



August 28, 2017

Via email to: [elder.ghigiarelli@maryland.gov](mailto:elder.ghigiarelli@maryland.gov)

Elder Ghigiarelli, Jr.,  
Deputy Program Administrator  
Wetlands and Waterways Program  
Water Management Administration  
Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE)  
1800 Washington Boulevard, Suite 430  
Baltimore, MD 21230

Re: Conowingo Hydroelectric Project, Application for Water Quality Certification,  
Application # 17-WQC-02

Dear Mr. Ghigiarelli:

Given our long history of participating in the formal proceedings for relicensing Exelon's Conowingo Hydroelectric facility, we were dismayed and disappointed to learn that MDE did not provide direct notice to the Lower Susquehanna Riverkeeper Association announcing the Department's public comment period for the facility's application for a water quality certification. In fact, on June 23, 2017, after we reviewed a copy of Exelon's application, we contacted Mr. Bruce Michael specifically to request information on MDE's "timeline for Conowingo Dam 401 certification," among other questions, but that request for information went unanswered. (Personal email, on file).

Given that the Conowingo facility has water quality impacts and planning implications for the entire Chesapeake Bay watershed for the next half-century, an obscure link on the Wetlands and Waterways website was not sufficient. The fact that MDE received a request for extension demonstrates that the website-only notice was in fact woefully inadequate.

In the future, we request that MDE file notices with FERC to inform all the formal stakeholders involved in the relicensing process about significant developments and deadlines in the process.

In addition, we request that the Department provide direct notice regarding any future deadlines or significant developments in the relicensing process to the Lower Susquehanna Riverkeeper Association ([lawsusriver@hotmail.com](mailto:lawsusriver@hotmail.com)), our fellow Intervenor in the FERC relicensing process, Waterkeepers Chesapeake ([betsy@waterkeeperschesapeake.org](mailto:betsy@waterkeeperschesapeake.org)), and our attorneys at Earthjustice ([jchavez@earthjustice.org](mailto:jchavez@earthjustice.org)).

Within two weeks from the date of this letter we will submit formal comments regarding serious deficiencies in the water quality analyses on which Exelon's 401 certification application relies, including a new independent third-party analysis of the Lower Susquehanna River Watershed Assessment. We respectfully request that MDE accept and consider these comments and new analysis, and that you include them in the administrative record for the 401 certification process.

We look forward to working with you more closely in the future on the Exelon 401 certification process.

Sincerely,

*/s/ Ted Evgeniadis* \_\_\_\_\_

Ted Evgeniadis

Lower Susquehanna Riverkeeper

cc: Michael Helfrich  
Betsy Nicholas  
Jennifer Chavez