

To: Andrew Earley aearley@fairshake-els.org West Virginia E-Filing Notice

CC-19-2024-C-259 Judge: David Hammer

NOTICE OF FILING

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF JEFFERSON COUNTY, WEST VIRGINIA Jefferson County Foundation, Inc. v. Jefferson County Planning Commission CC-19-2024-C-259

The following complaintwas FILED on 12/11/2024 10:14:36 PM

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Tina Renner CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT Jefferson County PO Box 1234 CHARLES TOWN, WV 25414

(304) 728-3231 circuitclerk@jeffersoncountywv.org

COVER SHEET

GENERAL INFORMATION						
	N THE CIRCUIT erson County Fou					
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First Plaintiff:	✓ Business☐ Government	Individual	First Defenda	nt:	Business Government	☐ Individual ✔ Other
Judge:	David Hamme	r				
COMPLAINT INFORMATION						
Case Type: Civil Complaint Type: Extraordinary Writ						
Origin:	✓ Initial Filin	g Appeal fro	om Municipal Court	Appeal fi	om Magistrate Cou	rt
Jury Trial Requested:	Yes VN	o Case will be	e ready for trial by:			
Mediation Requested:	Yes V N	0				
Substantial Hardship Requ	uested: Yes V	0				
Do you or any of your clie	ents or witnesses in thi	s case require specia	al accommodations du	e to a disabi	lity?	
Wheelchair access	ible hearing room and	other facilities				
Interpreter or other	r auxiliary aid for the h	nearing impaired				
Reader or other au	xiliary aid for the visu	ally impaired				
Spokesperson or o	Spokesperson or other auxiliary aid for the speech impaired					
Other:						
I am proceeding without a	in attorney					
✓ I have an attorney: And	rew Earley, 232 CAPI	FOL ST STE 14 , C	HARLESTON, WV 2	5301		

SERVED PARTIES

Name: Jefferson County Planning Commission

Address: PO Box 716, Charles Town WV 25414

Days to Answer: 20

Type of Service: Circuit Clerk - Certified Mail - Including Copy Fee

E-FILED | 12/11/2024 10:14 PM CC-19-2024-C-259 Jefferson County Circuit Clerk Tina Renner

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT JEFFERSON COUNTY, WEST VIRGINIA

STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA EX	: Case No
REL. JEFFERSON COUNTY	:
FOUNDATION, INC.,	: Judge
P.O. Box 460	:
Ranson, WV 25438,	:
	: <u>VERIFIED COMPLAINT</u>
and	:
	: (WITH MOTION FOR
STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA EX	: EMERGENCY TEMPORARY
<i>REL</i> . WILLIAM E. HEWITT,	: RESTRAINING
395 Lake Louise Lane	: ORDER/PRELIMINARY
Middleway, WV 25430,	: INJUNCTION)
Plaintiffs/Relators,	: (JURY DEMAND ENDORSED : HEREIN)
V.	:
	:
JEFFERSON COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION,	:
116 E. Washington Street	:
Charles Town, WV 25414,	:
	:
Defendant/Respondent.	:
SERVE ALSO:	:
<u>SERVEALSO.</u>	•
JEFFERSON COUNTY	•
PROSECUTING ATTORNEY,	•
CIVIL DIVISION	
Attn: Nathan Cochran, Esq.	
124 E. Washington Street, 2 nd Floor	:
Charles Town, WV 25414	
	:
JEFFERSON COUNTY OFFICE OF	:
PLANNING AND ZONING	:
C/o: Jennifer Brockman, Chief	:
County Planner	:
116 E. Washington St	:
Charles Town, WV 25414	:
<i>'</i>	

VERIFIED COMPLAINT

Plaintiffs/Relators Jefferson County Foundation, Inc. and William E. Hewitt (together, "Plaintiffs"), in their private capacities and on behalf of the State of West Virginia, hereby bring this action for a declaratory judgment, injunctive relief, and a writ of mandamus against Defendant/Respondent Jefferson County Planning Commission (the "Commission"). For their complaint against the Commission, Plaintiffs hereby allege and pray as follows.

NATURE OF THE CASE

1. This is an action to prevent the Commission from unlawfully holding a public workshop regarding a proposed Concept Plan for an environmentally harmful groundwater extraction operation, in clear violation of the procedure for such a workshop that is prescribed in Jefferson County, West Virginia Subdivision and Land Development Regulations (the "Subdivision Regulations").

2. As explained more herein, on November 18, 2024, the Commission received an application for a Concept Plan for a water bottling facility that will involve an industrial-grade groundwater extraction operation on 16.28 acres of undeveloped land and waters, commonly known as Lake Louise.

3. As part of the plat approval process, the Commission has a clear duty to hold a public workshop on the Concept Plan at a "regularly scheduled Planning Commission meeting after [a] 45 day review period." Subdivision Regulations, § 24.119.J. The purpose of the 45-day review period, among other things, is to allow citizens and relevant county agencies to provide their feedback on the potential impacts of a Concept Plan on the Plaintiffs and the public.

4. Rather than following this unambiguous process, the Commission has instead scheduled an *ad hoc* special meeting for a public workshop on the Concept Plan on December 17,

2024—just 29 days following the Concept Plan's submission—leaving the County's agencies no time to provide their required input.

5. The Concept Plan process is critically important, because the Commission's subsequent approval of a Site Plan is limited merely for conformance with the Concept Plan and issues raised during that process. *See* Subdivision Regulations § 24.124(B). (noting that denial of a Site Plan is only appropriate if "[t]he plan (plan, final engineering, or final landscaping) is inconsistent with the approved concept plan or conditions of said approval" or if the applicant fails to provide surety)

6. In rushing to hold a premature, end-of-year, special hearing for the public workshop in this case, the Commission is depriving the public, including Plaintiffs, and potentially necessary government agencies of their due process right to be heard on this matter. Plaintiffs therefore seeks this Court's intervention to prevent imminent irreparable harm to their due process rights and those of the general public.

7. Specifically, Plaintiffs seek: 1) a declaration that the Commission cannot lawfully hold a public workshop in violation of the Subdivision Regulations; 2) a temporary restraining order, preliminary injunction, and/or writ of mandamus to prevent the Commission from holding a public workshop in this case until such a time as is permitted under the Subdivision Regulations.¹

THE PARTIES

8. Plaintiff/Relator Jefferson County Foundation, Inc. (the "Foundation") is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization with its principal place of business in Jefferson County, West Virginia. The Foundation's mission is to support and promote effective and accountable

¹ An Emergency Motion for Injunctive Relief is attached as Ex. C and will be filed separately once this Complaint has been processed under the WV E-Filing System.

government, sustainable development, and the protection of health, heritage, and the environment in the Eastern Panhandle of West Virginia. A current priority of the Foundation is to ensure the accountability of all governmental entities that are involved in and responsible for the location, construction, permitting, and operation of the proposed water bottling facility and groundwater extraction operation at issue in this case.

9. Plaintiff/Relator William E. Hewitt ("Mr. Hewitt") is an individual residing at 395 Lake Louise Lane Middleway, WV 25430 (07002200330000), immediately adjacent to the Lake Louise Parcels (defined below). Two active wells sit on Mr. Hewitt's property.

10. Defendant/Respondent Jefferson County Planning Commission is an administrative agency of Jefferson County, West Virginia, with all rights and obligations provided by law.

JURISDICTION AND VENUE

11. This Court has subject matter jurisdiction over the Plaintiffs' request for a declaratory judgment and injunctive relief under West Virginia Code §§ 55-13-1 (Uniform Plaintiffs' request for a writ of mandamus under the longstanding common law of this State. *Glover v. Sims*, 121 W.Va. 407, syllabus at 4 (1939) ("A peremptory writ of mandamus will issue to require the discharge by a public official of a non-discretionary duty.").

12. This Court has personal jurisdiction over the Planning Commission because it is located within and does all its business in the State of West Virginia.

13. Venue is proper in this Court pursuant to West Virginia Code § 56-1-1(a)(1), (a)(2), and (a)(6) because the Commission, the real property at issue, and the seat of the County government are all located in Jefferson County.

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

The Real Property and Proposed Development at Issue

14. Sidewinder Enterprises LLC (the "Applicant") is a California-based entity that owns two tracts of real property Jefferson County:

- Approximately 259.54 acres that was formerly used as a plant for 3M (Jefferson County Parcel Id. No. 07002200090000) (the "Factory Parcel"); and
- b. Approximately 16.28 acres of undeveloped land and waters (Jefferson County Parcel Id. Nos. 07022B00190002, 07002200320000, and 07002200340000) (the "Lake Louise Parcels").

15. Upon information and belief, the Applicant also has an interest, likely in the form of a purchase contract or deed of easement, in 8.31 acres of land that is adjacent to the Lake Louise Parcels and currently being used as a mobile home park (Jefferson County Parcel Id. No. 07002200330009) (the "Mobile Home Parcel").

16. The Factory Parcel is located within the Industrial-Commercial ("IC") District of the Jefferson County Zoning and Land Development Ordinance (the "Zoning Ordinance").

17. The Applicant intends to redevelop the Factory Parcel for use as a water bottling facility, under the project name "Mountain Pure." This land use likely falls under the Zoning Ordinance's definition of "Heavy Industrial," which is a permitted land use in the IC District. And Plaintiffs have no issue, in principle, with the Factory Parcels being redeveloped for this purpose.

18. However, the Applicant's current plan does not merely include filling, packaging, and distributing water bottles. The Applicant also intends to extract groundwater from the Lake Louise Parcels, in order to supply the water with which it will fill said bottles. Groundwater

extraction is not a permitted land use in the R District—or indeed, in *any district*—under the Zoning Ordinance.

19. Because groundwater extraction is not a permitted land use for the Lake Louise Parcels, that land use is prohibited as a matter of law. Thus, the only means by which the Applicant can pursue this aspect of its proposed development is to petition the Jefferson County Board of Commissioners for a text amendment to the Zoning Ordinance. *See* Zoning Ordinance § 1.3(D) ("If a proposed use is not one in the list of the principal permitted or conditional uses in each zoning district, it shall be prohibited as though it was included in the list of prohibitions. Applicants desiring inclusion of a use not specifically permitted in this Ordinance may apply for a text amendment, following the provisions outlined in Article 12 of this Ordinance.").

Potential Adverse Impacts of the Proposed Development

20. The groundwater extraction aspect of the Applicant's proposed operation poses significant environmental dangers to the general public.

21. The combined capacity of two of the groundwater extraction wells the Applicant owns is 7.9 million gallons a day. For context, this is enough water to service all of the dwelling units in Jefferson County (25,185, as of July 1, 2023), plus 1,200 more. If these wells were run for just 2.5 days, they would extract 90,000 tons of water—enough to float a modern battleship in the US Navy. Even if the company runs the wells at the rate given as the desired rate of 1.728 million gallons a day, this is enough water to serve 5,760 homes.

22. Thus, there is a serious risk that industrial-scale groundwater extraction could drastically lower the water table for surrounding properties, restricting the availability of water for local farmers, horseman, and rural residents—including Mr. Hewitt, whose property is directly abutting the Lake Louise Parcels.

23. Additionally, The Lake Louisa Parcels and the surrounding areas are marked by "Karst terrain," which is "generally underlain by limestone or dolomite, in which the topography is formed chiefly by the dissolving of rock and which may be characterized by sinkholes, sinking streams, closed depressions, subterranean drainage, and caves. *See* West Virginia Tax Districts Containing Karst Terrain, WEST VIRGINIA GEOLOGIC AND ECONOMIC SURVEY (accessed Dec. 11, 2024),

https://www.wvgs.wvnet.edu/www/geology/docs/WV_Tax_Districts_Containing_Karst_Terrain.pdf.

24. In layman's terms, the presence of Karst terrain means that the Lake Louise Parcels and surrounding areas likely have underground caverns below ground that are filled with water. The water supports the walls and roofs of these caverns.

25. The drawdown of the water table can be particularly dangerous in Karst terrain. As groundwater is drawn down, support for the underground caverns is removed, and the roof of these large spaces can collapse, potentially creating sinkholes on the surface. These sinkholes are large and can cause a sudden catastrophic collapse, posing an additional risk to surrounding property owners and the public at large—including Mr. Hewitt, whose property is directly abutting the Lake Louise Parcels.

Overview of the Concept Plan Approval Process

26. In order to proceed with its proposed operation, the Application must obtain approval under the County's Subdivision Regulations. *See* Subdivision Regulations § 20.100(B) ("all site development, and all land clearing except for agricultural purposes, within the unincorporated area of the County shall meet the standards of these Regulations").

27. In this case, the Applicant must proceed through the "Major Site Plan Approval Process" process of the Subdivision Regulations, which requires two phases of approval from the Planning Commission: the "Concept Plan," and then the subsequent "Site Plan." *See generally* Subdivision Regulations Figures 24.119(A) and (B).

28. At issue in this case is the first phase of this process—the Applicant's Concept Plan. This phase is critically important, because it informs and limits the scope of review for the later Site Plan. *See* Subdivision Regulations § 24.124(B). (noting that denial of a Site Plan is only appropriate if "[t]he plan (plan, final engineering, or final landscaping) is inconsistent with the approved concept plan or conditions of said approval" or if the applicant fails to provide surety)

29. The Concept Plan phase has three steps: 1) submission and completeness review by County staff; 2) a public workshop at which citizens may provide input; and 3) a direction from the Planning Commission as to how the applicant should prepare its Site Plan. *See generally* Subdivision Regulations §§ 24.119 (completeness review), 24.120 (public workshop), and 24.121 (direction).

30. The sufficiency and completeness review must last a minimum of 45 days. *Id.* at § 24.119. The purpose of this review period is, among other things, to allow applicable government agencies to review a proposed Concept Plan and provide written feedback. *Id.* at § 24.119.7 ("The reviewing agencies shall conduct reviews of the proposed concept plan."). And the 45-day duration of this period is important, because agency feedback must be provided "fourteen (14) days prior to the scheduled public workshop." *Id.*

31. During the first ten (10) days of the completeness review, County staff must determine if a Concept Plan is complete. *Id.* at § 24.119. If the Concept Plan is not complete, it must be returned to the applicant without a public workshop being scheduled.

32. The public workshop must be scheduled for "the first regularly scheduled Planning Commission meeting after the 45 day review period." *Id. See also id.* at 24.119.J ("At the time of submission, the concept plan shall be placed on the 1st regularly scheduled Planning Commission meeting after the 45 day review period for the public workshop. Staff shall advertise the public workshop in a local newspaper of general circulation in the area one time at least twenty-one (21) days in advance of the meeting and send notice by mail to the adjoining property owners at least fourteen (14) days prior to the meeting. The applicant shall post notice on the property at least fourteen (14) days in advance of the meeting.").

