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GEO-TECHNOLOGY ASSOCIATES, INC.

GEOTECHNICAL AND
ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTANTS

A Practicing Geoprofessional Business Association Member Firm



May 31, 2024

Maryland Department of the Environment
Water And Science Administration, Regulatory Services Section
Montgomery Park Business Center, Suite 430
1800 Washington Boulevard
Baltimore, Maryland 21230-1708

Attn: Water Quality Certification

Re: Section 401 Water Quality Certification Request
Worcester Resiliency Upgrade – Delmar Loop
FERC CPCN Docket CP23-536-000
Delmar, Wicomico County, Maryland

To Whom it May Concern:

On behalf of Eastern Shore Natural Gas Company ("Applicant"), Geo-Technology Associates, Inc. (GTA) is submitting the following information to request a Section 401 Water Quality Certification in accordance with 40 C.F.R. §121 and the Code of Maryland Regulations (COMAR) 26.08.02.10.

(A) APPLICANT INFORMATION:

A. Name:	<u>Mr. Nick Bishop</u>	B. Daytime Telephone:	<u>(302) 222-5734</u>
C. Company:	<u>Eastern Shore Natural Gas Company</u>	D. Email Address:	<u>nbishop@chpk.com</u>
E. Address:	<u>500 Energy Lane, Suite 200 Dover, DE 19901</u>		

(B) APPLICABLE FEDERAL LICENSE OR PERMIT INFORMATION:

The Applicant is proposing to construct approximately 0.9 miles of 10-inch pipeline in the Delmar area of Wicomico County, Maryland. A Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity (CPCN) application (Docket CP23-536-000) was submitted to the Federal Regulatory Energy Commission (FERC) under section 7(c) of the Natural Gas Act (NGA), and part 157 of FERC regulations.

(C) PROJECT LOCATION:

A. Site Address or Location:	<u>0.9 miles along Sussex Highway (US-13), in the Delmar area of Wicomico County, Maryland. Intersection of Line Road and US-13 to approx. 790 feet south of Foskey Lane.</u>		
B. County Book Map Coordinates (ADC Maps):	Map: <u>7</u>	Letter: <u>F, G</u>	Number: <u>F2, F3, G1</u>
C. Latitude:	<u>38.455333°</u>	Longitude:	<u>-75.558035°</u>

3445-A Box Hill Corporate Center Drive, Abingdon, MD 21009

(410) 715-9446

✦ Abingdon, MD ✦ Baltimore, MD ✦ Laurel, MD ✦ Frederick, MD ✦ Waldorf, MD ✦ New Castle, DE ✦ Georgetown, DE
✦ Somerset, NJ ✦ NYC Metro ✦ Pittsburgh Metro ✦ Quakertown, PA ✦ Scranton/Wilkes-Barre, PA ✦ York, PA
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**WATER AND SCIENCE ADMIN.
REGULATORY SERVICES COORD.**

D. Watershed: Nanticoke River 12-Digit HUC: 021303040568

(D) ADJACENT PROPERTY OWNER INFORMATION:

Name	Address	City	State	Zip
See attached plan set.				

(E) SIGNED PUBLIC NOTICE BILLING FORM:

A copy of the signed Public Notice Billing Approval Form accompanies this Water Quality Certification Request.

(F) IDENTIFY THE PROPOSED PROJECT:

The Worcester Resiliency Upgrade – Delmar Loop (“project”) includes the construction of approximately 0.9 miles of a 10-inch natural gas pipeline along US-13 beginning at the intersection of US-13 and Line Road and ending just south of Foskey Lane. To construct the project, Horizontal Directional Drilling will be used to install the proposed natural gas pipeline.

(G) A PLAN SHOWING THE PROPOSED ACTIVITIES:

A site plan titled *Eastern Shore Natural Gas Company Worcester Resiliency Upgrade – Delmar Loop (“Site Plan”)*; prepared by Morris & Ritchie Associates, Inc. (MRA) and dated February 26, 2024 accompanies this Water Quality Certification Request.

(H) LOCATION AND NATURE OF POTENTIAL DISCHARGE THAT MAY RESULT FROM THE PROJECT AND THE LOCATION OF RECEIVING WATER:

The proposed discharge involves the Horizontal Directional Drilling (HDD). Inadvertent surface releases of drilling fluids during HDD operations may occur during project construction. An inadvertent surface release (also sometimes referred to as an “inadvertent surface return” or “frac-out”) is a condition in which drilling mud used in HDD operations is released through fractures in the soil and migrates towards the surface. Drilling mud consists of a bentonite clay water mixture, which is not considered to be hazardous or toxic. Escape of drilling mud from a surface release is most common near the HDD entry and exit locations; however, surface releases can occur in any location along a directional drill. Unnamed tributaries within the subject site drain towards Jackson

Branch, a perennial stream that contributes to the Wicomico River. In the vicinity of the subject site, nontidal tributaries of the Wicomico River are classified in the Code of Maryland Regulations (COMAR) 26.08.02.08 as designated use "Class I: Water Contact Recreation, and Protection of Nontidal Warmwater Aquatic Life." The subject site is not located within a Tier II watershed and does not contain Tier II Waters as defined in COMAR 26.08.02.04. Potential discharges that may result are located at two unnamed intermittent tributaries along the project corridor located north of 9373 N Ocean Highway.

