

Mayor
James L. Eberhardt
Town Administrator
Denise Breder



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ORIGINAL

P-405

September 21, 2017

The Honorable Lawrence Hogan, Jr.
Governor of Maryland
100 State Circle
Annapolis, MD 21401

Re: Conowingo Dam community impacts

Dear Governor Hogan:

Thank you for your interest in the Conowingo Dam and for taking an active approach to seeking solutions to the problem of the buildup of sediment behind the dam. Please accept these comments from the Town of Perryville regarding impacts of the Conowingo Dam to our community.

The Town of Perryville is just nine miles downstream from the Conowingo Dam. We are the community with the last official water intake on the Susquehanna River and we are located near the top of the Chesapeake Bay. Being so close to the Dam certainly has impacts to our community. Clearly, the build-up and release of sediment from behind the Dam impacts the health of the river and bay, which has a resulting negative effect on commercial and recreational fishing, both of which, as a waterfront community, are important to the Town and its residents.

In addition to the environmental concerns, as mentioned, Perryville's water intake for our potable water treatment plant, is located on the Susquehanna River. When local and upstate rain events cause the Dam to open 12-14 or more crest gates, Perryville's raw water intake vaults become clogged with debris, mud, silt and trash. Keeping that in mind, the town took the step of designing and constructing a new intake, but we still have issues with it getting clogged. When the intake vaults are clogged it results in inadequate water supply for town residents and it has a financial implication to the Town as well. Cleaning the raw water vaults can cost up to \$10,000 per year.

The Dam has a significant amount of debris and trash that is released through the crest gates when they are opened. A consistent effort must be made or a new system be installed to remove debris and trash before it goes through the gates. Particularly during times when there is a large number of gates open, so much debris is released through the dam that it

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causes property damage to downstream properties. While we understand that the debris is not placed into the water by the facility, it does build up there, and we believe that the debris causes a greater impact because of the large quantity of debris and trash that builds up behind the dam and then is released all at once with the force of the water behind it.

Finally, could you please provide us with more information regarding the process to be used for the upcoming dredging of the 25,000 cubic yards of sediment from behind the Dam? At our September Town Meeting, a resident inquired about the process to be used for the dredging as he had some concerns about possible release of harmful contaminants as a result of the stirring up of the sediment during the dredging process.

If you have any comments or questions regarding this letter, please call or email me at 410-642-6066 or dbreder@perryvillemd.org. We look forward to receiving additional information regarding the dredging process. Thank you for your consideration of these comments.

Sincerely,



Denise Breder
Town Administrator

CC: The Mayor and Commissioners of the Town of Perryville
Senator Wayne Norman, District 35
Delegate Kevin B. Hornberger, District 35A
Mr. Ben Grumbles, Maryland Secretary of the Environment
Mr. Dan Schneckenburger, Councilman, Cecil County Government
Mr. Roy McGrath, Director of Maryland Environmental Service
Ms. Colleen Hicks, Exelon Manager of Regulatory and Licensing
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission