

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Baltimore District

Public Notice

In Reply to Application Number CENAB-OPR-M (AT&T Communication Line) 2018-60781-M38

PN 18-32

Comment Period: June 6, 2018 to June 21, 2018

THE PURPOSE OF THIS PUBLIC NOTICE IS TO SOLICIT COMMENTS FORM THE PUBLIC REGARDING THE WORK DESCRIBED BELOW. NO DECISION HAS BEEN MADE AS TO WHETHER OR NOT A PERMIT WILL BE ISSUED AT THIS TIME.

This District has received an application for a Department of the Army permit pursuant to Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (33. U.S.C. 1344) as described below:

APPLICANT:

Ms. Vicki D. Hood

AT&T Corp.

3450 Riverwood Parkway SE Atlanta, Georgia 30339

WATERWAY AND LOCATION: The proposed project extends approximately 1,500 feet northeast of Rattlesnake Ridge Road at the North Branch of the Potomac River and continues for approximately 7.5 miles and terminates in southeast Oakland, Garrett County, Maryland.

PROPOSED WORK: AT&T is proposing to install a communication line within an existing power and communication line easement. The line will be bored under all aquatic resources; however, the project will result in approximately 1.83 acres of temporary Palustrine Emergent Wetland (PEM) impact associated with temporary crossings using construction matting. In order to restore temporarily impacted aquatic resources on-site, approximately 1.83 acres of PEM wetlands will be seeded with a wetland seed mix after construction. All work will be completed in accordance with the enclosed plans dated April 2018.

If you have any questions concerning this matter, please contact Mr. Donald Bole at 410-962-6079 or Donald.R.Bole@usace.army.mil.

The decision whether to issue a permit will be based on an evaluation of the probable impacts, including cumulative impacts of the proposed activity on the public interest. That decision will reflect the national concern for both protection and utilization of important resources. The benefit, which reasonable may be expected to accrue from the proposal, must be balanced against its reasonably foreseeable detriments. All factors, which may be relevant to the proposal will be considered, including the cumulative effects thereof; among those are conservation, economic, aesthetics, general environmental concerns, wetlands, cultural values, fish and wildlife values, flood hazards, flood plain values, land use, navigation, shoreline erosion and accretion, recreation, water supply and conservation, water quality, energy needs, safety, food and fiber production, mineral needs, and consideration of property ownership and in general, the needs and welfare of the people.

The evaluation of the impacts of the work described above on the public interest will include

application of the Clean Water Act 404(b)(1) Guidelines promulgated by the Administrator, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, under authority of Section 404 of the Clean Water Act.

The Corps of Engineers is soliciting comments from the public; Federal, State, and local agencies and officials; Indian Tribes; and other interested parties in order to consider and evaluate the impacts of this proposed activity. Any comments received will be considered by the Corps of Engineers to determine whether to issue, modify, condition or deny a permit for this proposal. To make this decision, comments are used to assess impacts on endangered species, historic properties, water quality, general environmental effects, and the other public interest factors listed above. Comments are used in the preparation of an Environmental Assessment and/or an Environmental Impact Statement pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act. Comments provided will become part of the public record for this action. Comments are also used to determine the need for a public hearing and to determine the overall public interest of the proposed activity.

Written comments concerning the work described above related to the factors listed above or other pertinent factors must be received by the District Engineer, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Baltimore District, [Attn: Mr. Donald Bole, CENAB-OPR-M], U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, 2 Hopkins Plaza, Baltimore, MD 21201 or <u>Donald.R.Bole@usace.army.mil</u>, within the comment period specified above.

WATER QUALITY CERTIFICATION: The applicant is required to obtain a water quality certification in accordance with Section 401 of the Clean Water Act from the Maryland Department of the Environment. Any written comments concerning the work described above which relate to water quality certification must be received by the Maryland Department of the Environment, Montgomery Park Business Center, 1800 Washington Boulevard, Suite 430, Baltimore, Maryland 21230-1708 within the comment period as specified above to receive consideration. MDE has a statutory limit of one year from the date of this public notice to make its decision.

FEDERALLY LISTED SPECIES: A preliminary review of this application indicates that the proposed work will not affect Federal listed threatened or endangered species or their critical habitat, pursuant to Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act, as amended. As the evaluation of this application continues, additional information may become available which could modify this preliminary determination.

HISTORIC AND ARCHEOLOGICAL RESOURCES: Review of the latest published version of the National Register of Historic Places indicates that no registered properties listed as eligible for inclusion, therein, are located at the site of the proposed work. Currently unknown archeological, scientific, prehistoric, or historical data may be lost or destroyed by the work to be accomplished under the request permit.

Any person who has an interest which may be adversely affected by the issuance of this permit may request a public hearing. The request, which must be in writing, must be received by the District Engineer, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Baltimore District, [Attn: Mr. Donald Bole, CENAB-OP-RMN], U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, 2 Hopkins Plaza, Baltimore, MD 21201, within the comment period as specified above to receive consideration. Also, it must clearly set forth the interest which may be adversely affected by this activity and the manner in which the interest may be adversely affected.

It is requested that you communicate this information concerning the proposed work to any persons know by you to be interested and not being known to this office, who did not receive a copy of this notice.

FOR THE DISTRICT ENGINEER:

Joseph P. DaVia

Julian Dels

Chief, Maryland Section Northern









