

## **ENCLOSURE D – PROJECT IMPACTS**

### **A. PROJECT IMPACTS ON SENSITIVE RESOURCES**

#### **A.1 National, State or Local Park, Forest, or Recreation Areas**

The Project does not cross any local parks, forest, or recreational areas, but does cross three national and state parks, and a recreation areas in Westmoreland County, as listed in the table below.

The Project crosses Bushy Run Park for approximately 1.08 miles, and does not impact any aquatic resources within the area. The Project is co-located with existing ROW where it crosses this park. There will be no long-term impact to the purpose/function of the park as it will continue to provide recreational use and there will be no change in its existing land use.

The Project crosses the Loyalhanna Lake Recreation Area for approximately 0.46 mile, and impacts 3 streams and 1 wetland within this area. There will be 0.048 acre permanent and 0.055 acre temporary stream impact, and a 0.025 acre permanent and 0.050 acre temporary wetland impact to these resources, as defined by PADEP (refer to Section B.1). A discussion of wetland/stream construction methods and mitigation measures that SPLP will implement when crossing these resources is presented in Section B.1 (below) and Enclosure E, Part 2.

The Project crosses the Federal-Owned Property at Conemaugh River for approximately 0.7 mile, and impacts 6 streams and 4 wetlands within this area. There will be 0.122 acre permanent stream impact, and 0.084 acre permanent and 0.146 acre temporary wetland impact to these resources, as defined by PADEP (refer to Section B.1). A discussion of wetland/stream construction methods and mitigation measures that SPLP will implement when crossing these resources is presented in Section B.1 (below) and Enclosure E, Part 2.

The Project is co-located with existing ROW where it crosses the Loyalhanna Lake Recreational Area and Conemaugh River Recreation Area. Although a large area of these properties will be crossed using the HDD method, there will be some temporary workspace for construction, and an area of permanent ROW maintained after construction. There will be no long-term impact to the purpose/function of these areas following construction as they will continue to provide recreational use and there will be no change in the existing land use.

For all parks and recreation areas crossed by the Project, SPLP is working with the appropriate land administering agency to obtain the required land easements, licenses, and approvals on those lands.

#### **A.2 Natural, Wild, or Wilderness Areas**

No designated Natural, Wild, or Wilderness Areas are known to be crossed by the proposed Project in Westmoreland County.

**National, State or Local Park, Forest, or Recreation Areas Crossed by the Pennsylvania Pipeline Project in Westmoreland County**

Resource	Distance Crossed (miles)	Stream Resources (number)			Stream Impacts (acres) <sup>a, b, c</sup>		Wetland Resources (number)			Wetland Impacts (acres) <sup>a, b, c</sup>			List of Streams Crossed	List of Wetlands Crossed
		Other	HQ/EV	HDD/Bore	PADEP Permanent <sup>d, e</sup>	PADEP Temporary	Other	EV	HDD/Bore	PADEP Permanent <sup>d, e</sup>	PADEP Temporary	Conversion		
Bushy Run Battlefield State Park	1.08	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Loyalhanna Lake Recreation Area	0.46	0	3	0	0.048	0.055	1	0	0	0.025	0.05	0	S-P29 S-P31 S-P32	P22
Federal-Owned Property at Conemaugh River	0.7	5	1	3	0.122	0.000	4	0	3	0.084	0.146	0	S-J56 S-J57 S-N96 S-N44 S-O61 S-Q100	J52 N28 O45 Q92

Source: PADCNR 2016

<sup>a</sup> The Project will have minor temporary impacts associated with construction.

<sup>b</sup> Disturbed areas will be restored in accordance with the E&S Plan located in Attachment 12.

<sup>c</sup> Attachment 11, Enclosure E, Part 4 provides a more detailed discussion of impacts to streams and wetlands, impact avoidance and minimization measures, and a description of the crossing construction measures that will be used.

<sup>d</sup> Permanent impacts are those areas affected by a water obstruction or encroachment that consist of both direct and indirect impacts that result from the placement or construction of a water obstruction or encroachment and include areas necessary for the operation and maintenance of the water obstruction or encroachment located in, along or across, or projecting into the floodway.

<sup>e</sup> Although PADEP defines operation and maintenance activities as permanent impacts, all wetlands and streams affected by the Project will be restored to pre-construction conditions.