(I) DESCRIPTION OF METHODS AND MEANS PROPOSED TO MONITOR THE DISCHARGE AND THE EQUIPMENT OR MEASURES PLANNED TO TREAT, CONTROL, OR MANAGE THE DISCHARGE:

A Horizontal Directional Drilling Inadvertent Surface Release Contingency Plan has been prepared for the project and details operational procedures and responsibilities for the prevention, containment, and cleanup of surface releases associated with HDD operations. In the event of surface release, the mitigation measures outlined in the Contingency Plan will be used to cleanup surface releases. In addition, erosion and sediment control devices, including silt fences and inlet protection will be installed where needed within the project site prior to construction activities/discharge and will be maintained in good working condition. Any sediment and erosion control measures that are disturbed during construction will be repaired at the end of each working day. Following construction, sediment control devices will be removed only after receiving authorization.

(J) THE DATE ON WHICH THE ACTIVITY WILL BEGIN OR END, IF KNOWN, AND THE DATE OR DATES ON WHICH ANY DISCHARGE MAY OCCUR:

Unknown at this time.

(K) A DESCRIPTION, IF APPLICABLE, OF THE METHODS PROPOSED OR EMPLOYED TO MONITOR THE QUALITY AND CHARACTERISTICS OF ANY DISCHARGE.

N/A

(L) A SPECIFIC AND DETAILED MITIGATION PLAN AS APPLICABLE FOR PROJECTS REQUIRING MITIGATION.


N/A

(M) LIST OF OTHER FEDERAL, INTERSTATE, TRIBAL, STATE, TERRITORIAL, OR LOCAL AGENCY AUTHORIZATIONS REQUIRED FOR THE PROJECT:

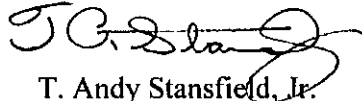
A. Agency	B. Date Sought	C. Decision (granted/denied)	D. Decision Date	E. Other Status
<u>MDE NOI</u>	<u>Pending</u>	<u>Pending</u>	<u>Pending</u>	
<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

The project proponent hereby certifies that information contained herein is true, accurate, and complete to the best of my knowledge and belief. The project proponent hereby requests that the certifying authority review and take action on this Clean Water Act (CWA) 401 certification request within the applicable reasonable period of time. Should you have any questions, or require additional information, please contact this office at (410) 515-9446.

Sincerely,
GEO-TECHNOLOGY ASSOCIATES, INC.



Josh Riding
Staff Scientist



T. Andy Stansfield, Jr.
Vice President

KRM/TAS
22154

L:\Shared\Project Files\2023\22154 - Delmar Loop\WET\Reports - Permitting\WQC\22154 - WQC Request - Cover Letter.docx

Enclosures:

- CPCN Application Docket CP23-536-000
- Public Notice Billing Approval Form.
- Pre-Filing Meeting Request
- *Eastern Shore Natural Gas Company Worcester Resiliency Upgrade – Delmar Loop* prepared by Morris & Ritchie Associates, Inc., and dated February 26, 2024.
- Horizontal Directional Drilling Inadvertent Surface Release Contingency Plan

Docket Numbers: ER23–2867–000.
Applicants: Hunter Solar LLC.
Description: § 205(d) Rate Filing:
 Revised Market-Based Rate Tariff Filing
 to be effective 11/15/2023.

Filed Date: 9/15/23.
Accession Number: 20230915–5144.
Comment Date: 5 p.m. ET 10/6/23.

Docket Numbers: ER23–2868–000.
Applicants: Rancho Seco Solar, LLC.
Description: § 205(d) Rate Filing:
 Revised Market-Based Rate Tariff Filing
 to be effective 11/15/2023.

Filed Date: 9/15/23.
Accession Number: 20230915–5145.
Comment Date: 5 p.m. ET 10/6/23.

Docket Numbers: ER23–2869–000.
Applicants: Sigurd Solar LLC.
Description: § 205(d) Rate Filing:
 Revised Market-Based Rate Tariff Filing
 to be effective 11/15/2023.

