



**U.S. Army Corps  
of Engineers**

Baltimore District  
PN-21-14

# Public Notice

**In Reply to Application Number  
NAB-2020-00447-P12 (Williams-Loyalsock Transco  
Pipeline Crossing)**

Comment Period: April 19, 2021 to May 4, 2021

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**THE PURPOSE OF THIS PUBLIC NOTICE IS TO INFORM INTERESTED PARTIES OF THE PROPOSED ACTIVITY AND TO SOLICIT COMMENTS. 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 USC 1344), as described below:

**APPLICANT:**

Transcontinental Gas Pipeline Company, LLC  
30351 Route 6  
Wysox, Pennsylvania 18854  
Attn: Mr. Adam Weightman

**WATERWAY AND LOCATION OF THE PROPOSED WORK:**

The proposed project is located in Loyalsock Creek, just east of Heim Hill Road, north of Montoursville, Fairfield and Loyalsock Townships, Lycoming County, Pennsylvania. (Latitude 41.283422 Longitude -76.919982)

**OVERALL PROJECT PURPOSE:**

The purpose of the Loyalsock Creek Pipeline Replacement project is twofold:

(1) to protect the integrity of Transco's Leidy A and Leidy B pipelines located under Loyalsock Creek by reestablishing and maintaining adequate depth of cover over the pipes; and

(2) to reestablish safe passage for recreational boaters over the buried pipelines.

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION:**

Transcontinental Gas Pipeline Company, LLC (Transco) owns and operates four natural gas pipeline crossings of Loyalsock Creek. Two of the four pipelines, the 24-inch-diameter Leidy A and the 24-inch-diameter Leidy B pipelines, have lost depth of cover over the pipelines and portions of these pipelines have become exposed in a side channel of the creek. Transco proposes to replace and bury 927-feet of the Leidy A and 971-feet of the Leidy B pipelines under Loyalsock Creek to increase depth of cover over the pipelines. After the pipelines have been reburied, the main and side channels of

Loyalsock Creek within Transco right-of-way would be reconstructed to establish stable channel geomorphology. Three boulder riffles, which have been specially designed to allow for the safe passage of boaters, are proposed to be installed into the main channel of Loyalsock Creek. One boulder cross vane, boulder J hooks with boulder vanes, and boulder riffles are to be installed into the side channel to maintain depth of cover over the pipelines. Additionally, an existing J-hook boulder structure located in the main channel is proposed to be removed to remove the current obstruction to boaters. During construction, a combination of phased cofferdams and pump bypasses would be utilized to divert flow from the channel where work is occurring to the opposite channel. After work is completed in the stream, impacts from disturbance to the stream bank and adjacent floodplain would be restored utilizing native vegetation including seed mixes, herbaceous plugs, live stakes, and shrub and tree plantings.

#### **EFFECTS ON AQUATIC RESOURCES:**

Activity (i.e. culvert)	Stream Impact (lf)	Wetland Impact (Sq. Ft.)	Authority (Section 10/404/408)
Temporary Dewatering of the work area and open trench (Loyalsock Creek Main Channel)	1,997 lf (541,074 square feet)	None	Section 404
Permanent Stream stabilization (Loyalsock Creek Main Channel)	101 lf (3,767 square feet)	None	Section 404
Temporary Dewatering of the work area and open trench (Loyalsock Creek Side Channel)	1,107 lf (99,150 square feet)	None	Section 404
Permanent Stream stabilization (Loyalsock Creek Side Channel)	239 lf (8,393 square feet)	None	Section 404
Temporary Stream 1B (unnamed tributary) Temporary Crossing	58 lf (290 square feet)	None	Section 404

#### **LEAD FEDERAL AGENCY:**

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps), as the lead federal agency, is responsible for all coordination pursuant to applicable federal authorities.

#### **APPLICANT'S PROPOSED AVOIDANCE, MINIMIZATION, AND COMPENSATORY MITIGATION:**

The construction of the proposed project would result in unavoidable impacts to Loyalsock Creek, a side channel, and Stream 1B. No impacts to wetlands, and no permanent loss of stream resource acreage is proposed. The impacted streams and their respective floodways would be crossed by the project utilizing open trenching construction methods to install the replacement pipelines. The dewatering plan consists of cofferdams and pump bypasses, which would be installed temporarily during project construction and removed at project completion. In planning and designing this project, Transco implemented the sequence of mitigation actions specified under the 404(b)(1) guidelines:

Resource Avoidance – Transco has designed and planned the proposed project to avoid all wetlands delineated in and near the project Level of Disturbance (LOD), as well as to avoid several streams, side channels of Loyalsock Creek, and their respective floodways which were delineated near the project LOD.

