# PUBLIC PRESENTATION OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT FOR FLORENCE HALL DEVELOPMENT



Submitted to:

Gore Developments Ltd.

2c Braemar Avenue

Kingston 10



Prepared by: Environmental Solutions Ltd. 20 West Kings House Road Kingston 10

April 2009

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# 1.0 Introduction

Florence Hall Housing Development is a housing development proposed by Gore Developments Ltd. close to Falmouth in Trelawny. Gore Developments Ltd. has acquired 72.4 ha (178.90 acres) at Florence Hall in the parish of Trelawny, and proposes to construct 828 two-bedroom detached homes on each residential lot. The lot sizes will be a minimum of 420.5 sq. m. (4,500 sq. ft.). The proposed development aims to satisfy the current housing demand along the North Coast stretch between Montego Bay (St. James) and Duncans, (Trelawny).

The property is located south of and bordered by the North Coast Highway, directly across from Oyster Bay and within proximity to Falmouth. Access to the property is via an entrance on the east of the Daniel Town Road just a few metres from the entrance to the state owned Trelawny Multi-purpose Stadium (located west of the property).

Amongst the 828 lots, a total of five lots have been allocated for dual purposes which may be used for both residential and commercial activities. These activities will be limited to small "corner shops" for groceries, dressmaking, hairdressing or other low-impact businesses. The development is to be divided into two major phases, which are naturally divided by a long green belt. This belt is a natural feature of heavily sloping land, which will be retained in its natural state. The development will also have several, large, medium and small sized neighbourhood parks, cave reservations, a large football field and a site for a basic school.

# 2.0 NEPA Requirements

The Public Consultation was staged in accordance with the NEPA Guidelines for Public Consultations.

# 3.0 Public Notification

Public Notification was given through the following means:

Public Notification in the Gleaner:

Tuesday, March 24, 2008 Wednesday, April 8, 2009 Flyers
Personalized Invitations
Town Cryer
Circulated through the Cable company in Falmouth

# NOTIFICATION OF PUBLIC PRESENTATION OF THE ENVIRONMENT IMPACT ASSESSMENT FOR FLORENCE HALL HOUSING DEVELOPMENT, TRELAWNY

**VENUE:** The William Knibb Memorial High School Auditorium Carib Road, Martha Brae, Falmouth

**DATE:** Tuesday, April 14, 2009

**TIME:** 5:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

The public is invited to participate in the presentation by way of asking questions relating to the proposed project.

A copy of the Environmental Impact Assessment Report may be consulted at:

- Trelawny Parish Library, Rodney Street, Box 44, Falmouth P.O., Trelawny
- Trelawny Parish Council Office, Water Square, Falmouth
- Gore Developments Ltd., 2c Braemar Avenue, Kingston 10, and their Website: www.goredevelopments.com
- Environmental Solutions Ltd., 20 West Kings House Road, Kingston 10 and their Website:
   www.eslcaribbean.com
- NEPA Documentation Centre, 11 Caledonia Ave., Kingston 5, and their WebSite at www.nepa.gov.jm

For further information please contact:

The offices of:

National Environment & Planning Agency (NEPA) 10 Caledonia Avenue, Kingston 5, or their website: www.nepa.gov.jm

# NOTIFICATION OF PUBLIC PRESENTATION FOR FLORENCE HALL HOUSING DEVELOPMENT, TRELAWNY

# Public Presentation of the Environment Impact Assessment

VENUE: The William Knibb Memorial High School Auditorium

Carib Road, Martha Brae, Falmouth

DATE: Tuesday, April 14th, 2009

TIME: 5:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

The public is invited to participate in the presentation by way of asking questions relating to the proposed project.

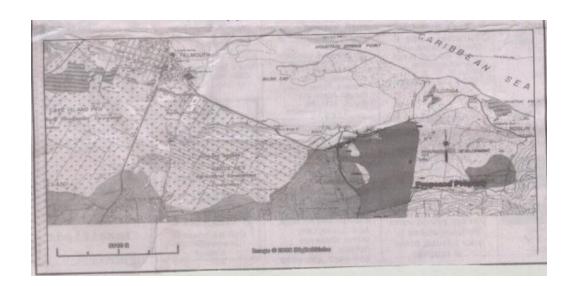
# A copy of the environmental impact assessment report may be consulted at:

- Trelawny Parish Library, Rodney Street, Box 44, Falmouth P.O., Trelawny
- · Trelawny Parish Council Office, Water Square, Falmouth
- · Gore Developments Ltd., 2c Braemar Avenue, Kingston 10
- · Gore Developments Ltd. Website: www.goredevelopments.com
- Environmental Solutions Ltd., 20 West Kings House Road, Kingston 10
- · Environmental Solutions Ltd. Website: www.eslcaribbean.com
- NEPA Documentation Centre, 11 Caledonia Ave., Kingston 5,
- · The NEPA Web Site at www.nepa.gov.jm

### For further information please contact:

The offices of the
National Environment & Planning Agency (NEPA)

10 Caledonia Avenue, Kingston 5
or their website: www.nepa.gov.jm



### SAMPLE LETTER OF INVITATION



#### **ENVIRONMENTAL SOLUTIONS LIMITED**

20 West Kings House Road Kingston 10, Jamaica, W.I.

(876) 929-9481, 960-8627, 960-0794, 968-3671 Fax: (876) 929-5731 E-Mail: <u>envirsol@cwiamaica.com</u> Website: www.estcaribbean.com

FAX NO. 617-0093

March 25, 2009

Mr. Everton Houston District Officer Falmouth Fire Brigade 7 Lower Parade Street

Dear Mr. Houston,

Re: Public Presentation for the Florence Hall Housing Development

This is to advise that the National Environment and Planning Agency (NEPA) has requested that a Public Presentation be held for the Environmental Impact Assessment Study that was conducted for the above housing development.

The Public Presentation will be held at the William Knibb High School Auditorium on Tuesday April 14, 2009 from 5:30pm. -8:30 pm. We would very much appreciate if you would circulate or post the enclosed flyers in your office and we look forward to your participation at the Public Consultation.

