

Exhibit C

Site Selection Criteria

USACE Norfolk District and Virginia Department of Environmental Quality
October 2018

Mitigation Site Name

Principal Criteria
(check all that apply)

- 1) Site activities will result in at least 80% of wetland credits obtained through wetland restoration/ establishment/re-establishment
- 2) Site activities will result in at least 50% of stream credits obtained through stream restoration/ enhancement/re-establishment/rehabilitation
- 3) Site is contiguous or connected to other aquatic resources
- 4) Site contains minimal or no invasive /undesirable/ nuisance species
- 5) Site has not been logged in the past 5 years
- 6) Site abuts and/or adjoins an existing preservation/ conservation area, etc.
- 7) Site has no known encumbrances (ie easements, liens, rights of way, reserved timber, severed surface or subsurface mineral or natural gas rights, etc.) on the site, on adjacent properties or within the watershed of the site that will negatively affect the compensation goals
- 8) Immediately adjacent land is less than 10% impervious cover
- 9) Site does not contain any impoundments that are not proposed for removal
- 10) Site is able to be protected long-term through the recordation of an appropriate site protection instrument or other mechanism that will support the long-term protection of the site
- 11) Site is expected to provide in-kind compensation (similar hydrologic regime)

Watershed Scale Features
(check all that apply)

- 12) Site activities will contribute to habitat diversity**
- 13) Site activities will remove pollutants from waters**
- 14) Site activities will remediate inputs of substantial amounts of sediments waters**
- 15) Site will contribute to habitat connectivity**

**Explanation Required
Provide supplemental
Information in an attachment
to this checklist.

Development Trends in the Watershed Where Site is Located
(check all that apply)

****Explanation Required**
Provide supplemental
Information in an attachment
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- 16) Site will address watershed needs for habitat protection as identified in the state wildlife action plan, compensation planning framework, Habitat Conservation Plan, etc.**
 - 17) Site will address watershed needs for flood management as identified in the state wildlife action plan, compensation planning framework, Habitat Conservation Plan, etc. **
 - 18) Site will address watershed needs for water quality improvement as identified in through the 303 (d) list**
 - 19) Site will address watershed needs for reduction of sediment loads as identified through the 303(d) list**
 - 20) Less than 50% of land use within the watershed is residential/commercial/industrial
 - 21) Less than 50% of land use within the watershed is agricultural
 - 22) Future land use plans (i.e. local comprehensive plans, conservation plans) show minimal or no change
 - 23) No water withdrawal permits issued within the vicinity of the site
 - 24) No point source permits within the vicinity of the site
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Watershed vs. Site Specific Water Quality Goals
(check all that apply)

****Explanation Required**
Provide supplemental
Information in an attachment
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- 25) Site is likely to contribute to improved water quality within the watershed and not solely within the site boundaries**
- 26) Site will include preservation/establishment/rehabilitation of the entire watershed upstream of the project to the drainage divide
- 27) No downstream impoundments (excluding drinking water) that would limit the watershed benefits derived from site activities
- 28) Site will improve water quality conditions of existing wetlands identified by VDEQ (WetCAT) as "Somewhat Severely Stressed" or "Severely Stressed"**

**Site Compatibility with
Adjacent Land Use
(check all that apply)**

****Explanation Required
Provide supplemental
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- 29) Site is within an area identified as meriting conservation in an approved watershed management plan, state wildlife action plan, national forest management plan, or conservation plan**
 - 30) Site is not likely to be affected by current activities occurring on adjacent properties
 - 31) Site will not be affected by likely future activities occurring on adjacent properties
 - 32) Site activities will not affect adjacent properties
 - 33) Site is not adjacent to residential, commercial or industrial development
 - 34) Site is not adjacent to silvicultural operations
 - 35) Site is not adjacent to agricultural land
 - 36) Properties adjacent to the site do not have the potential to spread invasive, nuisance or undesirable species to the site**
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**Positive Effects Site will
have on Ecological/Cultural
Resources
(check all that apply)**

****Explanation Required
Provide supplemental
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- 37) Site activities will conserve/restore habitat for species identified as rare by VDCR**
- 38) Site activities will conserve/restore natural communities identified by VDCR as imperiled**
- 39) Site activities will conserve/restore karst resources identified by VDCR as imperiled**
- 40) Site activities are within areas that have been identified by VDGIF as meriting improvement**
- 41) Site activities will conserve/restore areas designated by VDGIF as wild trout streams**
- 42) Site activities will conserve/restore areas designated by VDGIF as anadromous fish use areas**
- 43) Site activities will restores/preserve/enhance areas designated by VDGIF as Threatened and Endangered Species Waters**
- 44) Site activities will protect state or federal threatened and/or endangered species**
- 45) Site contains historical cultural resources that will be preserved**
- 46) Site activities will establish new or expand existing wildlife corridors**
- 47) Site activities will result in removal of barriers to fish passage**
- 48) Site results in score of 1 or greater for potential wetland, riparian, or upland restoration or preservation as identified by the Watershed Resource Registry (WRR)**
- 49) Site will improve habitat conditions of existing wetlands identified by VDEQ (WetCAT) as "Somewhat Severely Stressed" or "Severely Stressed"**

**Hydrologic Sources/
Ecological Features
(check all that apply)**

- 50) Site activities do not consist of wetland creation in the uplands unless adjacent to existing streams or wetlands
 - 51) Site activities do not consist of stream creation
 - 52) Site activities do not entail impounding or diverting water from other areas to the project site
 - 53) Site activities do not entail excavation to reach groundwater
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**Physical/Chemical
Characteristics
(check all that apply)**

****Explanation Required-
Provide supplemental
Information in an attachment
to this checklist.**

- 54) Sites receiving waters are 303(d) listed
- 55) Site qualifies for preservation only, as 1) the resources provide important physical, chemical, or biological functions to the watershed, 2) the resource contribute significantly to the ecological sustainability of the watershed, 3) the IRT has determined that preservation is appropriate and practicable, 4) the resources are under threat of destruction or adverse modification, and 5) the site will be permanently protected through an appropriate real estate instrument**
- 56) Site activities will not result in the construction of artificial or unnatural wetlands that will have limited opportunity to provide the desired functions
- 57) Past land use was PC crop or ditched wetlands
- 58) Past land use was agriculture/silviculture**
- 59) Past land use was commercial or industrial**
- 58) No impoundments exist upstream of the site that will cause thermal increases in water temperature, decreases in dissolved oxygen, erosion and degradation of the channel downstream from the impoundment, or dam failure from a storm event**
- 60) Site activities will result in all onsite impoundments being removed and streams re-established/ rehabilitated