# ENVIRONMENTAL RESTORATION PROGRAM

Findings of the Wetland Survey of the David Witherspoon, Inc., 1630 Site, South Knoxville, Knox County, Tennessee

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Findings of the Wetland Survey of the David Witherspoon, Inc., 1630 Site, South Knoxville, **Knox County, Tennessee** 

B. A. Rosensteel

Date Issued—March 1997

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#### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

Executive Order 11990, Protection of Wetlands, (May 24, 1977) requires that federal agencies avoid, to the extent possible, adverse impacts associated with the destruction and modification of wetlands, and that they avoid direct and indirect support of wetlands development when there is a practicable alternative. In accordance with Department of Energy (DOE) Regulations for Compliance with Floodplains and Wetlands Environmental Review Requirements (Subpart B, 10 CFR 1022.11), surveys for wetland presence or absence were conducted in September 1996 on the DWI-1630 site (Witherspoon Landfill) located in South Knoxville, Knox County, Tennessee. As required by the Energy and Water Development Appropriations Act of 1992, wetlands were identified using the criteria and methods set forth in the *Wetlands Delineation Manual* (Army Corps of Engineers, 1987). The wetlands identified in this survey were classified according to the system developed by Cowardin et al. (1979) for wetland and deepwater habitats of the United States.

The DWI-1630 site includes a closed, capped landfill area, areas of past disturbance adjacent to the capped area, and patches of hardwood forest. Wetlands were identified on the landfill cap and in a small bottomland that was formerly used for a retention pond in the southwest corner of the DWI-1630 site. The wetlands identified on the cap are man-induced, atypical situation wetlands. These areas have hydrophytic vegetation and wetland hydrology, but the soils do not have hydric characteristics. Wetland development appears to be due to a combination of the grading or subsidence of the clay landfill cap, the low permeability of the clay fill soil, and the absence of surface drainage outlets from the depressions. These atypical situation wetland areas may not be be considered by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers or the State of Tennessee to be jurisdictional wetlands. The wetland in the former retention pond area has hydrophytic vegetation, wetland hydrology, and hydric soils and is a jurisdictional wetland.

#### 1. INTRODUCTION

A wetland survey was conducted on September 19, 1996 on the DWI-1630 site (D. Witherspoon Landfill) in South Knoxville, Knox County, Tennessee by JAYCOR Environmental assisted by staff of Jacobs Engineering. The DWI-1630 site includes the capped landfill area and adjacent areas of past disturbance, and patches of hardwood forest. The landfill was capped with clay soil in 1972. The capped area has stored on it many pieces of scrap metal, machinery, and equipment. The primary vegetation community on the cap and adjacent disturbed areas include many early successional plant species, such as lespedeza (*Lespedeza cuneata*), blackberry (*Rubus* sp.), and members of the *Asteraceae* family (i.e., goldenrods, asters), that readily colonize disturbed sites and old fields. There are numerous shallow topographic depressions on the capped area. These depressions were probably made during initial grading of the cap or subsequent landfill subsidence.

The areas surrounding the capped landfill include relatively undisturbed, second-growth oak forest on upland slopes to the east, west, and north; second-growth mesic forest on the slopes on the south end of the site; and disturbed, old-field areas adjacent to the capped area. These upland old field areas are dominated by red cedar (*Juniperus virginiana*), pines (*Pinus* sp.), hardwood saplings, Japanese honeysuckle (*Lonicera japonica*), and numerous herbaceous species common in old-field situations. Scrap metal and equipment are also stored in these areas.

Most of the site drains to the south into a small drainage that had been used as a runoff retention pond in the past. The area appears not to have functioned as a retention pond for some years because most of the drainage bottom and the adjacent uplands are vegetated with trees, shrubs, and herbaceous species.

#### 2. WETLAND DETERMINATION

#### 2.1 U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS METHODOLOGY

The wetland determination was performed using the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers methodology (USACE 1987). According to this methodology three parameters —hydrophytic vegetation, hydric soils, and wetland hydrology—must be present for an area to be identified as a wetland. With the exception of certain atypical or problem situations, an area must possess all of the following attributes to be positively identified as a wetland:

- 1. The vegetation community must be dominated by species classified as Obligate Wetland (OBL; estimated probability of occuring in a wetland is > 99%), Facultative Wetland (FACW; usually occur in wetlands, but occasionally found in nonwetlands), and/or Facultative (FAC; equally likely to occur in wetlands or nonwetlands) (Reed 1988);
- 2. The soil must be hydric. Several indicators, including soil color and presence of mottles, can be used to determine if a soil is hydric.

