

United States Department of Agriculture



Natural Resources Conservation Service
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September 22, 2005

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Centreville, MD 21617

RE: Freedom of Information Request

Dear [REDACTED]

This responds to your Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request dated September 9, 2005. The records you requested pertain to Soil Conservation and Water Quality Plans developed for the Centreville, Maryland Waste Water Treatment Plan Spray Irrigation Farm.

Your access rights are limited to those provided by the Freedom of Information Act.

On May 13, 2002, changes in USDA and NRCS processing of FOIA requests became effective. Section 2004 of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 mandates that information provided to NRCS or to contractors or consultants of NRCS to participate in conservation programs is not considered public information and is not releasable to the public.

We have reviewed the pertinent documents at the Queen Anne's field office of NRCS and I have determined that the documents are not appropriate for release. This withholding is pursuant to 5 U.S.C. Section 552 [Exemption (b) (3) and/or (b) (6)]. As a general matter, requests for owner's or operator's objectives, conditions of producers unit, program contracts, agreement information, and practices and systems installed, are not releasable to the public.

If you are dissatisfied with my action on this FOIA request, you may appeal this denial. To appeal, write to the Chief, USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service, 14th Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20013, within 45 days of your receipt of this letter. Both the letter and the envelope should be clearly marked "Freedom of Information Act Appeal."

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Charles E. Royer".

CHARLES E. ROYER
Maryland NRCS, F.O.I.A. Officer

cc:
DC, NRCS, Queen Anne, MD

The Natural Resources Conservation Service provides leadership in a partnership effort to help people conserve, maintain, and improve our natural resources and environment.

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