



January 10, 2019

Via Electronic Mail

Re: Liberty Reservoir Woods Roads

Ms. Brennan:

I am in receipt of your letter dated December 17, 2018, in which you raised concerns about the condition of the water quality management area surrounding Liberty Reservoir, and specifically requested: 1) the budget spent on maintaining woods roads in the watershed; and 2) an official list of decommissioned woods roads. Unfortunately, the Baltimore City Department of Public Works ("DPW") does not maintain records that are responsive to your first request. The maintenance of woods roads are incorporated into the general operations budget for the Water Management Division, but the budget is not tracked by activity. The Watershed Management Division, however, does maintain an official list of decommissioned woods roads. Nonetheless, some background is important.

As you may be aware, DPW maintains three raw water reservoirs which, once treated, provide potable water for Baltimore City and portions of the surrounding counties. Loch Raven and Prettyboy reservoirs are located on Gunpowder Falls and Liberty Reservoir is located on the North Branch of the Patapsco River. Baltimore City owns approximately 17,500 acres of land surrounding these three reservoirs, which it preserves as a wooded buffer to protect water quality for the source waters. Consequently, the water quality management areas are not intended for recreational purposes, although some limited recreation is permitted in certain areas. Trespassing is prohibited in restricted areas. Pursuant to the Baltimore City Watershed Regulations, horseback riding is only permitted on the woods roads which are built and maintained by the City of Baltimore. "Shortcutting" to a fire road is specifically prohibited.

In some instances, DPW will discontinue maintenance of a woods road so that trees can regenerate in the area and provide water quality benefits. Recreation is not permitted in these

areas, and any such activity constitutes a trespass. Consequently, DPW will not maintain historical landmarks or other attractions which will promote recreation in restricted areas, as the intent is to maintain the forested buffer for improved water quality.

For the Liberty Reservoir Water Quality Management Area, the following woods roads are no longer maintained:

Name	Reasoning
Murray Road	The woods road was very short and did not link to any other woods road
Content Lane	The woods road was not required for emergency medical services or fire control, and local residents complained each time the woods road was maintained.
Poole, Poudar Area	Woods roads had been maintained for a logging operation which is no longer active. Morgan Run Trail provides an alternative means of recreation.
Glen Falls Road	The woods road is very short and becomes muddy during rain events, thus, contributing to erosion.
Old Oakland Road to Wards Chapel Road	Private roads and bridges are located on both sides of the woods road which prevent access for maintenance equipment.
Cockeys Mill Road to Route 140	Steep hills contribute to erosion issues which prevent access for maintenance and create safety hazards.
Ivy Mill Road	Adequate access is provided by BGE.

Although DPW appreciates your desire to maintain certain woods roads for recreational purposes, it runs counter to DPW's long-term strategy for maintaining its property and the quality of its raw water source. In some instances, this requires DPW to limit recreational opportunities in order to serve its main purpose of providing clean and safe drinking water for its customers.

Respectfully,



Clark Howells
 WATERSHED SECTION MANAGER
 Baltimore City Department of Public Works