Filed Date: 9/15/23.
Accession Number: 20230915–5146.
Comment Date: 5 p.m. ET 10/6/23.

Docket Numbers: ER23–2870–000.
Applicants: Drew Solar-CA, LLC.
Description: § 205(d) Rate Filing:
 Revised Market-Based Rate Tariff Filing
 to be effective 11/15/2023.

Filed Date: 9/15/23.
Accession Number: 20230915–5147.
Comment Date: 5 p.m. ET 10/6/23.

Docket Numbers: ER23–2871–000.
Applicants: Drew Solar, LLC.
Description: § 205(d) Rate Filing:
 Revised Market-Based Rate Tariff Filing
 to be effective 11/15/2023.

Filed Date: 9/15/23.
Accession Number: 20230915–5149.
Comment Date: 5 p.m. ET 10/6/23.

Docket Numbers: ER23–2872–000.
Applicants: PJM Interconnection,
 L.L.C.

Description: Tariff Amendment:
 Notice of Cancellation of ISA, SA No.
 3407; Queue No. W4–001A_AT9 to be
 effective 11/15/2023.

Filed Date: 9/15/23.
Accession Number: 20230915–5160.
Comment Date: 5 p.m. ET 10/6/23.

Docket Numbers: ER23–2873–000.
Applicants: Mid-Atlantic Interstate
 Transmission, LLC, PJM
 Interconnection, L.L.C.

Description: § 205(d) Rate Filing: Mid-
 Atlantic Interstate Transmission, LLC
 submits tariff filing per 35.13(a)(2)(iii).
 MAIT Submits Revised Interconnection
 Agreement, Service Agreement No. 4578
 to be effective 11/15/2023.

Filed Date: 9/15/23.
Accession Number: 20230915–5165.
Comment Date: 5 p.m. ET 10/6/23.

Docket Numbers: ER23–2874–000.
Applicants: NorthWestern Energy
 Public Service Corporation.

Description: Baseline eTariff Filing:
 NWPS Baseline Market Based Rate
 Tariff to be effective 11/15/2023.

Filed Date: 9/15/23.

Accession Number: 20230915–5172.

Comment Date: 5 p.m. ET 10/6/23.

Take notice that the Commission
 received the following electric
 reliability filings:

Docket Numbers: RR23–2–001.

Applicants: North American Electric
 Reliability Corporation.

Description: Revised SERC Reliability
 Corporation Report of Comparisons of
 Budgeted to Actual Costs for 2022.

Filed Date: 9/14/23.

Accession Number: 20230914–5123.

Comment Date: 5 p.m. ET 10/5/23.

Docket Numbers: RR23–4–000.

Applicants: North American Electric
 Reliability Corporation.

Description: Petition of the North
 American Electric Reliability
 Corporation for approval of revisions to
 the NERC Rules of Procedure regarding
 Reliability Standards.

Filed Date: 9/15/23.

Accession Number: 20230915–5151.

Comment Date: 5 p.m. ET 10/6/23.

The filings are accessible in the
 Commission's eLibrary system ([https://
 elibrary.ferc.gov/idmws/search/
 fercgensearch.asp](https://elibrary.ferc.gov/idmws/search/fercgensearch.asp)) by querying the
 docket number.

Any person desiring to intervene, to
 protest, or to answer a complaint in any
 of the above proceedings must file in
 accordance with Rules 211, 214, or 206
 of the Commission's Regulations (18
 CFR 385.211, 385.214, or 385.206) on or
 before 5:00 p.m. Eastern time on the
 specified comment date. Protests may be
 considered, but intervention is
 necessary to become a party to the
 proceeding.

eFiling is encouraged. More detailed
 information relating to filing
 requirements, interventions, protests,
 service, and qualifying facilities filings
 can be found at: [http://www.ferc.gov/
 docs-filing/efiling/filing-req.pdf](http://www.ferc.gov/docs-filing/efiling/filing-req.pdf). For
 other information, call (866) 208–3676
 (toll free). For TTY, call (202) 502–8659.

The Commission's Office of Public
 Participation (OPP) supports meaningful
 public engagement and participation in
 Commission proceedings. OPP can help
 members of the public, including
 landowners, environmental justice
 communities, Tribal members and
 others, access publicly available
 information and navigate Commission
 processes. For public inquiries and
 assistance with making filings such as
 interventions, comments, or requests for
 rehearing, the public is encouraged to
 contact OPP at (202) 502–6595 or [OPP@
 ferc.gov](mailto:OPP@ferc.gov).

Dated: September 15, 2023.

Debbie-Anne A. Reese,

Deputy Secretary.

