

APPENDIX A: PRESS RELEASE AND PUBLIC SCOPING DOCUMENT


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Meeting Notices

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Washington County -Sharpsburg Water Intake Upgrades Public Scoping Meeting


Date	Start Time	End Time	Location
02/25/2010	7:00 PM	9:00 PM	Chesapeake and Ohio Canal NHP Headquarters 1850 Dual Highway, Suite 100 Hagerstown, Maryland 301-739-4200

Please join National Park Service staff to learn about and discuss the proposed upgrades to the Sharpsburg Water Intake System, Washington County, MD .

Description:
The National Park Service will be hosting a public meeting to discuss proposed upgrades to the raw water pipeline connecting the Sharpsburg Water Intake and the Sharpsburg Water Treatment Plant. The project area is located at mile 74.3 of the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal National Historical Park.

The public meeting will afford the public an opportunity to ask questions and/or make comments regarding the project. The public meeting agenda will be an overview of the proposed project. Public comments received during this meeting and during the public scoping period will be used to identify alternatives contained within the Environmental Assessment/Assessment of Effects.

Meeting Directions:
The park headquarter building is located one half mile west of Interchange 32 of Interstate 70. Dual Highway is Route 40.



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Comment Period: 02/08/2010 - 03/09/2010

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Chesapeake and Ohio Canal National Historical Park Public Scoping

National Park Service
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February 8 – March 9, 2010

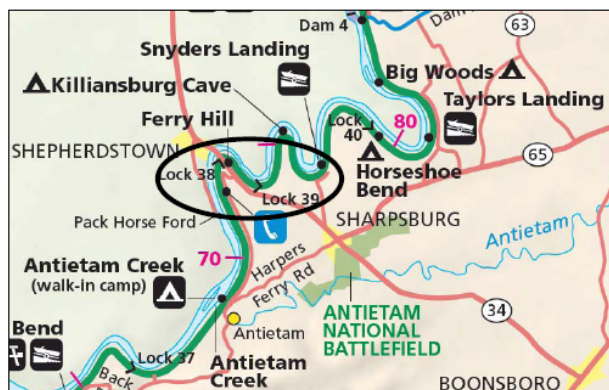
Environmental Assessment for the Sharpsburg Water Intakes Upgrade

The National Park Service, Chesapeake and Ohio Canal National Historical Park (C&O Canal), has received a Right-of-Way application from the Department of Water Quality Control of Washington County, Maryland, (The County) to upgrade a raw water intake pipeline across the C&O Canal at Mile 74.3.

The National Park Service has initiated work on an Environmental Assessment (EA) to evaluate potential impacts of the proposed project to the natural, cultural, and human environment.

Purpose and Need

The purpose of the proposed project is to address an underground utility right-of-way crossing of the C&O Canal at Mile 74.3 of the park. The need for the proposed project is to upgrade the Sharpsburg raw water pipeline connection between the water intake structure, at the Potomac River, and the Sharpsburg Water Treatment Plant.



Project location

Background

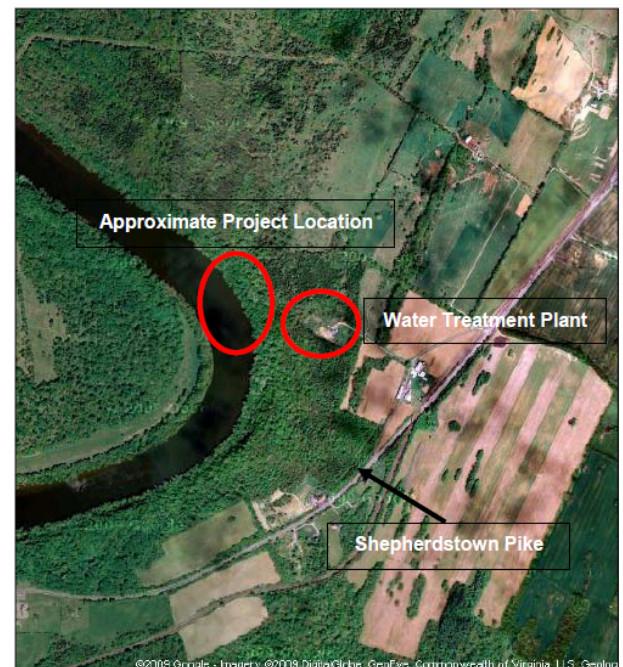
The County's raw water intake supplies water for the community of Sharpsburg, Maryland. The County's water treatment plant is off of Shepherdstown Pike, within ½ mile of the park. The existing pipeline, built circa 1976, runs within the park for approximately 800 linear feet.

