

March 26, 2015

Mr. David Levy
Director
Urban Design Plan Review
National Capital Planning Commission
401 9th Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20576

RE: BARC Storage Buildings (MR-1503A)

Dear Mr. Levy:

The Prince George's County Planning Department appreciates the opportunity to comment on the proposed storage buildings for the Beltsville Agricultural Research Center (BARC), to be constructed by the University of Maryland at the Central Maryland Research and Education Center, near the intersection of Beaver Dam Road and Springfield Road. The 5,000 square foot storage building and 720 square foot fertilizer building will support ongoing research activities on BARC property conducted through a partnership with the University's College of Agriculture. Our response to your request for comments focuses on the impact of state and federal environmental laws on the site, scenic road requirements, multimodal access to the site, the presence of a historic resource nearby, and aesthetic as well as utilitarian improvements. These comments are stated in full in the enclosed memoranda. The staff recommendations are as follows:

- The proposed buildings will be located with similar farm-related buildings that are visible from the public right-of-way of Beaver Dam Road, which is a designated scenic road. Staff recommends some additional site design within the entire compound, such as split-rail fencing, new plantings, or other historic rural architectural and environmental features to create an aesthetically pleasing scenic compound.
- In addition to its scenic road status, Beaver Dam Road and other roads within BARC that are open to the public may be used for public bicycling; therefore, staff wants to inform BARC officials that bike lanes may be constructed in the future by the State Highway Administration (SHA).
- One Prince George's County Historic Resource, the Hayden Farm Site, is located within 1,000 feet of the parcel proposed for construction, but will not be impacted by the project. However, as part of the proposed project, staff recommends the placement of interpretive signage outlining the historical and cultural significance of the property at Hayden Farm. Staff can also help review text for any interpretive signage as we have done this in the past for other federal properties.

- To enhance amenities for the employees at the compound, staff recommends the addition of a shaded break area with tables and chairs.

Thank you for allowing us the opportunity to comment on this proposed action. If you should have any questions or need additional information, please contact Fatimah Hasan, Planner Coordinator, Special Projects Section, Countywide Planning Division, at 301-952-3580 or via email at Fatimah.Hasan@ppd.mncppc.org.

Sincerely,



Fern Piret
Planning Director

Enclosures

- c: Redis C. Floyd, Clerk of the Council, Prince George's County Council
Claudette Joyner, Realty Specialist, BARC, Agricultural Research Studies, U.S. Department of Agriculture
Derick Berlage, Chief, Countywide Planning Division
Maria Martin, Planning Supervisor, Special Projects Section, Countywide Planning Division
Fatimah Hasan, Planner Coordinator, Special Projects Section, Countywide Planning Division
Christine Osei, Mandatory Referral Project Manager, Special Projects Section, Countywide Planning Division
Daniel Janousek, Planner Coordinator, Transportation Planning Section, Countywide Planning Division
Marc Juba, Senior Planner, Environmental Planning Section, Countywide Planning Division
Jill Kosack, Senior Planner, Urban Design Section, Development Review Division
Robert Krause, Planner Coordinator, Historic Preservation Section, Countywide Planning Division