33. Following the close of the public workshop, the Commission "shall, during their regular meeting or at a specific public meeting within 14 days, provide direction on the concept plan." *Id.* at § 24.121. The applicant may then submit a Site Plan, which is subsequently reviewed for conformance with the concerns raised in the Concept Plan stage. *See generally id.* at § 24.122.

The Applicant Submits its First Application

34. On or about September 24, 2024, the Commission received an application for a Concept Plan related to the Factory Parcel only (the "First Application").

35. After the 45-day review period required under the Subdivision Regulations, the Commission held a public workshop regarding the First Application on November 12, 2024.

36. Following the close of the public workshop on the First Application, the Commission denied the First Application on the basis that the Lake Louise Parcels had not been included.

The Applicant Submits its Second Application

37. On or about November 15, 2024, before the Applicant had even submitted a new application, County staff arranged for a notice to be printed in a local newspaper, advertising a

public workshop on a Concept Plan for a water bottling facility that would be held on December 17, 2024.

38. On November 18, 2024, the Applicant formally submitted a new application for a Concept Plan that included the Factory Parcel, the Lake Louise Parcels, and the Mobile Home Parcel (the "Second Application").

39. The Second Application is currently available on the County's website. *See* <u>https://www.jeffersoncountywv.org/county-government/departments/engineering-planning-and-zoning/office-of-planning-and-zoning/planning-commission/concept-plans</u> (accessed Dec. 11, 2024). A true and accurate copy of the Second Application is also included as Exhibit A. By the plain terms of the Second Application, the Lake Louise Parcels will supply the water for the bottling facility at the Factory Parcel.

40. The County has styled the Second Application as merely a "Revised Concept Plan." But no process for revising a Concept Plan exists in the Subdivision Regulations. Because the Second Application includes materially new information—including additional real property and land uses—it is a completely new application and must be reviewed as such.

41. December 17, 2024, is indisputably less than 45 days after the submission of the Second Application. Further, the Commission had no regularly scheduled meeting set for this date. Instead, the Commission is holding a "special meeting" to accommodate the desires of the Applicant to push its development through as quickly as possible. Thus, the public workshop on the Second Application clearly has been scheduled in violation of the Subdivision Regulations' requirement that such a hearing be held on "the first regularly scheduled Planning Commission meeting after the 45 day review period." *Id*.

42. Upon information and belief, none of the relevant governmental agencies will be providing any feedback on the Second Application, due to the shortened review period, depriving the public, the Commission, and relevant government agencies of potentially crucial information as to the likely impact of the Second Application on the public health, safety, and general welfare.

43. The Foundation sent a letter to the Commission and its attorney on December 3, 2024, advising the Commission that the December 17, 2024 public workshop is illegal and demanding that the Commission postpone the workshop until a later date. The Foundation has received no response; instead, the Commission simply published a notice of the workshop, noting that the Foundation's letter is "Non-Actionable Correspondence" for which "[t]here is no public comment." A true and accurate copy of this notice is attached hereto as Exhibit B.

<u>COUNT ONE</u> Declaratory Judgment

44. Plaintiffs incorporate the foregoing paragraphs of this Verified Complaint as if fully restated in this paragraph.

45. The Commission's action to schedule a public workshop on the Second Application for December 17, 2024, is in clear violation of the established procedure for such a workshop under the Subdivision Regulations.

46. If the Commission proceeds with holding said illegal workshop, the public at large, and specifically Plaintiffs, will be irreparably harmed. Specifically, the Commission will be violating the due process rights of the public, and Plaintiffs, to be heard on the Second Application.

47. In the words of our state's high court, "[p]rocedural due process requires the 'opportunity to be heard at a meaningful time and in a meaningful manner.' *Donadieu v. Morgan Cty. Planning Comm'n*, Case No. 15-1058, 2016 W.Va. LEXIS 726, *16 (W. Va. 2016), quoting *Mathews v. Eldridge*, 424 U.S. 319, 333 (1976).

48. In order for the public to have a meaningful opportunity to be heard on the Second Application, they must be informed. Citizens of this County reasonably rely on their public agencies to be a first line of defense against harmful development by identifying, for example, potential environmental impacts from a drawdown of the water table in Karst terrain.

49. Without any idea as to whether the relevant agencies have concerns about this particular development, the public will be forced to fend for themselves and rely on public records requests and independent research in order to discover the true impact of the Concept Plan. 50. The Foundation itself has several outstanding public records requests, which likely will not be returned in time to prepare for the December 17, 2024 public workshop.

51. Plaintiffs therefore request that the Court declare that the currently-scheduled public workshop is illegal.

52. To effectuate the Court's declaration of the law, Plaintiffs request preliminary and permanent injunctive relief to prevent the Commission from proceeding on this illegal path and causing imminent irreparable harm.

53. Plaintiffs request that a hearing on a preliminary injunction be scheduled as soon as is practicable. Notice of this request will be provided to the Commission, by and through its attorney. However, in the event that the Commission's attorney cannot be available for such a hearing, Plaintiffs request that the Court issue an *ex parte* temporary restraining order to prevent the December 17, 2024 public workshop from going forward. *Camden-Clark Memorial Hosp.*, 212 W. Va. 752, 757 (2002).

<u>COUNT TWO</u> Writ of Mandamus

54. Plaintiffs incorporate the foregoing paragraphs of this Verified Complaint as if fully restated in this paragraph.

55. The public at large, including Plaintiffs, have a clear legal right to be heard at a public workshop on the Second Application, at a regularly scheduled meeting, no earlier than 45 days following the Second Application's submission.

56. Holding a public workshop at a regularly scheduled meeting, no earlier than 45 days following a Concept Plan's submission, is a mandatory and non-discretionary duty of the Commission. *See* Subdivision Regulations § 24.119 ("At the time of submission, Concept Plan **shall** be placed on the first regularly scheduled Planning Commission meeting after the 45 day review period for the public workshop.) (emphasis added). *See also State ex rel. Justice v. King*, 244 W.Va. 225, 233 (2020) ("'It is well established that the word 'shall,' in the absence of language in the statute showing a contrary intent on the part of the Legislature, should be afforded a mandatory connotation.' *Syl. pt. 1, Nelson v. W. Va. Pub. Employees Ins. Bd.*, 171 W. Va. 445, 300 S.E.2d 86 (1982). *Accord Syl. pt. 1, Underwood v. Cty. Comm'n of Kanawha Cty.*, 176 W. Va. 740, 349 S.E.2d 443 (1986).").

57. Plaintiffs have no adequate remedy at law or through the administrative process to compel the Commission to comply with the terms of the Subdivision Regulations, with respect to a public workshop on a Concept Plan.

58. Thus, the Court should issue a peremptory writ of mandamus commanding the Commission to postpone the public workshop until such a time as would comply with the Subdivision Regulations.

PRAYER FOR RELIEF

WHEREFORE, Plaintiffs pray that the Court render judgment against the Commission and grant relief as follows:

1. Hold a jury trial on all issues so triable;

2. Declare that the public workshop currently scheduled for December 17, 2024, is illegal, and that any future public workshop in this case must be scheduled for a regular meeting of the Commission at least 45 days after the submission of the Concept Plan;

3. Issue a temporary restraining order and/or preliminary injunction to prevent the Commission from illegally holding a public workshop on December 17, 2024;

4. Issue a peremptory writ of mandamus commanding the Commission to postpone the public workshop until such a time that complies with the Subdivision Regulations;

5. Award such reasonable costs, expenses, expert fees, and attorney fees that Plaintiffs will incur in litigating this matter, to the extent provided by law; and

6. Grant such additional relief, legal or equitable, to which Plaintiffs may be entitled and this Court deems proper.

Respectfully submitted,

<u>/s/ Andrew C. Earley</u> Andrew C. Earley (WV State Bar No. 14055) FAIR SHAKE ENVIRONMENTAL LEGAL SERVICES 232 Capitol Street, Suite 14 Charleston, WV 25301 304-712-9352

J.P. Burleigh (*Pro Hac Vice* Pending) SUDER, LLC 1502 Vine Street, Fourth Floor Cincinnati, Ohio 45202 (513) 694-7500 jp@ssuder.com

Counsel for Plaintiffs/Relators Jefferson County Foundation, Inc. and William E. Hewitt

CERTITICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that I have instructed the Jefferson County Clerk of Courts to issue the summons and a copy of the foregoing Verified Complaint to Defendant/Respondent Jefferson County Planning Commission via certified mail this 11th day of December 2024, pursuant to Civ.R. 4(c)(3)(B).

Respectfully submitted,

<u>/s/ Andrew C. Earley</u> Andrew C. Earley (WV State Bar No. 14055)

Counsel for Plaintiffs/Relators Jefferson County Foundation, Inc. and William E. Hewitt

VERIFICATION

)

STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA) SS: COUNTY OF Jefferson

I, Dr. Christine Wimer, being duly cautioned and sworn, hereby state that I am the President of Jefferson County Foundation, Inc. I hereby verify that I have read the foregoing Verified Complaint and that the facts alleged therein are true and accurate to the best of my information, belief, and knowledge.

& Winer

Dr. Christine Wimer

Sworn to and subscribed before me, a Notary Public in and for said County and State, this <u>11</u> th day of <u>December</u> 2024.

OFFICIAL SEAL Carlise Campbell Notary Public State of West Virginia Commission Expires May 03, 2025 630 N MILDRED ST ANGON WWV25

[Stamp above]

Notary Public 2025 My Commission Expires:

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EXHIBIT A

Second Application



Ms. Brockman,

The following summary is in response to the question posed by staff;

Please provide a narrative/cover/letter that describes the whole project and how this plan is more complete than the previous submittal that the PC deemed as incomplete.

At the concept review meeting on November 12, 2024, the Planning Commission made the finding that the plan was incomplete because it did not include the parcel with the existing/permitted supply well. There were no other findings related to the concept plan that were included in the motion by the planning commission.

To address the Planning Commission findings, the following parcels have been added to the concept plan:

- 1. Parcel 34 this parcel is the location of the supply well. The parcel is owned by the applicant.
- Parcel 33.9 this parcel is used to access the well as well as a future water supply line that will be a portion of the water system proposed to convey water to the bottling plant. Wells A and C are located on this parcel. The parcel is owned by the applicant.

In addition the applicant has provided the following:

- 1. A plan showing the location of the water line from the supply well to the bottling plant.
- 2. A plan showing the location of the plume, groundwater monitoring well locations and the areas with non-hazardous material that required WVDEP oversight during grading. The ground watering wells will be the locations
- 3. Revised conditions have been added to the concept plan to address community concerns related to well monitoring, traffic, water withdrawal rate and ground water sampling.
- 4. Narratives related to the well testing and plume.

In addition to the above information the following is being provided in this letter.

- 1. Updated Project Narrative
- 2. Well Summary
- 3. Plume Summary

Project Narrative

Mountain Pure, LLC (Mountain Pure) aims to develop a 13-acre bottling facility in Middleway, WV. Mountain Pure shall work closely with an end user, a third-party distributor of packaged water and other beverages, to provide reliable, clean spring water. The project is projected to create construction and long-term local jobs, generate tax revenue, and enhance economic prosperity for local business in and around Jefferson County, WV, and the Appalachian region. Mountain Pure is seeking approval for construction of this modern, state-of-the-art water

packaging facility. As such, the plant is proposed to include packaging lines, and a large capacity water storage tank and other water storage facilities.

The project was created for the purpose of packaging clean and reliable water.

Mountain Pure shall invest heavily in the Jefferson County community and West Virginia as a good corporate citizen, commercial taxpayer, and neighbor. Jefferson County stands to generate millions in tax revenues to support county services for citizens. The proposed project will be among the highest annual tax-paying companies in Jefferson County.

PROTECT OUR LOCAL ENVIRONMENT - Water utilized shall be tested regularly for to maintain standards and compliance with both state and federal requirements for bottled water. This is a top priority.

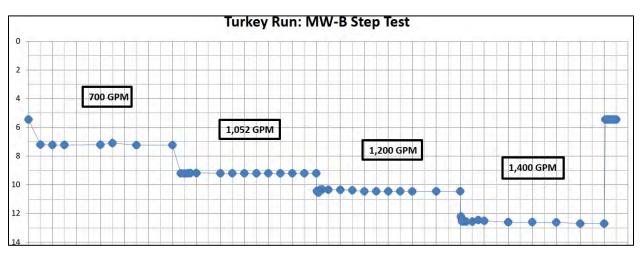
UTILIZE STATE-OF-THE-ART TECHNOLOGY, FOCUSING ON SUSTAINABILITY, CUSTOMIZATION, AND EFFICIENCY - The company shall deploy advanced technologies to measure, manage, distribute, and maintain water supply while reducing emissions and protecting against any local water depletion.

PROVIDE GOOD JOBS AND LOCAL ECONOMIC IMPACT - Through the creation of hundreds of local well-paying jobs, Mountain Pure shall invest heavily in the Jefferson County community and West Virginia as a good corporate citizen, commercial taxpayer, and neighbor. Jefferson County stands to generate millions in tax revenues to support county services for citizens. The proposed project will be among the highest annual tax-paying companies in Jefferson County.

SITE HISTORY - The site was originally occupied in the 1980's by Berkeley Woolen Company and used for textile manufacturing before it was acquired by The 3M Company. 3M converted it into a photographic equipment and supply facility. After the change of ownership in 1996 and 2004, the facility continued to be used for printing plate manufacturing until 2006. Since 2006 the facility has been vacant, but the ownership changed again in 2015 when Commercial Liabilities Partners WV, LLC purchased the site from Kodak and in 2019 when Shenandoah Extraction and Processing, LLC acquired the property. Finally in 2021, Sidewinder Enterprises, LLC purchased the site from Shenandoah Extraction and Processing, LLC, as the concept for Mountain Pure was born.