3. There must be evidence of wetland hydrology. All hydrologic characteristics of areas that are periodically inundated or have soils saturated to the surface at some time during the growing season. Evidence includes direct observations of inundation or soil saturation and indirect observations such as flood drift lines and silted leaf litter.

#### 2.2 ATYPICAL SITUATION WETLANDS

The USACE (1987) addresses atypical situations in which one or more positive indicators of wetland presence may be absent in a wetland and describes procedures for determining if the area in question is a wetland. Atypical situations are those in which positive indicators of either hydrophytic vegetation, hydric soils, or wetland hydrology are absent because of effects of recent human activities or natural events. Atypical situations include areas in which there are unauthorized discharges requiring enforcement actions; natural events such as changing river courses, beaver dams, mudslides, and earthquakes; and human-induced wetlands that have been purposely or incidentally created by human activities.

#### 3. WETLAND SURVEY FINDINGS

Wetlands were identified in two areas on the DWI-1630 site. These areas are the landfill cap and the former retention pond area (Fig. 1). Routine wetland determination data sheets (USACE 1987) were filled out for each of the wetland sites (Appendix).

#### 3.1 THE LANDFILL CAP

There are numerous areas on the cap in which initial site grading or subsequent subsidence has formed depressions ranging in size from a few square meters to roughly 250-300 square meters. Wetlands have developed in four of these depressions (CAP-1 through CAP-4; Appendix). These wetlands are man-induced atypical situation wetlands. Two of the three necessary parameters—hydrophytic vegetation and wetland hydrology—were present, but the soils were not hydric. The wetlands have formed as a direct result of the grading or subsidence of the clay landfill cap, the low permeability of the clay fill soil, and the absence of surface drainage outlets from the depressions. The USACE may not consider these man-induced, atypical situation wetlands to be jurisdictional due to their location and development on a landfill cap and their isolation from ground water and surface waters.

The cap consists of low-permeability clay soils that were imported to the site. Because of the low permeability of the clay cap and the absence of surface outlets, precipitation and runoff are retained in the depressions. One to several inches of standing water was observed throughout or in portions of the depressions. Hydrologic data were not available for these areas, however, it is likely that water is retained in these depressions for extended periods during the year, including during the growing season.

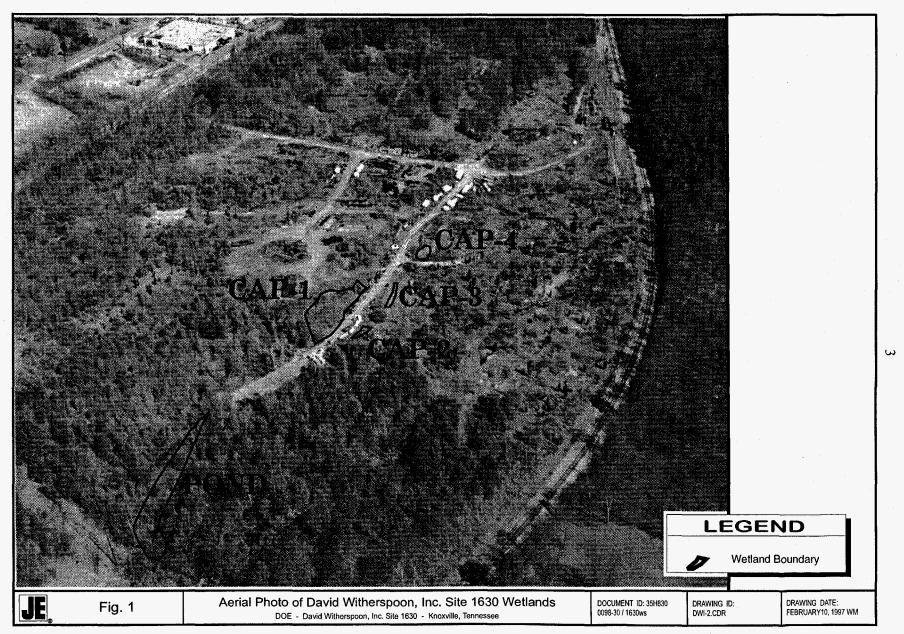


Fig. 1. Aerial photo of David Witherspoon, Inc., Site 1630 Wetlands.