If you are unable to attend we would appreciate if you could nominate a representative from your organization to participate.

Yours sincerely, ENVIRONMENTAL SOLUTIONS LIMITED

&\_ Q b-de

Barry A. Wade, Ph.D., O.D., JP.

Chairman

Mr. Phillip Gore, Gore Developments Ltd.

Dr. Leary Myers, NEPA

Encl.

Comprehensive Services in Environmental Management
Directors: Barry A. Wade, Ph.D., O.D., JP; Chairman: Eleanor B. Jones, M.A., Managing Director;
George A. Campbell, M.Sc. (Econ) B.Sc
Sharonmae Shirley, M.Phill., CP-F-S

# LIST OF STAKEHOLDERS INVITED TO PUBLIC HEARING

Name and Position	Tel Contacts	Email	Fax #
David Muschett		mardave@cwjamaica.com	
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Jean Lewis	954-3427		954-4078
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June Pollack	954-4035		954-4036
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Garth Williamson	842-9100.		954-5592
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Hubert Mowatt & Albert Thomas	Rock PA		
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Hydda McPherson	954-2450-5		518-6354
Environmental Manager			
Richard Bourke			
General Manager			
Elsa Sommerville	954-3689		954-3563
Chief Public Health Inspector			
Delroy Mowatt, Deputy			
Mr. Roland Powell	610-5644		610-5577
Vice Principal			
	David Muschett Roger Newman Patrick Hastings  Everton Houston – District Officer Jean Lewis Manager Mrs. Rose Bernard Manager Major Desmond Brown General Manager Sgt Lewars Head Superintendent Lynett Williams Martin, Head Dr. Patrick Harris Colin Gager Mr. Orville Williams. Zone Team Leader June Pollack Manager Garth Williamson  Freddie Depass General Manager Hubert Mowatt & Albert Thomas Senior Fishermen Hydda McPherson Environmental Manager Richard Bourke General Manager Elsa Sommerville Chief Public Health Inspector Delroy Mowatt, Deputy Mr. Roland Powell	David Muschett Roger Newman Patrick Hastings  Everton Houston – District Officer  Jean Lewis Manager  Mrs. Rose Bernard Manager  Major Desmond Brown General Manager  Sgt Lewars Head  Dr. Patrick Harris  Colin Gager  June Pollack Manager  Garth Williamson  Freddie Depass General Manager  Hubert Mowatt & Albert Thomas Senior Fishermen  Hydda McPherson Environmental Manager  Elsa Sommerville Chief Public Health Inspector Delroy Mowatt, Deputy  Mr. Roland Powell  P54-3230  954-3271  954-3271  877-6958/  8	David Muschett Roger Newman Patrick Hastings Everton Houston – District Officer Jean Lewis Manager Mrs. Rose Bernard Manager Mrs. Rose Bernard Major Desmond Brown General Manager Sgt Lewars Head Superintendent Lynett Williams Martin, Head Dr. Patrick Harris Pot-Patrick Harris Sone Team Leader June Pollack Manager Garth Williamson  Freddie Depass General Manager Hubert Mowatt & Albert Thomas Senior Fishermen Hydda McPherson Environmental Manager Richard Bourke General Manager Elsa Sommerville Chief Public Health Inspector Delroy Mowatt, Deputy Mr. Roland Powell  610-5644

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Falmouth Book Place			sales@falmouthbookplace.com	
ODPEM	Mr. Ronald Jackson	928-5111		
NEPA	Dr. Leary Myers	754-7540		
Ministry of Agriculture	Mr. Donovan Stanberry	927-1731		
PIOJ	Dr. Wesley Hughes	960-9339		

WRA	Mr. Basil Fernandez	927-0077	
National Irrigation	Mr. Stanley Rampair	977-4022	
Commission	•		
Jamaica Developers	Mr. Reynald Scott	967-2503	
Association Ltd.			
Ministry of Health	Mr. Peter Knight	967-1977	
NROCC	Mr. Ivan Anderson	929-1581	
NWC	Mr. E.G. Hunter	929-5430	
JPS	Mr. Damion Obligio	926-3190	
CCAM	Ms. Ingrid Parchment	986-3327	
LIME	Mr. Geoss Houston	926-9700	
Jamaica National Heritage	Mrs. Laleta Davis Mattis	922-1287-8	
Trust			
Jamaica Trade & Invest	Mr. Robert Gregory	978-7755	
Forestry Department	Mrs. Marilyn Headley	927-1731-50	
	Conservator of Forests		
Jamaica Environment Trust	Ms. Diana McCaulay	929-3590	
Trelawny Parish Council	Mr. Gerald Lee	954-4838	
Trelawny Parish Library	Ms. Marjory Rutherford	954-3306	

# 4.0 Chairman and Agenda

Mr. David Seivwright, Chairman of the Trelawny Chamber of Commerce was approached to Chair the meeting.

The Agenda is given below:

#### PUBLIC PRESENTATION OF THE ENVIRONMENT IMPACT ASSESSMENT

**FOR** 

## FLORENCE HALL HOUSING DEVELOPMENT, TRELAWNY

**VENUE:** The William Knibb Memorial High School Auditorium

DATE: Tuesday April 14th, 2009

TIME: 5:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

**AGENDA** 

Welcome and Introduction Chairman

Mr. Dennis Seivwright

**Trelawny Chamber of Commerce** 

The Presentation of EIA Findings Dr. Barry A. Wade

**Environmental Solutions Limited** 

Question and Answer Session All

**Closing Remarks** 

# 5.0 Attendance

Forty persons singed the guest book which is presented below.

