



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

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Western PA's National Parks Public Notice

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Public Comments Welcomed
On Environmental Assessment for Construction and Operation of
Cresson Acid Mine Drainage (AMD) Treatment Plant Pumping Station
At Allegheny Portage Railroad NHS

Community members are invited to review and comment on an Environmental Assessment, prepared by the PA DEP (Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection), for a PA DEP project at Allegheny Portage Railroad NHS. The EA analyses the environmental consequences of the construction of an acid mine drainage pumping station on National Park Service (NPS) land that is part of Allegheny Portage Railroad NHS.

The objectives of the Cresson AMD Treatment Plant project are two-fold: to eliminate three uncontrolled AMD discharges off Park property impacting Clearfield Creek and Sugar Run and to provide treated mine water to supplement the Susquehanna River during low-flow conditions. PA DEP anticipates that by eliminating the three discharges it will restore aquatic life in 15 miles of Clearfield Creek and six miles of Sugar Run that are currently impaired by AMD discharges.

This Environmental Assessment is being completed to assess the impact of construction and operation of a proposed AMD pumping station on NPS land. PA DEP has completed this EA, and applied for a National Park Service Special Use Permit and Right of Way Permit for construction and operation of an AMD Pumping Station on Park land within a First Energy Right of Way near the entrance to Allegheny Portage Railroad NHS.

If a Special Use Permit and Right of Way Permit are issued for this project, untreated AMD will be pumped from a mine pool beneath the Park using an extraction well, an injection well and 70 feet of pipeline. The AMD will be piped to an AMD treatment facility to be constructed off park property near Cresson.

Interested parties may review and provide comments on the Environmental Assessment by accessing it on line at <http://parkplanning.nps.gov/alpo> or by picking up a paper copy of the 70 page EA at the Park's Visitor Center. The park will be accepting comments online and by mail through October 21, 2015. For more information regarding this public notice contact MaryEllen Snyder at 724-329-8131.

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