Well Summary

- 1. The three wells have been drilled.
 - a. MW-A was used as a monitoring well during the pump test.
 - b. MW-B is the supply well for the bottling plant.
 - c. MW-C was drilled after the pumping test and is intended to be used as a backup well to MW-B.
 - d. All wells were drilled to approximately 225'.
- 2. Well permitting was completed through the Jefferson County Health Department and the WV Office of Environmental Health Services.
- **3.** Well MW-B is the supply well and is permitted for use by the West Virginia Office of Environmental Health Services.
 - a. Well is permitted for 1,000gpm.
 - b. The pump elevation is 70' below ground level. This is 10' higher than the pump elevation during the pumping test.
- **4.** The water level for well MW-B was 5.49' below the surface.
- **5.** The uppermost major water bearing zone was found at 87'. Two additional major water bearing zones are located at 118' and 176'
- **6.** For the pumping test, the pump was placed at 80' below the surface.
- 7. A stepped draw down test was conducted at 700, 1052, 1200, 1400 gallons per minute, with each step being pumped for 2 hours. Each step resulted in an initial change in the water level, the water level then stabilized. The water level dropped 7'+/- during the 1,400gpm step test to an elevation of 12.5' below the ground level. The number on the left indicates the depth of the water below the surface. The water level recovered fully upon completion of the test.



8. Based on the results of the step test the decision was made to pump water at 1,200gpm for the constant rate pumping test. The test ran for 124.5 hours or almost 5 days. The following table summarizes the pumping test data. Table 1: Summary of Well and Pumping Test Data

Well ID	Well Type	Approximate Latitude**	Approximate Longitude**	Total Well Depth	Casing Depth	Static Depth to Water	Depth to Potential Water- Bearing Fractures	Approximate Distance from Pumping Well MW-B (ft)	Pumping Test Rate (gpm)	Max. Change in Water Level During Aquifer Test (ft)
				(ft bgs)	(ft bgs)	(ft bgs)*	(ft bgs)			MW-B (124.5-hr)
MW-B	Pumping (Proposed Production)	39.300675°	77.968529°	225	78	5.49	87-88, 118-119, and 173- 187	0	1,200	5.35
MW-A	Observation	39.300922°	77.968996°	255	121	5.75	141-150, 155-156, 163-165, and 167- 169	160' West	N/A	0.57
PW-1	Observation	39.304666°	77.966652°	Unknown	Unknown	18.8	Unknown	1,550' Northeast	N/A	2.06<
Spring	Observation	39.300120°	- 77.969513°	Unknown	N/A	4.2	N/A	350 Southwest	N/A	0.11>

9. The hydrological study modeled the impact to groundwater levels at 1 year, 6 years, 12 years and 30 years.

	Pumping Test		_	10	
	April, 2022	1 year	6 year	12 year	30 year
Surface Elevation	518.00	518.00	518.00	518.00	518.00
Existing Groundwater Elevation	512.51	512.51	512.51	512.51	512.51
Pump Elevation (70' below					
surface)	448.00	448.00	448.00	448.00	448.00
Change in Water Level (at well)	-5.35	-11.1	-11.25	-11.3	-11.35
Depth to Groundwater (at well)	10.84	16.59	16.74	16.79	16.84
Groundwater Elevation with					
Pumping	507.16				
Estimated Groundwater Elevation					
with Pumping		501.41	501.26	501.21	501.16

10. The ground water level (with pumping) remains high at the supply well when compared to the surface elevations within Middleway. The chart shows elevations documented during the pump test and projected elevations. After 30 years of pumping the water elevation at the supply well remains above the ground elevation of Middleway.

			Water Level at supply well in feet above or below the surface elevation				
	Surface	Distance					
Location	Elevation (ft)	(ft)	April, 2022	1 year	6 year	12 year	30 year
Queen Street/Old Middleway Road	501	4,200	6.16	0.41	0.26	0.21	0.16
Queen Street/Grace Street	498	4,100	9.16	3.41	3.26	3.21	3.16
Route 51/Leetown Road	501	4,900	6.16	0.41	0.26	0.21	0.16
Middleway Pike/Old Middleway Road	565	1,700	-57.84	-63.6	-63.7	-63.79	-63.84

- **11.** The hydrological study included the monitoring of Turkey Run at Queen Street in Middleway. The monitoring was conducted to ensure that recycling of water from Lake Louise to Well B was not occurring. The flow in Turkey Run increased by 1,156 GPM, indicating that the water from the pumping test was not being recycled.
- 12. The hydrological study included assessment of offsite impacts, 5,000' from well MW-B
 - a. After 1 year of pumping during drought conditions the estimated change in the water level is 4'+/-.
 - b. After 30 years of pumping (1,200gpm) the estimated change in the water level is 3'+/-.
- **13.** Per the County-Wide Groundwater Assessment commissioned by the Jefferson County Commission in 2012 the average well depth in the Western Unit (including Middleway) was 281'.

3M Plant Plume

The 3M Plant participated in a Voluntary Remediation Program, overseen by the WV Department of Environmental Protection. A certificate of completion was issued on June15th, 2018. The certificate of completion imposed specific conditions on the development of the site, including the following:

- 1. No wells are to be drilled within the limits of the plume or within 300' of well MW114D.
- 2. Grading within the limits of the plume or within 300' of well MW114D would require engineering control overseen by the WVDEP.

The chemicals which constitute the plume are dichloroethene and trichloroethene. As part of the VRP program 26 monitoring locations were set up to test water. The water monitoring exhibit is attached, the following is a summary.

Dichloroethene

- In 2015 there were 6 locations where dichloroethene was found above the reporting limit, 1 of these locations was over the WVDEP de minimis limits.
- In 2018 there were 5 locations where dichloroethene was found above the reporting limit, 4 of these locations were over the WVDEP de minimis limits.
- In 2018 there was 1 testing location where dichloroethene was not present above the reporting limits where it had previously been above the limits.
- The 1 location where dichloroethene was found above the de minimis levels tested 63% lower over the 3 year period. The data gathered from the well monitoring program indicated that the dichloroethene within the plume is breaking down.

Trichloroethene

- In 2015 there were 13 locations where Trichloroethene was found above the reporting limit, 10 of these locations were over the WVDEP de minimis limits.
- In 2018 there were 10 locations where trichloroethene was found above the reporting limit, 7 of these locations were over the WVDEP de minimis limits.
- In 2018 there were 3 testing locations where Trichloroethene was not present above the reporting limits where it had previously been above the limits.
- All locations where trichloroethene was found above the de minimis levels tested at least 32% lower over the 3 year period. The data gathered from the well monitoring program indicated that the trichloroethene within the plume is breaking down.

BOUNDARY/RIGHT-OF-WAY LINE
ADJACENT BOUNDARY LINE
CONCRETE MONUMENT/IRON REBAR
EASEMENT LINE
ROAD CENTERLINE
HEADER CURB
CURB & GUTTER
EDGE OF PAVEMENT EDGE OF CONCRETE
EDGE OF GRAVEL
SIDEWALK
GUARDRAIL
BOARD FENCE
CHAIN LINK FENCE
WIRE FENCE
TO EMAIN BUILDINGS
RETAINING WALL MISCELLANEOUS SIGNS
MISCELLANEOUS SIGNS
SITE LIGHT WITH POLE
BUILDING MOUNTED LIGHT
UTILITY POLE
UTILITY POLE GUY WIRE
OVERHEAD UTILITY LINE
UNDERGROUND UTILITY LINE
UNDERGROUND COMMUNICATIONS L
UNDERGROUND GAS LINE
SANITARY SEWER MAIN
SANITARY SEWER FORCE MAIN
SANITARY SEWER MANHOLE
SANITARY SEWER CLEAN-OUT
STORM SEWER LINE
STORM SEWER MANHOLE
STORM SEWER DROP INLET
STORM SEWER CURB INLET
STORM SEWER RIP-RAP
STORM SEWER END SECTION
WATER MAIN
FIRE HYDRANT
WATER VALVE
SPOT ELEVATIONS
LIMITS OF CONSTRUCTION
SOIL BOUNDARY
STORM SEWER CURB INLET STORM SEWER RIP-RAP STORM SEWER END SECTION WATER MAIN FIRE HYDRANT WATER VALVE WATER METER MONITORING WELL INDEX CONTOUR LINE SPOT ELEVATIONS TREES/SHRUBS DRIP LINE OF TREES LIMITS OF CONSTRUCTION

JEFFERSON COUNTY - COMPLETE LIST OF WAIVERS/VARIANCES (TABLE 1.2-2)					
ORDINANCE	SECTION OF ORDINANCE	DESCRIPTION OF WAIVER OR VARIANCE	DATE GRANTED		
SUBDIVISION	20.201C & 20.202	TO ALLOW A NON-RESIDENTIAL SUBDIVISION TO PROCESS AS A MINOR SUBDIVISION	08/08/2023		

SERVE LETTER HAS BEEN OBTAINED AND PROVIDED TO COUNTY STAFF. LETTER HAS BEEN OBTAINED AND PROVIDED TO COUNTY STAFF.

CONCEPT PLAN CONDITIONS

1. PRIOR TO THE START OF PLANT OPERATIONS THE INTERSECTION OF LEETOWN ROAD AND ROUTE 51 WILL BE IMPROVED. IT IS CURRENTLY ANTICIPATED THAT THIS IMPROVEMENT WILL BE A TRAFFIC CIRCLE. THE FORM OF THE FINAL IMPROVEMENT IS AT THE DISCRETION OF WVDOH.

- ROAD
- 3. THE OWNER WILL MEET WITH MIDDLEWAY RESIDENTS TO DISCUSS TRAFFIC IMPACT TO HISTORICAL STRUCTURES AND TRAFFIC CALMING PRIOR TO THE SUBMISSION OF THE SITE PLAN.
- PERMITS A 1,000GPM WELL.
- SITE PLAN

CONCEPT PLAN MOUNTAIN PURE MAJOR SITE PLAN

JEFFERSON COUNTY FILE NUMBER: 24-6-SP DLEWAY TAX DISTRICT JEFFERSON COUNTY, WEST VIRGINIA TAX MAP 22, PARCEL 9; D.B. 1256, PG. 360 TAX MAP 22 PARCEL 33.9; D.B. 1271 PG. 212 TAX MAP 22 PARCEL 34; D.B. 1256 PG. 360

OWNER / APPLICANT: SIDEWINDER ENTERPRISES, LLC & **RLMHP LLC & PHOTOGLOU LIVING TRUST** ON KARMAN AVENUE, SUITE 380 NEWPORT BEACH, CA 92660 (949)-697-9993

- INDUSTRIAL - HEAVY MANUFACTURING AND DISTRIBUTION

(ISTING WELL, PERMIT #21,258 WILL SUPPLY WATER TO THE

VIEW CHECKLIST NOTES:

TION MAP FOR ZONING DISTRICTS WITHIN 500' OF THE SUBJECT PROPERTY.

THE LAYOUT OF LOTS, PARKING AREAS, RECREATION AREAS, ROADS, AND BUILDING AREAS. DING AREAS IS 1,000,000 SF TOTAL. RINTS MAY BE MODIFIED ON SITE PLAN, BUT WILL NOT EXCEED 1,000,000 SF.

STRIAL/COMMERCIAL ZONING DISTRICT

MAP - SEE SHEET 2 AND 3

OVIDED ON SITE RESOURCE MAPS RES SHOWN ON SITE RESOURCE MAPS

ION PER SECTION 22.50 - THE SLOPE WITHIN THE HILLSIDE SETBACK IS MEAN 10.9%. WN ON SITE RESOURCE MAP, FEMA MAP 54037C0115E IDENTIFIES ZONE A, AE AND FLOODWAY AE ON THE ERTY USES ARE ON SHEET 2 AND 3

ZONING - THE BOTTLING PLANT IS A PERMITTED USE IN THE ZONE, USE INCLUDES HEAVY MANUFACTURING

ITED IN ALL ZONES IN JEFFERSON COUNTY AND ARE NOT SUBJECT TO TABLE APPENDIX C. WELL ON RMITTED THROUGH WV DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SERVICES ... AN IS FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF TWO BOTTLING FACILITIES, PHASE 1 (304,000SF) AND PHASE 2 (696,000 SF) 200SF. THE WELL ON PARCEL 34 IS EXISTING, THE CONCEPT PLAN SHOWS THE CONNECTION BETWEEN THE TIES AND THE WELL INCLUDING A WATER LINE ON PARCEL 33.9. AN INCLUDES THE PROPOSED BUILDINGS, PARKING, SWM FACILITIES AND OTHER IMPROVEMENTS

FFERSON COUNTY REGULATIONS. ARTICIPATED IN THE WV VRP PROGRAM, SEE SHEET 5 FOR DETAILS.

1 - 62 STANDARD SPACES, 94 TRAILER SPACES 2 - 101 STANDARD SPACES, 312 TRAILER SPACE

- 163 STANDARD SPACES, 406 TRAILER SPACES MAY BE ADJUSTED WITH SITE PLAN, BUT WILL MEET ALL JEFFERSON COUNTY MINIMUM STANDARDS.

AD (CO. RT. 1/9):/ WVDOH ROUTE ID - 1940001090000 / AVERAGE DAILY TRIPS - 29 CO. RT. 1/8) / WVDOH ROUTE ID - 1940001080000 / AVERAGE DAILY TRIPS - 812 (CO. RT, 1):/ WVDOH ROUTE ID - 1940001000000 /AVERAGE DAILY TRIPS - 3,055 VVDOT DIVISION OF HIGHWAYS. PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT DIVISION, TRAFFIC MONITORING UNIT DATA

N FOR PARCEL 9 IS BASED ON TRAFFIC IMPACT STUDY SUBMITTED TO WVDOT. PARCELS 34/33.9 IS ASSUMED D MORE THAN 2 TRIPS PER DAY TO MONITOR THE WELL AND NONE IN THE PEAK HOUR. - 610 EMPLOYEE TRIPS, 160 TRUCK TRIPS

Y INTERSECTION AS DEFINED IN THE CONCEPT PLAN CHECKLIST IS THE INTERSECTION OF LEETOWN ROAD LEWAY PIKE (WV RT 51).

EM AREA #36 WITHIN 1 MILE OF PARCEL 9, IT IS 1,300' FROM PARCEL 33.9 AND 34. CTION 24.119.B.6. OF THE SUBDIVISION REGULATIONS, THE DEVELOPER HAS AN APPROVED TIS FROM

S: LETTERS WILL BE SENT TO THE REQUIRED REVIEW AGENCIES AS REQUIRED BY THE CONCEPT PLAN IST. A COPY OF THE LETTERS WILL BE PROVIDED TO COUNTY STAFF. ING PROPERTIES AND OWNERS ADDRESS' ARE INCLUDED AS PART OF THIS SUBMISSION. PROPERTY N IS PROVIDED PURSUANT TO JEFFERSON COUNTY ASSESSOR'S RECORDS SEE TABLE LOCATED ON SHEET IT PROPERTY OWNER INFORMATION.