# **GUEST BOOK**

**FOR** 

PUBLIC PRESENTATION FOR FLORENCE HALL HOUSING DEVELOPMENT, TRELAWNY

Held at the William Knibb Memorial High School

**April 14, 2009** 

NAME	COMPANY / AFFLIATE	PHONE CONTACT	E-MAIL ADDRESS	SIGNATURE
Errol Morris	NEPA	A54-4540		BMn
Steven Ponton	NEPA	7547540	GTEVEN PANTON QNEPA.GOV. JM	Santo
Corole Dunca	NEPA	784 7840	@ Nelpargovija	CHA
PROFILES ELLIS	NEPA	754-7540	QUEPA GOV IM	& Elis
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Ryan Rat	NEAN	846-6105	GUU- SM.	<b>2</b>
Ramon Hutchison	NEPA	754-7540	thutchinson@nepe.	
Catoya Richards	martha Brea.	871-0616	toya 2 richar	L'Ajchord
Patrick Fullation	Green Park	562-7883 954-6608	, —	Bellaton
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Charles Johnson	Masters Johnson 4 Assoc.	984 2297 984 7558	Charles-a-johnson Qyahoo com	lly
IAN C. JOHNSON	MASTERS JOHNSON & ASSOCS	9842297	ijohnson 570	panque
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Doris Cuross	portico limited	381-4767	- 1222 10	Cass
BARKY WHE	FSL	960-8627	20/1/11	8-06-0
George Dais	NEPA	754 x40	7,000	AGAS

NAME	COMPANY / AFFLIATE	PHONE CONTACT	E-MAIL ADDRESS	SIGNATURE
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# 6.0 Presentation

Environmental Solutions Ltd. prepared and presented the findings of the EIA, in conjunction with other members of the project team. The Power Point Presentation is given in Figure 6.0.

# 7.0 Verbatim Report

The proceedings of the evening were recorded verbatim by a Court Reporter and are presented in the text below:

PUBLIC PRESENTATION
OF THE
ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT
FOR
FLORENCE HALL HOUSING DEVELOPMENT, TRELAWNY
HELD AT THE
WILLIAM KNIBB MEMORIAL HIGH SCHOOL, TRELAWNY
ON TUESDAY, APRIL 14, 2009
COMMENCING AT 6:00 P.M.

## **Presenters:**

Mr. Dennis Seivwright, Chairman Dr. Barry Wade, Presenter

In Attendance:

Members of the Gore Developments Ltd.,
Environmental Solutions Ltd. EIA Project Team,
and members of the public.

Chairman:

This evening, I want to introduce to you our main presenter of the project proposed by Gore Development. A study was done on the EIA that is here today for presentation to you for your critique, your observation and approval. This process is by way of making the community aware of the environmental issues, so that they are in tandem with whatever development proposed by a developer, in this case, it is Gore Development Limited that is proposing to build some eight hundred and odd homes at Florence Hall.

I will not be long with you because the important man is Dr. Barry Wade who will be giving you specifics and details as to the environmental issues and impacts.

So, I am here to suggest that you listen keenly to the presentation. And I ask that during question time, after the presentation, there are two mikes in the isle that you will use for the asking of questions.

The rules are, you should not ask a question that is already asked, and if you were listening you would have heard it because we don't want any waste talk in here this evening. When you get up to speak you should identify yourself by giving your name and your address and specifically state what section or issue that is of your concern.

It is important that we observe this because it is a regulation and a requirement by NEPA and by Government that every development within the island of Jamaica that takes place comes through the scrutiny of the public and the approval, the final approval of the public, so you are the boss. So today and this evening, I ask that during the presentation we don't want any whispering among ourselves to cause any form of distraction, we want keen attention so that you are more able to understand the issues. So that you are more capable of asking more questions and responding to what is really happening here.

So without further ado, I want to give to you Dr. Barry Wade, who will use the opportunity also to introduce his entourage. Thank you very much. (Applause)

Good afternoon everyone. As you have heard I am Barry Wade, I am the Chairman of Environmental Solutions Limited and team leader of the group that conducted the Environmental Impact Assessment for the proposed Florence Hall Development.

As you also heard, this public presentation, public hearing is a requirement of the regulations of the National Environmental and Planning Agency we have representatives of them today.

Everything that is said at this public presentation and hearing will be recorded and will form a part of the essential document pertaining to the EIA Report. This includes both my presentation and the questions and answers that will be given. So the entire proceedings are being recorded. Furthermore, the questions you raised in this hearing may be directed, not only by you but by NEPA to the consultants to answer before the final decision is made whether to approve this project or not. So the public hearing is a very important part of the EIA process and you here this afternoon are important elements in determining the approval or other wise of this project.

The presentation will follow a definite outline. I will first describe the project that is proposed.

Second, I will say a few words about the EIA process so that you fully understand it, and how it was conducted.

Thirdly, I will describe the existing environment of Florence Hall as we have studied it.

Dr. Wade:

Fourthly, we will look at the potential environmental impacts which the development is likely to cause. These are both the positive impacts as well as any negative impacts.

We will then look at mitigation measures, that is, measures designed to reduce the impacts on the environment. We will then discuss the project in the light of other developments in the area, under what we call cumulative impacts how does the project fit within the overall Trelawny environment and what else is happening here.

And finally, we will discuss the consideration of alternatives as far as the project development is concern.

First the project site location. I think most if not all of you would be aware of Florence Hall and where it occurs, south of Oyster Bay, East of the Greenfield Stadium and in a sense encompassing what is the development taking place Stonebrook by Kemtec. Aerial photo shows this well.

The development is designed to provide eight hundred and twenty-eight (828) housing solutions, consisting two-bedroom houses lot size of 420 square meters. The layout is shown in the previous slide and a typical Gore Development House is now being shown on the slide. Together they look something like this which is the slide of a development presently taking place in the Montego Bay area Rhyne Park Development.

The design of the project includes a number of communities, there is generous open spaces left in natural vegetations or designers open fields with playing fields, there is a heritage site, there is a commercial centre plan and there is space for a basic school. These are shown in details on various posters which are on the walls and after the presentation you may consult them for more detail. We have handouts for some of them and some of you will receive them but we may not have enough for everybody. But you can look at them and follow as we go along. So that is the development that is proposed.

Now the EIA process. First of all what is the purpose? The purpose of an EIA is to describe the project area and environmental conditions, to identify potential impacts and to determine mitigation measures. It makes use of available data as well as collects new data pertinent to the site and its surroundings so as to inform the professionals regarding the impacts and the mitigation measures. The EIA conducts assessment and prepares a report, a written report, which is submitted to the National Environmental Planning Agency (NEPA) for them to make their deliberation. Copy of the report has been available in libraries, NEPA's website and our website, Gore Development website and I hope that some you if not all of you have had a chance to consult this. We have one copy available here for your perusal at the close of the presentation.

