



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

DRAFT FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT (FONSI)

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 the 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).

Where the pipeline crosses the Seven Points Recreation Area at Raystown Lake, unforeseen circumstances have delayed the anticipated completion date for the installation of the 20-inch diameter natural gas liquids pipeline. Because the period of construction work (hours per day, days per week, seasonal time of year) has the potential to adversely affect certain resources addressed in the EA, USACE determined that it is prudent to amend the EA to address the relevant impact issues and ensure that impact minimization and mitigation measures are appropriate. The permanent easement/lease area, temporary workspace, and remainder of the Project description remain unchanged, but USACE is considering allowing some construction activities to be conducted in the busy summer recreation season between Memorial Day and Labor Day (Proposed Action).

Due to 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 – which increased the length of time to complete the HDD process), construction could not be completed within the established

timeframe. The Proposed Action will permit some construction activities to continue beyond this timeframe during the summer season, allowing SPLP to conclude all pipeline construction within the recreational area as expeditiously as possible during the remainder of 2017 and early 2018 calendar years, but restoring the disturbed area before the next recreation season.

Additionally, 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.

Based on the modifications to the Project construction schedule, SPLP's implementation of the specific provisions and impact minimization and mitigation measures presented in the 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 the 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 an extension to the construction schedule, 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 and the modification of the construction schedule. Further, the proposed work is in compliance with all applicable Federal, State, and local laws and regulations.

This document is circulated for a 15-day review to concerned agencies, organizations and the interested public for review and comment. This Draft Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) precedes the Corps of Engineers' final decision on the proposed action. A copy of the Final FONSI will be placed on the Baltimore District's website (<http://nab.usace.army.mil>).

For more information or questions, contact the USACE Baltimore District Corporate Communication Office at (410) 962-2809.

EDWARD P. CHAMBERLAYNE
Colonel, Corps of Engineers
Commanding – Baltimore District

Date: _____