



REGION 3

PHILADELPHIA, PA 19103

PRELIMINARY FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

To: All Interested Persons

In accordance with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) regulations at 40 C.F.R. Part 6 for implementing the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the EPA has completed an independent environmental review of the proposed project as described below and in its Environmental Assessment:

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| Project Name: | Prince George County for Water Transmission Main Appomattox River Crossing |
| Project Applicant: | Prince George County Administrative Office 6602 Courts Drive Prince George, VA 23875 |
| EPA Grant Amount: | \$959,752 |
| Estimated Total Project Cost: | \$3,051,799 |

Background and Purpose

The Fiscal Year 2024 Consolidated Appropriations Act (P.L. 118-42) included congressional funding for water infrastructure projects to be awarded through the EPA's Community Grants Program. Prince George County, Virginia was designated to receive funding from the EPA for the Water Transmission Main Appomattox River Crossing project. To complete this proposed project, Prince George County will combine the EPA Community Grant funds with additional local funds.

Prince George County currently has one of its primary waterlines hanging from the side of the Temple Avenue Bridge (VA Route 144) over the Appomattox River in the City of Colonial Heights, Chesterfield County and Prince George County, Virginia. Waterlines on bridges can be difficult to operate and maintain. When joints on the waterline open, travel lanes must be closed, impeding traffic as well as disrupting water service to the customers dependent on this water source. This type of disruption typically occurs during cold-weather months and has occurred three times over the last four winters. Additionally, such failures could result in a chlorinated water release into the river.

This proposed project will replace 2,200 linear feet of existing 16-inch waterline with 1,300 linear feet of new 24-inch waterline that will be directionally drilled under the Appomattox River (roughly 40 feet below grade for 411 linear feet). A high-density polyethylene or fusible polyvinyl chloride water main

will be used. Connection to in-place water main infrastructure is proposed to be installed via open cut trench construction and is limited to approximately 30 feet of ductile iron pipe installed on either end of the bridge.

The portion of this project that will be constructed using traditional open-cut trenching is located within the limits of existing road rights-of-way which have been previously disturbed by the construction and maintenance of the roads. By replacing the existing waterline with a new waterline under the Appomattox River, both traffic and water service disruptions will be minimized. Also, by increasing the size of the waterline from 16 to 24 inches in diameter, additional capacity will be provided for continued growth and economic development in the county.

All wetland crossings and the crossing of the Appomattox River will use horizontal directional drilling under the environmentally sensitive areas without disturbance. Where possible, mature established trees and vegetation will be protected. Approximately 2,000 square feet will be cleared to provide access to drill locations and facilitate work zones for pipe fusing, laydown, and open cut trench excavation. Drilling under the river will remove the potential of chlorinated water release into the river due to waterline failure.

Multiple permits have been acquired including:

- United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) – Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (VDEQ) – Virginia Marine Resource Commission (VMRC) Joint Permit;
- VMRC Permit which outlines the “Frac-Out” Contingency Plan for horizontal directional drilling operations; and
- USACE Permit noting special consideration of the Shortnose (or Atlantic) Sturgeon.

Additionally, subsurface exploration (test boring and soil testing), site geology, and subsurface conditions (stratigraphy) were conducted to provide geotechnical engineering analysis.

Environmental Review Summary

The EPA conducted an independent Environmental Assessment of the proposed project and determined that implementation of mitigation measures is required to avoid significant impacts. These mitigation measures are described below and in the USACE-VDEQ-VMRC Joint Permit:

- Any proposed shoreline erosion control measure is necessary and consistent with the nature of the erosion occurring on the site; measures will employ the best available technical advice;
- Indigenous vegetation will be preserved to the maximum extent practicable;
- Proposed land disturbance will be minimized;
- Appropriate mitigation plantings will provide the required water quality functions of the buffer;
- The proposed project is consistent with the locality's comprehensive plan; and
- Access to the project will be provided with the minimum disturbance necessary.

The EPA has determined that environmental impacts are expected to be minimal if the mitigation measures identified are implemented. As such, an Environmental Impact Statement will not be prepared. The EPA is issuing this preliminary Finding of No Significant Impact to document this determination.

This preliminary determination will be made available for a 30-day public comment period as required by 40 CFR Part 6.203. All documents relative to this determination are available for review from the EPA's NEPA Compliance Database at: <https://cdxapps.epa.gov/cdx-enepa-II/public/action/nepa/search> and at the EPA Region 3 and Prince George County offices.

Comments should be submitted via email to R3CommunityProjects@epa.gov or in writing to:

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 3
c/o Paul Dressel
Water Division (3WD30)
1600 John F. Kennedy Blvd.
Philadelphia, PA 19103-2852

After evaluating any comments received, the EPA will make a final determination. This preliminary FONSI will become final after the 30-day comment period expires if no new significant information is provided to alter this determination.

April 2, 2025

Amie Howell, Chief
State Assistance and Partnership Branch
Water Division

Date issued