Then there is the public hearing for citizens' response followed by our own response to questions raised, and finally, the decision will be taken by NEPA.

To conduct an Environmental Impact Assessment a multi-disciplinary team is put together and in this section we use a Charette Style method, which means that all the team accumulated on the site and shared information both on the site and off of the site, in close interaction with one another. The data gathering involves field studies, inclusive tests, analysis of maps, plans, aerial photos et cetera, review of reports on background documents, structured interviews with interested stakeholders/ citizens, laboratories analyses, frequent team meetings and iterative interaction with the developer.

An Environmental Impact Assessment serves not only for the purpose of permitting but for guiding the developers as to how best to design the development. In this case Gore Development Limited

contracted our company early in the process, so that from early on they were getting feedback as to the environmental sensitivities of the project and a lot of the findings of our own work are integrated into their development and design.

The Terms of Reference were approved by NEPA as is required, February 12, 2009, but as I indicated the actual study began long before because in the literature and in regulations we know that there is a generic terms of reference for projects of this sort. As the developers had their early design work to do, they were interested to find out what were the impacts and how to mitigate them. Actually you don't have mitigation at the end of the process but as much as possible at the beginning of the process. Gore Development Limited has developed their methodology of involving with the environmental consultants from very early in project development. The terms of reference are included in the EIA report for ease of reference.

The role of the consultants is very important, but sometimes misunderstood. We collect and analyze all relevant data, information and view points. Both hard data and what you may call soft data obtained by interviewing persons, stakeholders in and around the community. This systematically can identify and examine possible consequences of the proposed development. Actually we look at both what the impacts of the development might be on the environment, but we also look at the impacts of the environment on the development so that there is interplay and understanding. We determine appropriate means to avoid, reduce, or mitigate impacts at acceptable levels, we utilize objectives and professional integrity in analyzing or reporting our findings. We served as a link between the developer and the regulatory agency or agencies as the case may require, and we avoid making definite recommendations as whether the project should be approved or not and this is important to note.

The consultants are not proponents of the project, our role is to identify the impacts objectively and to state them, as far as the developer is concern so the developer may know before hand what they are dealing with so that the public may know what are the sensitivities of the project and so that the regulatory agency, NEPA, may assess and determine whether the project should approved or not. Our role is to analyze and provide information and not to propose the project.

We have here this afternoon a number of team Members and I will just ask them to stand as their names are mention I myself as team leader. There is George Campbell, Economist who carried out the socioeconomic surveys, there is Sharonmae Shirley our Environmental Chemist, there is Peter Wilson-Kelly, Coastal Zone Specialist formally of NEPA, there is Brian Richardson, I don't see Brian here, Hydrogeologist and Brandon Hay, Ecologist. Assisting is Kimberly Bryan, Environmental Scientist, who is at the controls here, Rashidah Khan, Environmental Chemist and Annmarie Barnett, Project Officer at Environmental Solutions Limited. In addition to the chief which carried out the survey we have Doris Cross, Architect Planner for Gore Development Limited, we have Liz Walters and David Chang, Civil Engineers, and we have Israel Pincher who is Project Manager for Rhyne Park Development in Montego Bay and who generally overseas Gore Development Limited activities in this part of the island.

The work plan since August has involved the following: Client meetings, review of documents, review of legislation, site investigations, community surveys, water and air analyses, vegetation surveys, faunal surveys, caves surveys. I will say something about that as we go along, Hydrological surveys, data review and analysis, analysis of impact, draft report, client review, final report to NEPA, public notices and public presentation of the findings.

Now we move on to discuss the existing environment, the topography of the site. As I indicated, the site is well-known, it is opposite Oyster Bay or Glistering Waters as it is called and to the east, immediately the east of the Greenfield Stadium. The site slopes gently towards the Northern Coastal Highway with ground elevations in its most southerly portion 45 meters above sea level and sloping to about one meter above sea level of the Northern Coastal Highway.

There are a number of other outstanding features first of all, there is a major escarpment in the middle of the site, and there is an area which is more rugged than the others with a cave just north of that. There have been at least eight caves identified on this site. The site generally is marred by rugged karstic surface features by that we mean typical limestone rugged - those of you from the Coptic country or near there will know what karstic features are, the very rugged nature and here you have some of the exposed calcareous soil surfaces which is a characteristic of the site. In terms of the geology, there are karstic features both on the surface and the subsurface; the soils are thin with poor vegetation cover in some areas.

This slide shows the entrance to one of the caves. Because the site is known to have these karstic features it was important to carry out the survey to determine what the under ground features were. Therefore the technique known as "ground penetrating radar" was used to determine what the underground features were, or more specifically to determine what voids existed and where they were.

The next slide shows the presence of voids right throughout the site. There are over 300 such voids, down to depths of 10 meters. These voids are important because as we will discuss later on, they define the nature of the underground of the sub-surface structure for housing, and must be - houses must be planned with this in mind.

As far as water quality is concern there are no surface water features on the site, ground water occurs in some lower level caves and sinkholes. There is a small wetland at the north eastern corner of the site which has fiber flows under the Northern Coastal Highway to the wetland on the northern side and then into Oyster Bay.

Water quality has been measured on two occasions on a number of sites, and here I give just the summary of what was found although the details are to be found in the report. Both sites on the wetlands were recorded to have high organic nitrate and phosphate loading, this means in effect that the water of these sites is not now, before development, pristine which means than there is scope for improvement of the water quality. Especially with parts of organic including oil and greases, nitrates and phosphates. These elevated levels indicate the influence of the various activities practiced up stream; have nothing do with the development that is proposed. As far as the biological environment is concern there are three major types of eco-systems, there is the dry limestone forest, consists of one hundred and one species of plants, six endemics that is found only in Jamaica, and the upper canopy is dominated by Red Birch, Naked Indian or whatever you call it in these parts, which is known as Braziletto, and there you have a classic example of a Red Birch tree above the others.