The presence of water for extended periods during the growing season has encouraged the growth of wetland vegetation. The depressions are dominated by hydrophytic vegetation, including woolgrass (*Scirpus cyperinus*; OBL), soft rush (*Juncus effusus*; FACW+), tickseed sunflower (*Bidens polylepis*; FACW), cattail (*Typha latifolia*; OBL), spikerush (*Eleocharis* sp.; OBL), fox sedge (*Carex vulpinodea*; OBL), Frank's sedge (*Carex frankii*; OBL), other sedges (*Carex* sp.), and saplings of black willow (*Salix nigra*; OBL) and sycamore (*Platanus occidentalis*; FACW-). These species are all early colonizers of wetlands that form in disturbed or recently cleared areas.

Although the surface soil in the depressions may be saturated for extended periods, characteristics of the clay soil, such as low organic matter content and low permeability, have inhibited the development of hydric characteristics. The matrix colors of the soils in the depressions included yellowish-brown (10YR5/6), dark red (2.5YR5/8), yellowish-red (5YR5/8), brown (10YR5/3), and dark grayish brown (10YR4/2). These high-chroma color clay soils (with the exception of the 10YR4/2, which contained a larger amount of partially degraded plant material) could require decades or more to acquire, through oxidation and reduction processes, the low-chroma colors and mottling of a hydric soil.

#### 3.2 THE RETENTION POND AREA

At the foot of the landfill cap on the southwest end of the site is a small drainage that had been used in the past as a retention pond for site runoff. There is a low, earthen berm across the bottomland near the site boundary which detains water in the bottomland. The water drains from the site through a pipe at the pond outlet. The berm and the constricted outlet slows drainage of runoff from the bottomland, which is shallowly flooded during periods of high rainfall.

A wetland extends from the base of the fill to the berm within the level bottom area. At the base of the fill there is a small area dominated by trees and saplings. The midsection of the drainage is dominated by herbaceous species with scattered shrubs and saplings. The lower end of the wetland has sparse groundcover and is shaded by trees that grow on the edge of the bottom. Two locations were characterized for the wetland determination (POND 1 and POND 2; Appendix).

The dominant species include box elder (*Acer negundo*; FACW), black willow, green ash (*Fraxinus pennsylvanica*; FACW), and sycamore in the canopy and sapling strata, and false nettle (*Boehmeria cylindrica*; FACW+), cutgrass (*Leersia* sp.; OBL or FACW depending on species), and rough cocklebur (*Xanthium strumarium*; FAC). The soil is a gray (7.5YR5/1 and 10YR5/1) silty clay with mottles and manganese concretions. The soil was saturated to the surface and free water in the soil boring occurred at approximately 5 inches. The primary hydrologic source appears to be groundwater, however, surface runoff may also be an important contributor at certain times of year.

# 4. SUMMARY

A wetland survey of the DWI-1630 site in Knox County, Tennessee, was conducted on September 19, 1996, using the USACE wetland delineation methodology. Four man-induced, atypical situation, isolated wetlands, ranging in size from approximately 72 m² to 270 m² were identified on the clay cap of the landfill. These wetlands have hydrophytic vegetation and wetland hydrology, but lack hydric soils. These wetlands may not be considered jurisdictional by the USACE or the State of Tennessee because of their location and development on a landfill cap and their lack of a surface drainage outlet. A jurisdictional wetland was identified in a drainage bottom, formerly used as a retention pond area, in the southwest portion of the site. This wetland, which has groundwater as it's primary hydrologic source, has hydrophytic vegetation, hydric soil, and wetland hydrology.

#### 5. REFERENCES

- Reed, P.B. 1988. National List of Plant Species that Occur in Wetlands: Tennessee. USFWS Biological Report NERC-88/18.42.
- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. 1987. Wetlands Delineation Manual. Technical Report Y-87-1. Waterways Experiment Station, Vicksburg, MS.