HAS BEEN SENT REQUESTING THE IDENTIFICATION OF ANY ISSUES, DATA REQUIREMENTS OR NOTICE THAT

N 24.119.B.6 OF THE SUBDIVISION REGULATION, THE DEVELOPER WILL PROVIDE A TRAFFIC IMPACT STUDY IN

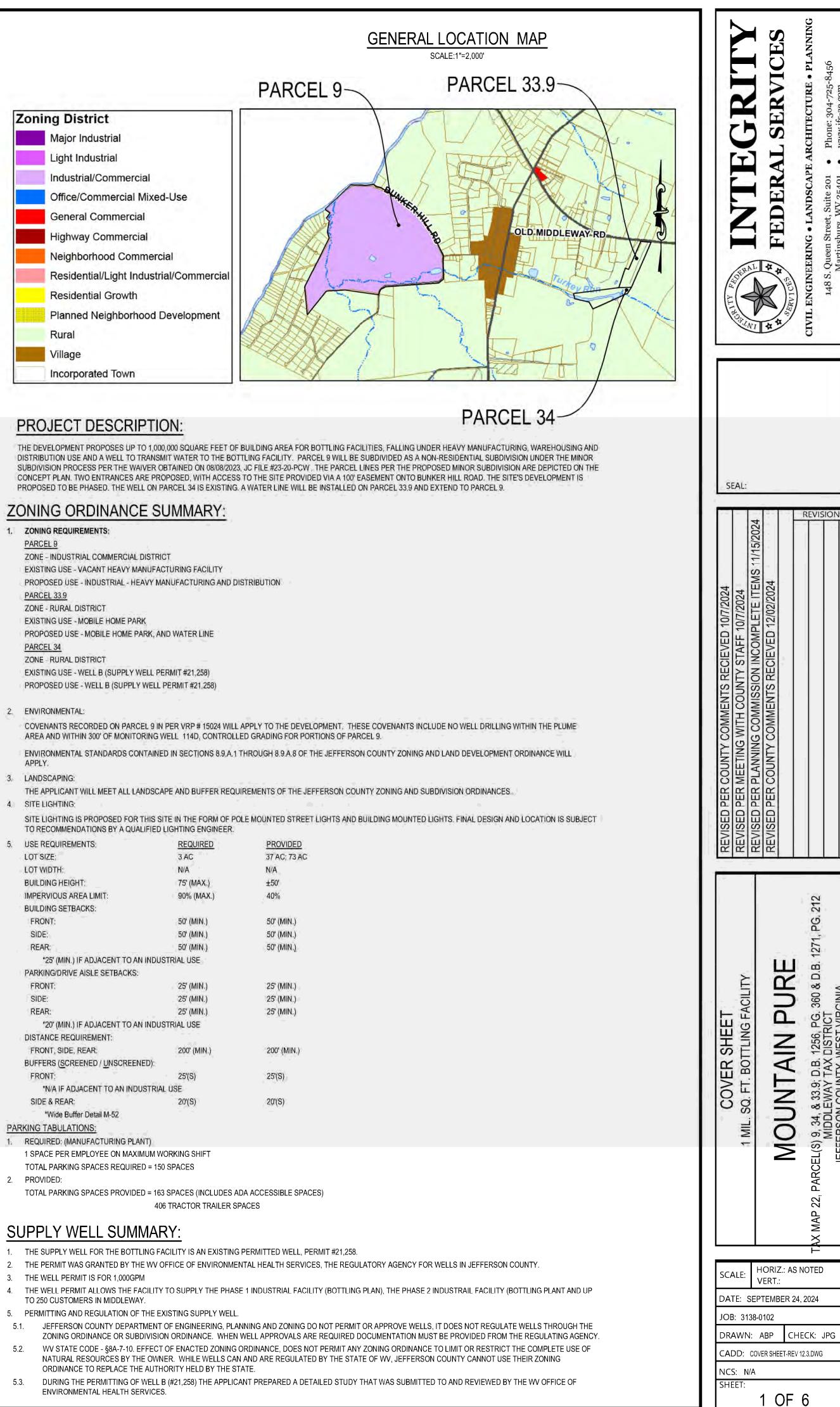
G. DOMESTIC WATER SERVICE WILL BE PROVIDED BY BERKELEY COUNTY PUBLIC SERVICE WATER DISTRICT (BCPWSD). AN INTENT TO SEWER SERVICE WILL BE PROVIDED BY BERKELEY COUNTY PUBLIC SERVICE SEWER DISTRICT (BCPSSD). AN INTENT TO SERVE

THE APPLICANT WILL SUBMIT A WELL MONITORING PLAN WITH THE SITE PLAN. THE PLAN WILL INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING: 2.1. PROPERTY OWNERS WITHIN 1/2 MILE OF THE SUPPLY WELL MAY REQUEST WELL MONITORING 2.2. PROPERTY OWNERS AT THE FOLLOWING LOCATIONS MAY REQUEST WELL MONITORING

2.2.1. QUEEN STREET - FROM SOUTH STREET TO ROUTE 1/16, GRACE STREET, WEST STREET, EAST STREET, OLD MIDDLEWAY

4. WATER WITHDRAWAL TO BE IN CONFORMANCE WITH WV OFFICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SERVICES PERMIT #21,258 WHICH

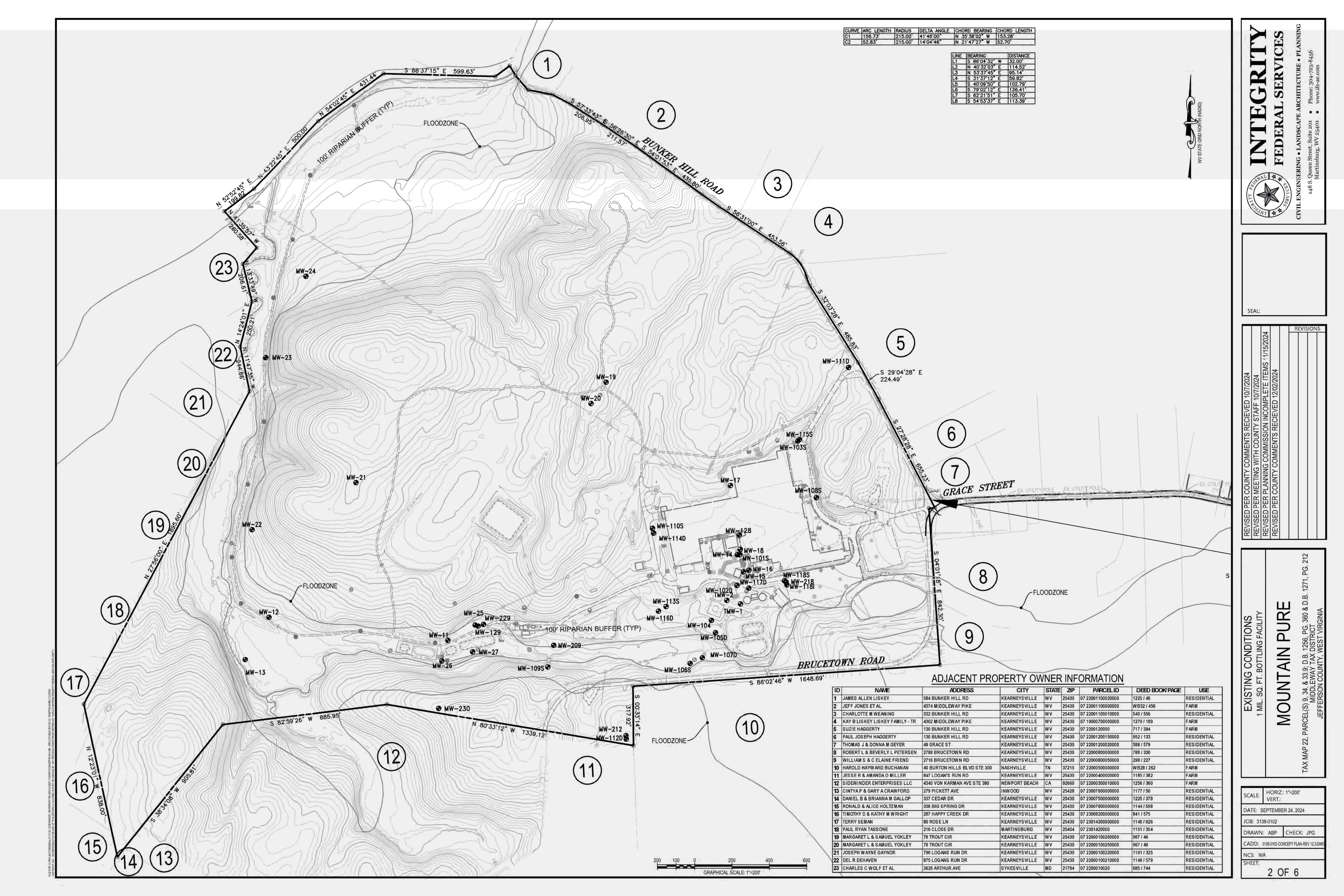
APPLICANT WILL CONDUCT GROUND WATER SAMPLING ON PARCEL 9 AFTER PLANT IS OPERATIONAL. WATER SAMPLES WILL BE TAKEN FROM THE MONITORING WELLS CONSTRUCTED DURING THE VRP TESTING. WELL LOCATIONS SHALL BE SUBMITTED WITH THE