There are several bird species, but no endangered threatened or rare species; 13 of Jamaica's 28 living endemic bird species were observed on the site. Jamaican Wood Pecker, Jamaican Vireo and Jamaican Euphonia and others occur; night birds included the Jamaican Owl and the Barn Owl. Eight species of butterflies were found on this site. As indicated the site, is covered mostly by the dry limestone forest with thin soil, so the canopy where it is heavy is fairly low and but only

the Red Birch terees extended beyond and where the soils are too thin you have scrub or sparse grass.

The wetland would be found in the north-eastern section of the site, and consists of red mangroves, black mangrove and white mangroves. These are the typical mangroves found in coastal areas, the black mangroves, in particular, is prominent and you see that in the bottom right and I will have something to say about the black mangrove area of the swamp a little later on.

As indicated there are caves on the site, eight known caves, the major habitat for avifauna such as birds and bats, and both were indentified. Cave fauna, one of the expanded caves you will see on the right there, the entrance to the cave very precipitous entrance you have to go in by rope, but bats and birds are found in there. Other caves on the site extend down to ten/ twenty meters and then extend laterally by various chambers.

To summarize, the ecology is dominated by the dry limestone forest by the wetland and by the caves.

Now the socio-economic environment, as you know well, the proposed project lies in an area of the historic town of Falmouth. With several rural communities in the area its occupation has its dependence on agriculture and fisheries. Trelawny is an ripe for development and everyday you hear and see various types of developments being planned or actually under construction. You know about the tourist developments in the area underway and planned. There are a number of heritage attractions in the area and I will say more about this again.

Trelawny now is being recognized as an area with rich heritage sites. There is the proposed development of Falmouth Harbour, and I would not say much about that at this time, and there are housing developments taking place, those planned like those of Gore Development Limited and others of smaller dimension.

Road and traffic, the new Northern Coastal Highway makes Trelawny a significant traffic node between St. James, particularly Montego Bay and St. Ann, particularly Ocho Rios, with easy access for the motoring public including daily commuters. So persons in this area work and travel easily to St. Ann as well as to St. James and people from St. James and St. Ann come easily into Trelawny.

The proposed development is one of these nodes going up to Daniel Town near to the Northern Coastal Highway with easy access and therefore a very desirable residential area.

Communities in this area besides Falmouth which is the parish capital, are Coopers Pen (a) Martha Brae where we are, Daniel Town and Rock.

I should have mentioned in my introduction, but forgive me, that I realize the significance of this public hearing being held at William Knibb High School. Where, I have to confess that two of my very good friends were Principals in the past and now my national hero Usaine Bolt studied. So I recognize the significance, and I would like to see Martha Brae coming to its full self in both its historicity, as well as its importance in the life of Trelawny and of the nation.

Social infrastructure is mainly centered in Falmouth and the surrounding area. With respect to utilities, water is plentiful, electricity is available and not limited and telecommunication is also easily available. Social infrastructure is also present, public health facilities, education with William Knibb and Holland High School, fire and police are available. There is waste management and the roads and traffic now are generally good Northern Coastal Highway is very good.

I should mention, however, and will come back to this, that social infrastructure must always be developed, and be developing, and any development like the one that is being proposed places a demand on social infrastructure to be continually upgraded, we will speak about that.

I mentioned the fact that heritage is an important aspect of the Trelawny environment, the Florence Hall Estate is just one of a number of interesting heritage sites both pre and post colonial to be found throughout Trelawny. They include Taino artifacts which we will describe, remnants of planters estates, and examples of exquisite Georgian architecture., and you know the Georgian Society of Jamaica has particular interest in Falmouth because it retains and it shows best the Georgian Architecture of the country.

Florence Hall Estate is an estate that was used for sugar, cattle and other products. It is an estate that dates back to the early colonial days and on this site there is both pre-colonial and post colonial artifacts. The Town and Country Planning Provisional Development Order identifies the Lawrence Hall Estate and the lists of sites and buildings of architectural and historic importance. If you can look beyond the right - the next slide - this slide shows an architectural reconstruction of the Great House on the Florence Hall Estate, the previous slide showed the Great House in its present condition. Up to time of Hurricane Gilbert it was in fairly good and useable condition, but since then it has deteriorated significantly, but the essential elements still exist and will be developed as I will indicate later on.

The existing heritage aspects of the site, as I said, include mostly pre-colonial and the post-colonial and here in the upper right, you will see some of the artifacts which I believe to extend to the Taino or what we call the Arawak days.

Now let us move on to the potential environmental impact of the development. Now when one is speaking of the potential impact, one speaks first of the construction phase impact, what is likely to happen during construction, as well as what is likely to happen after construction when the site is completely built and people are living on the site.

Classification of the impacts. All the environmental impacts are not negative they are also positive impacts, some are direct and some are indirect, some are short-term only, some are long-term, some are reversible and others are not, and some relate not just to what happen on the site but to what happens in the neighbouring areas what we call the accumulative impacts.

So let us look at some of the potential impacts first of all on the water resources of the site, the ground water.

As indicated ground water occurs in the caves, some of the caves and in some of the sinkholes on the site, especially during the wet weather, during the dry weather season - flood water contamination is a possibility from dumping of waste in the wells, caves or voids. Dumping of waste in any of these karstic areas would have a significant impact. Release of hazardous materials, especially during construction, also have a significant potential environmental impact, it could be from leaks of machinery used during construction, from fuel and cement and concrete, transportation of accidents or from leaks of storage tanks facilities. In essence, any leakage, any deliberate dumping into the underground aquifer is likely to seriously impact the ground water.

Secondly, there is drainage and run-off; when there is a development like this it is likely, possible that there is increase storm water run-off, this was identified early in the project and the civil engineers have design so that the eventual run-off is no greater, just slightly greater than what it is, free and I will indicate how this is done. Flooding due to overload or pre-development drainage

capacity can also present problems. In many developments across Jamaica, not sufficient attention is given to drainage and you have reports of flooding of developments as a result of poor drainage. Drainage is absolutely critical and has been taken into consideration from the very first stages of the development of this project.

