

THE COUNTY OF CHESTER

CHESTER COUNTY
WATER RESOURCES AUTHORITY
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June 9, 2017

Kimberly D. Bose, Secretary
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
888 First St. NE Room A1
Washington, DC 20426

Re: OEP/DG2E/Gas Branch 4
Eastern Shore Natural Gas Company
2017 Expansion Project
Docket CP17-28-000

Dear Ms. Bose,

The Chester County Water Resources Authority (CCWRA) is submitting the following comments in response to a review of the May 2017 Environmental Assessment for the Eastern Shore Natural Gas Company's (ESNG) 2017 Expansion Project, issued by the U.S. Federal Energy Regulatory Commission. In Chester County, Pennsylvania, this project would include the construction and operation of the following looping pipelines: 4.5 miles of 16-inch diameter (Parkesburg Loop), 7.3 miles of 24-inch diameter (Jennersville Loop), and a small portion of the 3.6 miles of 24-inch diameter (Fair Hill Loop) in Franklin, Highland, Londonderry, New London, Penn and West Sadsbury Townships in Chester County, Pennsylvania. The Project also includes one additional compressor unit at the existing Daleville Compressor Station in Chester County.

These comments represent a review of the currently available information regarding the proposed project; the proposed project's consistency with *Watersheds*, Chester County's Integrated Water Resources Management Plan; consistency with the *County-wide PA Act 167 Stormwater Management Plan for Chester County, PA*; and consideration of other potential impacts of the proposed project. Comments are provided to assist the FERC staff in determining the issues that need to be evaluated and documented more closely.

CCWRA has reviewed the 2017 Expansion Project Environmental Assessment (herein referred to as the "EA") and respectfully submits the following comments regarding the Chester County portion of the EA and requests they be addressed prior to approval of the project by FERC.

1. CCWRA strongly supports all comments submitted by the Chester County Planning Commission (CCPC) (letter dated June 7, 2017) and requests all CCPC comments be addressed prior to approval by FERC.
2. FEMA has updated the flood zone delineations in portions of Chester County, PA and the new final mapping will go into effect September 29, 2017. Five municipalities (Franklin, Highland, Londonderry, Penn, and West Sadsbury Townships) will be receiving revised flood zone delineations. CCWRA requests that these pending FEMA maps, or if more conservative, the

current floodplain mapping be used to assess the environmental effect of the 2017 Expansion Project. These pending maps and the GIS layer are available from FEMA's Map Service Center website and are considered final, soon to be effective.

3. All construction and staging area activities should be conducted to minimize any water quality impacts:
 - a. Pipeline staging and construction will occur in the Octoraro Creek and Big Elk Creek (Chesapeake Bay Basin), and the Brandywine Creek and White Clay Creek (Delaware River Basin). These watersheds have TMDLs in effect.

The tributaries of the Octoraro Creek are declared by PADEP as impaired for siltation , with the main stem also impaired for nutrients.

The tributaries of the East Branch of the Big Elk Creek are High Quality – Trout Stocking and PADEP had declared them impaired for siltation and habitat alteration.

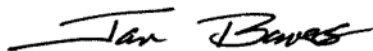
PADEP has declared the West Branch White Clay Creek impaired for nutrients and siltation and the Christina Basin TMDL applies with municipal wasteload reduction requirements in effect.

4. CCWRA strongly supports FERC's requirement that Eastern Shore complete their consultation with the National Park Service and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers before finalizing the construction and restoration plan for the crossing of the tributaries of White Clay Creek since it is designated a Wild and Scenic River. CCWRA requests that the result of this "consultation" allow NPS's comments on the final plan to strongly influence and guide the Jennersville Loop project to ensure the intent of the designation of the Wild and Scenic River is met.
5. CCWRA strongly supports additional short term and long term protective measures for the project areas involving steep slopes and in areas where the potential for erosion is a concern. The watersheds have impaired streams and TMDLs are in effect for sediment and nutrients.
6. CCWRA strongly supports the measures outlined that Eastern Shore will perform pre- and post-well yield and water quality testing for potable water wells within 150 feet of the construction area. However this monitoring distance should be significantly expanded if blasting will occur.
7. CCWRA strongly supports additional short term and long term protective measures for the project areas affecting wetlands. There are approximately 26 wetlands that will be affected in Chester County. Construction in and around a wetland will more than likely result in long term negative effects, particularly with regard to a reduction in infiltration rates and an increase in local flooding.
 - a. Please provide more details on how the wetland will be restored if trenching and soil compaction occurred, and if the restoration of the wetland infiltration capacity is not possible, explain what the required mitigation measures will be.
 - b. CCWRA strongly recommends that construction work in and near the wetlands should only be conducted when site conditions are most favorable to reduce the negative impacts.
8. Please provide more details regarding the re-vegetation of disturbed areas and the efforts to control noxious weeds (Section 3.1 Vegetation, Page 67). There is no mention of the time period in which the noxious weeds and exotic plan species must be monitored and controlled. To maintain productive agricultural lands, diverse habitats and improve water quality in impaired watersheds, disturbed areas should be monitored and maintained for at least one growing season beyond the time of disturbance.

9. Please provide the number and location of all sub-surface wastewater (e.g. onlot septic systems) and stormwater (e.g. residential surface and subsurface best management practices) within at least fifty feet of the proposed project areas and ensure that all these features are protected from disturbance, or if disturbance cannot be avoided, describe what measures are to be taken to be sure they are restored or replaced with equal function features.
10. Tree removal should be avoided in every place possible to minimize increased flooding, terrestrial and instream erosion and sedimentation, loss of nutrient pollutant removal, stream bank erosion, and thermal stream pollution. If mature trees are replaced with shrubs and vegetation allowed to attain its natural height, additional post-construction stormwater runoff controls will be needed to compensate for the loss of critical runoff reduction that existing tree canopies currently provide in these TMDL watersheds. This is especially critical where tree removal will occur within the 100 foot riparian buffer on each side of a waterbody, including wetlands or where a canopy has been removed from steep slopes.
11. CCWRA strongly supports the ongoing consultation with Natural Resources Conservation Service regarding conservation easements along the project area, until concurrence is achieved.
12. CCWRA strongly supports the ongoing consultation with Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission regarding the bog turtles, until concurrence is achieved.
13. CCWRA strongly supports the ongoing consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services Pennsylvania Field Office, until concurrence is achieved.
14. CCWRA supports FERC's recommendation that Eastern Shore file with the Secretary its Migratory Bird Conservation plan along with consultation with the USFWS on the plan.
15. CCWRA supports FERC's recommendation that Eastern Shore shall not begin construction activities on the Project until the FERC staff completes ESA 7 consultation with the USFWS regarding the bog turtle; and Eastern Shore has received written notification from the Director of the OEP that construction or use of mitigation may begin.
16. CCWRA supports FERC's recommendation that Eastern Shore must develop and implement an environmental complaint resolution procedure.
17. CCWRA supports FERC's recommendation that Eastern Shore must develop, for review and approval, a Fugitive Dust Control Plan.

Thank you for your consideration of these comments. Please contact us if you have any questions or wish to discuss the above comments.

Sincerely,



Janet L. Bowers, P.G.
Executive Director

cc: Carol Stauffer, Chester County Planning Commission
Chris Strohmaier, Chester County Conservation District