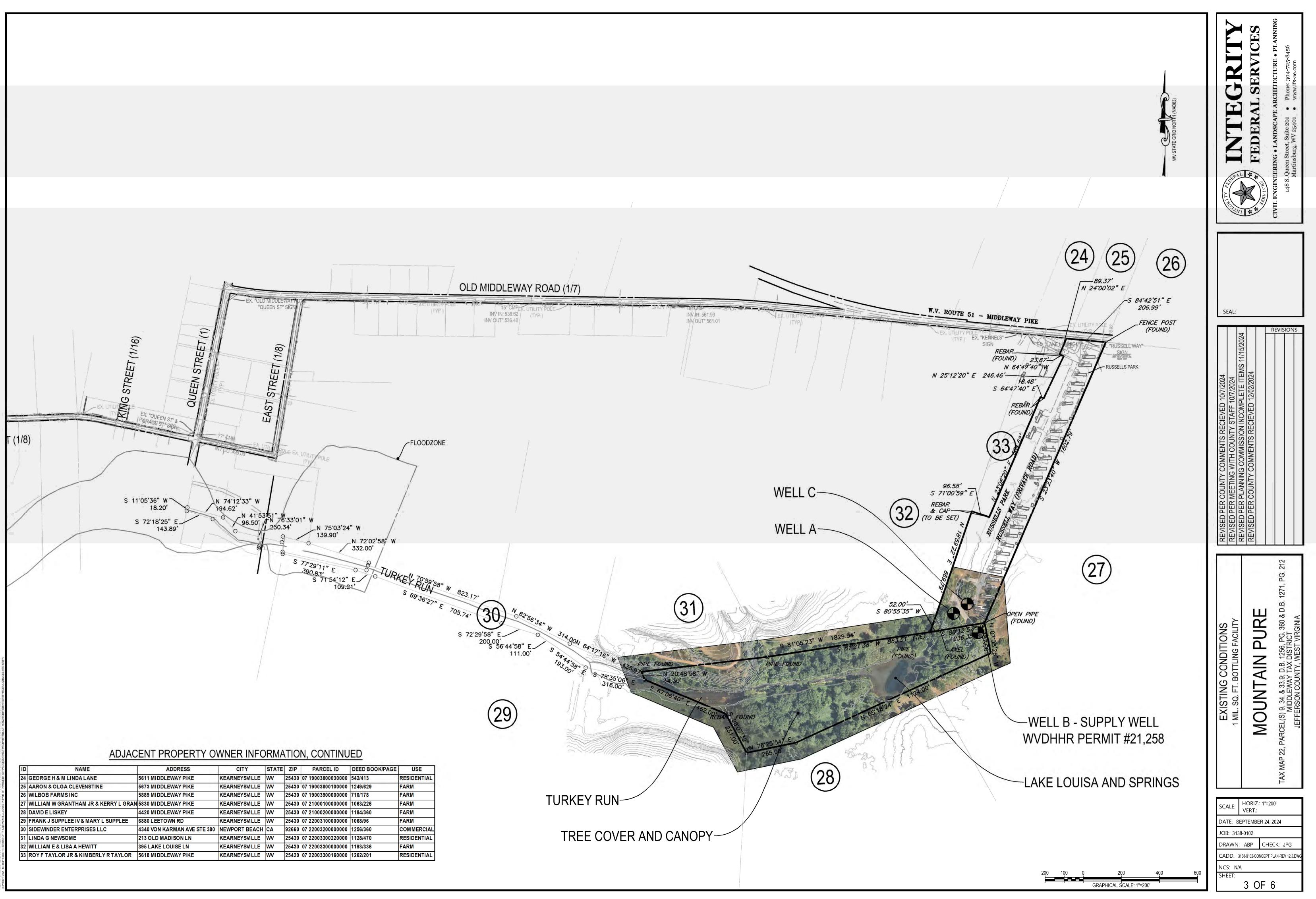


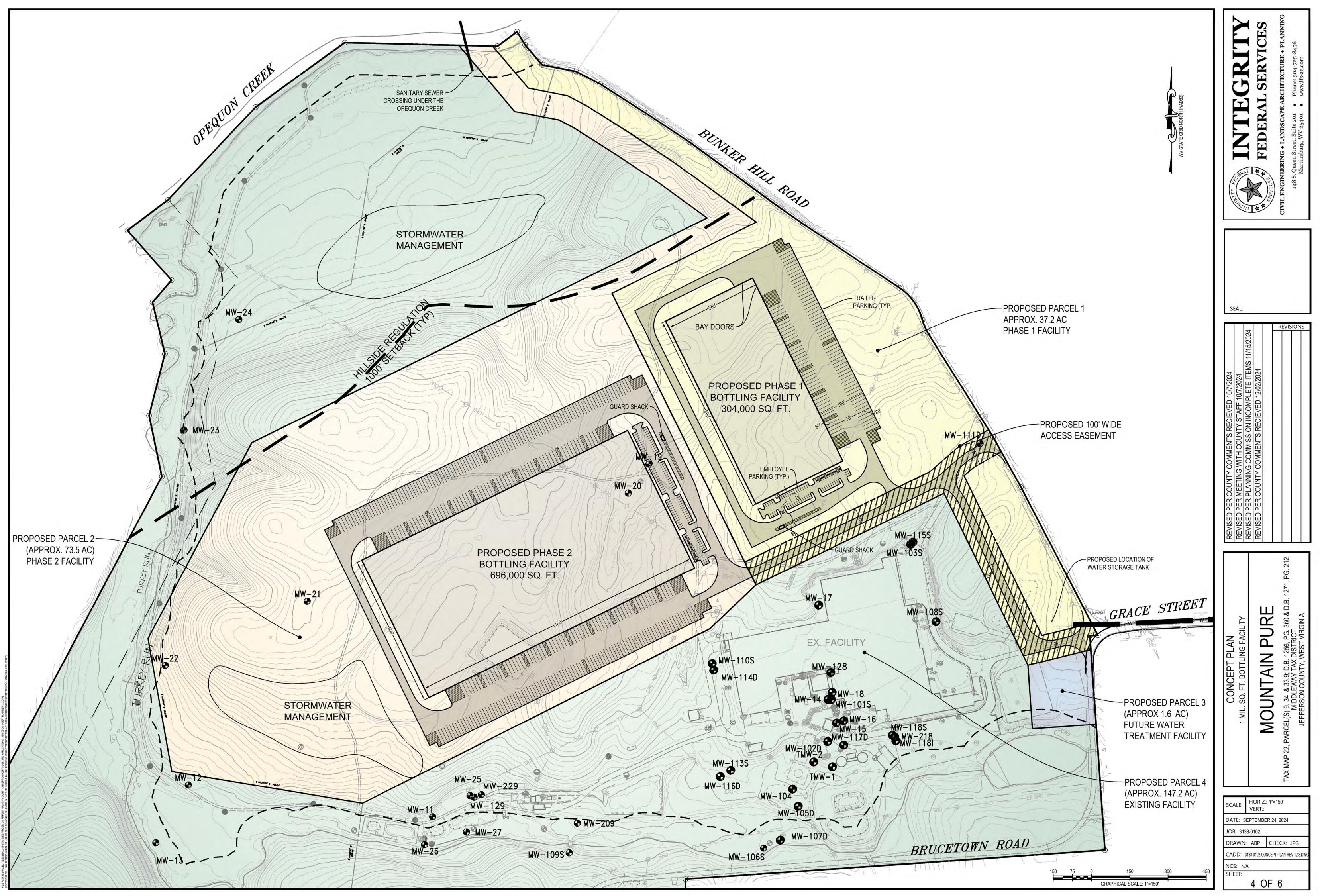
2. ENVIRONMENTAL 3. LANDSCAPING: 4. SITE LIGHTING: 5. USE REQUIREMENTS: PARKING TABULATIONS: 1. REQUIRED: (MANUFACTURING PLANT)

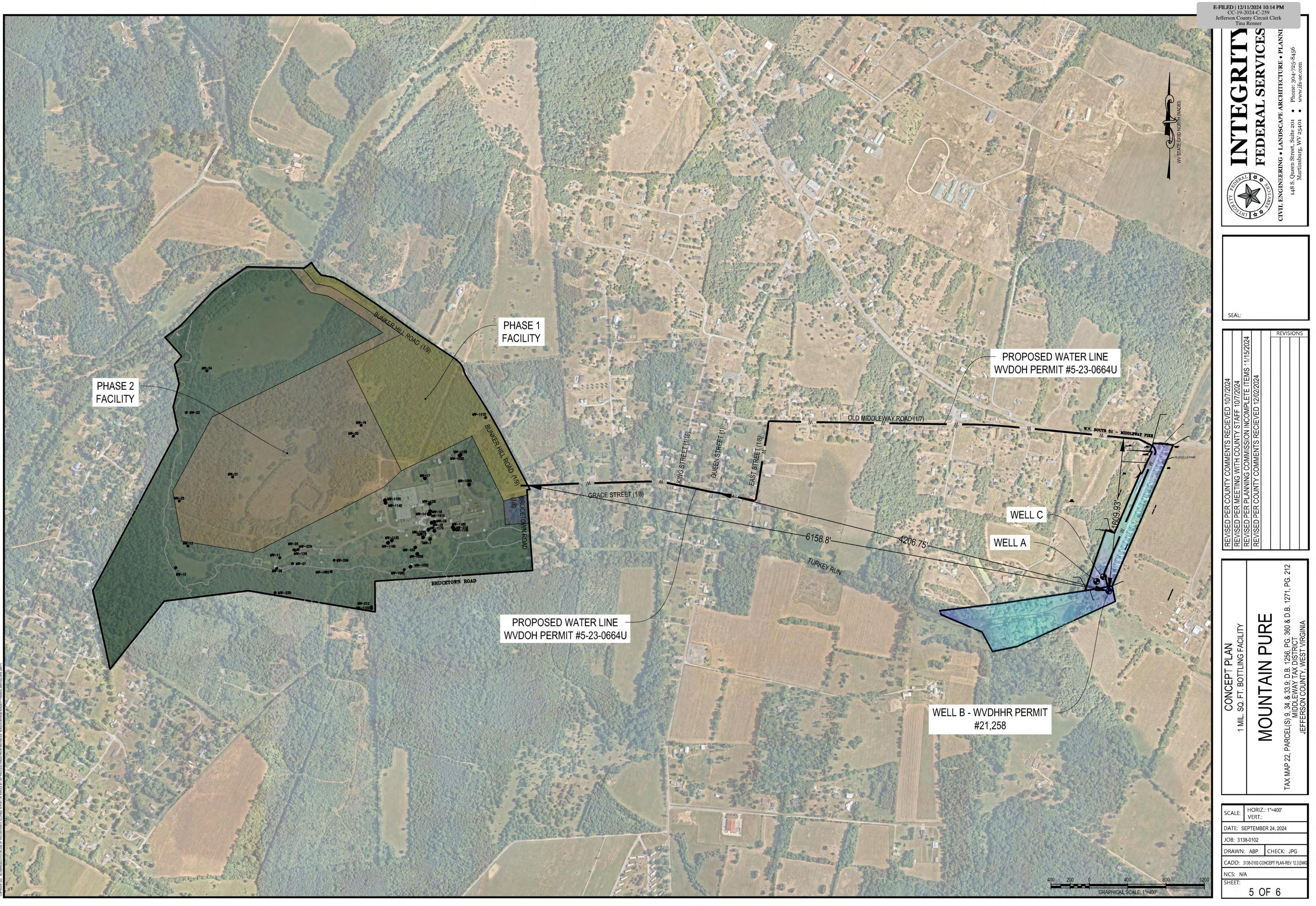
2. PROVIDED:

- - 5.1.

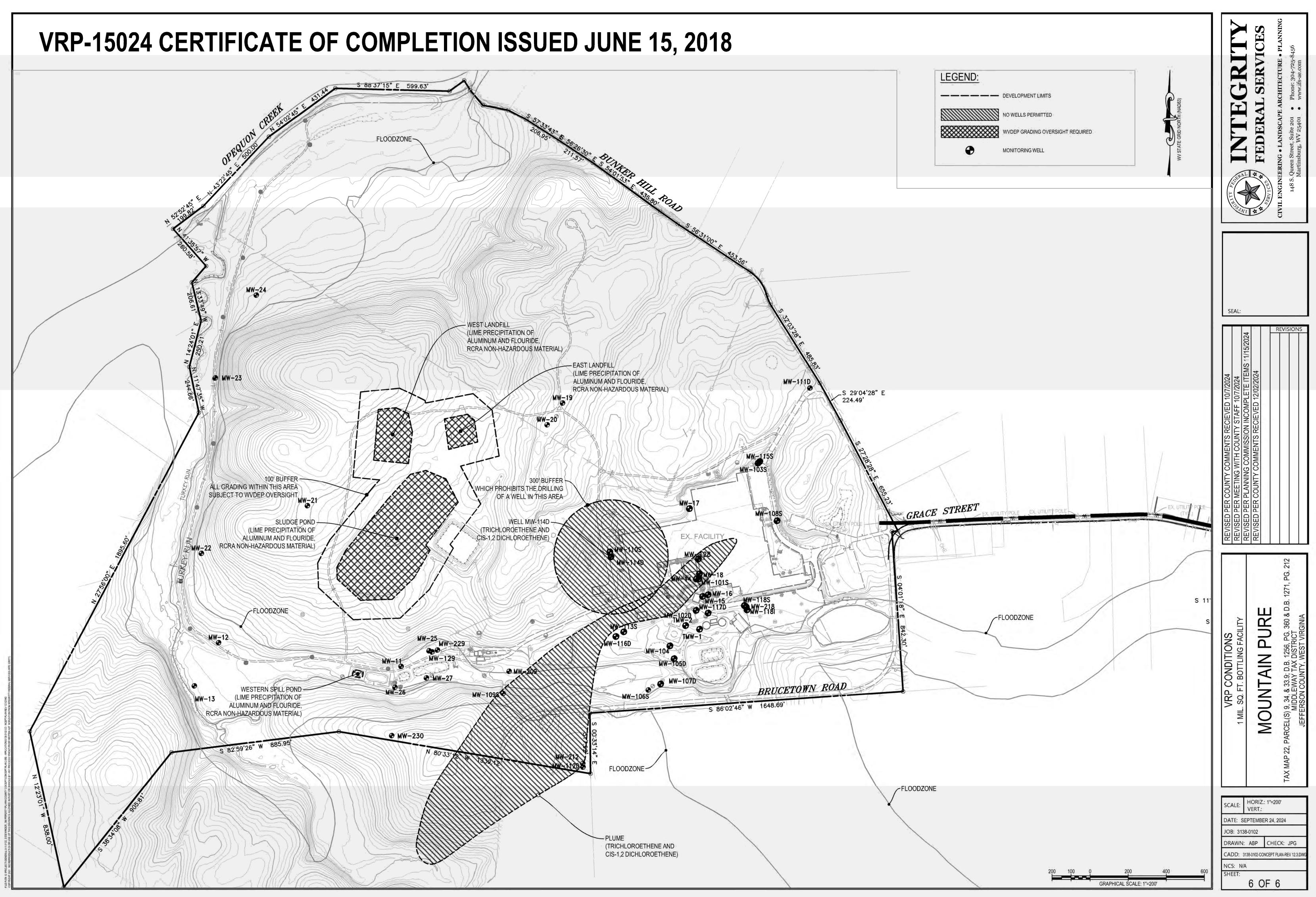


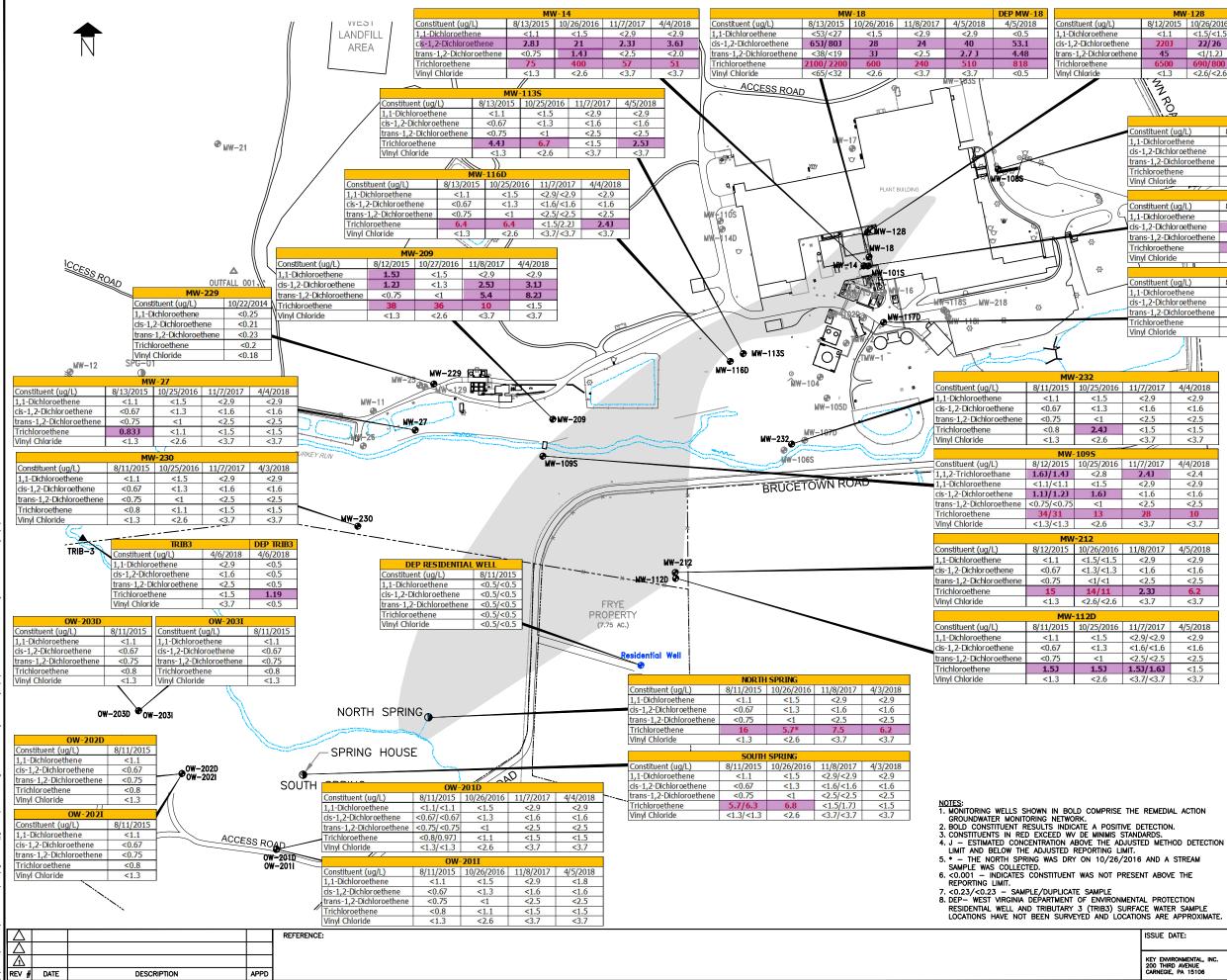






GIPROJECTIGENERAL(8):4010_SIDEWNDER_3M PRPERTYPLANN/COUNTY COCEPTICANCEPTIL/N 2, RE- APPLICATION(3):38-0102-C0 NCEPTIL/M REV 123.DWG





	MW-128									
	8/12/2015	10/26/2016	11/8/2017	4/5/2018						
	<1.1	<1.5/<1.5	<2.9	<2.9						
ie	220J	22/26	31	81						
nene	45	<1/1.2]	<2.5	<2.5						
	6500	690/800	2200	2800						
	<1.3	<2.6/<2.6	<3.7	<3.7						
11	15									