With all the potential impacts with sewage, in adequately treated sewage or aesthetic impairment with sewage. Sewage plants must be properly designed they must be properly located and they must be properly managed. Again, one of the frequent problems with development is that sewage is not given the attention it needs to be given and as a result you have problems with it.

Potential impacts of the geology is structured in the karstic environment including both surface and subsurface features as a result of filing of voids, extension of natural sinkholes and collapse of caves roofs. This means that during clearing in particular of the site attention - particular attention must be paid to not destroying the ground cover, the karstic ground cover, not opening up caves, not destroying the voids or anything like that. So it places an onus on developers that during site clearance care must be taken not to disturb the basic geology of the site. Soils and landscaping is also another potential area of impact. Indiscriminate removal of forest cover puts increase erosion and sediment loads in the run-off. In other words, if you just clear the site and leave it cleared, all of a sudden with a rain shower especially if it is done in the rainy season you will have this build-up of run-off causing problem. So scraping of soil for construction and poor temporary storage also could result in increased erosion. Improper stock piling of important soil as you will need to put top soil could also add to the sediment run-off. Application of fertilizers for landscape vegetation could result in increase nutrient loads for the wet land resulted in eutrophication that is over enrichment of the water body. It is vitally important than the whole matter of soil preservation and landscaping be carefully managed in a development like this.

Potential impacts for the ecology, we know this is an unavoidably impact and that there will be loss of dry/ wetland forest which means that there will be a loss of habitat and natural vegetation diversity. There will be fragmentation of habitat, as I have indicated earlier on, we are going to leave some areas in natural vegetation, but other areas have to be cleared and this is an almost totally irreversible impact, but an impact that can be mitigated by leaving substantial areas in natural vegetation. There will be reduced infiltration and run-off capacity from clearing. As far as the wetland is concerned, there will be no reduction in wetland area as we will be retaining the wetland. But if indiscriminately wetland should be affected, or should be removed then that would be a negative impact. In this particular case again, because of the design it is intended that the entire wetland will remain in tact and will be used for polishing of run-off water. It could be possible eutrophication of effluent if not treated properly would lead to impact on the bioluminescence in Oyster Bay. As far as the caves and voids are concerned the possibility of dumping which I have referred to before and blockage of the drainage paths could lead to contamination of the ground water.

As far as the demographics are concern, people part of it, increased in migrant skilled and unskilled construction workers is almost inevitable in the area. They will come in search of scarce employment as well as those engaged in hustling occupation. I won't describe hustling, but you know what I mean. Those who are selling, those who are selling one kind or the other, this one is inevitable but it can be managed, it can be mitigated but it happens.

Secondly, there is rapid acceleration of population densities with eight hundred and odd houses coming in, solutions, if you estimate four or five persons to a house that means there is an increase in population of the immediate area of between four or five thousand. On the positive side, there

will be not only housing for individuals but there would be employment opportunities both during construction and during operation.

As far as the social infrastructure is concern, the potential socio-economic impacts, there would be increase pressure on an already overburden Falmouth health system with influx of about eight hundred families. As I have indicated before, it is always necessary to keep upgrading the public health system as well as the education system. Disease outbreak from improper solid and liquid disposal is possible.

Solid waste management. Accumulation of domestic waste, there is only one garbage truck operating in the parish. It will be necessary to increase and improve the Solid Waste Management practices, the fleet and the system in the area, that is inevitable. Dumping of garbage in wells, voids and sinks could cause a problem, but as we have indicated more than once before, this is to be prevented at all costs and the developers are aware this. This could be nuisance species due to increase in garbage.

As far as traffic is concern it is very important, because putting eight hundred people in an area will impact traffic flow on the Northern Coastal Highway. Now Northern Coastal Highway is designed to carry that increased traffic flow so that is not the problem. What could be the problem is ingress and egress, getting into getting out of the development and that has to be carefully plan and I have indicated that planning is already been thought through with the National Works Agency and Traffic Authority as how best to deal with this. And as you know, of course, if the Greenfield is having a major development - major event at the time and everybody wants to get in - you could have congestion, but it can be managed, it can be mitigated.

Heritage removal of historic units such as guard house, pack and cut stone fence could result in loss of heritage value of the Florence Hall Estate. The developers are again aware of this, and they are very much interested in retaining all the heritage features of the site, but if a contractor gets on the site and starts to remove these indiscriminately and so on, you could lose some value. But the plan is not to have them.

Other impacts; air quality you are going to have increase dusk during construction almost an inevitable impact that can be mitigated. Noise will certainly elevate you during construction period. Natural hazards, if a tropical storm or hurricane comes during a critical period of the construction you could have some negative impacts. I have already indicated hazardous materials if not properly stored or handled could reduce impact.

So mitigation measures, some of which I have indicated before, first the construction phase. Site planning is absolutely critical so that there is a well ordered clearance of the site, storage of materials and overall management of construction areas, for example, wetting to cut down on dusting. Erosion control measures, such as construction sequences, important to minimize exposure of soils, retention of existing drainage for as long as possible during construction and diverting run-off from denuded areas. During construction it is imperative that there be construction monitoring, in fact, this is always a requirement of NEPA that there be construction monitoring and frequent of reports as to whether or not the contractors are carrying on the stipulations laid down by NEPA. Usually what happens is that the developers use the consultants to report regularly on whether the contractors are following the guidelines during construction. NEPA has the authority if the contractors are not following the regulations to close down the construction site, and this has

happened elsewhere. Therefore it is in the interest of the developers to make sure that the construction practices are of the highest standards and do not cause any of these impacts.

I mentioned before that the site has many voids that is, under ground cavities and it is important that these voids not be disturbed by either breaking through the surface or by any other means. However, of the three hundred and odd voids identified on this site, it has been recognized of about ten to fifteen of these voids will have to be filled because they lie in the pathway of the roads and drainage to and provide secure structure, substructure from foundation, some voids will have to be filled. What is seen here, you will not be able to read it, but it is in the report the engineers has indicated how these voids are to be filled and the sequencing and the kinds of material that are to be used. So we cannot say no voids are to be filled, some voids ten to fifteen is the present estimate will be filled and they must be filled in a deliberate and determined manner which is indicated by the engineers.

