. As part of one of the largest tracts of preserved land in the most densely populated state, it behooves you (NJDEP) and us (citizens and local, county officials) to fight to maintain its integrity. Please don't give in to short sighted economic and/or political pressure to deprive our citizens (present and future) of this precious resource.

The land swap/diversion seems to be a very poor bargain for the citizens of NJ. The land was purchased with taxpayers' funds. Millville and Cumberland County are suing to reverse the sale, we assume, using taxpayer funds. If private funding is being used, the citizens should be made aware of what special interest groups and/or what individual(s) stand to benefit. The residents and taxpayers will not benefit from this! Millville would buy the land using taxpayers'

money. The NJDEP would then (maybe?) buy land in the Holly Ridge that is already unbuildable because of the wetlands. That seems like a very convoluted method of doing business.

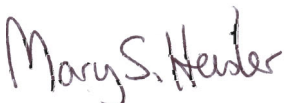
The precedent this diversion would set is frightening. That means that no preserved land is ever really '**preserved in perpetuity.**' This is not something that New Jersey should be inclined to set the precedent for. We'll leave other people to discuss in more detail and with more facts, other concerns- the size of the property considered, the environmental and recreational values.

Vinyl fencing is very toxic not only when manufactured, but also when cut or sanded, as in the construction of fences. In some studies components of Poly Vinyl Chloride are suspected to be carcinogenic. Tiny particles will become airborne (we live downwind), and will seep into the groundwater. I have a printout of some of the hazards, which I can share if you wish.

Last of all, we don't feel this debate should even be happening. The NJDEP bought the property for valid reasons, following the law. Millville should accept that and try to make other accommodations for this company. We know that Millville and Cumberland County need businesses and employment. Why not promote the unique environmental qualities of our area and build ecotourism industry on our open spaces? Build industries near other industries, reuse brownfields, renovate buildings or rebuild. When we travel around the city we see so many vacant properties. The industrial ones could and should be reused.

Please don't bow to political and economic pressure to reverse a sound decision that your department made. Doing so will not benefit the majority of our people in the long run.

Hopefully yours,



Mary S. Heisler



Thomas R. Gatens