Impact Minimization – The alternatives analysis also presents the measures evaluated and implemented by Transco to minimize impacts to aquatic resources, including:

- Reducing the upstream (northern) extent of the project LOD by selecting,
- Advantageous cofferdam locations,
- Crossing streams and wetlands at non-forested locations, and
- Locating workspaces outside of floodways.

Compensatory mitigation is not proposed as the project will not result in impacts to wetlands or permanent loss of stream resource acreage.

#### **CORPS EVALUATION REQUIREMENTS:**

This project will be evaluated pursuant to Corps Regulatory Program Regulations (33 CFR Parts 320-332). 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

impact of this project will also include application of the Clean Water Act Section 404(b)(1) Guidelines promulgated by the Administrator, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

#### **ENDANGERED SPECIES:**

A preliminary review of this application indicates that the proposed work will have no effect federally 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.

#### **ESSENTIAL FISH HABITAT:**

The Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MSFCMA), as amended by the Sustainable Fisheries Act of 1996 (Public Law 04-267), requires all federal agencies to consult with the National Marine Fisheries Service on all actions, or proposed actions, permitted, funded, or undertaken by the agency that may adversely affect Essential Fish Habitat (EFH), including species of concern, life cycle habitat, or Habitat Areas of Particular Concern. The project site lies in or adjacent to EFH as described under MSFCMA for managed species under the MSFCMA. The Baltimore District has made a preliminary determination that the project will have no effect on EFH. The Baltimore District has made a preliminary determination that mitigative measures are not required to minimize adverse effects on EFH at this time. This determination may be modified if additional information indicates otherwise.

#### **HISTORIC RESOURCES:**

Pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 and applicable guidance, the Corps has reviewed the latest published version of the National Register of Historic Places and initially determined that there are registered properties listed as eligible for inclusion, therein, are located at the site of the proposed work. The Corps has made the preliminary determination that the proposed project would have an adverse effect on historic properties. The Corps final eligibility and effect determination will be based on coordination with the State Historic Preservation Office as appropriate and required, and with full consideration given to the proposed undertaking's potential direct and indirect effects on historic properties within the Corps' identified permit area.

#### **TRIBAL RESOURCES:**

Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act also requires federal agencies to consult with federally-recognized American Indian tribes that attach religious and cultural significance to historic properties that may be affected by the agency's undertaking. Corps Tribal Consultation Policy mandates an open, timely, meaningful, collaborative, and effective deliberative communication process that emphasizes trust,

respect, and shared responsibility. The policy further emphasizes that, to the extent practicable and permitted by law, consultation works toward mutual consensus and begins at the earliest planning stages before decisions are made and actions taken. The Corps final eligibility and effect determination will be based on coordination with interested tribes, in accordance with the Corps current tribal standard operating procedures as appropriate and required, and with full consideration given to the proposed undertaking's potential direct and indirect effects on tribal resources.

#### **MODIFICATION OF CIVIL WORKS PROJECTS: 33 USC 408 (SECTION 408):**

All Section 408 proposals will be coordinated internally at USACE. The Section 408 decision will be issued along with the Section 404 and/or Section 10 decision. Please see the following link for more information regarding Section 408:

<https://www.nab.usace.army.mil/section408/>.

#### **WATER QUALITY CERTIFICATION:**

The applicant is required to obtain a water quality certification in accordance with Section 401 of the Clean Water Act.

#### **COASTAL ZONE MANAGEMENT PROGRAMS:**

Where applicable, the applicant has certified in this application that the proposed activity complies with and will be conducted in a manner consistent with the approved Coastal Zone Management Program. By this public notice, we are requesting the state concurrence or objection to the applicant's consistency statement.

The applicant must obtain any state or local government permits which may be required.

#### **SUBMISSION OF COMMENTS:**

The Corps 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 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 and are subject to release to the public through the Freedom of Information Act. 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 U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Baltimore District within the comment period specified above through postal mail at the address below or electronic submission to the project manager email address below. Written comments should reference the Application Number (NAB-2020-00447).

#### **PUBLIC HEARING REQUESTS:**

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 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. The public hearing request may be submitted by electronic mail or mailed to the following address:

Michael Dombroskie  
Mike.dombroskie@usace.army.mil  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Baltimore District  
Regulatory Branch  
State College Field Office  
1631 South Atherton Street, Suite 101  
State College, Pennsylvania 16801

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

General information regarding the Corps' permitting process can be found on our website at <https://www.nab.usace.army.mil/Missions/Regulatory.aspx>. This public notice has been prepared in accordance with Corps implementing regulations at 33 CFR 325.3. If you have any questions concerning this specific project or would like to request a paper copy of this public notice, please contact Michael Dombroskie, at 814-235-0571 or email at [mike.dombroskie@usace.army.mil](mailto:mike.dombroskie@usace.army.mil). This public notice is issued by the Chief, Regulatory Branch.