**Notes:**

Although PADEP defines operation and maintenance activities as permanent impacts, all wetlands affected by the Project will be restored to pre-construction conditions including the presence of wetland soils, hydrology, and hydrophytic vegetation. In addition, the Project does not involve any permanent fill and there will be no permanent loss of wetland area associated with the Project. SPLP will not maintain the ROW through wetland areas (i.e., no mowing); therefore, the pre- and post-construction conditions of the Project-wide wetland areas will be the same, except for a nominal areal extent (approximately 0.4 acre) of forested wetland that will be converted to emergent wetland.

Although PADEP defines operation and maintenance activities as permanent impacts, all streams affected by the Project will be restored to pre-construction conditions including the elevation/contours, channel substrate, stream banks, and flow conditions/patterns. In addition, the Project does not involve any permanent fill and there will be no permanent loss of stream area associated with the Project.

### A.3 National, State, or Local Historic Sites

SPLP conducted a site file review at the Pennsylvania State Historic Preservation Office (PA SHPO) and on the PA SHPO's Cultural Resources Geographic Information System (CRGIS). In addition, a historic resources field reconnaissance survey was conducted for the proposed Project from April 2015 through May 2016. The Project's survey Area of Potential Effect (APE) for historic resources was developed in consultation with the PA SHPO. Results of the reviews and field surveys found two NRHP-listed historic properties located within the Project's APE for historic resources in Westmoreland County.

#### National Historic Sites in or Adjacent to the Study Area for Pennsylvania Pipeline Project in Westmoreland County

NRHP Site/Property	Impact/Recommendations
National Historic Landmark and Historic Archaeological Site "Bushy Run Battlefield" (1700-1775, Military) (36WM0598), Penn Township	Project route is entirely within an existing ROW easement that was previously approved by PHMC. SPLP is coordinating with the PHMC to gain approval of the pipeline along SPLP's existing pipeline easement on this land. Site 36WM0598 is located approximately 2,000 feet east of the survey corridor.
Bushy Run Battlefield, Penn Township (Key #001146) (National Historic Landmark)	No tree clearing anticipated in this area, workspace located within existing ROW. No impacts or adverse effects anticipated. Waiting on USACE concurrence.

The Project does not cross or impact any federally recognized Native American reservations or territories.

### A.4 National Natural Landmarks

No designated national natural landmarks are crossed by the proposed Project in Westmoreland County.

### A.5 National Wildlife Refuges

No national wildlife refuges are crossed by the proposed Project in Westmoreland County.

### A.6 Cultural or Archaeological Landmarks

Archaeological surveys were conducted for the Project from December 2013 through November 2016. The APE for archaeological resources includes moderate to high probability areas within the construction ROW, USACE Permit Areas, Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) delimited floodways, and previously identified archaeological sites per the PA SHPO's CRGIS. Archaeological investigations included a Phase Ia reconnaissance survey to develop an archaeological assessment of probability for intact archaeological resources, and subsequent Phase Ib archaeological investigations consisting of a pedestrian survey of the entire APE, and systematic subsurface testing and surface inspection of the Project APE that was determined to be sensitive for the presence of archaeological resources.

Based on these efforts, SPLP identified a total of 78 newly identified and previously recorded archaeological sites within the proposed ROW: a total of 43 previously identified archaeological sites, and 35 new archaeological sites (refer to Enclosure E, Part 2). Fourteen of these newly identified and previously recorded archaeological sites are located within the proposed ROW in Westmoreland County (below).

**Archaeological Sites Located Within Westmoreland County**

Archaeological Site	SHPO Determined Site Not NRHP Eligible	No Additional Investigations (SHPO Concurrence)
36WM0101		X
36WM0602		X
36WM0601		X
36WM0708		X
36WM0077		X
36WM0628	X	
36WM0610	X	
36WM0613		X
36WM0611	X	
36WM0614		X
36WM0960	X	
36WM0409		X
36WM1056		X
36WM1055		X
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>10</b>

**A.7 State Game Lands**

The Project does not cross any State Game Lands in Westmoreland County.

**A.8 Federal, State, Local or Private Plant or Wildlife Sanctuaries**

The Project does not cross any known plant or wildlife sanctuaries in Westmoreland County.

**A.9 Prime Farmland**

As shown on the maps in Enclosure B, the proposed Project will cross soils classified as Prime Farmland in Westmoreland County. SPLP will take precautions during construction and restoration to protect these special soils.