Numerous repairs have been made to the line over the past ten years to enable raw water conductivity to remain constant. The pipeline currently has one major leak along its length, which is affecting operations.

Due to the age of the existing pipeline, The County has submitted a request to abandon the existing right-of-way and establish a new pipeline across the C&O Canal. The proposed a new right-of-way would be approximately 200 feet in length and would cross park property at a new location closer to the water intake structure.



Towpath at Mile 74.3



Aerial view showing existing water treatment plant and Potomac River.

Chesapeake and Ohio Canal National Historical Park Public Scoping

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Alternatives

The following potential alternatives have been identified through initial internal project scoping:

- A. No Action
- B. Construct a pipeline within a new 200-feet long right-of-way, crossing the park at a new location
- C. Replace the pipeline within the existing 800-feet long right-of-way easement
- D. Investigate potential of obtaining water from other Washington County community water system
- E. Relocate water intake further downstream to reduce the existing right-of-way length within the park

Overview of the Process

Project milestones include:

- Public Scoping-(February 8– March 9, 2010
- Public Scoping Meeting, Park Headquarters – February 25, 2010, 7:00 – 9:00 PM
- Analysis of Scoping Comments – March 2010
- Preparation of EA – Spring 2010
- Public review of EA – Summer 2010
- Analysis of public comment – Summer 2010
- Preparation of decision document – Summer 2010
- Announcement of decision on proposal – Summer 2010

Public Scoping Period

At this time, the Superintendent is announcing a 30-day public scoping period to solicit public comments on this proposal. During this scoping period, the public is invited to identify any issues or concerns they might have with the proposed project so that the National Park Service can appropriately consider them in the EA. You may submit comments electronically at the National Park Service's Planning, Environment, and Public Comment website (<http://parkplanning.nps.gov>) or submit written comments to:

Superintendent
C&O Canal National Historical Park
1850 Dual Highway, Suite 100
Hagerstown, MD 21740

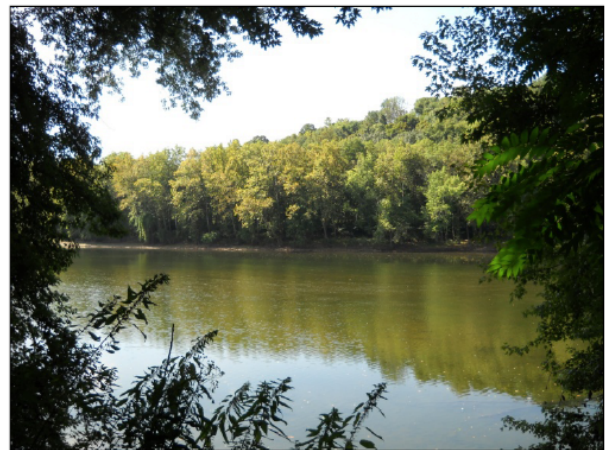
Only written comments can be accepted. Please submit your scoping comments by March 9, 2010. If you wish to remain anonymous, please clearly state that within your correspondence.

Once the EA is developed, it will be made available for public review for a 30-day period. If you wish to be added to the park's mailing list for this or other announcements, please be sure to indicate that in your response.