# Appendix.

WETLAND DETERMINATION DATA FORMS

# DATA FORM 1

Applicant	Applicati Number:	on	Proje Name:	DWI-1630	
State: TN County	: KNOX Legal De	scription:	_		_
Date: 19 Sept 1996					_
					<b>-</b>
Vegetation [list the t	three <u>dominant</u> speci	es in each	vegetation	layer (5 if	
only 1 or 2 layers)].	Indicate species w	vith observe	d morpholog	ical or known	
physiological adaptati	ions with an asteris	k.			
	Indicator		In	dicator	
Species	Status	Species	_ <u>s</u>	tatus	
rees	Her			081	
L. NOHE		7. Scirpus			
2.		8. Typha l		FACULT	
3 <b>.</b>		9. Juneus	6 64 0202	·	
Saplings/shrubs	- 0 >	dy vines			
1. Salix nigra	. •	10.			
s. Platanos occidentali		1. MOHE			
5.		12.			
of species that are					
Hydrophytic vegetation	1: Yes X No	. Basis: r	ommance a	f OBL and F	ACM species
<u>Soil</u>					
Series and phase: Fi	1 Clay soil On	hydric soil	s list? Ye	s; No_X	.• 
Mottled: Yes >61; No				olor: \oyk5/	s and losk 218
Gleyed: Yes No	<del></del>			0 1	.•
Hydric soils: Yes	No_X_; Basis:_	Matrix	dor and	fill clay	•
Hydrology					
Inundated: Yes_X_;				3	•
Saturated soils: Yes	Dep	th to satur	ated soil:_	at surface	.•
Other indicators:					•
Wetland hydrology: You	esX_; No E	Basis: Pow	ned water	r; surface s	repraction
Atypical situation:					
Normal Circumstances?					
Wetland Determination	: Wetland	;	Nonwetland_		<b>-•</b>
Comments: Man-indu	ced Atypical Situal	hon: Isol	cted depre	ssions formed	ph cabbind
L land-filled valley	عادمه سام مادرد	See Data F	iorm3 v: <u>B. Ros</u>	No.	
Approx. size: 250		stermined by		ENVIRONMEN	TAL
			•		

#### A-3 DATA FORM 1

Applicant Name:	Application Number:	Project Name: <u>DWI-1630</u>	
State: TN County: KN	Ox Legal Description:		-
Date: 19 SEPT 1996 Plot	No.: CAP-2	Section:	<u>_</u>
•			
Vegetation [list the three d	lominant species in each	vegetation layer (5 if	
only 1 or 2 layers)]. Indic	ate species with observed	d morphological or known	
physiological adaptations wi	th an asterisk.		
Indica		Indicator	
Species Statu	Species	<u>Status</u>	
Trees	<u>Herbs</u>	C \\	
1.	7. Typha lati		
2. NONE	8. Eleochari		
3.	9. Juneus eff Biaens poly		
Saplings/shrubs	Woody vines	1 MCIN	
4. Salix rigra OBL	10.		
5.	11.		
6.	12.		
Z of species that are OBL, F.	ACW, and/or FAC: 100. Ot	her indicators:	•
Hydrophytic vegetation: Yes	X No Basis: O	BL ma FACW dominance	
Soil	, •		
Series and phase: Clay fill	Soil On hydric soils	list? Yes; No_X_	•
Mottled: Yes ; No X.			
Gleyed: YesNo 🗡	Other indicators:		•
Hydric soils: YesNo_		disators : Fill soil	•
-	<u> </u>	<del></del>	
Hydrology			
Inundated: Yes; NoX_	. Depth of standing was	er:	
Saturated soils: Yes x;			
Other indicators: The work	an of inverse help in the	wecokted substitute and	what recent
Other indicators: Takerspers	: No Basis:	VEGETORICE TOURNALE THE	pondin
Atypical situation: Yes X	·		
Normal Circumstances? Yes		·	
Wetland Determination: Wetl		Nonwet 1 and	
	•		
Comments: Man-induced At	ippical Situation; Isolate	ed depressions in clay	landfill cap.
Approx size: 72m2 (0.00.	12 ha) see Data forms	D DACKMETERS	
	Determined by:	B. ROSENSTEEL	147.

