

May 30, 2007

Mr. David A.C. Carroll, Director
Department of Environmental Protection
And Resource Management
401 Bosley Avenue
Towson, Maryland 21204

Re: Roland Run Water Quality

Dear Mr. Carroll:

Before I address the heart of this inquiry, let me express my appreciation to your Department for pursuing the completion of engineering plans for the Roland Run Stream Restoration project from Timonium Road, south to Seminary Avenue. As you know many of our residents have been concerned about the health of this stream for a number of years, along with the flooding problems that your staff indicate are beyond the scope of this project, and we are happy to see that the restoration component is still moving forward.

That being said, let me turn to the reason for this letter. Recently, a member of our Community requested information about water quality for that section of Roland Run from Seminary Avenue to Business Park Drive. He was told that no information was available, and this response seems curious. Legislation at the Federal level requires State and/or local governments to monitor water quality periodically. Last spring/summer your Department sent out form letters advising that testing would be taking place on the water quality of Roland Run. That water testing seemed to be a natural byproduct of the stream restoration plans. Over time, it would be prudent to monitor whether water quality improves as a result of a stream restoration project. Therefore, the response that no information was available seems counterintuitive.

The Association is specifically interested in learning about fecal bacteria content and the presence of metals or other dangerous chemicals that may be in evidence in the Roland Run. There were, for example, hazardous waste disposal problems at two of the shopping centers along Ridgely Road within the last several years, and the Community wants to be assured that none of that hazardous waste has found its way into the Roland Run by ground water infiltration or surface runoff.

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If in fact Baltimore County does not have any information about water quality for Roland Run, north of Seminary Avenue, I would appreciate your directing us to the personnel at the State level who can supply this information. I look forward to receiving your timely response to this request.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey Dier
President, Lutherville Community
Association
209 Morris Avenue
Lutherville, Maryland 21093
410-560-2757

Cc: Honorable James T. Smith, Jr.