Calvert County
Shore Erosion Control Policy

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Basic Requirements

- Non-structural SEC shall be used whenever practicable and effective
- Structural SEC shall only be used where non-structural is not practicable or feasible
- Submit state and federal permits when applying for county permits for SEC
- County may consult with MD-DNR, MDE and the Critical Area Commission about the best SEC method to be used on a particular site
Shore Erosion Control Adjacent to Calvert Cliffs (Bluffs)

Preservation of and Development Regulations Near Calvert Cliffs
Values of Calvert Cliffs

- Scenic Vistas
- Paleontology
- Endangered Species
- Natural Heritage
Issues Affecting Calvert Cliffs

- Loss of Calvert Cliffs from Shore Erosion Control
  - Values Lost
    - Scenic Vistas
    - Natural Heritage
    - Paleontology
    - Endangered Species Habitat

- Development Adjacent to Calvert Cliffs
  - Loss of Property
  - SWM and Increased Erosion
Maryland's Endangered Tiger Beetles

Northeastern Beach Tiger Beetle
Development of Calvert Cliffs Policy

- 1988  Critical Area Program adopted and calls for creation of task force to address Cliff policy issues
- 1992  Cliff Policy Task Force appointed
- 1992  Symposium held on “Chesapeake Bay Cliff Processes and Policy”
- 1993  Task Force recommendations submitted to County Commissioners
- 1997  Cliff policy and regulations adopted
Cliff Policy Task Force

- Cliff Residents
- Realtor
- Marine Contractors
- Builder
- Engineer/Surveyor
- Paleontologist
- Marine Geophysicist
Cliff Policy Task Force
(continued)

- Exofficio Members
  - MOP
  - ACE
  - Calvert SCD
  - DNR, Shore Erosion Control
  - DNR, Natural Heritage
  - Chesapeake Bay Critical Area Commission
  - JPPM
Cliff Preservation Policy

- Establish 3 Levels of Priority for Cliff Preservation (See Map)
- Establish Development Regulations
Cliff Definition

- Greater than 10 ft in height
- Greater than a 50% slope
Category 1

Tiger beetle habitat

Rich paleontology

Scenic vistas,

Little to no development

Regulations

- No shore erosion control
- 300 ft. setback from cliff edge or ER50, whichever is greater
ER50

- ER50 = Erosion Rate * 50 years
- If Erosion Rate = 2 ft/year, then ER50 = 100 ft from Cliff Edge
- Development in ER50 Requires Construction of a Moveable House and SWM Must Be Addressed
- No walls below grade
Readily Movable Structures

- On masonry or wood piers or crawlspaces, no walls below grade
- Steel beam base or modular construction
- Stud wall (not masonry) construction
Special Construction Techniques

- Gutters and roof runoff is piped away from cliff edge
- Septic systems landward as far as possible
- Excavation is minimized by flush cutting trees
- Runoff is directed away from the cliff areas or into stormwater management facilities
MINIMUM SETBACK from CLIFFS CATEGORY 1. EXAMPLE:
ANNUAL EROSION RATE = 2 FT. / YR.

MINIMUM CLIFF SETBACK 300'

ER50 100'
ER15 30'

EDGE of CLIFF

TOE of CLIFF
BEACH

MEAN HIGH WATER LINE (MHW)

CHESAPEAKE BAY and ITS TRIBUTARIES
Category 2

Tiger beetle habitat
Rich paleontology
Scenic vistas,
Moderate development

Regulations

- Shore erosion control only for existing structures
- 200 ft. setback from cliff edge or ER50, whichever is greater
MINIMUM SETBACK from CLIFFS CATEGORY 2.
EXAMPLE: AVERAGE ANNUAL EROSION RATE = 2 FT / YR.
Category 3

Paleontology - perhaps
Scenic vistas - perhaps
Moderate development
All areas not designated Category 1 or 2

Regulations

- Shore erosion control is allowed
- 100 ft setback from cliff edge or ER50, whichever is greater
- For accessory structures less than 150 sq. ft, 60 ft. setback from cliff edge or ER15, whichever is greater
MINIMUM SETBACK from CLIFFS CATEGORY 3.
EXAMPLE:
ANNUAL EROSION RATE = 2 FT. / YR.

TOE of CLIFF

BEACH

CHESAPEAKE BAY and ITS TRIBUTARIES

CRITICAL AREA
MINIMUM SETBACK
100'

ER50 100'

ER15 30'

EDGE of CLIFF

MEAN HIGH WATER LINE (MHW)
MINIMUM SETBACK from CLIFFS CATEGORY 1-3.
EXAMPLE:
IF TOE of the CLIFF IS GREATER THAN 100’ from the (MHW), then the MINIMUM SETBACK is 60’ from the EDGE of the CLIFF.
CATEGORY 2: ANNUAL EROSION RATE = 2 FT. / YR.

MEAN HIGH WATER LINE (MHW)

EDGE of CLIFF

100' BUFFER

60 FT. MINIMUM CLIFF SETBACK

ER50 SETBACK

PROPOSED HOUSE

Carmelita Drive

septic system

200 FT. SETBACK
Exception

- Shore erosion control structure exists
  - ER50 = 0
  - Cliff Setback = \(1.5 \times \text{Cliff Height} + 20 \text{ ft}\)
CATEGORY 3: ANNUAL EROSION RATE & ER50 = 0

CHESAPEAKE BAY

MEAN HIGH WATER LINE (MHW)

REMOVING WALL

1.5 x 20 + 20 = 50' MINIMUM SETBACK

PROPOSED HOUSE

DRIVE

MONROE LANE

100' BUFFER

100' SETBACK

1000 gal. cap. septic tank