[FR Doc. 2023–20468 Filed 9–20–23; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6717–01–P

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket No. CP23–536–000]

Eastern Shore Natural Gas Company; Notice of Application and Establishing Intervention Deadline

Take notice that on August 31, 2023,
 Eastern Shore Natural Gas Company
 (Eastern Shore), 500 Energy Lane, Suite
 200, Dover, Delaware, 19901, filed an
 application under section 7(c) of the
 Natural Gas Act (NGA), and part 157 of
 the Commission's regulations requesting
 authorization for its Worcester
 Resiliency Upgrade Project (Project).
 The Project consists of the installation
 of five (5) liquefied natural gas (LNG)
 storage tanks and LNG vaporizers in
 Worcester County, MD. Eastern Shore
 also proposes to install approximately
 1.1 miles of 10-inch-diameter pipeline
 looping in Sussex County, DE and
 Wicomico County, MD, upgrades to an
 existing pressure control station in
 Sussex County, DE, and upgrades to
 three (3) existing meter and regulating
 (M&R) stations in Sussex County, DE,
 Worcester County, MD, and Somerset
 County, MD. The Project is designed to
 store approximately 475,000 gallons of
 LNG, equivalent to 39,627 Dth, and
 provide 14,000 Dth/d of corresponding
 peak firm natural gas transportation
 service, as well as enhance the
 resiliency of Eastern Shore's system.
 Eastern Shore estimates the total cost of
 the Project to be \$79,878,927 and
 proposes an initial recourse rate under
 new Rate Schedules PEAK–FT and
 PEAK–IT, all as more fully set forth in
 the application which is on file with the
 Commission and open for public
 inspection.

In addition to publishing the full text
 of this document in the **Federal
 Register**, the Commission provides all
 interested persons an opportunity to
 view and/or print the contents of this
 document via the internet through the
 Commission's Home Page
 (www.ferc.gov) using the "eLibrary"
 link. Enter the docket number excluding
 the last three digits in the docket
 number field to access the document. At
 this time, the Commission has
 suspended access to the Commission's
 Public Reference Room. For assistance,
 contact the Federal Energy Regulatory

Commission at FercOnlineSupport@ferc.gov or call toll-free, (886) 208-3676 or TTY (202) 502-8659.

Any questions regarding the proposed project should be directed to Matt Everngam, Director, Regulatory Affairs, Eastern Shore Natural Gas Company, 500 Energy Lane, Suite 200, Dover, DE 19901 by phone 1-844-366-3764 or by email to meverngam@chpk.com.

Pursuant to Section 157.9 of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure,¹ within 90 days of this Notice the Commission staff will either: complete its environmental review and place it into the Commission's public record (eLibrary) for this proceeding; or issue a Notice of Schedule for Environmental Review. If a Notice of Schedule for Environmental Review is issued, it will indicate, among other milestones, the anticipated date for the Commission staff's issuance of the final environmental impact statement (FEIS) or environmental assessment (EA) for this proposal. The filing of an EA in the Commission's public record for this proceeding or the issuance of a Notice of Schedule for Environmental Review will serve to notify Federal and State agencies of the timing for the completion of all necessary reviews, and the subsequent need to complete all Federal authorizations within 90 days of the date of issuance of the Commission staff's FEIS or EA.

Water Quality Certification

Eastern Shore's application states that a water quality certificate under section 401 of the Clean Water Act is required for the project from Delaware's DNREC Division of Water Resources and Maryland's MDE Water Management Administration. The request for certification must be submitted to the certifying agency and to the Commission concurrently. Proof of the certifying agency's receipt date must be filed no later than five (5) days after the request is submitted to the certifying agency.

Public Participation

There are three ways to become involved in the Commission's review of this project: you can file comments on the project, you can protest the filing, and you can file a motion to intervene in the proceeding. There is no fee or cost for filing comments or intervening. The deadline for filing a motion to intervene is 5:00 p.m. Eastern Time on October 6, 2023. How to file protests, motions to intervene, and comments is explained below.

The Commission's Office of Public Participation (OPP) supports meaningful public engagement and participation in Commission proceedings. OPP can help members of the public, including landowners, environmental justice communities, Tribal members and others, access publicly available information and navigate Commission processes. For public inquiries and assistance with making filings such as interventions, comments, or requests for rehearing, the public is encouraged to contact OPP at (202) 502-6595 or OPP@ferc.gov.

Comments

Any person wishing to comment on the project may do so. Comments may include statements of support or objections, to the project as a whole or specific aspects of the project. The more specific your comments, the more useful they will be.

Protests

Pursuant to sections 157.10(a)(4)² and 385.211³ of the Commission's regulations under the NGA, any person⁴ may file a protest to the application. Protests must comply with the requirements specified in section 385.2001⁵ of the Commission's regulations. A protest may also serve as a motion to intervene so long as the protestor states it also seeks to be an intervenor.

