

WATER AND SCIENCE ADMINISTRATION

Public Hearing for Water Quality Certification 20-WQC-0033
Ellicott City Flood Mitigation c/o Howard Co. DPW
9801 Broken Land Parkway
Columbia, Maryland 21046

Add'l. Info: Pursuant to COMAR 26.08.02.10F(1)(d), The Maryland Department of the Environment is providing notice of a joint public hearing with the Army Corps of Engineers for Water Quality Certification 20-WQC-0033. Location: Several sites along Frederick Road/Main Street (MD 144) from US 29 east to the Patapsco River.

The purpose of the project is to improve public safety by reducing flood depths in Lower Main St. and the West End (west of Ellicott Mills Dr.) to three feet (3') or less, and out-of-channel flow velocities to five feet per second (5 fps) or less for the simulated July 30, 2016 flash flood storm event. This project involves seven projects along the Frederick Road/Main Street corridor in Ellicott City, Howard County to provide improved conveyance of large storm events and reduce the potential of flooding. The projects generally include floodplain grading, channel stabilization, channel dredging, construction of conveyance structures and additional culverts for bypass of high flows, and removal of existing channel restrictions that are currently reducing channel capacity.

The applicant initially proposed the removal of 10 historic structures within the Ellicott City Historic District; however, the applicant has reduced the proposed removal of historic structures from 10 structures to 4 structures along Lower Main Street. In addition, the applicant is not proposing compensatory mitigation to offset the 3,515 lf of permanent stream impact as the project does not result in permanent stream loss.

The purpose of this public notice is to solicit comments from the public about the proposed work and to announce the date of a Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) and Army Corps of Engineers public information hearing on the subject application. At this time, no decision has been made as to whether or not authorizations will be issued.

The public information hearing will be held via Webex: September 9, 2020 from 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm. The public hearing announcement and its attachments may be viewed at the following link:

<https://mde.maryland.gov/programs/Water/WetlandsandWaterways/Pages/index.aspx>.

The MDE public information hearing provides members of the public the opportunity to present views, opinions, and information which will be considered by the MDE in evaluating the permit application. Beginning at 7:00 pm, the formal public hearing will begin with agency statements, followed by public testimony. Please note that a time limit of two minutes per speaker may be set, depending on the number of speakers, to ensure that all interested parties have an opportunity to voice their views. The public hearing will be audio only, but all public testimony will be recorded and transcribed. A record of the Public Hearing will be available at the Army Corps of Engineers' website after the Public Hearing.

For more information please contact Debra Correia at debra.correia@maryland.gov or 410-537-3900.