

**MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT
WATER AND SCIENCE ADMINISTRATION**

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Allegany County

Application for State Discharge Permit 24DP2937, NPDES Permit MD0066079:

AES Warrior Run LP, 11600 Mexico Farms Rd, SE, Cumberland, MD 21502 submitted an application for renewal of a permit to discharge an average of 146,000 gallons per day (gpd) of cooling tower and boiler blowdown, demineralizer regeneration wastewater, and CO2 scrubber wastes and variable volumes of stormwater, including coal pile runoff, from a steam electric cogeneration and CO2 production facility, located at 11600 Mexico Farms Rd, SE, Cumberland, MD to the North Branch Potomac River (Use I-P waters). As of June 1, 2024, the facility has ceased coal-burning operations.

The Department (MDE) proposes to reissue the permit with the following limits on Outfall 001: flow from CO2 waste tank (30 gpd); pH (range of 6.0 to 9.0); total suspended solids (30 mg/L avg, 50 mg/L max); total residual oxidants (0.011 mg/L avg, 0.019 mg/L max); oil & grease (12 mg/L avg, 16 mg/L max); temp. (90°F max); chromium (0.1 mg/L avg, 0.1 mg/L max); copper (0.024 mg/L avg, 0.039 mg/L max); nickel (0.135 mg/L avg, 1.22 mg/L max); silver (0.022 mg/L avg, 0.022 mg/L max); and zinc (0.307 mg/L avg, 0.307 mg/L max). More restrictive limitations for copper, nickel, silver, and zinc based on updated background hardness are proposed following a 36-month compliance schedule (with interim milestones). Monitoring without limitations is proposed for hardness and sulfate. MDE proposes maximum limitations of 1.0 mg/L for iron and copper from chemical metal cleaning wastewater, to be segregated and monitored at Monitoring Point 101. The permit includes annual loading goals for total nitrogen (3,641 lbs/yr) and total phosphorus (166 lbs/yr) with an annual report requirement, a prohibition on the discharge of PCBs, a requirement for safe handling of fly ash, an approval process for new water treatment additives, hydrostatic testing limits, and a requirement for registration under the general permit for industrial stormwater.

This facility is located on a census tract with an Environmental Justice (EJ) Score in the 60th percentile of all tracts in Maryland. This EJ score has been calculated considering a combination of the following factors: pollution burden exposure, pollution burden environmental effects, sensitive populations, and socioeconomic indicators (<https://mdewwp.page.link/EJ>).

A copy of the application, draft permit, and draft fact sheet may be downloaded from the Department's website at <https://mdewwp.page.link/wwportal>. At that webpage,

search for State Number 24DP2937, click "More Info," and then select the desired document(s) to download.

The Department has received a request for a **virtual public hearing** using the Google Meet platform on the tentative determination for the above permit and has scheduled the hearing for **Monday, January 6, 2025 from 5:30 p.m.- 7:30 p.m.** The hearing will be recorded and transcribed. Registered participants can provide oral comments during the public hearing.

You may **sign up** for the event by going to <https://mdewwp.page.link/PublicMeetings>. Then search for the registration link for 24DP2937. Alternatively, those who want to monitor the virtual hearing via telephone (they will be in a listen-only mode) can call **1-929-266-2589** and enter this **PIN: 157-286-034#**.

Persons who wish to present information regarding the tentative determination may speak at the public hearing, submit written comments at the public hearing, or submit a written statement to the Department no later than **5 p.m. on January 31, 2025**. All comments will be considered in making a final determination. Comments received via any submission mechanism will all be given equal weight.

Written comments can also be sent by mail or email. Mailed comments should be addressed to the **Maryland Department of the Environment, Water and Science Administration, 1800 Washington Blvd., Baltimore, Maryland 21230-1708, Attn.: Mr. Jonathan Rice, Chief, Industrial and General Permits Division**. Emailed comments may be sent to jonathan.rice@maryland.gov. The supporting information for the tentative determination, including the draft permit and fact sheet, may be reviewed by contacting Mr. Rice at the above address or email, or by telephone at (410) 537-3859 or 1-800-633-6101 to schedule an appointment. Copies of documents may be procured at a cost of \$0.36 per page.

Any hearing-impaired person may request an interpreter to be present at the public hearing by giving ten working days notice to Mr. Rice at the address, telephone number, or email listed above.

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