WIN ROP				
	MW	-1085		
Constituent (ug/L)	8/13/2015	10/25/2016	11/7/2017	4/4/2018
1,1-Dichloroethene	<1.1	<1.5	<2.9	<2.9
cis-1,2-Dichloroethene	< 0.67	<1.3	<1.6	<1.6
trans-1,2-Dichloroethene	< 0.75	<1	<2.5	<2.5
Trichloroethene	<0.8	<1.1	<1.5	<1.5
Vinyl Chloride	<1.3	<2.6	<3.7	<3.7
Constituent (ug/L)	8/13/2015	10/26/2016	11/8/2017	4/4/2018
1,1-Dichloroethene	<5.3	<1.5	<2.9	<2.9
cis-1,2-Dichloroethene	11)	100	6.4	11
trans-1,2-Dichloroethene	<3.8	8.3	<2.5	<2.5
Trichloroethene	230	1500	82	130
Vinyl Chloride	<6.5	<2.6	<3.7	<3.7
		1170		
		-117D		
Constituent (ug/L)	8/13/2015	10/25/2016	11/7/2017	4/3/2018

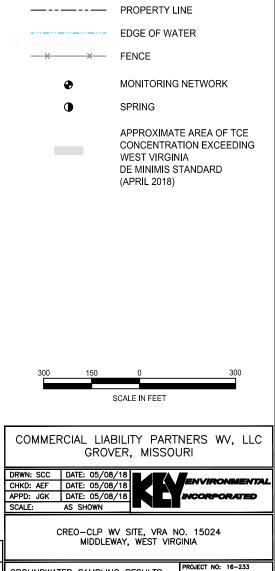
-	constituent (ug/L)	0/15/2015	10/25/2010	11//201/	1 5/2010
	1,1-Dichloroethene	<1.1	<1.5	<2.9	<2.9
	cis-1,2-Dichloroethene	< 0.67	<1.3	<1.6	<1.6
	trans-1,2-Dichloroethene	< 0.75	<1	<2.5	<2.5
	Trichloroethene	<0.8	<1.1	<1.5	<1.5
	Vinyl Chloride	<1.3	<2.6	<3.7	<3.7

11/7/2017	4/4/2018			
<2.9	<2.9			
<1.6	<1.6			
<2.5	<2.5			
<1.5	<1.5			
<3.7	<3.7			
_ //				
11/7/2017	4/4/2018			
2.4J	<2.4			
<2.9	<2.9			
<1.6	<1.6			
<2.5	<2.5			
28	10			
<3.7	<3.7			
11/8/2017	4/5/2018			
<2.9	<2.9			
<1.6	<1.6			
<2.5	<2.5			
2.33	6.2			
<3.7	<3.7			
11/7/2017	4/5/2018			
<2.9/<2.9	<2.9			
<1.6/<1.6	<1.6			
<2.5/<2.5	<2.5			

<1.5

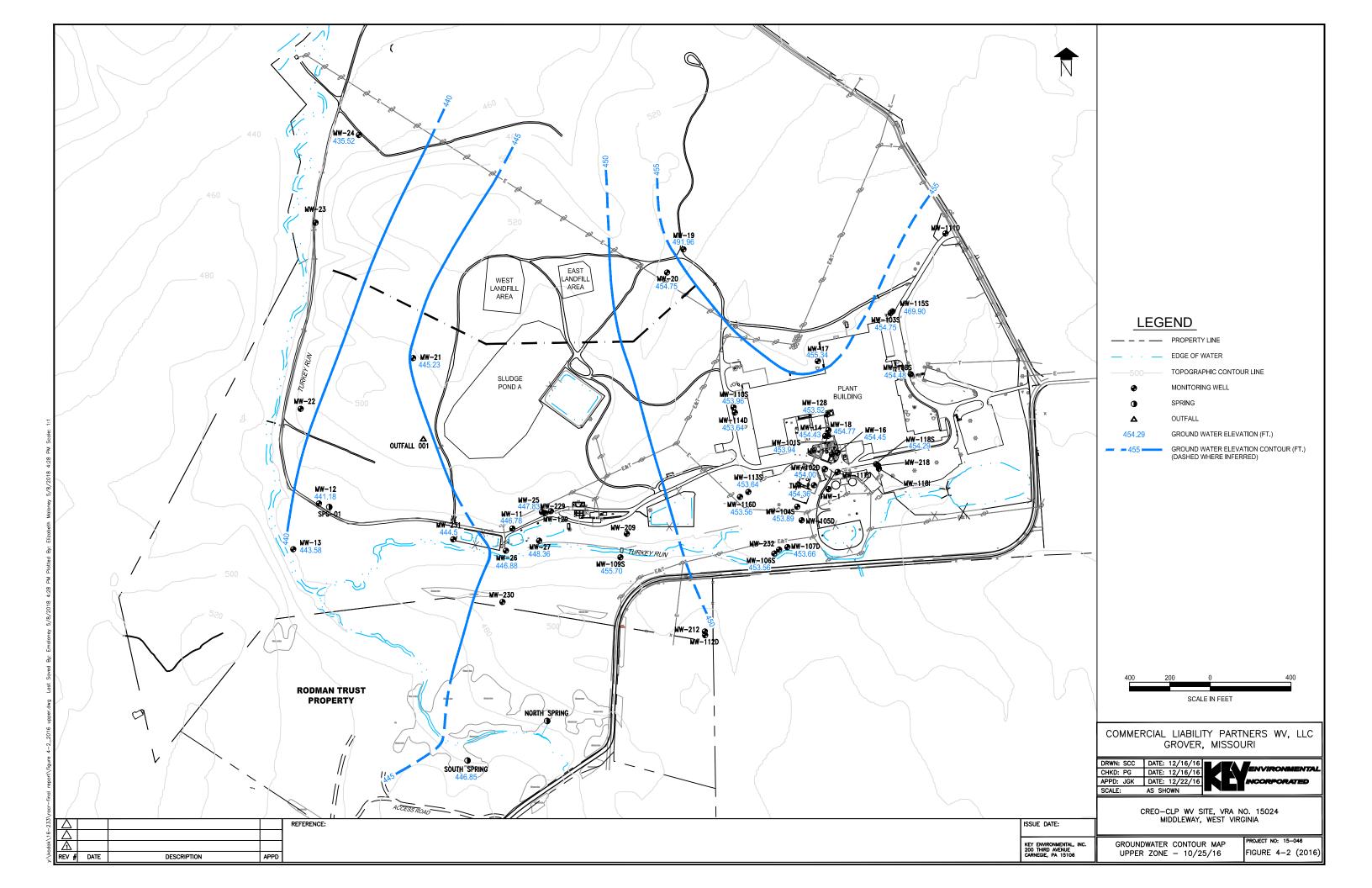
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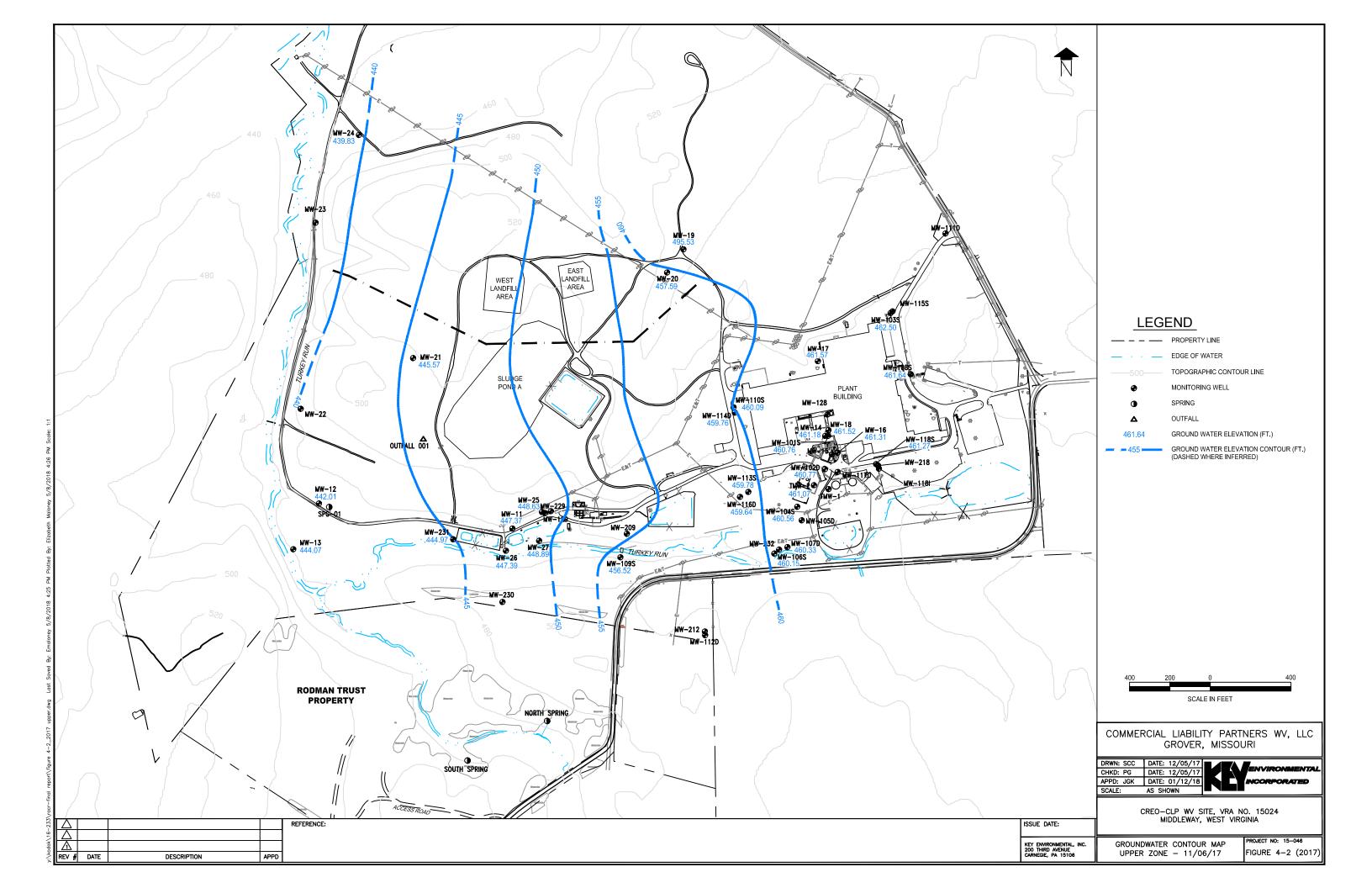