As far as the mitigation during operation the project was designed, layout and landscaping, to deliberately mitigate the foreseen impact such as increased surface run-off, flooding contamination of ground water contamination et cetera. What will happen is that first of all, run-off, as I indicated the design will follow a certain pathway. In red... *(Indicating to the slide)* ...you will see the run-off greatly parse, and there are three features I want to mention. First of all the southern section of the site in a green area there is a natural pond there and some of the drainage will go to that pond area which will be maintain as a pond.

Secondly on the upper left outside of berm that is an area of an important cave, it is a special area a berm will be built around it to ensure that there is no run-off of material construction organs going into that area.

Thirdly, the major red area will flow towards the wetland which will be the natural recipient for most of the drainage in the area. So this has been designed in the area. There are also open spaces that I have indicated and around and in these open spaces there will be sediment traps so that there won't be excessive run-offs into the wetland. Drainage is critically important and this has been taken into consideration, the overall development of the site.

Sewage treatment and disposal. There are a number of ways of treating sewage, one might use mechanical treatment which is by pumping air or disturbing the waste so as to allow for aeration that goes into the mechanical system or there is the biological system. The biological system in this case has been preferred over the mechanical system for several reasons:- One, it is less energy demanding. Secondly, it is less equipment demanding. And; thirdly it is more stable and reliable, no breakdowns, no JPS turning off nothing of the sort.

So what has been designed is a biological system. This biological system consists of a number of receiving tanks discharging into a constructed wetland area. By constructed wetland, we are talking about what has been referred to as, reed beds, you retain the sewage, the raw sewage and you allow the liquid portion to run thorough a number of reed beds, that is beds with a type of vegetation which then utilizes that material to produce biological growth. By this means, the effluent from that will achieve the standard established by NEPA and by the Environmental Health Unit of the Ministry of Health. It is necessary, it is important, it is imperative that the effluent from there meets the NEPA standards. Again, if it does not meet the NEPA standards then they have a right to come and say close down. But this system is designed in collaboration with the National Water Commission so that before they approve it they are certain that the design can meet the standards that are required.

The third aspect of this is that, from the reed beds that final effluent will flow into the wetlands where it will be retained for a period of 48-hours or more to achieve what we call final polishing. This will take up the remaining nutrients, particularly nitrates and the phosphates, and if there is any suspended solids it also will be have a chance to settle.

The sewage treatment plant is located in the north eastern section between a playing field, a woodland and the wetland and this area in the middle is the area designed for the sewage treatment. It will be separated from the residential areas by the woodland and by the playfield, so there is physical separation that will occur there. This will provide buffering so that it will not be visually intrusive in the residential area. This will be the area where the final effluent will be discharged inside of the wetland and mangroves wetlands like this are well-known and will be able to absorb and retain this kind of effluent and to give the final polishing that is required.

I repeat again, the sewage treatment system is not entirely the design of the developers - well they design it - but it has to be approved by National Water Commission to ensure that the size and the configuration meets all the demand of the National Water Commission and eventually of NEPA as well before it is implemented and that is the stage the developers are presently in.

Operations impacts further on the cave. The caves we recommend must be protected from fresh water inflows, surface from drainage as well as soils but also from any dumping and there is a safety issue involved with the cave and we are recommending that there is a ten meters vegetated zone around each cave and fencing to provide for an extra safety.

As far as the heritage retention is concern, it is important that Great House be maintained and the developers are already committed to this and to restoring the Great House in the immediate area and leaving it as a green site, a heritage site. The developers are presently discussing with the heritage experts what is the best way, not only to preserve the Great House in the immediate area, but how to develop this area as a functional heritage site. Because they also are committed to the site maintaining its healthy features, but that has to be carefully determined and they are in the process of doing that.

As far as the cumulative impacts are concern, I have mentioned traffic before but this is one of those cumulative impacts that is not just the responsibility of the developer who has to work with the National Works Agency and with the Traffic Authority to work out traffic flows and the traffic designs ingress, entrance and exits into development. So already discussions like that are taking place, for example simple the roadways and the walkways, the entrance to the exits and any other traffic features. Another cumulative impact which I had referred to before, but I will refer to it again, is the matter of solid waste management. Our indication is that the present solid waste management system is inadequate to take care of all of the solid waste to be generated by four thousand, five thousand new residents moving into the area. So this also in an increase on the demand for solid waste system and will have to be worked out with the authorities as it is important that waste not accumulate, and that the system works and works well.

Another cumulative impact is in regards to education, already it is felt that most schools are needed in this area. Our understanding is that the shift system will be phased out which means that the same infrastructure is likely to carry fewer students, and that the parish will be needing additional educational facilities. This is an area outside of the immediate realm of the developer. This issue has to be resolved in conjunction with both government and all of the developers in the area.

Health and emergency facilities in the parish will also need to be improved and upgrading of these facilities will be necessary. The planning for the increased needs should commence as soon as

possible as it will take time. So those are some of the cumulative impacts that are likely, that is the responsibility not only of the developer but primarily actually of the government.

Now consideration of alternatives. It has been suggested that the parish of Trelawny will have a demand for seven hundred new units or solutions every year in the foreseeable future. So the Florence Hall project is a major contributor to meeting this demand, with seven hundred new housing solutions. The site of Florence Hall is well located to new and planned developments, and you know that there is development already taking place next to it, just a hundred houses and more. Its location to Falmouth, the Northern Coastal Highway, the heritage sites, Montego Bay, and St. Ann makes this a prime development area.

The potential impacts which have been identified can be mitigated by careful planning and implementation at all stages. To date this continues to be the favoured site, no other sites in the area have been identified or are known to be available for similar development. The developer is confident, therefore, that there is demand for proposed housing development in this area. The area is strategically located close to growing resort town, a major highway and it is an area poised for future developments. With this in mind the developers are therefore proposing that this housing development go ahead and that the citizens of the area take a quick active interest from now to all stages of the development.

