

TOWN OF PORT DEPOSIT
CONOWINGO DAM PILOT DREDGING PROPOSAL
POTENTIAL IMPACT

The Town of Port Deposit is located on the east bank of the Susquehanna River approximately six miles south of the Conowingo Dam. The Town's waterfront is a mix of residential, commercial and recreational properties. Residential properties include Tome's Landing Condominiums and Newport Landing townhomes, commercial operations include Lee's Landing Dock Bar and Tome's Landing Marina, and recreational properties include Rock Run Park owned by Exelon and Marina Park owned by the town.

The town has been impacted by repetitive flooding events over the years that have been a combination of a torrential rain storm and crest flood gate operations at the Conowingo Dam. The Conowingo Hydroelectric Project has shared the responsibility of emergency planning for flood events with local, state and federal emergency response agencies to warn the public of a possible, impending or actual dam failure.

Any proposal that would potentially alter the operation of the facility, such as dredging, may directly impact the town. The information presented in this document as a concern and/or potential impact is not supported by any study or data, and is not intended to represent all of the factors and/or impacts that may be included in a specialized study or evaluation conducted by a professional engineer or consultant.

CONCERNS/POTENTIAL IMPACT

An RFP has been issued by the Maryland Environmental Service for a pilot dredging and innovative reuse and beneficial use project on approximately 25,000 square cubic yards of sediment in the Maryland portion of the Susquehanna River upstream of the Conowingo Dam. The town's initial concerns/potential impact are outlined below.

SEDIMENT

The Town has experienced first-hand the destruction that sediment coming through the Conowingo Dam can do to town properties as witnessed in the past flood events; the last major storms occurred in 2011. After the 2011 storms, property owners had to remove 3 to 4 inches of sediment deposited by the floods from their buildings and property, as well as the clean-up of local streets and parks.

The concern with any potential dredging project would be sediment coming through the dam and settling in the waterfront area of the town. An increase in sediment may potentially reduce the ability of local citizens and visitors to use the river for commercial and recreational purposes (boating, fishing), and may cause an increase in water levels during a flood or significant rain event due to the reduced capacity in the watershed south of the dam. An increase in sediment

along our waterfront may impact our property values and economic development if recreational amenities are not available on the river.

TRAFFIC

Depending on the preparation of staging areas and roadways, there may be potential for an increase in truck traffic through town with transporting dredged materials. Our Main Street is not wide enough to accommodate truck traffic. An increase in traffic would be a safety concern for our residents and would cause a disruption in our community. An increase in traffic may potentially delay emergency response throughout town, as well as the Conowingo area.

ENVIRONMENTAL

There is a concern regarding the potential contaminants that may be in the dredged material. Due to the location of Port Deposit at the bottom of the granite cliff, there would be a concern that run off from the potential dredging location and the handling, stockpiling and transportation of dredging materials may negatively affect the ecosystem of the watershed, areas within the town and within close proximity to the Conowingo Dam.

SUMMARY

The MES pilot project does require, ".....an evaluation of the feasibility of a scalable project to dredge accumulated sediments and beneficially reuse or innovatively use them within the new Maryland guidance framework and minimize potential sediment release over the dam."

The Town of Port Deposit would like to be part of the solution to the issue because we are keenly aware of the problems caused by the sediment released when crest flood gates were opened. We support the initiative to seek beneficial and innovative reuse of the dredged materials and full restoration of all disturbed areas. We anticipate State officials are going to thoroughly review proposed projects to ensure all concerns are addressed that have the potential to negatively impact the town and all areas surrounding the Conowingo Dam.