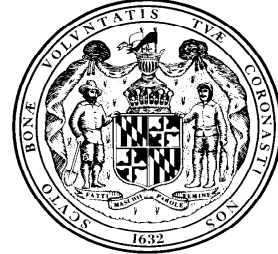


STATE OF MARYLAND
DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT
WATER MANAGEMENT ADMINISTRATION
NOTICE OF DECISION

In the Matter of: Columbia Gas Transmission
Nontidal Wetlands and Waterways Permit
Number 12-NT-0433/201261660



Public Informational Hearing Dates and Locations:

On Initial Permit Application:

May 21, 2013
Fallston High School
2301 Carrs Mill Road
Fallston, Hard County, Maryland

May 23, 2013
Stevenson University, Owings Mills Campus
Rockland Center
100 Campus Circle
Owings Mills, Baltimore County, Maryland

After Circuit Court Order Remanding April 21, 2014 Permit to MDE:

June 15, 2015
Stevenson University, Owings Mills Campus
Rockland Center
100 Campus Circle
Owings Mills, Baltimore County, Maryland

Decision: Approval

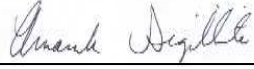
The review of the above-referenced nontidal wetlands and waterways matter has been governed by criteria set forth under: Title 5, Subtitle 5, Environment Article, Annotated Code of Maryland, entitled Appropriation or Use of Waters, Reservoirs, and Dams; Title 5, Subtitle 9, Environment Article, Annotated Code of Maryland, entitled Nontidal Wetlands; Code of Maryland Regulations (COMAR) Title 26, Subtitle 17, Chapter 04, Construction on Nontidal Waters and Floodplains; and Subtitle 23 Nontidal Wetlands. The permit record has also been reviewed for compliance with Maryland water quality standards under COMAR Title 26, Subtitle 08, Chapter 02 Water Quality.

After examination of all documents and evidence in the above-referenced matter, I have determined that:

1. The applicant has demonstrated a need for impacts to nontidal wetlands, the nontidal wetland buffer and waterways, including the 100-year floodplain;
2. The applicant has minimized impacts to nontidal wetlands, the nontidal wetland buffer and waterways, including the 100-year floodplain;
3. No rare, threatened or endangered species have been identified in the area of impact from the proposed project;
4. No historical or archeological sites have been identified in the area of impact for the proposed project;
5. The project is consistent with State water quality requirements;
6. Public notice and public informational hearing requirements have been satisfied;
7. The review process for the permit application fully complies with the requirement of the regulations; and,
8. The applicant has demonstrated that the project has independent utility from any potential future projects.

The final decision to reissue a permit to Columbia Gas Transmission, after the Circuit Court for Baltimore County remanded the permit to the Department, meets the criteria set forth in statute and regulation governing impacts to wetlands and waterways. Nontidal Wetlands and Waterways Permit Number 12-NT-0433/201261660 may be issued by the Water Management Administration to authorize Columbia Gas Transmission to impact nontidal

wetlands, nontidal wetland buffers, streams, and the 100-year floodplain in connection with the extension of an existing 26-inch natural gas pipeline (Line MB) for approximately 21.1 miles from the existing Owings Mills Metering and Regulating (M&R) Station in Baltimore County to the existing Rutledge Compressor Station in Harford County. The Department's explanation of the rationale for this final decision is contained in the Summary of the Basis for Decision.



Amanda Sigillito, Chief
Nontidal Wetlands Division

August 8, 2015
Date