Thank you for coming, thank you for listening, and now we open up the presentation for questions and answers. Thank you very much. (Applause)

#### **QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS**

Chairman:

Okay you heard the presentation ladies and gentlemen, we now ask for question. You can use the mikes; there are two mikes in the isle. You can you make your question precise and identify yourselves when you get to speak, address the area you are from and your name because all this have to be recorded so that we can say this was not just a bogus meeting. So please question time. (No response from audience)

Dr. Wade did so well that you don't need to ask anything. I am sure there must be some questions. Some one who is not shy make the first move, questions, questions.

#### (No response from audience)

Or may I ask the first question?

Chairman:

Dr. Wade, that hollow underneath the ground, what is the safety net in terms of depth that is required?

Dr. Wade:

Thank you for the question I anticipated it, I know that, the matter of the voids is an area of interest I will try to give a general answer and if it is not sufficient I will ask the export, the civil engineer.

Voids are open spaces under the surface some of them have only narrow openings, some of them may not have an opening to surface at all. Depending on the size of the void and how much space there is between the opening and the surface the load bearing of the surface varies so that if there is a deep void on top, you are likely to have a low bearing capacity. The houses are designed to take care of voids of all nature, of all kinds and the design that is important here is the foundation that what is used is an odd pad foundation rather than a stilt or another kind of foundation that goes

into the ground. The use of pads allows for the spreading of the load, so the voids that have been identified and the design of the Houses will allow for the safety of those houses.

In cases where individuals may wish to add to their houses, guidelines will be indicated as to how to build the path so as to create the safety that is necessary for the houses to rest on top of it.

Engineer, would you like to add anything to that?

Chairman: I take it that the pad is the same as a raft foundation?

Dr. Wade: Yes.

Chairman: I don't want to ask the next question right after the first one. So somebody ask the question, or I am

going to assume that all here is satisfied with the project and is happy with the process and is

giving unanimous good.

Mr. McGill: Good evening, I am representing the Trelawny Parish Council, my name is Matthew McGill. I am

just asking the question if there are any initiatives taken to incorporate the community in the development project or could somebody elaborate on what - if there is any research done in terms

of how it would affect the surrounding communities?

Dr. Wade: Yes, I indicated in the presentation that stakeholders were interviewed, Mr. Campbell conducted

that survey and he may wish to answer. But the stakeholders were involved not only getting their views, but getting their levels of involvement and this is important and the developers have recognized this and they have done this in their other developments how to best incorporate the

communities in the development. Mr. Campbell may wish to add to that answer.

Mr. Campbell: How do you do. One obvious response would be that with respect to the potential for community

tourism, perhaps, the site is not unknown in tourism circles, but up until quite recently until the main house lost its roof, horse trails through the property were conducted almost daily. So in a sense the community of the project itself perhaps has a vested interest in exploring the potential for community tourism being attracted to many of the heritage elements that have been identified. Beyond that, there are other associated attractions which are looking forward to the development of the housing development, primarily because that population, that captive population feeds very naturally into the operations like the fishing beach at Rock where there are initiatives currently taking place to prepare to some extent for the advent of a population being created for them just next door. I am sure if the gentleman from the Parish Council - was that what you had asked, I am

sorry? That was more or less it, okay.

Chairman: We need some more questions. I wonder if we should start pointing on some people, we need

some questions, it cannot be so perfect. While I await the next question, I just want to implore the developer that from the Camber of Commerce point of view I am suggesting that in tandem with the construction given the development of the heritage site - Harmony Hall, housing restore simultaneously with the construction because we are going to need a lot of attractions for tourists. If Trelawny does not provide attractions we are just going to a depot for the tourists and they go off to Ocho Rios and Montego Bay so we need to provide sufficient attractions in this parish. Trelawny has a very rich heritage, very, very rich tourism. We need to find out the history of, even the owners that lived there and the original place so that it becomes a selling point for your product. One of my

restrictions here is that I am not to dominate this meeting, nor to over speak.

So I am just want to shut up and get somebody talking, we need to hear from you. Maybe you don't want to put the Gore's on the spot somebody from there to say elaborate on how you propose to

approach this development; maybe you need somebody, somebody here from Gores that can elaborate something on your timeline, on your approach, your mindset as to the benefit to this parish.

Mr. Campbell:

Perhaps you can invite anyone who has a burning complaint about the project.

Chairman:

That is the reason why we are here, we want complaints, we want comments, we want criticisms we want every thing. I am taking it seriously because we are going close this meeting. I am taking it here and now that Trelawny is thirsty and overwhelm and anxious for something positive to happen. We are in dire straight for housing solutions, we are in dire straight for employment, we are in dire straight for an increased population so that it grows the economy of Falmouth. So I am here now suggesting that everybody is happy for the development and is anxious to see it. But in that anxiety that is why we implore that the EIA is presented for NEPA's approval so that down the road we are not sorry about our enthusiasm. So having said that, I am going to assume that we are satisfied and I am going to ask for clarity and for own my own safety by show of hands that this project has the green light by all present. Show of hands, any objections, all in favour?

#### (Hands were shown in favour)

Mr. Presenter, I was about to say, Mr. Chairman, because I am not accustomed to chair. It is my great pleasure to chair this meeting and in closing, I want to say it was nice to have you in the parish, and I hope you will find it by its natural beauty enticing to revisit, and that we encourage more investors to come and see how we can explore more. Your final word. (Applause)

Dr. Wade:

I would like to thank Mr. Seivwright very much for chairing this meeting, and to say, that although you did not have many questions here this afternoon, that you still have thirty (30) days, if you wish to clarify any aspect of the development or comment on any aspect or protest or object, you have thirty (30) days to do it in writing to NEPA, National Environment and Planning Agency. After that, they will deliberate and they will make their decision about approval of this project.

So this is not a final opportunity but this was a grand opportunity. As I indicated to you, aspects of the project are posted and many people who are in involved in the project are here, you can ask questions, you can get clarifications.

I personally want to thank you very much for your participation and for listening so keenly and again Mr. Seivwright for chairing, and for all those who have made it possible.

We invite now you to share with some refreshments. Members of the team are around you can ask questions, so please join us for a time of refreshment.

Thank you all very much. (Applause)

Thank you very much. This meeting now stands adjourned.

Adjournment taken at 7:00 p.m.