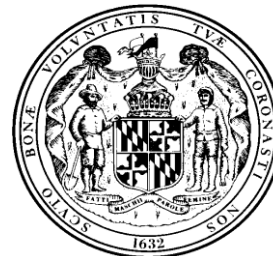


**STATE OF MARYLAND**  
**DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT**  
**WATER AND SCIENCE ADMINISTRATION**  
**WETLANDS AND WATERWAYS PROTECTION PROGRAM**  
**NOTICE OF DECISION**

**In the Matter of:** Wicomico Regional Airport  
Nontidal Wetlands and Waterways Permit  
Application Number 21-NT-2114/202162246



**Hearing Date:** June 28, 2023

**Hearing Location:** Virtual Public Informational Hearing

**Decision:** Approval

**Date:** October 28, 2024

The review of the Nontidal Wetlands and Waterways Permit Application in the above-referenced matter has been governed by criteria set forth under Title 5, Subtitle 5, Environment Article, Annotated Code of Maryland, entitled Appropriation or Use of Waters, Reservoirs, and Dams; Subtitle 9, Environment Article, Annotated Code of Maryland, entitled Nontidal Wetlands; and Code of Maryland Regulations (COMAR) Title 26, Subtitle 17, Chapter 04, Construction on Nontidal Waters and Floodplains and Subtitle 23 Nontidal Wetlands. The Nontidal Wetlands and Waterways Permit Application has been reviewed for compliance with Maryland water quality standards under COMAR Title 26, Subtitle 08, Chapter 02 Water Quality.

After examination of all documents and evidence in the above-referenced matter, I have determined that:

1. The applicant has demonstrated a need for impacts to nontidal wetlands and the nontidal wetland buffer;
2. The applicant has minimized impacts to nontidal wetlands and the nontidal wetland buffer,
3. No rare, threatened or endangered species have been identified in the area of impact from the proposed project;
4. No historical or archeological sites have been identified in the area of impact for the proposed project;
5. The project is consistent with State water quality requirements;
6. Public notice and public informational hearing requirements have been satisfied; and,
7. The applicant has demonstrated that the project has independent utility from any potential future projects.

Nontidal Wetlands and Waterways Permit Application 21-NT-2114/202162246 meets the criteria set forth in statute and regulation governing impacts to wetlands and waterways. Nontidal Wetlands and Waterways Permit Number 21-NT-2114/202162246 may be issued by the Water and Science Administration to authorize Wicomico Regional Airport to complete improvements to the existing airport, which includes extending Runway 32, removing airspace obstructions, and upgrading airport facilities and infrastructure. These activities will permanently impact 211,482 square feet (4.85 acres) of emergent nontidal wetlands, 245,635 square feet (5.64 acres) of forested nontidal wetlands, and 852,981 square feet (19.58 acres) of the 25-foot nontidal wetland buffer as well as to permanently convert 595,703 square feet (13.68 acres) of forested nontidal wetlands to emergent nontidal wetlands. The project is located at 5485 Airport Terminal Road near Salisbury in Wicomico County.

A brief explanation of the rationale for this decision is contained in the attached Summary of Basis for Decision.

Heather L. Nelson  
Program Manager  
Wetlands and Waterways Protection Program