Potential short-term impacts to prime farmland soils associated with construction of the proposed Project may include increased soil erosion and sedimentation on steep slopes and at stream crossings due to the removal of vegetation, compaction of soils caused by construction vehicles and equipment, inclusion of rock fragments in the topsoil caused by blasting, and poor revegetation of the soil types impacted by the proposed Project. A

permanent access road located in Westmoreland County will involve the conversion of approximately 0.01 acre of Prime Farmland to non-agricultural use; however, this conversion is not considered a significant impact to the total acreage of Prime Farmland crossed by the Project in Westmoreland County (refer to Enclosure B of this Attachment) or the total acreage of Prime Farmland across the entire county.

To prevent and minimize impacts on prime farmland soils, in actively farmed areas SPLP will implement construction measures to avoid and minimize impacts on soil productivity, including segregation and conservation of topsoil, decompaction if necessary, and compensation of the landowner for temporary cessation of crop production during the construction period. Enclosure E, Part 2 of this Attachment provides a more detailed discussion of potential impacts and mitigation measures, including topsoil segregation, associated with Prime Farmland soils as well as preserved agricultural areas/farms crossed by the Project.

Because the ROW will be restored and most agricultural activities (except of orchards, tree farms, and vineyards) will be allowed to resume following installation of the pipelines, the Project will not have long term impacts on Prime Farmland soils.

#### **A.10 Public Water Supplies**

SPLP used PADEP's eMapPa system to identify Public Water Supply (PWS) areas that utilized "Groundwater Wells" and "Surface Water Intakes" as their source. The PWS data was used to create a file of all known public water supply areas within 1 mile of the Project workspace and notification letters and maps were sent to these identified PWS authorities. In the letters, Sunoco requested the locations of the authority's PWS groundwater well and/or surface intakes. Based on the information received, no PWS areas have been identified in Westmoreland County.

SPLP used the DCNR's Pennsylvania Groundwater Information System (PAGWIS) well data (PADCNR 2016) to identify private groundwater wells located within 150 feet of the proposed Project's HDD locations. In addition, SPLP has conducted independent identification and verification of private wells with landowners to determine the exact location(s) of their water well(s) prior to construction.

Potential impacts to public and private water supplies have been analyzed and addressed within two supplemental plans to the PPC Plan: the Water Supply Assessment, Preparedness Prevention and Contingency Plan and the Inadvertent Return Plan (Attachment 12). These plans assesses the potential risks and threats to private and public water wells.

#### **A.11 Agricultural Preserved/Conservation Areas**

Sunoco has reviewed the requirements of farmland preservation within Pennsylvania, such as Clean and Green Program, which provides for reduced property tax rates for landowners of rural agricultural, timber or open space properties greater than 10 acres in size.

Enclosure E Part 2 of this Attachment provides a description of the program and SPLP's plan for addressing potential impacts to those areas.

## **B. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS**

### **B.1 Aquatic Habitats**

For initial siting of the proposed Project, SPLP was prudent in siting potential worksites to minimize impacts to waterbodies in general, to the extent practicable for the entire Project. However, because this is a linear project, total avoidance of all wetlands and streams was not possible or practicable. The Project would result in temporary disturbance of stream and wetland resources during construction of the proposed facilities. In general, during construction of the new pipelines, the width of the construction ROW would typically be 75 feet: 50-foot-wide would be the post-construction permanent ROW and 25-foot-wide temporary workspace. However, to avoid and minimize impacts to stream/wetland resources, SPLP has reduced the construction ROW to 50 feet. SPLP will utilize one or more of the following methods to facilitate the crossing of streams and wetlands with vehicles, equipment, and haul trucks:

- **Timber Mat Bridge:** A temporary bridge assembled of timber mats. Typical installed at ephemeral and minor stream crossings. See the standard typical drawing in the Erosion and Sediment Control Plan (Attachment 12).
- **Culvert Bridge:** A temporary bridge installed with the use of culverts. Rock fill is used to form the road surface, which may be covered with timber mats. Utilized at medium and large stream crossings. See the standard typical drawing in the Erosion and Sediment Control Plan (Attachment 12).
- **Rail Car Bridge:** A temporary bridge assemble from a rail car. Utilized at medium and large stream crossings. See the standard typical drawing for timber mat and rail car in the Erosion and Sediment Control Plan (Attachment 12).
- **Timber Mat Wetland:** Timber mats will also be utilized when staging areas or additional workspace is required within wetlands. See the standard typical drawing in the Erosion and Sediment Control Plan (Attachment 12).