To ensure that your comments or protests are timely and properly recorded, please submit your comments on or before October 6, 2023.

There are three methods you can use to submit your comments or protests to the Commission. In all instances, please reference the Project docket number CP23-536-000 in your submission.

(1) You may file your comments electronically by using the eComment feature, which is located on the Commission's website at www.ferc.gov under the link to Documents and Filings. Using eComment is an easy method for interested persons to submit brief, text-only comments on a project;

(2) You may file your comments or protests electronically by using the eFiling feature, which is located on the Commission's website (www.ferc.gov) under the link to Documents and Filings. With eFiling, you can provide comments in a variety of formats by attaching them as a file with your submission. New eFiling users must

first create an account by clicking on "eRegister." You will be asked to select the type of filing you are making; first select "General" and then select "Comment on a Filing"; or

(3) You can file a paper copy of your comments or protests by mailing them to the following address below. Your written comments must reference the Project docket number (CP23-536-000).

To file via USPS: Kimberly D. Bose, Secretary, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street NE, Washington, DC 20426.

To file via any other courier: Kimberly D. Bose, Secretary, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 12225 Wilkins Avenue, Rockville, Maryland 20852.

The Commission encourages electronic filing of comments (options 1 and 2 above) and has eFiling staff available to assist you at (202) 502-8258 or FercOnlineSupport@ferc.gov.

Persons who comment on the environmental review of this project will be placed on the Commission's environmental mailing list, and will receive notification when the environmental documents (EA or EIS) are issued for this project and will be notified of meetings associated with the Commission's environmental review process.

The Commission considers all comments received about the project in determining the appropriate action to be taken. However, the filing of a comment alone will not serve to make the filer a party to the proceeding. To become a party, you must intervene in the proceeding. For instructions on how to intervene, see below.

Interventions

Any person, which includes individuals, organizations, businesses, municipalities, and other entities,⁶ has the option to file a motion to intervene in this proceeding. Only intervenors have the right to request rehearing of Commission orders issued in this proceeding and to subsequently challenge the Commission's orders in the U.S. Circuit Courts of Appeal.

To intervene, you must submit a motion to intervene to the Commission in accordance with Rule 214 of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure⁷ and the regulations under the NGA⁸ by the intervention deadline for the project, which is October 6, 2023. As described further in Rule 214, your motion to intervene must state, to the extent known, your position regarding the proceeding, as well as

¹ 18 CFR (Code of Federal Regulations) 157.9.

² 18 CFR 157.10(a)(4).

³ 18 CFR 385.211.

⁴ Persons include individuals, organizations, businesses, municipalities, and other entities. 18 CFR 385.102(d).

⁵ 18 CFR 385.2001.

⁶ 18 CFR 385.102(d).

⁷ 18 CFR 385.214.

⁸ 18 CFR 157.10.

your interest in the proceeding. For an individual, this could include your status as a landowner, ratepayer, resident of an impacted community, or recreationist. You do not need to have property directly impacted by the project in order to intervene. For more information about motions to intervene, refer to the FERC website at <https://www.ferc.gov/resources/guides/how-to-intervene.asp>.

There are two ways to submit your motion to intervene. In both instances, please reference the Project docket number CP23-536-000 in your submission.

(1) You may file your motion to intervene by using the Commission's eFiling feature, which is located on the Commission's website (www.ferc.gov) under the link to Documents and Filings. New eFiling users must first create an account by clicking on "eRegister." You will be asked to select the type of filing you are making; first select "General" and then select "Intervention." The eFiling feature includes a document-less intervention option; for more information, visit <https://www.ferc.gov/docs-filing/efiling/document-less-intervention.pdf>; or

(2) You can file a paper copy of your motion to intervene, along with three copies, by mailing the documents to the address below. Your motion to intervene must reference the Project docket number CP23-536-000.

To file via USPS: Kimberly D. Bose, Secretary, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street NE, Washington, DC 20426.

To file via any other courier: Kimberly D. Bose, Secretary, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 12225 Wilkins Avenue, Rockville, Maryland 20852.

The Commission encourages electronic filing of motions to intervene (option 1 above) and has eFiling staff available to assist you at (202) 502-8258 or FercOnlineSupport@ferc.gov.

Protests and motions to intervene must be served on the applicant either by mail or email at: Matt Everngam, Director, Regulatory Affairs, Eastern Shore Natural Gas Company, 500 Energy Lane, Suite 200, Dover, DE 19901 or by email to meverngam@chpk.com. Any subsequent submissions by an intervenor must be served on the applicant and all other parties to the proceeding. Contact information for parties can be downloaded from the service list at the eService link on FERC Online. Service can be via email with a link to the document.