#### A-4 DATA FORM 1

Applicant Name:	Application Number:	Project Name: DWI-1630	
State: TN County: \	NOX_Legal Description:	Township: Range: -	
Date: 19 SEPT 1996 PI	ot No.: <u>CAP-3</u>	Section:	
•			
Vegetation [list the thre	e <u>dominant</u> species in each	vegetation layer (5 if	
only 1 or 2 layers)]. In	dicate species with observ	red morphological or known	
physiological adaptations	with an asterisk.		
	icator atus Species	Indicator	
Trees	atus Species Herbs	Status	
1.		latifolia - OBL	
2. NONE	8 Ridons	polylapis - FACW	
3.	0 50000	s cyperinus - OBL	
Saplings/shrubs	Woody vines	frankii - OBL	
4.		poponica FAC	
5.	11.		
6.	12.		
% of species that are OBL	, FACW, and/or FAC: \00.	Other indicators: .	
		OBL and FACW dominance	
Series and phase: Clay ( Mottled: Yes 1-5"; No Gleyed: Yes FAINT No X Hydric soils: Yes	On hydric soi  Mottle color: 2.5 y 27  Other indicators:  No X; Basis:	Is list? Yes ; No X :  [4; Matrix color: 5 YR 5/8 - Clay 1" - 10 YR 5/3 gravelly cla	s" sy s
Hydrology Inundated: Yes X; No_	Depth of standing w	ater: 3"+ in part of area.	
Saturated soils: Yes x	; No Depth to satu	raced soil: At surface throughout	are
	- '	and vegotated substrate indicated r	
Wetland hydrology: Yes	∠; No Basis:	· floodin	5
Atypical situation: Yes_	<u></u> ★; No		
Normal Circumstances? Ye	B No		
Wetland Determination: W	etland;	Nonwetland	
Comments: Man-induced	Atypical Situation; I sol	ated depression in clay landfill cap	
Approx. SIZE: 372 3/	o, oatha). See Data to Determined b	mm 3	
a lom (	Determined b		
EA second soil boring he of foundry sand	d a layer	JAYCOR ENVIRONMENTAL	
OF TAINARY SANG.			

# DATA FORM 1

Applicant Name:	Application Number:	Project Name: DWI-1630	_
State: TN County	: KNOX Legal Description	n: Township: Range:	_
Date: 19 SEPT 1996	Plot No.: CAP-4	Section:	_
Vegetation [list the the	hree <u>dominant</u> species in each	ch vegetation layer (5 if	
only 1 or 2 layers)].	Indicate species with obser	rved morphological or known	
physiological adaptation	ons with an asterisk.		
	Indicator	Indicator	
Species	Status Specie	es Status	
Trees	Herbs	ns polylepis FACM	
1. NOME		• •	
2.		x vulpinodea OBL	
3.	Woody vines		
Saplings/shrubs 4. Cornus amemum	FALW+ 10.		
5.	11.		
6.	12.		
	OBL, FACW, and/or FAC:\\00.	Other indicators:	
		: OBL and FACW dominar	
nyaropnyare vegetation		U.S. Bridge	
Soil			
Sorter and phone: Cl.	w fill soil On hydric so	oils list? Yes; No_K_	٠ ـ ٥٠٠٩"
Mottled: Yes ; No	X . Mottle color:	; Matrix color: 10 YR 4	Felly clay; may
Gleyed: Yes No	✓ Other indicators:	54RS/	g duan elah hu
		e of hydric indicators	Fill soil
		•	
Hydrology		" "	
Inundated: Yes;	No X . Depth of standing	water: = 2-3	•
Saturated soils: Yes_	X; No Depth to sa	turated soil: At surface	•
Other indicators:			•
Wetland hydrology: Ye	s_X; No Basis: P	mded water; surface s	aturation
Atypical situation: Y	es_X; No		
Normal Circumstances?			
	Wetland K		
Comments: Man-ind	used Atypical Stuation	; Isolated depression in	clay landfil cap.
ybbook zise: 113 m	2 (0.011 ha) Determined	by: B. ROSENSTEEL	
See Data Form 3		JAYCOR ENVIRONMEN	TAL

