

Chesapeake and Ohio Canal National Historical Park Public Scoping

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior



February 8 – March 9, 2010

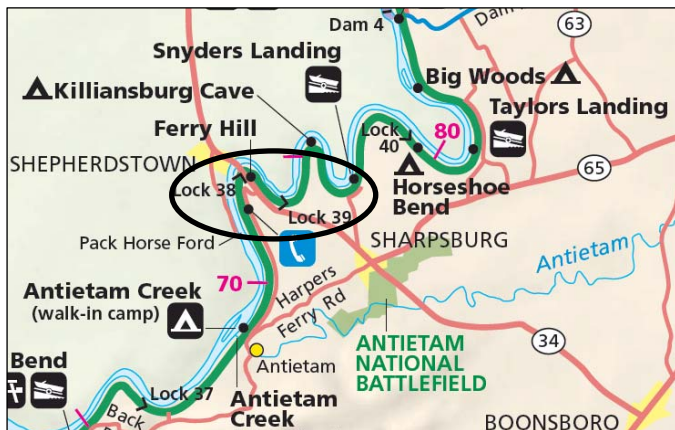
Environmental Assessment for the Sharpsburg Water Intakes Upgrade

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

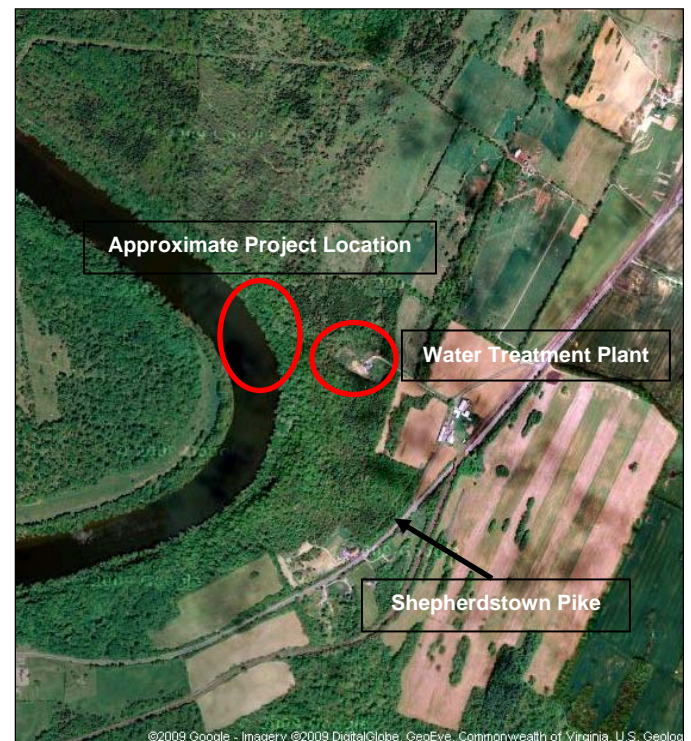
The County's raw water intake supplies water for the community of Sharpsburg, Maryland. The County's water treatment plant is off of Shepherdstown Pike, within ½ mile of the park. The existing pipeline, built circa 1976, runs within the park for approximately 800 linear feet.

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

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior



February 8 – March 9, 2010

Alternatives

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

- A. No Action
- B. Construct a pipeline within a new 200-foot long right-of-way, crossing the park at a new location
- C. Replace the pipeline within the existing 800-foot 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:

- | | |
|------------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| • Visitor Use and Experience | • Wetlands |
| • 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)

Chesapeake and Ohio Canal
National Historical Park
Public Scoping

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

February 8 – March 9, 2010

