



MEMORANDUM

ENVIRONMENTAL

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To: Dan Shuster, AICP
Shuster Associates

From: George M. Janes, AICP
Environmental Simulation Center

Date: May 5, 2008

RE: Visibility Analysis and LOS Profiles, Deerpark Village

As per your request, the ESC developed visibility analyses and line-of-sight profiles for the Deerpark Village proposal you faxed to this office on April 28th, 2008

Visibility analysis

The fax you sent was digitized to define the project's site boundaries and then superimposed onto USGS quads and elevation data so that the visibility analysis could be performed. A visibility analysis (also known as viewshed mapping) identifies the geographic area within which there is a relatively high probability that some portion of the proposed project would be visible. The accuracy of visibility analysis is dependent of the base data, the number of control points used in the calculations and the accuracy of base assumptions.

Two visibility analyses were performed. The first solely uses existing topography as the key feature effecting visibility to the site. The second visibility analysis accounts for both changing elevation and existing forested areas. The source of forested areas was the Multi Resolution Land Characteristics (MRLC) data set, which is summarized at a 30 meter grid cell resolution. The MRLC data set is produced by the USGS EROS Data Center and was developed from the Thematic Mapper LandSat imagery of 2001. All data for this analysis was downloaded from the USGS website shortly after receiving your fax and reflects the most current data available from this source.

Assumptions that are a part of the analysis include: buildings proposed for the site are 30 feet tall and were placed using existing grades. They are represented by 16 control points placed regularly throughout the site. Forested areas are assumed mature and are represented at a uniform 50 feet. The method assumes that a person in a forested area is able to see out of his or her immediate surroundings. Without this assumption, the site would have virtually no visibility to any other part of the study area, as nearly the entire area is forested. Visibility analysis that includes forested areas should never be considered definitive due to the variable

261 WEST 35TH STREET
SUITE 1408
NEW YORK, NY 10001

T 212.279.1851
F 212.279.5350
www.simcenter.org

MICHAEL KWARTLER, FAIA
President

GEORGE JANES, AICP
Executive Director



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nature of forests and the relatively low resolution of the data that define existing forests.

Areas shown as green on the maps have theoretical visibility to some portion of the project.

Line-of-sight profiles

Line-of-sight profiles are a slice through the trees and ground showing the topography of the area. Three line-of-sight profiles were performed with their locations shown on the key map. Vertical elevation in the profiles was exaggerated by a factor of two to more fully illustrate elevation changes. Natural features and major roads are shown along with the site.

Please let me know if you have any questions or need additional work on this project.