All timely, unopposed⁹ motions to intervene are automatically granted by operation of Rule 214(c)(1).¹⁰ Motions to intervene that are filed after the intervention deadline are untimely, and may be denied. Any late-filed motion to intervene must show good cause for being late and must explain why the time limitation should be waived and provide justification by reference to factors set forth in Rule 214(d) of the Commission's Rules and Regulations.¹¹ A person obtaining party status will be placed on the service list maintained by the Secretary of the Commission and will receive copies (paper or electronic) of all documents filed by the applicant and by all other parties.

Tracking the Proceeding

Throughout the proceeding, additional information about the project will be available from the Commission's Office of External Affairs, at (866) 208-FERC, or on the FERC website at www.ferc.gov using the "eLibrary" link as described above. The eLibrary link also provides access to the texts of all formal documents issued by the Commission, such as orders, notices, and rulemakings.

In addition, the Commission offers a free service called eSubscription which allows you to keep track of all formal issuances and submittals in specific dockets. This can reduce the amount of time you spend researching proceedings by automatically providing you with notification of these filings, document summaries, and direct links to the documents. For more information and to register, go to www.ferc.gov/docs-filing/esubscription.asp.

Intervention Deadline: 5:00 p.m. Eastern Time on October 6, 2023.

Dated: September 15, 2023.

Kimberly D. Bose,
Secretary.

[FR Doc. 2023-20456 Filed 9-20-23; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6717-01-P

⁹ The applicant has 15 days from the submittal of a motion to intervene to file a written objection to the intervention.

¹⁰ 18 CFR 385.214(c)(1).

¹¹ 18 CFR 385.214(b)(3) and (d).

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Food and Drug Administration

[Docket No. FDA-2023-N-0001]

Menopause: Potential Impact on Clinical Pharmacology and Opportunities for Future Research; Public Workshop

AGENCY: Food and Drug Administration, HHS.

ACTION: Notice of public workshop.

SUMMARY: The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) Office of Women's Health and Office of Clinical Pharmacology is announcing the following public workshop: "Menopause: Potential Impact on Clinical Pharmacology and Opportunities for Future Research." The purpose of the public workshop is to discuss the current understanding of the impact of menopause on the pharmacokinetics (PK), pharmacodynamics (PD), and exposure-response relationships of FDA-regulated drugs and biologics used by menopausal women for non-menopause-related indications. Researchers, educators, clinicians, and patients may benefit from attending this scientific workshop. Presentations will discuss whether changes in drug absorption, distribution, metabolism, and elimination, if any, could be affected by hormonal changes of menopause (independent of age), or other non-hormonal influences (including age-related renal and hepatic changes). The discussion is further intended to identify the research and data gaps regarding the potential impact of menopause on PK/PD. Speakers will highlight areas with the greatest need for further research and exploration.

DATES: The public workshop will be held virtually on October 11, 2023, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Eastern Time. See the **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** section for registration date and information.

ADDRESSES: The public workshop will be held virtually using the Zoom platform. The link for the public workshop will be sent to registrants upon registration.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Lisa Lineberger, Food and Drug Administration, Office of the Commissioner, Office of Women's Health, Bldg. 32, Rm. 2333, 10903 New Hampshire Ave., Silver Spring, MD 20993, 301-796-8751, OWHmeetings@fda.hhs.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

NOTICE TO APPLICANTS

MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT
WATER AND SCIENCE ADMINISTRATION
WETLANDS AND WATERWAYS PROGRAM
1800 WASHINGTON BOULEVARD, SUITE 430
BALTIMORE, MARYLAND 21230-1708
410-537-3745

PUBLIC NOTICE BILLING APPROVAL FORM

I agree to pay all expenses associated with the publishing of a public notice for
the Water Quality Certification Application submitted by

Eastern Shore Natural Gas Company

(Applicant's Name), which was dated and signed by you on

 June 5, 2024 .



Applicant/Agent Signature

Nicholas Bishop

Printed Name of Signee

Please Print

Billing Address

Eastern Shore Natural Gas Company

500 Energy Lane, Suite 200

Dover, Delaware 19901

Phone Number

Joshua Riding

From: Joshua Riding
Sent: Tuesday, January 16, 2024 10:36 AM
To: Danielle Spendiff -MDE-
Cc: Andy Stansfield; NBishop@chpk.com
Subject: WQC Pre-filing meeting request for Delmar Loop project
Attachments: 22154 Prefiling Meeting Request.pdf

Good morning Danielle,

Please find the attached pre-filing meeting request for the Delmar Loop project. This project is similar to the Salisbury Loop project that we have discussed recently, in that Eastern Shore Natural Gas intends to install all wetland and waterbody crossings via HDD to avoid direct impacts. And the WQC would be for any potential inadvertent release. Please let me know what else you will need for this project.

