

Application NAB-2007-08123-M05
Response to U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Information Request Dated 01/16/09
Calvert Cliffs 3 Project, LLC and UniStar Nuclear Operating Services, LLC
February 12, 2009

Question 13

Is it possible to improve wildlife habitat in the laydown areas post-construction. Can plantings be used where security and other concerns won't prohibit their use? Is it possible to modify the shape of the stormwater retention basins to include curves that reflect more natural features? Where this is not possible, provide justification.

RESPONSE

As security concerns allow, laydown areas will be converted to grassland communities during the post-construction phase. The conversion of non-sensitive security laydown areas to grassland communities will increase biodiversity by providing habitats not currently available to on-site wildlife species. Grassland communities should consist of native warm season grasses and forbs. The rich diversity of grasses and forbs will also increase insect and pollinator populations. Additional benefits include increased soil fertility, soil stabilization and reduced erosion. Native grass species are drought resistant and require minimal maintenance once established.

Preparation of the site includes disking to loose soil and kill existing weeds. Native warm season grasses may be established by drilling or broadcasting, using high quality seed from a local seed source. Since native warm season grasses do not compete well with less desirable non-native cool season grasses (e.g. fescue, Bermuda grass, Johnson grass), some competition control may be necessary. In the absences of fire, mechanical and chemical application may be used to help establish the habitat. Once the native grasses are established, maintenance of habitat would require only annual mowing to inhibit woody plant growth.

The shape of the stormwater retention basins has been designed to minimize their footprint and maximize their required storage volume. If they were reshaped to be more curvilinear, then either critical design volume would be lost or the limits of disturbance would have to increase to accommodate the change.