

Nirmala Rao

[REDACTED]

February 23,2023

Subj: Service Area Category Change for Sewer from S-6 to S-3-Our Application submitted in Q2-2022

Dear Sir/Madam,

We are away visiting our daughter in Illinois and hence we cannot appear at the public hearing on February 28, 2022, Hence this letter.

We submitted an application for category change first in November 20, 2021 under the then prevailing policy of allowing category change for properties abutting an existing public sewer connection. Our application was rejected stating that the property was expected to become a part of Rockville city. This conclusion was against the then prevailing policy as the communication inviting category change applications stated clearly:

- Submit category change request applications to DEP for any property within the county, including those within incorporated communities (e.g. Poolesville, Rockville, etc.) Do not send your category change application to the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission (M-NCPPC), to the Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission (WSSC), or to any municipality (Rockville, Poolesville, etc.). DEP will coordinate the request with these agencies.

The possibility of Rockville hook up is very unlikely as our PHCA residents are unwilling to join Rockville city and one house on Scott Drive that did join Rockville city sewer network did not get any benefit. Hence we request you to reconsider that objection.

We submitted another application for category change during Q2 2022. This is now under review.

The then prevailing criteria for category change were:

Abutting Mains Policy: Changed to allow approval for anyone with property abutting at any point another one with sewer. The original policy required that the sewer line must be in the street in front of an “abutting” property.

Potomac Peripheral Policy: Our area was restored to the sewer service policies of the larger Potomac region, removing some 2002 Master Plan provisions that severely restricted our ability to obtain sewer service. Now, any property adjacent to the County's "Planned Sewer Envelope" (i.e., existing sewer mains), This change enables owners to hook up to a sewer main. Our property does abutt another property just behind ours on Fox Den. Our site is also adjacent to a planned sewer envelope.

The revised W/S Plan is dated October 2022 and still not approved by the State of Maryland. Our application submitted in January/February 2022 should be grandfathered and the rules prevailing then may be applied.

You may kindly note that our house site was a part of the DEP 2017 Glen Hills Sewer Survey. That survey identified it as a vulnerable site with constrained sewer replacement, implying the sewer cannot be replaced as the site has a very high water table.

We do understand and subscribe to the notion of preserving the environment, a cause for which WMCCA persistently raises objection to alter the current sewer envelope. The human community in Glenn Hills area is a major component of that environment, and their essential needs for water and sewer disposal being, in our opinion, the most important environmental health concern. Hence, we request that the Montgomery County may consider the environmental health of its own voters residing in Glen Hills and Potomac Highlands over concern for the shrubs and trees, birds and bees that seem to be more important for WMCCA.

Sincerely,

Nirmala Rao