Thanks,

Josh Riding | Environmental Scientist



GEO-TECHNOLOGY ASSOCIATES, INC.

3445 Box Hill Corp. Center Drive, Suite A, Abingdon, MD 21009
Cell: 804-467-8989 | www.gtaeng.com

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MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT
Water and Science Administration • Wetlands and Waterways Program
1800 Washington Boulevard • Suite 430 • Baltimore, Maryland 21230
410-537-3745 • 800-633-6101 • www.mde.maryland.gov

Pre-Filing Meeting Request

All fields with an asterisk * are required unless noted otherwise.

Use the **SUBMIT by EMAIL** button to send your request. **READ** the sending instructions.

Optionally, save this form, attach it to an email, and return it to: wetlandspreap.mde@maryland.gov

Project Location

Complete all of the following project location fields

<http://www.latlong.net>

Site Address

If a site address is not available, be sure to describe the project location in the available field below.

* Latitude / * Longitude

* County

* ADC Map

(ADC map coordinates not required for Allegany, Garrett or Somerset counties)

Describe project location

(eg., 200 yards NE of Rte 50 / Tempo Road)
Not needed if exact address is shown above.

House, lot, or location number

Street name

* City

* State

* Zip

Delmar

MD

21875

38.455333°

-75.558035°

Select a county

Somerset

Map#

Alpha

Number

Edition

7

G,F

G1, F2, F3

1.1 miles along Sussex Highway (US-13), in the Delmar area

Property Owner

Mailing address may be different from Project location address.

* At least one telephone

* Full name

* Mailing address

* City, State Zip

Telephone Home

Work

Cell

Email

Primary Contact

* Full name

Company

* Mailing address

* City, State Zip

Telephone Work

Cell

Email

Nick Bishop

Eastern Shore Natural Gas Company

500 Energy Lane, Suite 200

Dover, DE

nbishop@chpk.com

Project

* This project request is:

(Place an 'x' in the box for WQC)

Description of Project

Include the following (if known):
ACOE Category, ACOE reviewer,
Tracking # and AI #

Water Quality Certification (WQC)

X

ESNG intends to construct approximately 1.1 miles of 10-inch pipeline in the Delmar area of Wicomico County, Maryland.

By submitting this form, the property owner grants permission to the representatives of the Maryland Department of the Environment to enter the property during business hours for the purpose of making observations of the proposed project site. If this form is being submitted by the primary contact and not the property owner, the primary contact certifies that he or she is the agent authorized to act on behalf of the property owner and, as the agent, has obtained the property owner's permission for the representatives of the Maryland Department of the Environment to enter the property during business hours for the purpose of making observations of the proposed project site.

Submit by Email

Print Form

Clear Form

**EASTERN SHORE NATURAL GAS
HORIZONTAL DIRECTIONAL DRILLING
INADVERTENT SURFACE RELEASE CONTINGENCY PLAN
DELMAR LOOP PROJECT**

Purpose and Objective

The purpose of this Horizontal Directional Drilling Inadvertent Surface Release Contingency Plan (Contingency Plan) is to identify procedures to be followed in the event of an inadvertent surface release of drilling fluids during horizontal directional drilling (HDD) operations. An inadvertent surface release (also sometimes referred to as an “inadvertent surface return” or “frac-out”) is a condition in which drilling mud used in HDD operations is released through fractures in the soil and migrates toward the surface. Drilling mud consists mainly of a bentonite clay-water mixture, which is not considered to be hazardous or toxic. The company’s objective in adopting this plan is to minimize the potential of a surface release and identify response measures in the event that a surface release occurs, in order to mitigate any potential adverse impact to water bodies and associated habitats. Escape of drilling mud from a surface release is most common near the HDD entry and exit locations; however, surface releases can occur at any location along a directional drill.

This Contingency Plan provides operational procedures and responsibilities for the prevention, containment, and cleanup of surface releases associated with HDD operations.

The objectives of this plan are as follows:

- Minimize the potential for a surface release due to HDD operations.
- Identification and timely detection of surface releases.
- Provide for environmental protection of the water bodies and associated habitats.
- Establish response procedures in the event of a surface release.
- Provide for notifications to the applicable parties and regulatory agencies.

Scope of Work for HDD Crossings

The pipeline plan and profile drawings show the targeted entry and exit locations for each proposed HDD. These layouts have been designed to minimize the potential for impact to water bodies. The significant clearance between the bottom of the water bodies/wetlands and the top of the proposed pipeline provides additional protection for the water bodies. Specifically, a minimum clearance of 15 feet will be maintained between the top of the proposed pipeline and the tidal riverbed.