SPLP will utilize one or more of the following methods for installing the pipeline across streams and wetlands with an open-trench:

- **Dry Open-Cut:** Minor waterbodies with no flow or anticipated flow at the time of construction may be crossed using the open-cut crossing method. See the standard typical drawing in the Erosion and Sediment Control Plan (Attachment 12).
- **Dry Flume:** A flumed or dry crossing of a stream directs the flow of a stream through an alternate mechanism to allow for the trenching and pipe installation to occur in dry conditions. Where practical, this allows for drier trenching, pipe installation, and

restoration while maintaining continuous downstream flow. See the standard typical drawing in the Erosion and Sediment Control Plan (Attachment 12).

- **Dry Pump Bypass:** The dam and pump method may be used for crossings of waterbodies where pumps can adequately transfer stream flow volumes around the work area and there are no concerns about sensitive species passage. See the standard typical drawing in the Erosion and Sediment Control Plan (Attachment 12).
- **Dry Cofferdam:** The cofferdam method, typically used on large streams/ivers, involves the installation of a cofferdam to isolate and divert flow around the work area in two phases. The first phase consists of the cofferdam installation on one of the banks and approximately halfway into the river to allow safe and dry installation of the pipeline across the river. The second phase involves the same process but from the opposite bank. This method allows continuous flow around the work area and there are no concerns about sensitive species passage. See the standard typical drawing in the Erosion and Sediment Control Plan (Attachment 12).

SPLP will utilize one or more of the following methods for installing the pipeline across wetlands with an open trench:

- **Drag Section Technique:** This technique involves carrying a prefabricated section of pipe into the wetland for placement into the excavated trench, if soil conditions permit. This technique requires the installation of equipment support along the working side of the trench to provide a stable work surface and minimize soil disturbance and rutting.
- **Push/Pull Technique:** This technique is generally used only in wetlands with standing water or soils that are saturated to the surface. The trench may be excavated using either a backhoe (working on equipment support in the wetland) or a dragline or clamshell dredge (working either in the wetland or from the edge of the wetland, depending on wetland size and extent of soil saturation). A prefabricated pipe is pushed from the edge of the wetland and/or pulled (*e.g.*, with a winch) from the opposite bank of the wetland into the excavated trench. Floats may be attached to the pipe to give it positive buoyancy, allowing it to be “floated” into place over the excavated trench. Once the pipe is positioned, these floats will be removed and the pipe will settle to the bottom of the trench and the trench will then be backfilled. The push/pull technique enables the pipeline to be installed with minimal equipment operating in the wetland.

The Project does not propose permanent fill in any waterbodies or wetlands. All impacts to these resources are considered to be minor and temporary, or completely avoided utilizing HDD or conventional bore crossing methods. Waterbody and wetland crossings will be restored in accordance with the E&S Plan (Attachment 12) that dictates the restoration of the existing condition topography, stream bed substrate, and wetland soils, hydrology, and vegetation. Enclosure E Part 4 of this Attachment (Impact Avoidance, Minimization, and Mitigation Procedures) describes the proposed construction crossing methods and

mitigation measures, and Enclosure E Part 2 provides a Project-wide description of the direct and indirect/secondary impacts to the wetland/stream resources crossed by the Project. Tables 1 through 4 included in this Attachment provide specific details regarding the Westmoreland County wetland/stream type, crossing distances, temporary and permanent impacts, and crossing methods for all the water resources impacted. The following provides a description of the impacts and mitigation associated with the stream and wetland resources crossed by the Project in Westmoreland County.

### **Streams**

Stream impacts have been calculated based on the entire limit of disturbance (LOD) and reflect the existing cover types within this entire area regardless of where the Project ROW co-locates/overlaps an existing utility ROW. Permanent and temporary impacts are based on the following PADEP definitions:

- Permanent impacts are those areas affected by a water obstruction or encroachment that consist of both direct and indirect impacts that result from the placement or construction of a water obstruction or encroachment and include areas necessary for the operation and maintenance of the water obstruction or encroachment located in, along or across, or projecting into the floodway.

