



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
BALTIMORE DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS
10 S. HOWARD STREET
BALTIMORE, MD 21201

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

AMENDMENT to ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT PENNSYLVANIA PIPELINE PROJECT CROSSING OF U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS PROPERTIES AT LOYALHANNA LAKE, CONEMAUGH RIVER LAKE, AND RAYSTOWN LAKE

In compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, as amended, 40 CFR 1500-1508, and 33 CFR 230, an Amendment to the Final Environmental Assessment (EA) was prepared to evaluate the potential impacts associated with a change to the construction schedule for the Pennsylvania Pipeline Project where it crosses through United States Army Corps of Engineers' (USACE) owned/administrated property at Raystown Lake.

A Final EA was published and a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) was signed in February 2017, and USACE subsequently issued a License and a 30-year Easement agreement allowing Sunoco Pipeline, Limited Partnership (SPLP) to construct and operate five (5) miles of pipeline and a block valve station on USACE owned/administered parcels at Raystown Lake. The Final EA and February 2017 FONSI determined that the issuance of a license and 30-year easement for the pipeline will not result in significant impacts to the natural or human environment. To ensure that potential impacts to recreational uses are minimal, the Final EA included an impact minimization measure that construction in the Seven Points Recreation Area of Raystown Lake would be avoided during the busy summer recreational season from mid-May to after Labor Day (September 4, 2017) weekend, or after the end of October (as specifically assigned to certain areas).

Due to unforeseen circumstances, the anticipated completion date for the installation of the 20-inch diameter natural gas liquids pipeline has been delayed where the pipeline crosses the Seven Points Recreation Area at Raystown Lake. Various factors (including a later than anticipated start of construction, adverse weather conditions, and geologic conditions encountered during the horizontal directional drilling (HDD) process under Raystown Lake) increased the length of time to complete the HDD process and construction could not be completed within the established timeframe. Because construction work (hours per day, days per week, seasonal time of year) has the potential to adversely affect certain resources addressed in the EA, the Amendment to the EA assessed if it was prudent to extend the construction timeframe to allow certain limited construction activities to continue during the busy summer recreation season to address the relevant impact issues and ensure that impact minimization and mitigation measures are appropriate.

Based on the Amendment to the EA, and comments received during the public comment period, USACE has decided to maintain the timing restrictions imposed on the Proposed Action per the original FONSI and EA. As discussed therein, the Proposed Action permits some construction activities to continue after the summer recreational season ends (September 4, 2017) to allow SPLP to conclude all pipeline construction within the recreational area as expeditiously as possible during the remainder of 2017 to mid-May 2018. These construction activities include: HDD in the Seven Points Recreation Area and open cut/trench construction outside the Seven Points Recreation Area. Acoustical controls shall continue to be implemented at the Seven Points Recreation Area HDD rig site until October 29, 2017 to minimize noise pollution during active drilling operations. Additional controls include no construction on the Allegripis Trail from 3:00p.m. on Fridays until the end of the weekend. From November 1, 2017 through May 15, 2018, all construction work in the Seven Points Recreation Area may resume without daily restrictions, if needed. Construction during this time would not interfere with or significantly impact recreational users, because public use for recreation activities are minimal during this time.

To offset the impact of temporary occupation of the Mushroom parking lot by project-related HDD construction equipment, materials, and workspace (being used to construct the segment of the 20-inch diameter pipeline that will cross Raystown Lake), a temporary parking lot was constructed that will serve as mitigation to replace the occupied parking space, and serve the needs of the recreating public during the busy summer recreation season. This temporary parking area will be maintained until ongoing HDD and project construction activities are completed and the parking area is no longer needed. At that time, the parking area will be removed and restored to its previous condition as a maintained open grass area. The environmental impacts of this temporary parking area are discussed in the Amendment to the EA, specifically, in Appendix J – Assessment of Temporary Parking Area. The permanent easement/lease area, temporary workspace, and remainder of the project description remain unchanged.

Based on the temporary parking area amendment to the EA, and other such measures already included in the Final EA, USACE concludes that adverse impacts to public recreation, noise, visual/aesthetic resources, traffic (including public parking) and public safety would be temporary and minor/less than significant. Accordingly, the Proposed Action does not change the conclusions of the original EA and FONSI. We further conclude that the specific provisions and impact minimization/mitigation measures presented in this Amendment to the EA will not interfere with USACE's mission of providing for the public's recreation and enjoyment at Raystown Lake.

After having carefully evaluated and balanced all beneficial and detrimental aspects of the Proposed Action, I have reasonably concluded that amending the Final EA to incorporate a temporary parking area does not constitute a major Federal action significantly affecting the quality of the human environment and is in accordance with 40 C.F.R. § 1508.13. Consequently, the preparation of an environmental impact statement under the National Environmental Policy Act for this action is not warranted. The public interest will be best served by the implementation of the Proposed Action as described in the original FONSI and EA. Further, the proposed work is in compliance with all applicable federal, state, and local laws and regulations.

A copy of the Final FONSI will be placed on the Baltimore District's website (<http://nab.usace.army.mil>).



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Commander and District Engineer

Date: 15 September 2017