Potential Impacts to Biological Resources

The release of drilling mud during an inadvertent surface release may occur in either upland or aquatic environments. Releases occurring in upland areas can generally be contained relatively quickly, and with minimal difficulty, and therefore typically result in minor impacts to the surrounding environment. Releases occurring in aquatic environments may be more difficult to contain, because bentonite readily disperses in water, and may settle on the bottom quickly, depending on water flow. Although bentonite is non-toxic, it may have several indirect effects on aquatic life. Initially following a surface release, suspended bentonite may inhibit the respiration of fishes. This effect is typically of a short duration. Longer term effects may occur once the bentonite settles. One possible longer-term effect is egg masses of fish being covered by a layer of bentonite, thereby inhibiting the flow of dissolved oxygen to the egg masses. Another possible longer-term effect of a surface release is benthonic invertebrates and the larval stages of pelagic organisms becoming covered by the bentonite and suffocating.

Equipment

The following equipment is proposed to be used during HDD operations:

- Horizontal Directional Drill rig;
- Ancillary tractor trailers associated with the Drill rig;
- Drilling mud reclaimer;
- Multiple water tankers;
- Multiple vacuum trucks and trailers;
- Multiple construction pickup trucks;
- Multiple boom trucks; and a
- Small office trailer

Environmental Inspection and Training

An Independent Monitoring Contractor (IMC) will be on-site at all times during HDD operations beneath tidal waters and/or wetlands. The IMC will be experienced in directional drilling and the associated environmental protection measures. The IMC will ensure that the proper equipment and materials are available on-site at all times, and that the necessary procedures are followed on a daily basis. Key contractor and drilling personnel will be thoroughly trained in the requirements of this Contingency Plan. Daily on-site safety and environmental protection meetings will provide ongoing communications and awareness measures regarding prevention, mitigation and response associated with potential surface releases.

On-Site Monitoring

During HDD operations, visual inspection along the bore path of the alignment will take place. Where the alignment crosses flowing water, trained inspection personnel will be placed approximately 50 feet upstream and downstream of the alignment crossing, access permitting. The

names and phone numbers of inspection personnel will be provided to on-site regulatory representatives. During the duration of HDD operations, the contractor will provide the following information to the IMC and other inspection personnel.

- Position of the drilling head relative to the drilling point of entry;
- A comparison of the estimated total volume of drilling mud that has been pumped throughout the HDD operation and the estimated current total volume of returns;
- Equipment malfunctions and/or repairs;
- Abnormal changes in drilling mud pressure at the time of occurrence; and
- Changes in drilling mud mixture or contents.

Surface Release Mitigation Measures

- Applicable regulatory agencies will be contacted as required. Prior to construction, a complete list of applicable regulatory agencies will be prepared and available at the job site.
- All equipment will be checked and maintained daily to prevent hazardous material leaks.
- Sufficient supplies of spill containment materials and hay bales will be available on-site at all times. A vacuum truck will also be available at all times.
- A supply of empty barrels will be located on-site at all times.
- Entry and exit drill pits will be contained using berms, silt fence and/or hay bales.
- Tracing dye will be added to the drilling mud to help identify surface releases in water bodies.
- Visual observation (on-land and water bodies) will occur on a regular basis throughout HDD operations so that a potential surface release can be identified.
- The contractor will adjust the thickness of the drilling mud mixture to match the substrate conditions, and will monitor drilling mud pressures and penetration rates, in order to ensure optimal fluid pressure to penetrate the substrate.
- HDD operations will be suspended immediately upon evidence of a drop in drilling pressure, a sudden loss of approximately 75 percent of returns at the entrance pit, or other evidence of a surface release.
- In the event of a surface release, the bore stem will be pulled back to relieve pressure at the leak location, and the on-site IMC will evaluate the situation and provide direction for mitigation actions.
- Cleanup of all surface releases/spills shall begin immediately.
- In the event of a surface release that does not reach a water body, bentonite shall be contained, removed and disposed at an approved facility.
- In the unlikely event that a surface release reaches a water body, corrective action will be taken immediately. Clean-up work will be performed by hand to the extent possible. A vacuum truck would be used to vacuum up the associated bentonite and soils as necessary. The materials will be properly disposed at an approved facility. Clean sand would be replaced in the riverbed if necessary.
- All cleanup materials will be disposed on a daily basis as applicable, and at the completion of the project.
- In the event that a drill hole must be abandoned, the bore will be sealed by the injection of a high-viscosity bentonite slurry. Construction operations will not be allowed to re-start until approved by the on-site IMC.

- Documentation will be prepared for any surface releases that occur during HDD operations.