



Conowingo MDE -MDE- <conowingo.mde@maryland.gov>

Protect Water Quality at Conowingo Dam and Hold Constellation Power Accountable!

1 message

Tue, Jul 18, 2023 at 4:25 PM

Reply-To: [Redacted]
To Danielle Spendiff conowingo.mde@maryland.gov

Dear MDE Regulatory and Customer Service Division Chief Danielle Spendiff,

I support proper mitigation of the Conowingo Dam and urge you to hold Constellation Power Generation, LLC (formerly E. I. du Pont de Nemours and Company) accountable for the pollution the dam is causing downstream and in the Chesapeake Bay. As the owner of the dam, Constellation has a significant responsibility to help mitigate the harm the dam causes. The State of Maryland has the responsibility to insist on an appropriate level of mitigating conditions.

As a result, Maryland should require Constellation to contribute financially to the mitigation effort. Constellation has offered just \$200,000, but a recent study of the company's finances shows Constellation can provide substantially more—\$27 million to \$44 million a year. A portion of Constellation's larger contribution should be used to partner with Maryland, Pennsylvania, and New York on a collaborative initiative to reduce upstream sediment and nutrient pollution, as well as the implementation of other practices that will benefit downstream water quality. Constellation also must be required to make specific operational changes at the dam, including improving flow and fish habitat.

If Constellation is not required to address the pollution flowing through the dam, it will be up to taxpayers in the Bay watershed to mitigate all of the 6 million pounds of nitrogen and 260,000 pounds of phosphorus traveling through the dam each year. This will be an additional burden for states already struggling to reduce pollution under the Chesapeake Clean Water Blueprint.

Constellation can continue to make a substantial profit from the Conowingo Dam and still do what's right for the health of the Chesapeake Bay. I urge you to hold Constellation accountable.

Sincerely,
[Redacted]