

Wetlands

If your property is located within a Wetlands buffer, the applicant is required to give a written statement addressing all 9 criteria listed below.

Ordinance 611 A 2

b. A “significant adverse impact” shall be deemed to exist where it is determined that one (1) or more of the following modifications of a wetland will have an irreversible effect on the ecological integrity of the wetland and its biotic components including, but not limited to, threatened or endangered species of plants or animals. The determination shall consider the cumulative modifications of the wetland due to the development being proposed and any other existing or potential development which may effect the wetland.

- (1) An increase in surface water runoff discharging into a wetland;
- (2) A change in the normal seasonal flow patterns in the wetland;
- (3) An alteration of the water table in the wetland;
- (4) An increase in erosion resulting in increased sedimentation in the wetland;
- (5) A change in the natural chemistry of the ground or surface water in the wetland;
- (6) A loss of wetland habitat;
- (7) A reduction in wetland habitat diversity;
- (8) A change in wetlands species composition; or
- (9) A significant disturbance of areas used by indigenous and migratory wildlife for breeding, nesting, or feeding.

Example

Date

The purpose of this report is to address the nine environmental assessment criteria to justify a wetlands buffer reduction per section 611 A 2 b of the Medford Township Land Development Ordinance. The nine criteria cover the following:

- Surface water runoff
- Normal seasonal flow patterns within the wetland
- Water table alternation
- Soil erosion and sediment control
- The natural chemistry of both the ground and surface waters
- Loss of wetlands habitat
- Wetlands habitat diversity
- Wetlands species composition
- Distribution of areas used by indigenous or migratory wildlife

Here are the reasons that the construction of a deck will not cause a significant adverse impact upon the adjacent wetlands.

- (1) There will be no significant increase in surface water runoff. Water falls through the decking boards just as if there were no deck.
- (2) There will be no change in the normal seasonal flow patterns in the wetland. The deck footings will be above the seasonal high water table, not interrupting the flow patterns.
- (3) There will be no change in the water table in the wetlands. No subsurface drainage or alternation from existing drainage patterns is proposed.
- (4) There will be no increase in erosion resulting in increased sedimentation in the wetland. Actually, the deck may help diminish erosion.
- (5) There will be no change in the natural chemistry of the ground or surface water in the wetland. The natural ground contours will not change – the deck sits on footings, not directly on the ground.
- (6) There will be no loss of wetland habitat. The deck will not adversely affect any species or their ability to utilize the wetlands.
- (7) There will be no reduction in diversity as no habitats will be disturbed.
- (8) The deck will not alter any species living in the area in question.
- (9) No areas used for feeding, breeding, or nesting will be disturbed by the deck.

Sincerely,

John & Jane Doe

Cathy\Forms\Wetlands.doc
Updated: 8/23/2004

Example

Date

The purpose of this report is to address the nine environmental assessment criteria to justify a wetlands buffer reduction per Ordinance section 611 A 2 b of the Medford Township Land Development Ordinance as they relate to:

- (1) Surface water runoff will not be increased in any significant amount. We are adding less than one percent more building cover to the total lot. Water will continue to be absorbed by the land, rather than running into the lake directly.
- (2) The lot remains unchanged in grade and surface. There will be normal seasonal flow patterns.
- (3) There will be no change in the water table. Existing drainage continues.
- (4) There will be no increase in erosion. The planned deck and our plan for improved landscaping may well reduce erosion.
- (5) There will be no change in the chemistry of the ground and surface water. Local natural material and environmentally safe building materials are our materials of choice.
- (6) There will be no loss of wetlands habitat. The improvements are being done on currently cleared land. No wildlife will be affected.
- (7) Diversity of habitat will not change (see #6).
- (8) Species composition remains unchanged (see #6).
- (9) No significant disturbance to wildlife will occur (see #6)

Sincerely,

John Brown