# A-6

# DATA FORM 3

# ATYPICAL SITUATIONS

licant ::	Number:	Name: <u>DWI-1630</u>
Krox Co. TN	Plot Numbers <u>CAP-1</u> through CAP-4	
VEGETATION:		
1. Type of Alteration	on: Original valley was used	as a land fill salvage stor
,	Later was capped with	
		•
2. Effect on Vegetat	cion: Original vegetation ha	
v 9		· Pronose perposeano species
	w tropisme reenow . com	
(Attach documents	ection)	of breviow indeposition;
(needen documents		·
4. Hydrophytic Veget	ation? Yes X	Vo
SOILS:		
1. Type of Alteration	on: Original soil covered to	by tens of feet of
<u> </u>	andfell contents and fell	2 soul
·		· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
2. Effect on Soils:	Kandfell used from 19	
<u> </u>	Capped in 198	
3. Previous Soils:		
(Attach documenta		
4. Hydric Soils? Ye	esNoX_	· •
HYDROLOGY:	· •	•
1. Type of Alteration	on: Depressions in clay c	cap holds precipitation
	and run off.	
2 Pff. on an Unimal		140000000000000000000000000000000000000
2. Effect on hydrote	DBY: Minimal drainage th	is from the degressions
	NO SUPPLY BUTTE	IS FROM THE REPRESENT
3. Previous Hydrolog	By: Unknown -	
(Attach documents		
4. Wetland Hydrology		•
	Characterized 1	By: B. Rosensteel
		JAYCOR Environmental

# DATA FORM 1

Applicant Name:	Application Number:	Project Name: DWI-	630
State: TN Count	y: KNOX Legal Descri	ption: Township: Rang	
		Section:	-
<del></del>	AT BASE OF FIL		
Vegetation [list the	three dominant species i	n each vegetation layer (5	if
only 1 or 2 layers)].	Indicate species with	observed morphological or	known
physiological adaptat	ions with an asterisk.		
Species	Indicator Status S	Indicator Status	
Trees	Herbs		
1. Acernequado	FACW 7.		
2. Salix nigra	OSL 8.	NONE	
3. Platanus occidentalis	FACW- 9.		
Saplings/shrubs	Woody v	ines	
4. Acer negundo	FACW 10.		
5.	11.	NONE	
6.	12.		
So11			
<del></del>	On hydr	ic soils list? Yes;	No
Mottled: Yes X; N	o . Mottle color:	ic soils list? Yes ;  YRS/\ ; Matrix color:	NO STRETE Clay 0-6"
Gleyed: Yes No	Other indicators:	My concretions	SYRS/1 Silmiclam 6+
		rix color and muttles	•
•			
Hydrology			
Inundated: Yes;	No X . Depth of stan	ding water:	underlying
Saturated soils: Yes	; No X . Depth t	ding water: o saturated soil: Surface	was wet; clay was n
Other indicators: Gv	and devoid of herbaceon	us vegetation; Ponded wat	er observed Dec - Man
Wetland hydrology: Y	es <u> </u>	: Absence of ground cove	r: observed fonding
Atypical situation:	Yes; No $\times$ .	has not been determined	if ponding occurred
Normal Circumstances?	Yes X No	n growing season	
Wetland Determination	: Wetland X	; Nonwetland	•
Comments: Area was d	isturbed in the past - (was	used as a site relention pon	d) but has not been
recently cleared and	historbed. Clay layer pe	crches precipitation but ined by: B. ROSENSTEEL	restricts groundwater
		A A A C A SAULUS OA	

# A-8 DATA FORM 1

Applicant Name:		ication er:	Project Name: DWI-16	30
State: TA Count	y: KNOX Leg	al Description: Tov	mship:Range:	
Date: 19 SEPT 1996				
Vegetation [list the only 1 or 2 layers)]				
physiological adaptat			reprotogred of an	
bulgatorogreat adaptat	Indicator		Indicator	
Species	Status	Species	Status	
Trees		Herbs		
	FACW		strumation FAC	
2. Salix nigra	OBL	8. Leersia sp.	. ÓBL or F	ACW
3.		•	cylindrica FAC	
Saplings/shrubs	,	Woody vines		
4. Acer negundo	FACW	10.		
5. Fraxinus pennsylva	vica FACW	11.		
6.		12.		
% of species that are	OBL, FACW, and	/or FAC: 100 . Other	indicators:	<u> </u>
Hydrophytic vegetation		<del></del>		
Soil				
Series and phase:		On hydric soils li	Lst? Yes; No	·•
Mottled: Yes X;	No Mottle	color: 7.5485/6; 1	Matrix color: 10 Y	R5/1. Silty clay los
Gleyed: Yes No				•
Hydric soils: Yes				•
.*				
Hydrology				
Inundated: Yes	. No 乂 . Dept	h of standing water:	:5"	·
Saturated soils: Yes				•
Other indicators: Pa				
Wetland hydrology:			•	·
Atypical situation:				
Normal Circumstances				
Wetland Determination			wetland	
Comments: Ground we				y probably aids
in detention of run	off, also		3. ROSEASTEEL	
			AYCOR ENVIRONT	

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