



MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT

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Larry Hogan
Governor

Ben Grumbles
Secretary

Boyd Rutherford
Lieutenant Governor

August 8, 2015

Re: Notice of Decision to Issue Remanded Permit
Nontidal Wetlands and Waterways Permit Number 12-NT-0433/201261660
Columbia Gas Transmission, Line MB Extension Project

Dear Property Owner, Public Official, or Interested Person:

The Water Management Administration (Administration) for the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE or the Department) has made a final decision to reissue Nontidal Wetlands and Waterways Permit No. 12-NT-0433/201261660 to Columbia Gas Transmission. The Permit authorizes Columbia Gas Transmission to impact nontidal wetlands, nontidal wetland buffers, streams, and the 100-year floodplain in connection with the proposed extension of an existing 26" natural gas pipeline (Line MB) for approximately 21.1 miles from the Owings Mills Metering and Regulating Station in Baltimore County to the Rutledge Compressor Station in Harford County.

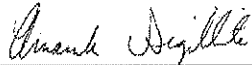
The permit was initially issued by the Administration on April 21, 2014. Several petitioners filed judicial review actions in the Circuit Court for Baltimore County challenging the Department's decision to issue the permit. On April 30, 2015, the Circuit Court for Baltimore County issued an Opinion and Order remanding the permit to the Department to take action on three issues: conducting a more extensive public notice process, providing additional documentation that the project would not affect historic properties, and clarifying the Administration's rationale on water quality issues. The Administration has completed the actions outlined in the Opinion and Order, and, after examination and consideration of the documents received and evidence in the permit file, the Administration has determined that the final decision to reissue the permit meets the required statutory and regulatory criteria and complies with the Opinion and Order.

This is a final agency decision; there is no further opportunity for administrative review. This final decision is subject to judicial review at the request of any person that meets the threshold standing requirements under federal law and is either the applicant or someone who participated in the public participation process through the submission of written or oral comments. Requests for judicial review must be made to the appropriate circuit court within 30 days of the date of this permit decision. Please see the attached Fact Sheet for additional information about the judicial review process.

In addition to the judicial review Fact Sheet, the following documents are enclosed with this letter: the Notice of Decision; the Summary of the Basis for Decision; the Permit including general and special conditions; and the Impact Plates and Impact Tables associated with the project. All of the enclosed documents, as well as additional plans and materials referenced in the Permit can be found online at:

http://www.mde.state.md.us/programs/Water/WetlandsandWaterways/Pages/Columbia_Nontidal_Permit12-NT-0433.aspx

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