Preliminary Resources and Impact Topics

Initial internal project scoping identified the following resources and impact topics for consideration in the EA:

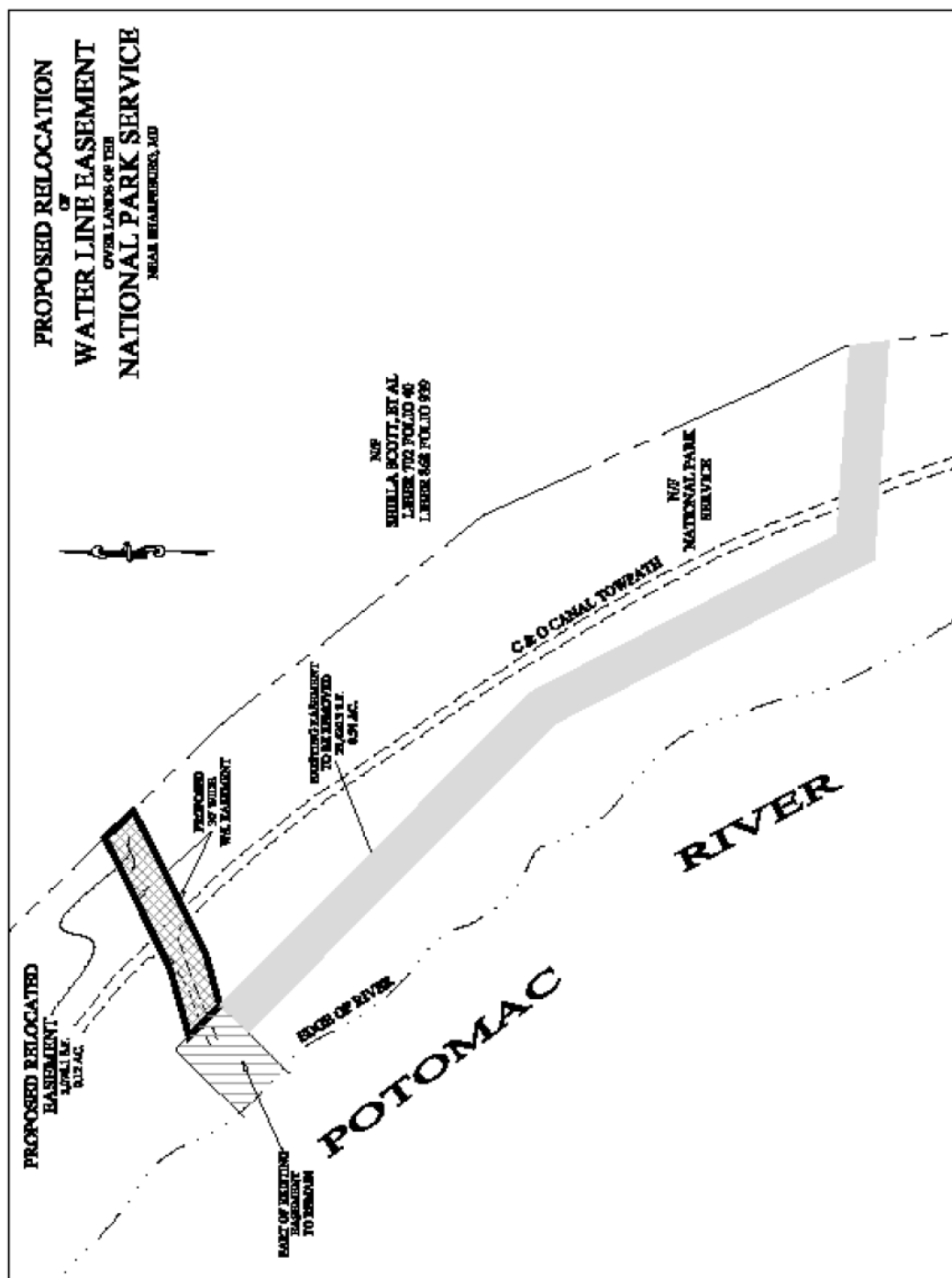
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| • Park Operations and Maintenance | • Vegetation |
| • Historical Resources | • Archaeological Resources |
| • Water quality | • Visual Resources |
| • Soil | • Human Health and Safety |
| • Rare, Threatened, & Endangered Species | • Geology |
| • Cultural Landscape | |



Potomac River as seen from water intake pump station



Historic culvert near Area of Potential Effect (APE)



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