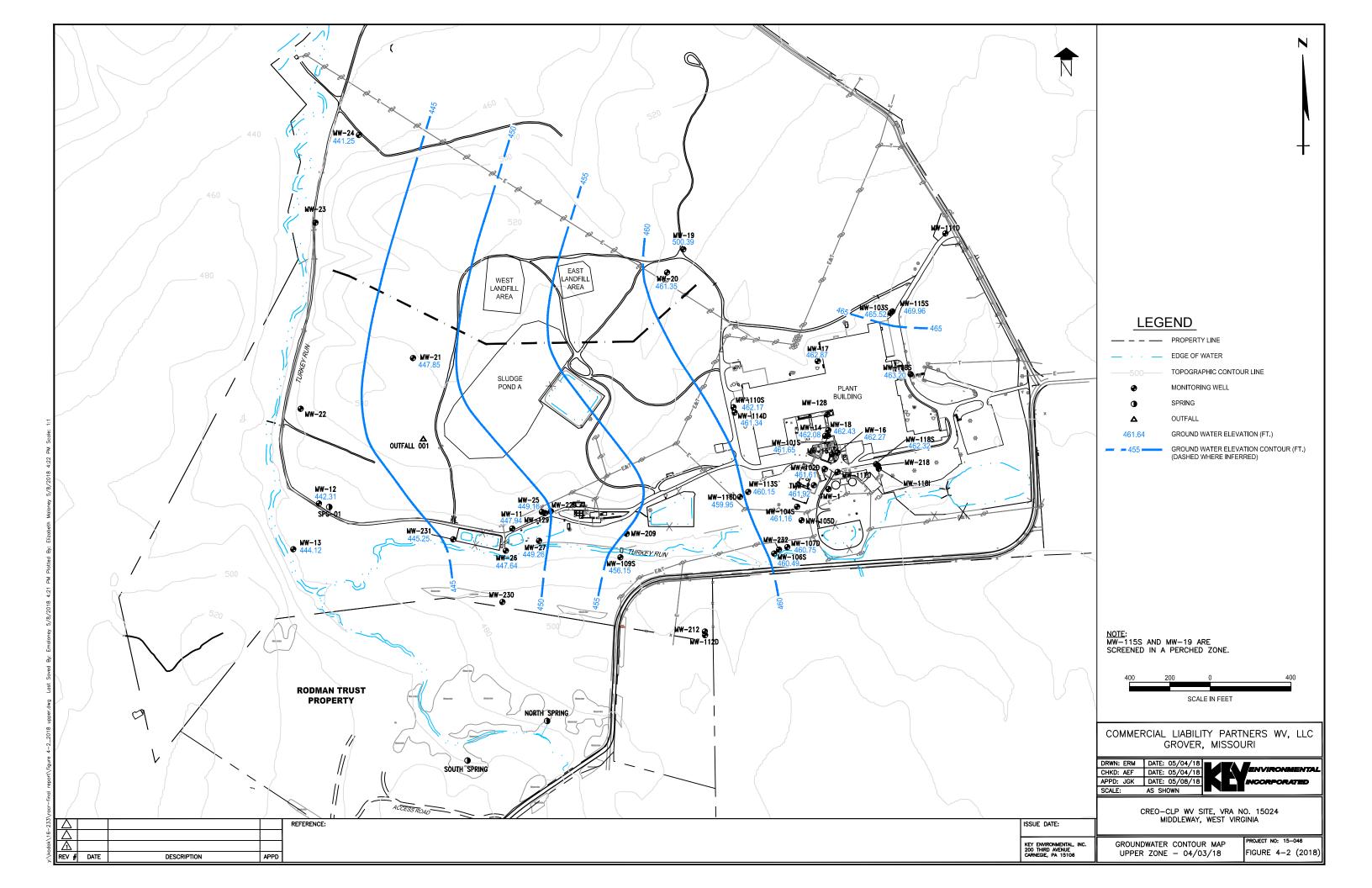


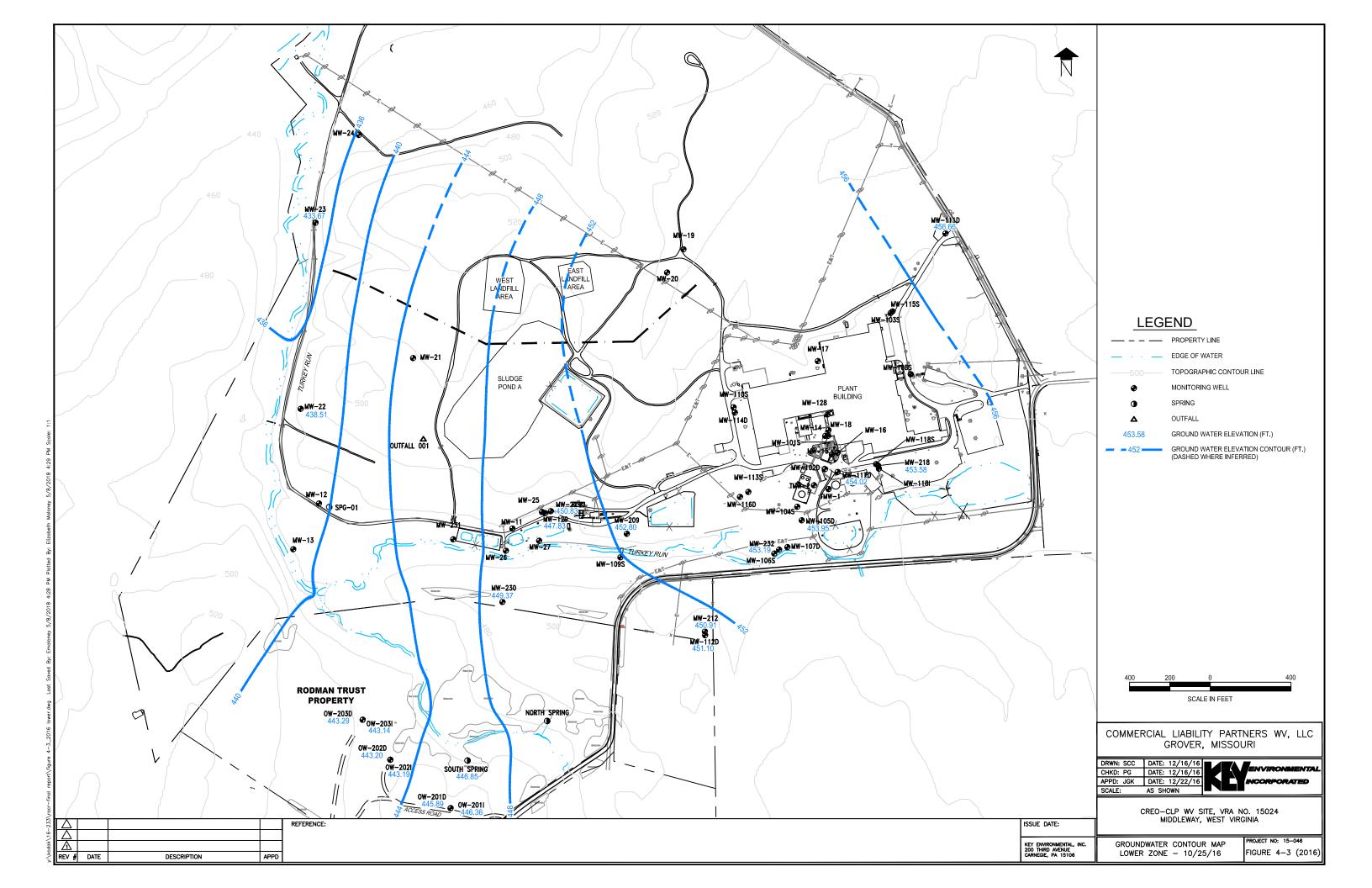
ISSUE DATE:

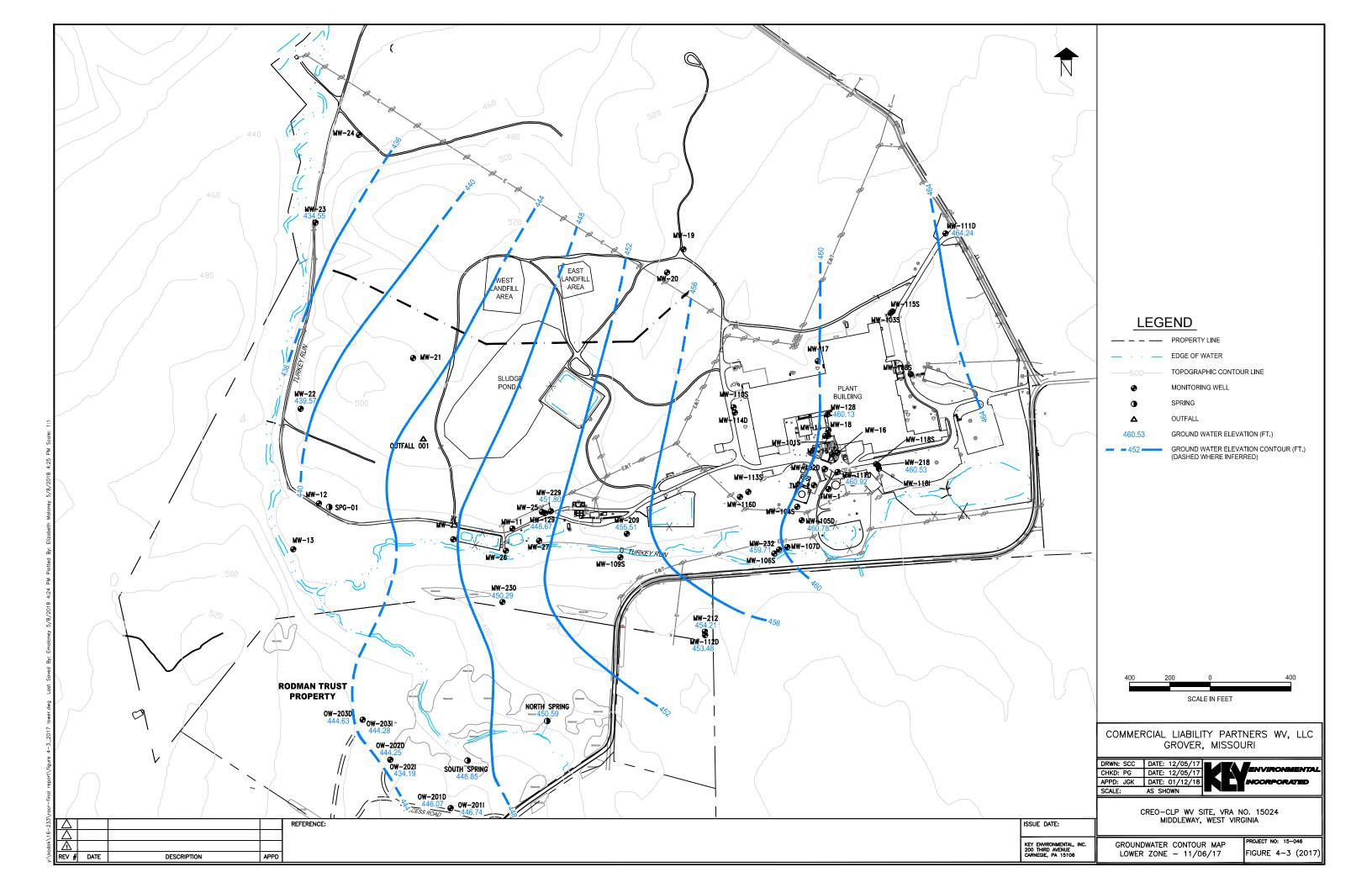
200 THIRE	Ronmental, Inc. D Avenue PA 15106	GROUNDWATER SAMPLING RESULTS - TCE AND DEGRADATION PRODUCTS	PROJECT NO: 16-233 FIGURE 4-1

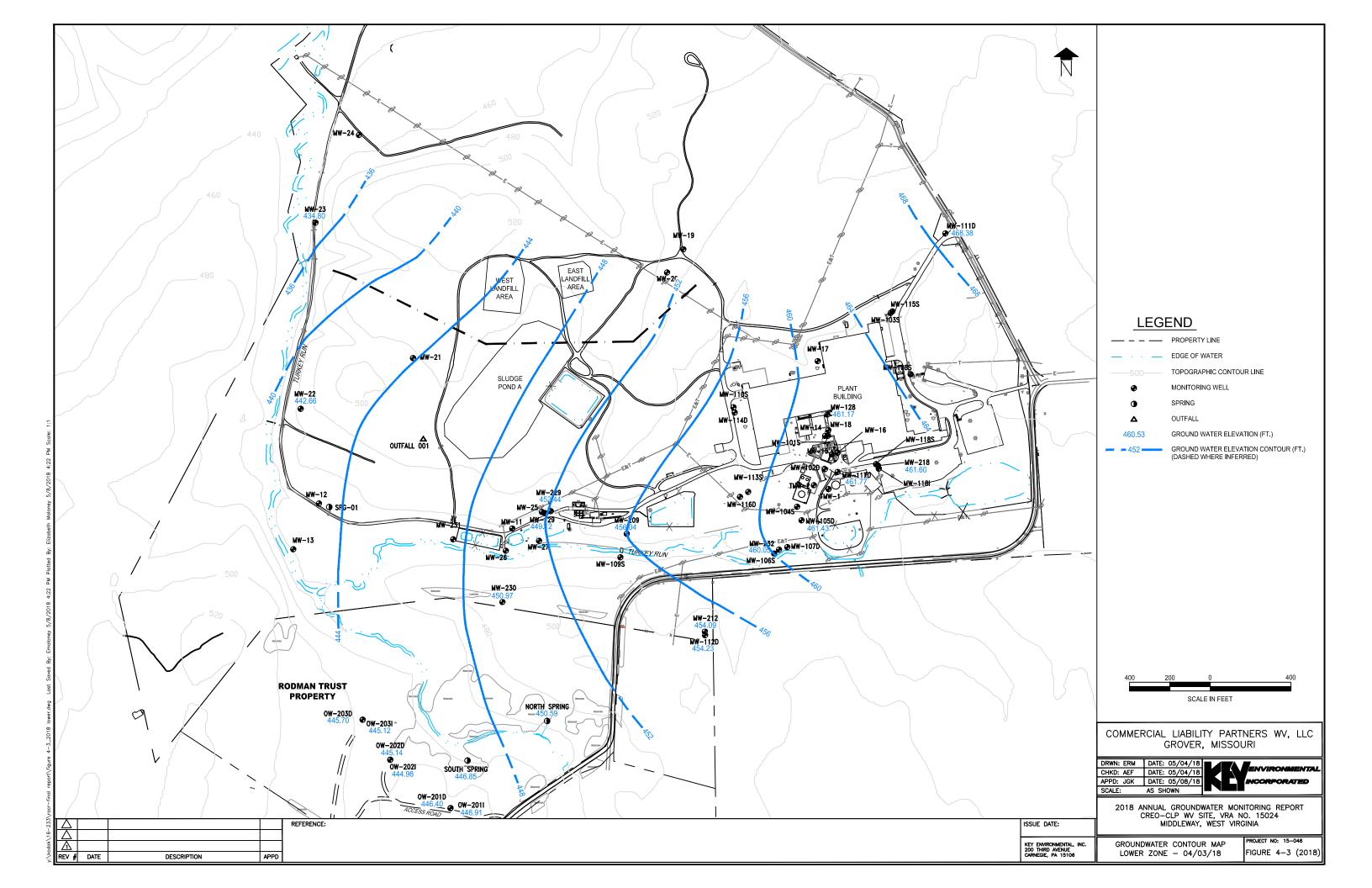












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EXHIBIT B

Notice of Special Meeting of the Commission for December 17, 2024



Advanced Special Meeting Agenda Jefferson County Planning Commission

Tuesday, December 17, 2024 at 7:00 PM

By order of the President of the Jefferson County Planning Commission, Public Participation is available in-person only. The meeting will be broadcast live via ZOOM for viewing purposes only.

In-Person Meeting Location:County Commission Meeting Room located in the lower level of the
Charles Town Library (side entrance on Samuel Street)
200 East Washington Street, Charles Town, WV 25414

ZOOM Broadcast Information*:

Meeting ID: 867 3051 2240 Meeting Link: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86730512240

*If watching live broadcast, please ensure your microphone is muted and be mindful that your video is streaming to others.

- 1. Approval of Meeting Minutes: November 12, 2024 meeting
- 2. Request for postponement

The following items are open for public comment

3. Public Workshop: Mountain Pure Concept Plan for a Major Site Development. The proposal consists of the following: Phase 1: a 304,000 square foot bottling facility with associated parking on a proposed 30-acre parcel; and, Phase 2: a 696,000 square foot bottling facility with associated parking on a proposed 66-acre parcel. The proposal will include the required stormwater management facilities. Property Owners: Sidewinder Enterprises, LLC; 1 Grace St, Kearneysville, WV; Parcel ID: 07002200090000; Size: ~260 acres; Zoning District: Industrial Commercial; Parcel ID: 07002200320000; Size 13.22 acres; Zoning District: Rural (supply well). Property Owner: RLMHP LLC & Photoglou Living Trust; Easement Owner: Sidewinder Enterprises, LLC; Parcel ID: 07002200330009; Size: 8.31 acres; Zoning District: Rural (waterline easement) (File #24-6-SP).

There is no public comment for the following items.