Although PADEP defines operation and maintenance activities as permanent impacts, all streams affected by the Project will be restored to pre-construction conditions including the elevation/contours, channel substrate, stream banks, and flow conditions/patterns. In addition, the Project does not involve any permanent fill and there will be no permanent loss of stream area associated with the Project.

- Temporary impacts are those areas affected during the construction of a water obstruction or encroachment that consists of both direct and indirect impacts located in, along or across, or projecting into a watercourse, floodway or body of water that are restored upon completion of construction. This does not include areas that will be maintained as a result of the operation and maintenance of the water obstruction or encroachment located in, along or across, or projecting into the floodway.

Excluding floodway only crossings, the proposed Project will cross 125 streams in Westmoreland County: 43 perennial streams and 82 intermittent/ephemeral streams (Attachment 11, Table 3). As presented in Section D of Enclosure C of this Attachment, 21 streams are designated Approved Trout Water by the PA Fish and Boat Commission. Additionally in Westmoreland County, 1 stream is designated as both Approved Trout Waters and Stocked Trout Streams.

Excluding floodway only crossings, the Project directly impacts the waters of 18 streams have a designated use for cold water fishery (CWF), 30 streams have a designated use for high quality cold water fishery (HQ-CWF), 12 streams have a designated use for warm water fishery (WWF), 4 streams have a designated use for high quality warm water fishery (HQ-WWF), 12 streams have a designated use for warm water fishery, migratory fishery



(WWF, MF), 48 streams have a designated use for trout stocked fishery (TSF), 1 stream has a designated use for trout stocked fishery, migratory fishery (TSF, MF). Attachment 11, Table 3 provides a summary of all the existing use and designated use classifications associated with the streams crossed in Westmoreland County.

Construction and operation of the Project will not alter the designated uses of the streams crossed in Westmoreland County or impair the ability of these streams to continue to provide habitat for aquatic species. SPLP will construct stream crossings in accordance with the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (PADEP) and Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission's (PAFBC's) restrictions on construction timing in trout streams. In general, these restrictions prohibit construction in wild trout streams between October 1 and December 31, and prohibit construction in stocked trout streams between March 1 and June 15. SPLP has received correspondences from the PAFBC in regards to imposed trout stream restrictions and are included in Attachment 6, Tab 6C. These restrictions are provided on the aerials site plans provided in Attachment 7, Tab 7A.

To minimize stream impacts, SPLP proposes to cross 30 streams in Westmoreland County via the HDD crossing method: 7 of these streams are classified as HQ and none are EV streams. Although this method eliminates all temporary surface impacts associated with the typical open cut method, there is a potential for an inadvertent return of the drilling fluids into the stream. Accordingly, SPLP has prepared an Inadvertent Return Assessment, Preparedness, Prevention and Contingency Plan for the Project (Attachment 12, Tab C). This plan details the impact minimization measures and response protocol in the event of an inadvertent return near a stream. SPLP will adhere to the plan during all construction activities where the HDD construction method is planned under streams.

Project construction will result in the clearing of areas located 100-150 feet landward of the stream (i.e., riparian area) and within the construction corridor, but the impacts have been minimized to the maximum extent possible while allowing safe installation of the pipelines. Enclosure E Part 2 of this Attachment (Resource Identification and Project Impacts) describes potential impacts and mitigation to riparian areas, and outlines how the Project's stream construction and restoration activities will comply with the antidegradation requirements associated with the HQ and EV stream crossings.

Native stream bed material will be separated from other spoil for reinstallation after restoration (see the E&S Plan provided in Attachment 12). In accordance with the PADEP E&S Manual, an evaluation was completed for sheer stress of stream flow against restored native stream bed material. If the evaluation indicated that the stream would not be stable with native material post-construction, then rip rap will be used per the E&S requirements. Site specific waterbody crossing and restoration plans providing direction for the installation of rip rap at these streams are included within the E&S Plans (Attachment 12). In these cases where rip rap is used and the stream bed is composed of rock, cobble, or gravel, then the native stone will be used for the top six inches of rip rap. Every effort will be made to segregate the entire top layer of native stone in streams with less than six inches of native stone where rip rap is proposed. Rip rap will be used to the minimum extent necessary to stabilize the stream bank, which is typically evidenced by a lack of vegetation

or a water line. Stream banks above this elevation will be stabilized with erosion control blanket and revegetated.

