

**STATE OF MARYLAND**  
**DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT**  
**WATER AND SCIENCE ADMINISTRATION**  
**NOTICE OF DECISION**

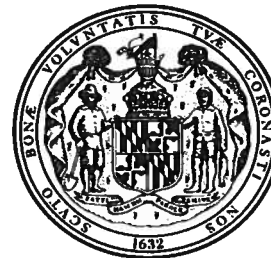
**In the Matter of:** Columbia Gas Transmission, LLC  
Nontidal Wetlands and Waterways Permit  
Application Number 17-NT-3089/201760592

**Hearing Date:** December 19, 2017 and January 22, 2018

**Hearing Location:** Hancock Middle / High School  
289 West Main Street  
Hancock, Washington County, Maryland

**Decision:** Approval

**Date:** March 16, 2018



The review of the Nontidal Wetlands and Waterways Permit Application in the above-referenced 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; Subtitle 9, Environment Article, Annotated Code of Maryland, entitled Nontidal Wetlands; and Code of Maryland Regulations (COMAR) Title 26, Subtitle 17, Chapter 04, Construction on Nontidal Waters and Floodplains and Subtitle 23 Nontidal Wetlands. The Nontidal Wetlands and Waterways Permit Application has 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, nontidal wetland buffer, and waterways including the 100-year floodplain;
2. The applicant has minimized impacts to nontidal wetlands, 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; and,
7. The applicant has demonstrated that the project has independent utility from any potential future projects.

Nontidal Wetlands and Waterways Permit Application 17-NT-3089/201760592 meets the criteria set forth in statute and regulation governing impacts to wetlands and waterways. Nontidal Wetlands and Waterways Permit Number 17-NT-3089/201760592 may be issued by the Water and Science Administration to authorize Columbia Gas Transmission, LLC to construct approximately 3.06 miles of new 8-inch diameter natural gas pipeline in Maryland. The project will permanently impact 127 linear feet (923 square feet) and temporarily impact 95 linear feet (1,130 square feet) of perennial and intermittent streams. The project will also temporarily impact 14,885 square feet of regulated floodplain, 2,642 square feet of emergent wetland, and 8,829 square feet of wetland buffer. The project alignment extends from the state line at Fulton County,

Pennsylvania in the north to the state line at Morgan County, West Virginia in the south and is approximately 1.4 miles west of Hancock in Washington County.

A brief explanation of the rationale for this decision is contained in the attached Summary of the Basis for Decision.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Denise M. Keehner", written over a horizontal line.

Denise M. Keehner  
Program Manager  
Wetlands and Waterways Program