

# WETLANDS BOARD

## MINUTES

MARCH 8, 1995

**A. ROLL CALL** **ABSENT**

Mr. Hughes  
Mr. Gussman  
Mr. Jones  
Mr. Lindsey  
Mr. Waltrip

**OTHERS PRESENT**

Bernard M. Farmer, Jr., Zoning Administrator  
Jay Lipscomb, VMRC

**B. MINUTES**

Minutes of February 8, 1995 were approved.

**C. OLD BUSINESS**

None.

**D. NEW BUSINESS**

**W-27-94; Virginia Power**

Mr. Farmer presented the staff report stating that Crofton Diving Corporation on behalf of Virginia Power has applied for an after the fact wetlands permit to conduct a submersed cable repair to replace a nonfunctional existing cable at the Route 5 Bridge. The Crofton Diving Corporation, for Virginia Power, has installed a cable from James City County to Charles City County, parallel to and within ten feet of the existing cable to replace a nonfunctional line. A trench was dug beginning at the existing telephone pole going towards the river. The cables were laid in the trench and the area was restored. In a June 1994 letter Crofton stated that they would be hand digging in wetlands areas in order to minimize impact. Virginia Power deemed the action an emergency procedure in order to continue to provide electrical service. Representatives from Code Compliance visited the property on November 16, 1994. It is estimated that approximately sixty square feet of tidal area was impacted by this request. An inspection of the site shows the area to be restored, with little if any visible clue that the disturbance occurred. The area is mostly wooded with some cypress knees present. It is staff recommendation that a permit be granted for this application with the following condition:

1. This permit shall expire March 8, 1996.

Mr. Waltrip made a comment about the compaction of cables in a trench.

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Mr. Jones questioned the expiration date for the proposed permit.

Mr. Farmer stated that the statute says that any permit must have an expiration date.

Mr. Lindsey opened the public hearing.

Mr. Bob Crofton, President of Crofton Diving Corporation stated, in reference to Mr. Waltrip's concern of the compacting of cables, that traditionally you try not to compact cables because there could be hard material such as gravel, that would compact down on top of the cable and destroy the outside layer and this allows for water to get into the cable and you are back to the same problem that you just tried to resolve.

Mr. Lindsey asked why it has taken so long for the permit application to come in front of the Wetlands Board?

Mr. Crofton said that Virginia Power would have to answer to the delay in application process. He further stated that Virginia Power had contacted him the evening that they had lost power circuit to one side of the bridge which left only one circuit going to James City County. It was considered an emergency.

There was cuscussion concerning the time period between application and the hearing.

Mr. Lindsey closed the public hearing.

Mr. Hughes moved to grant the "after the fact" permit with staff recommendation.

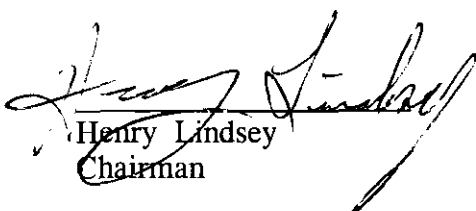
The motion carried unanimously.

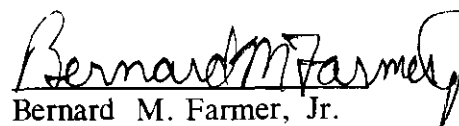
**E. MATTERS OF SPECIAL PRIVILEGE**

Mr. Farmer provided to the board an update on the Ware Case.

**F. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 P.M.

  
Henry Lindsey  
Chairman

  
Bernard M. Farmer, Jr.  
Secretary