- 4. Reports from Legal Counsel
- 5. President's Report
- 6. Actionable Correspondence
- 7. Non-Actionable Correspondence
 - a. Letter from Jefferson County Foundation Attorney (Andrew Earley) re: Mountain Pure

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EXHIBIT C

Emergency Motion for Temporary Restraining Order/Preliminary Injunction

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF JEFFERSON COUNTY, WEST VIRGINIA

STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA EX	:	Case No
REL. JEFFERSON COUNTY	:	
FOUNDATION, INC., et al.,	:	Judge
	:	
Plaintiffs/Relators,	:	
	:	EMERGENCY MOTION FOR
v.	:	TEMPORARY RESTRAINING
	:	ORDER/PRELIMINARY
JEFFERSON COUNTY PLANNING	:	INJUNCTION
COMMISSION,	:	
	:	
Defendant/Respondent.	:	

EMERGENCY MOTION FOR TEMPORARY RESTRAINING ORDER/PRELIMINARY INJUNCTION)

Now come Plaintiffs/Relators Jefferson County Foundation, Inc. and William E. Hewitt (together, "Plaintiffs"), by and through the undersigned counsel, and hereby move the Court to issue a temporary restraining order and/or preliminary injunction. A proposed temporary restraining order and memorandum in support of this motion are attached hereto.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ ANDREW C. EARLEY ANDREW C. EARLEY (WV STATE BAR NO.14055) FAIR SHAKE ENVIRONMENTAL LEGAL SERVICES 232 Capitol Street, Suite 14 Charleston, WV 25301 304-712-9352

J.P. Burleigh (*Pro Hac Vice* Pending) SUDER, LLC 1502 Vine Street, Fourth Floor Cincinnati, Ohio 45202 (513) 694-7500 jp@ssuder.com

Counsel for Plaintiffs/Relators Jefferson County Foundation, Inc. and William E. Hewitt

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF JEFFERSON COUNTY, WEST VIRGINIA

STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA EX	:	Case No
REL. JEFFERSON COUNTY	:	
FOUNDATION, INC., et al.,	:	Judge
	:	
Plaintiffs/Relators,	:	
	:	MEMORANDUM IN SUPPORT OF
v.	:	MOTION FOR TEMPORARY
	:	<u>RESTRAINING</u>
JEFFERSON COUNTY PLANNING	:	ORDER/PRELIMINARY
COMMISSION,	:	INJUNCTION)
	:	
Defendant/Respondent.	:	

MEMORANDUM IN SUPPORT OF MOTION FOR TEMPORARY RESTRAINING ORDER/PRELIMINARY INJUNCTION

I. INTRODUCTION

As explained in the Verified Complaint, the Jefferson County Planning Commission (the "Commission") is poised to hold an illegal public workshop on December 17, 2024, in clear violation of the Jefferson County, West Virginia Subdivision and Land Development Regulations (the "Subdivision Regulations"). Despite receiving a letter from Plaintiffs/Relators Jefferson County Foundation, Inc. and William E. Hewitt (together, "Plaintiffs") alerting the Commission of the illegal nature of this workshop, the Commission has taken no action to cancel or postpone the workshop. Thus, this Court's immediate intervention is required in order to prevent imminent irreparable harm to Plaintiffs' due process rights. As explained below, this Court has the authority to grant a temporary restraining order ("TRO") and/or preliminary injunction to prevent such harm, and all relevant factors militate heavily in favor of the Court doing so.

II. ARGUMENT

Plaintiffs have requested a preliminary injunction to prevent the December 17, 2024 public workshop from occurring. And, as stated in the Verified Complaint, the Commission will be given notice of this request. However, in the event that the Commission cannot appear at a hearing on this matter, the Court has authority to issue an *ex parte* TRO. *Camden-Clark Memorial Hosp.*, 212 W. Va. 752, 757 (2002).

Regardless of whether the Commission can appear, the Court's legal analysis remains the same: the familiar four-part balancing test, weighing "(1) the likelihood of irreparable harm to the plaintiff without the injunction; (2) the likelihood of harm to the defendant with an injunction; (3) the plaintiff's likelihood of success on the merits; and (4) the public interest." *Jefferson County Bd. of Educ. v. Jefferson County Educ. Ass'n*, 183 W. Va. 15, 24, 393 S.E.2d 653, 662 (1990). As explained below, each of these factors weigh in favor of Plaintiff's request, and no bond should be required under the circumstances.

A. Plaintiffs are likely to prevail on the merits, as the plain language of the Subdivision Regulations prohibits the public workshop from proceeding on December 17, 2024.

As explained in the Verified Complaint, the Subdivision Regulations set forth a clear process for the Commission to consider a Concept Plan for a Major Site Plan, which the Commission simply is not following.

The Concept Plan phase has three steps: 1) submission and completeness review by County staff; 2) a public workshop at which citizens may provide input; and 3) a direction from the Planning Commission as to how the applicant should prepare its Site Plan. *See generally* Subdivision Regulations §§ 24.119 (completeness review), 24.120 (public workshop), and 24.121 (direction). The sufficiency and completeness review must last a minimum of 45 days. *Id.* at §

24.119, and the public workshop must be scheduled for "the first regularly scheduled Planning Commission meeting after the 45 day review period." *Id. See also id.* at 24.119.J ("At the time of submission, the concept plan shall be placed on the 1st regularly scheduled Planning Commission meeting after the 45 day review period for the public workshop. Staff shall advertise the public workshop in a local newspaper of general circulation in the area one time at least twenty-one (21) days in advance of the meeting and send notice by mail to the adjoining property owners at least fourteen (14) days prior to the meeting. The applicant shall post notice on the property at least fourteen (14) days in advance of the meeting."). Following the close of the public workshop, the Commission "shall, during their regular meeting or at a specific public meeting within 14 days, provide direction on the concept plan." *Id.* at § 24.121. The applicant may then submit a Site Plan, which is subsequently reviewed for conformance with the concerns raised in the Concept Plan stage. *See generally id.* at § 24.122.

In this case, the Applicant submitted its application on November 18, 2024. Thus, the public workshop must be scheduled at the Commission's first regular meeting that falls 45 days after that date. According to the Commission's website, regular meetings are held on the first Tuesday of each month at 7:00 PM. *Planning Commission*, COUNTY OF JEFFERSON, WEST VIRGINIA, <u>https://www.jeffersoncountywv.org/county-government/departments/planning-and-zoning-department/planning-commission</u> (accessed Dec. 11, 2024). Both the first Tuesday of December 2024 and the first Tuesday of January 2025 fall before the 45-day mark. Thus, the proper procedure should have been for the Commission to schedule the public workshop for the following regular meeting on Tuesday, February 4, 2025.

But, at the behest of the applicant, the Commission has instead opted to schedule a special, *ad hoc*, end-of-year public workshop on December 17, 2024. There is no serious argument that

this complies with the plain language of the Subdivision Regulations. The Commission's apparent reasoning is that the application at issue is merely a *revised* application. But that is no excuse, as a matter of fact and law. The application at issue includes, for the very first time, critically important information related to a proposed industrial-grade groundwater extraction operation at Lake Louise; thus, this application is a fundamentally new request that has never been reviewed by the Commission. And even if the Commission could plausibly classify this new application as a "revision," there is no process in the Subdivision Regulations whereby revised applications are exempt from a public workshop at a regularly scheduled Commission meeting 45 days or more after submission.

Thus, Plaintiffs are likely to succeed on the merits, and this factor weighs in favor of maintaining the status quo.

B. Cancelling the December 17, 2024 public workshop is necessary to prevent irreparable harm to Plaintiffs' due process rights.

If the Commission proceeds with holding said illegal workshop, the public at large, and specifically Plaintiffs, will be irreparably harmed. Specifically, the Commission will be violating the due process rights of the public, and Plaintiffs, to be heard on the Concept Plan at issue.

In the words of our state's high court, "[p]rocedural due process requires the 'opportunity to be heard at a meaningful time and in a meaningful manner.' *"Donadieu v. Morgan Cty. Planning Comm'n*, Case No. 15-1058, 2016 W.Va. LEXIS 726, *16 (W. Va. 2016), quoting *Mathews v. Eldridge*, 424 U.S. 319, 333 (1976).

In order for the public to have a meaningful opportunity to be heard on the Concept Plan in this case, they must be informed. Citizens of this County reasonably rely on their public agencies to be a first line of defense against harmful development by identifying, for example, potential environmental impacts from a drawdown of the water table in Karst terrain. That is why the prescribed procedure for a Concept Plan review is that, during the 45-day review period, ("The reviewing agencies shall conduct reviews of the proposed concept plan" and provide written feedback "fourteen (14) days prior to the scheduled public workshop." *Id.* at § 24.119.7.

But, as explained in the Verified Complaint, none of the relevant government agencies will be providing any review of the Concept Plan, due to the shortened review period. Without any idea as to whether the relevant agencies have concerns about this particular development, the public will be forced to fend for themselves and rely on public records requests and independent research in order to discover the true impact of the Concept Plan. The Foundation itself has several outstanding public records requests, which likely will not be returned in time to prepare for the December 17, 2024 public workshop.

This bell cannot be unrung, because once the applicant moves into the Site Plan process, the Commission is reviewing the application simply for conformance with the Concept Plan and issues raised during that process. *See* Subdivision Regulations § 24.124(B). (noting that denial of a Site Plan is only appropriate if "[t]he plan (plan, final engineering, or final landscaping) is inconsistent with the approved concept plan or conditions of said approval" or if the applicant fails to provide surety) Thus, by forcing Concept Plan into a premature, end-of-year, special hearing at which the agencies cannot provide their required review, the Commission is effectively putting on blinders and intentionally excluding the agencies' feedback from being considered at any later point in this process.

Thus, the decision of the Commission to hold a public workshop at a special meeting on December 17, 2024—as opposed to the required regular meeting on February 4, 2025—will materially limit the public's right to be heard on the Concept Plan. The threat of imminent irreparable harm therefore also weighs in favor of this Court granting Plaintiff's motion.

C. Holding the public workshop at a later date will cause no harm to the Commission, and the public interest lies in ensuring that the Commission fairly and equally applies the Subdivision Regulations, regardless of pressure from developers.

The third and fourth factors for injunctive relief dovetail in this case. The Commission has no interest in holding the public workshop on December 17, 2024. Upon information and belief, this matter was scheduled merely to appease a real estate developer with a timeline and a desire to have its project approved with as minimal review as possible. The Commission itself will be prejudiced in no way by holding the public workshop at the time required by the Subdivision Regulations. And doing so will serve the public interest, in that the relevant government agencies and concerned citizens of this County will have a full and fair opportunity to be heard—as is required under the Subdivision Regulations.

D. No bond should be required in order for the government to follow its own laws.

This state's high court has held:

[D]espite the strict statutory requirement of an injunctive bond, for all intents and purposes the final determination of whether an injunction bond will be required of a certain party in a specific case is dependent upon the prerogative of the enjoining court. Our judicial interpretation of that standard recognizes that there will occasionally be cases in which the facts and circumstances simply do not compel the posting of an injunctive bond, *i.e.*, where 'good cause' has been shown.'

Collins v. Stewart, No. 11-0056, 2012 W.Va. LEXIS 63, *16 (2012), quoting *Kessel v. Leavitt*, 204 W.Va. 95, 160, 511 S.E.2d 720, 785 (1998). On the facts in this case, no bond should be required, as Plaintiffs are merely asking the Commission to act in accordance with the laws that the Commission members have a duty to uphold. No citizen should have to pay in order to ensure that the state fairly and equally applies the law of the land.

III. CONCLUSION

For all these reasons, and for those that will be explained at the hearing on this motion, Plaintiffs respectfully ask that the Court issue a TRO and/or preliminary injunction, as prayed for in the Verified Complaint.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

<u>/s/ ANDREW C. EARLEY</u> ANDREW C. EARLEY (WV STATE BAR NO.14055) FAIR SHAKE ENVIRONMENTAL LEGAL SERVICES 232 Capitol Street, Suite 14 Charleston, WV 25301 304-712-9352

J.P. Burleigh (*Pro Hac Vice* Pending) SUDER, LLC 1502 Vine Street, Fourth Floor Cincinnati, Ohio 45202 (513) 694-7500 jp@ssuder.com

Counsel for Plaintiffs/Relators Jefferson County Foundation, Inc. and William E. Hewitt

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF JEFFERSON COUNTY, WEST VIRGINIA

STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA EX	:	Case No
REL. JEFFERSON COUNTY	:	
FOUNDATION, INC., et al.,	:	Judge
	:	
Plaintiffs/Relators,	:	
	:	ORDER GRANTING TEMPORARY
v.	:	RESTRAINING ORDER
	:	
JEFFERSON COUNTY PLANNING	:	
COMMISSION,	:	
	:	
Defendant/Respondent.	:	

ORDER GRANTING TEMPORARY RESTRAINING ORDER

This matter came before the Court on Plaintiffs/Relators' Verified Complaint, which included a request for a temporary restraining order. Upon review of the applicable law and facts, Plaintiffs/Relators' request is well taken. Plaintiffs/Relators have demonstrated a substantial likelihood of success on the merits, as it is likely the Defendant/Respondent Jefferson County Planning Commission (the "Commission") has scheduled a public workshop in violation of the Jefferson County, West Virginia Subdivision and Land Development Regulations (the "Subdivision Regulations"). The Commission will not be harmed by postponing that workshop until a later date. Such a postponement will protect against likely irreparable harm to Plaintiffs/Relators' due process rights under the Subdivision. Further, the public interest will be served by preventing a likely unlawful public workshop from taking place at a premature time.

Therefore, pursuant to its authority under Civ.R. 65, the Court hereby orders that the Commission shall not hold any public workshop on the "Mountain Pure Concept Plan for a Major Site Development"," File Number 24-6-P, on December 17, 2024." A nominal bond is sufficient

security for this temporary restraining order, which will be effective upon the depositing of \$1 by Plaintiffs/Relators with the Jefferson County Clerk of Courts.

This order will expire following the tenth (10th) calendar date that this order is docketed with the Clerk of Courts.

It is so **ORDERED**.

Judge

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that the Motion for Temporary Restraining Order, proposed order, and memorandum in support will be served on the Defendant/Respondent by the West Virginia E-

Filing System and via email, at the below addresses.

Jefferson County Planning Commission 116 E. Washington Street Charles Town, WV 25414 planningdepartment@jeffersoncountywv.org

Jefferson County Prosecuting Attorney, Civil Division Attn: Nathan Cochran, Esq. 124 E. Washington Street, 2nd Floor Charles Town, WV 25414 ncochran@jcpawv.org; paoffice@jeffersoncountywv.org

/S/ ANDREW C. EARLEY

ANDREW C. EARLEY (WV STATE BAR NO.14055) Counsel for Plaintiffs/Relators Jefferson County Foundation, Inc. and William E. Hewitt

E-FILED | 12/11/2024 10:14 PM CC-19-2024-C-259 Jefferson County Circuit Clerk Tina Renner

CERTITICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that I have instructed the Jefferson County Clerk of Courts to issue the summons and a copy of the foregoing Verified Complaint to Defendant/Respondent Jefferson County Planning Commission via certified mail this 11th day of December 2024, pursuant to Civ.R. 4(c)(3)(B).

Respectfully submitted,

<u>/s/ Andrew C. Earley</u> Andrew C. Earley (WV State Bar No. 14055)

Counsel for Plaintiffs/Relators Jefferson County Foundation, Inc. and William E. Hewitt