

December 22, 2006

James P. Bridges
Design Supervisor, Region One
328 State St.
Schenectady, NY 12305

Dear Mr. Bridges,

The Town of Wilmington is in the process of developing a Local Waterfront Revitalization Program. As a result of LWRP process, there has been a great deal of public concern about the sediment that has been collecting in Lake Everest. Lake Everest is an impoundment in the center of Wilmington on the West Branch of the AuSable River.

As you know, the new catchment basin, drainage project completed this spring on Rt. 86 in downtown Wilmington has replaced aged collapsing and inadequate storm drains. As a result of years of inadequate stormwater control a delta has formed on the east side of the dam. A new catchment basin is installed on the delta which captures the water flowing along the east side of Route 86. During LWRP public comment sessions, surveys and observation of the new catchment area there has been concern whether it is adequate. I have been asked to write to you and request a re-evaluation of the water flows into the new catchment basin. We will then be able to determine if the new catchment basin is adequately protecting the water quality of the lake.

I have gotten lots of positive remarks about our new roadway. I appreciate the opportunity you have provided for communication between the town and NYSDOT during the course of the Wilmington/Rt 86 project.

Sincerely,

Jeanne Ashworth
Supervisor, Town of Wilmington

cc. Victor Putman, Essex County Planning, Kara Page, Adirondack Sustainable Communities, Anne Barlow, AuSable River Association.



STATE OF NEW YORK
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
328 STATE STREET
SCHENECTADY, NEW YORK 12305

Thomas C. Werner
Regional Director

Thomas J. Madison
Commissioner

January 12, 2007

Jeanne Ashworth
Town of Wilmington Supervisor
Community Center
Springfield Road
Wilmington, NY 12997

**Re: Route 86 Drainage Improvement Project
Town of Wilmington, Essex County
Project Identification Number: 1161.17
Contract: D260005**

Dear Supervisor Ashworth,

This letter is in response to your December 22, 2006 letter in which you express concern for the newly constructed sediment basin on Route 86 on the east side of the West Branch of the AuSable River. Specifically, you cite public concern that the sediment basin may not be adequate; and you request the Department to re-evaluate the water flows and sizing of the basin.

As you know, this project was initiated to replace the deteriorated closed drainage system within the Hamlet of Wilmington. During the development of the project, the Design Team identified the sedimentation issue at the outlet of the system. The lack of adequate gutters and poor water conveyance in the old drainage system were causing significant erosion along the shoulders. The material was then being deposited near the outlet of the system, along the river.

The gutters, paving and shoulder backup that were installed as part of the project were expected to reduce erosion along the roadway, and subsequently reduce the amount of sediment in the drainage system. The Design Team also proposed to add a sediment catchment basin at the outlet of the system to help collect any material that may still find its way into the system.

The sediment basin was installed as an additional measure. It was not a required water treatment practice under SPDES or any other water quality regulations. As such it was not subject to any specific design guidelines. The original design sought to simply maximize the size of the basin on the delta. When constructed, it was approximately 2000 square feet in size. However the APA was concerned that the wetland impacts resulting from its construction were too great, and it subsequently had to be reduced in size to its current configuration. It is now approximately 1000 square feet in size.

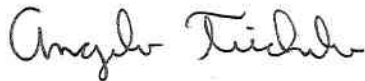
Jeanne Ashworth
Town of Wilmington Supervisor
January 12, 2007
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In accordance with Department standards, the storm drain system was designed based on a design storm event interval of 10 years. [The design storm event is described in terms of the probability of occurring once within a given number of years. The greater the storm interval, the more substantial the expected runoff will be.] The expected flow rate at the outlet of the system for the 10 year storm is 23 cubic feet of water per second.

There are numerous factors that are used to determine the appropriate size of a sediment basin. The anticipated water flows and the type of sediment are two of the main criteria. Based on the calculated design flows and the granular nature of the sediment, it is our belief that the sediment basin should perform satisfactorily. As with any water treatment practice, however, it needs to be maintained accordingly. It is also subject to flushing during periods of heavy runoff.

I hope this addresses your concerns regarding the sediment basin. Please feel free to contact Rob Fitch, the Project Manager, at 518-388-0232 if you have any questions or if you would like any additional information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Angelo Trichilo".

Angelo Trichilo, P.E.
Highway Design Supervisor