

Draft Presentation to the PSC on Conowingo WIP Framework Comments

March 2, 2018

Venue TBD

Comment Status and Handling

- Written comments received from CBC, DC, DE, EPA, MWCOG, and WV.
- Drafting Committee (CBC, EPA, MD, PA, VA) formed to address comments.
- Comments Status:
 - All editorial/track changes comments accepted (CBC, EPA).
 - A clean version and responses to narrative comments provided to the PSC.
 - Major comment themes and needed PSC decisions summarized here.

Major Comment Themes

- Concern (DE, WV, VA) that reallocating current federal funding for Conowingo takes away \$ from state WIP efforts.
- Need to clarify Roles and Responsibilities, particularly third party (DC, DE, EPA).
- Concerns about timeline and ultimate costs, particularly with Exelon contribution/role not yet defined (DC, DE, EPA).
- Need to work out crediting details and provide project maintenance funding (DC, MWCOCG).

Notable Document Changes

- Document renamed to “Framework for the Conowingo WIP” from Conowingo WIP.
- Roles and Responsibilities section added to the end of the Document.
- Financing strategy proposed to address funding concerns.

Needed PSC Decisions

Formal Commitment to the Conowingo WIP Framework, to include:

1. Designating staff for Conowingo WIP Steering Committee;
2. Approving development of financing strategy to address partnership funding concerns;
3. Approving roles and responsibilities; and,
4. Approving revised plan development schedule.

1. Designating Membership for Conowingo WIP (CWIP) Steering Committee

- Plan calls for PSC (i.e., the 7 jurisdictions and CBC) designees to staff the CWIP Steering Committee*.
- PSC members requested to provide names of staff designees who will serve on the committee.

*EPA cannot serve on CWIP Steering Committee due to its oversight role.

2. Approve Development of a Financing Strategy

- Addresses partner concerns regarding reallocation of current federal funding;
- First seeks to pool new funding (e.g., federal funds, Exelon) and in-kind services for CWIP;
- Other funds (state, local, private, existing federal) phased in as necessary/available;
- Leverages third-party resources for financing efforts; and,
- Envisions innovative pollution crediting.

3. Approve Roles and Responsibilities

- EPA
 - Oversees Conowingo WIP and biennial progress, in consult with PSC;
 - Develops and issues the third party RFP; and,
 - Provides technical staff and contractor Support (CBP).
- WIP Steering Committee
 - Develops and guides implementation of WIP.
- Third Party
 - Seeks and administers pooled funding;
 - Drafts the financing strategy with Steering Committee input;
 - Provides facilitation, programmatic and technical support to the CWIP Steering Committee; and,
 - Tracks, reports, and verifies implementation progress to EPA annually.

4. Approve Revised CWIP Schedule

- Updates dates that already passed;
- Achieves consistency with proposed roles/responsibilities; and,
- Incorporates financing strategy development.