



Larry Hogan GOVERNOR

Boyd K. Rutherford LT. GOVERNOR

Roy McGrath DIRECTOR/CEO

VIA U.S. MAIL AND EMAIL

October 26, 2017

The Honorable Wayne L. Tome, Sr.
Mayor, Town of Port Deposit
64 South Main Street
Port Deposit, Maryland 21904

**Re: Conowingo Capacity Recovery and Innovative Reuse and Beneficial Use
Pilot Project Request for Proposals (RFP), August 31, 2017**

Dear Mayor Tome,

Thank you for your letter to Governor Hogan's office dated September 20, 2017 requesting additional details on the Conowingo Capacity Recovery and Innovative Reuse and Beneficial Use Pilot Project.

As you may know, the Maryland Environmental Service (MES) issued an RFP for the pilot project on August 31, 2017. MES is working with local, state and federal regulators for the permitting that will be required to accomplish the project, including the Harford County Government, where the project site is planned. Additional details are attached which I hope will address your concerns. There will be further opportunity for comment once the permit applications are submitted and the public notice is advertised. The first such meeting is scheduled for Thursday, November 2, 6:30 p.m., North Harford High School, Pylesville.

In the meantime, please do not hesitate to contact me if you would like to discuss this project further. We are committed to working with the Town of Port Deposit and all stakeholders to ensure a successful pilot program for this critically important project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R. McGrath", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Roy McGrath
Director

CC: Jeannie Riccio – Office of Governor Larry Hogan
Kristal Hartsfield – Office of Governor Larry Hogan
Secretary Ben Grumbles – Maryland Department of the Environment

Attachment – MES Response to Mayor Wayne L. Tome, Sr., Town of Port Deposit

- 1. Potential for the project to alter the operation at the Conowingo Dam.** The pilot dredging project is a small scale project with a minimal planned dredge amount of 25,000 cubic yards. For perspective, this would amount to a square area approximately 500' long on each side and dredged to a depth of 3 feet. The proposed study area is located approximately 5 miles north of the dam, and will have no adverse impact on the operation of the dam. Additionally, the pilot project will be authorized only after receiving approval from the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) to ensure the safety of the hydroelectric power facility, users of the Conowingo Pond and commercial and residential areas in the Lower Susquehanna River.
- 2. Possibility of sediment coming through the dam and settling in the waterfront area of the town.** The dredging location and land based staging areas identified for the pilot project were selected to avoid and/or minimize potential environmental impacts. Sandy sediments were targeted for this project. By nature, sandy material causes limited localized turbidity in a dredge area. Furthermore, hydraulic dredging will be required for the project. Hydraulic dredging significantly reduces dredge site turbidity as compared to mechanical methods. Prior to any dredged material placement at the land based staging area, MES will obtain all the grading and erosion and sediment control permits required by both Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE), as well as Harford County and perform any monitoring stipulate by those permits. The current project timeline mandates project completion within 1 year so there will be no long term concerns related to on-going project operations.
- 3. Increase in truck traffic through town.** The sediment removed during the pilot project will be recycled and used innovatively or beneficially in Maryland. All transportation of the recycled soil will be performed following local laws and ordinance concerning traffic routes, noise and truck requirements. MES will be responsible for oversight of the trucking contractors to ensure compliance. Since the project site is in Harford County, there is no expectation of transportation activity in the area of Port Deposit.
- 4. Potential contaminants in the dredged material.** Regulatory coordination is critical to the success of the pilot project, and MES has been actively coordinating with State and Federal regulatory agencies since the inception of this project. Both MDE and the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) are the lead agencies responsible for reviewing the project design and issuing the permits needed to complete this project. As part of the project planning and permitting, analytical testing under the direction of MDE has occurred and the project will not be permitted if the regulatory agencies foresee adverse environmental or human health impacts. MES will strictly adhere to all permits in performance of all phases of this pilot project in coordination with regulatory oversight and environmental monitoring.