As part of the proposed Project, SPLP will conduct hydrostatic testing of the constructed pipelines prior to placing them in use. In order to conduct these safety tests, water will be withdrawn from local surface water sources. Four proposed water withdrawal locations are located in Westmoreland County: Youghioghney River, Sewickley Creek, Little Sewickley Creek, and Turtle Creek. Enclosure E Part 2 of this Attachment (Resource Identification and Project Impacts) describes the hydrostatic test process as well as the potential impacts and mitigative measures associated with the water withdrawal process.

Construction of the proposed Project in Westmoreland County would result in minor, short-term impacts to stream resources: 0.985 acre of permanent and 0.217 acre of temporary disturbance. These impacts would occur as a result of in-stream construction activities or construction on slopes adjacent to stream channels and would result in a temporary localized increase in turbidity levels and downstream sediment deposition. Sediments that become suspended during the short period of in-stream disturbance are expected to settle out of the water column relatively quickly. SPLP has designed the Project to avoid and minimize impacts to stream resources to the greatest extent possible. SPLP will conduct all activities in accordance with their Chapter 102 Permit requirements and will implement erosion and sediment control best management practices (BMPs), including appropriate ABACT measures for HQ/EV stream resources, as presented below. Enclosure E Part 4 of this Attachment (Impact Avoidance, Minimization, and Mitigation Procedures) provides a detailed description of the stream crossing construction methods as well as a discussion of potential impacts to streams, including the impact avoidance and minimization measures SPLP has and/or will implement. In addition, Enclosure E Part 2 of this Attachment (Resource Identification and Project Impacts) provides a description of potential direct and indirect/secondary stream impacts and mitigation measures for the Project.

As summarized above and presented in detail in Enclosure E Part 2 (Resource Identification and Project Impacts), the Project will have no long-term adverse impacts on streams crossed by the Project in Westmoreland County.

### **Floodways**

Floodways are defined by PADEP as “*The channel of the watercourse and those portions of the adjoining floodplains which are reasonably required to carry and discharge the 100-year flood. The boundary of the 100-year floodway is as indicated on the maps and flood insurance studies provided by FEMA. In an area where no FEMA maps nor studies have defined the boundary of the floodway, it is assumed, absent evidence to the contrary, that the floodway extends from the stream to 50 feet landward from the top of the bank of the stream.*” As presented in Table 3 of this Attachment, the proposed Project will impact a total of 24.517 acres of floodway including 16.221 acres of permanent impact and 8.296 acres of temporary impact in Westmoreland County during construction. No fill, aboveground facilities, or alteration of surface elevations/contours are proposed in these

areas as they will be restored to pre-construction conditions. As such, the Project will not result in any long-term impacts to floodways in Westmoreland County.

## **Wetlands**

Wetland impacts have been calculated based on the entire area of disturbance (i.e., construction corridor/LOD) and reflect the existing cover types within this entire area regardless of where the Project ROW co-locates/overlaps an existing utility ROW. Permanent and temporary impacts are based on the following PADEP definitions:

- Permanent impacts are those areas affected by a water obstruction or encroachment that consist of both direct and indirect impacts that result from the placement or construction of a water obstruction or encroachment and include areas necessary for the operation and maintenance of the water obstruction or encroachment located in, along or across, or projecting into the floodway.

Although PADEP defines operation and maintenance activities as permanent impacts, all wetlands affected by the Project will be restored to pre-construction conditions including the presence of wetland soils, hydrology, and hydrophytic vegetation. In addition, the Project does not involve any permanent fill and there will be no permanent loss of wetland area associated with the Project. SPLP will not maintain the ROW through wetland areas (i.e., no mowing); therefore, the pre- and post-construction conditions of the wetland areas will be the same, except for a nominal areal extent (approximately 0.4 acre) of forested wetland that will be converted to emergent wetland. When SPLP submitted its original Chapter 105 applications, it conservatively estimated for purposes of calculating the application fee to the Commonwealth that the area of all disturbed wetlands would be permanently impacted, and paid the application fee accordingly. It must be noted that only 0.405 acre of wetlands will be permanently converted Project-wide, and payment of the prior fee should not be construed to indicate that SPLP considers the remaining temporary incursions into wetlands to be permanent. In fact, all such areas will be restored to original function and values, and replanted to pre-construction conditions, excepting for the 0.405 acres of palustrine forested wetlands, which will be converted to palustrine emergent wetlands following construction of the Project.

- Temporary impacts are those areas affected during the construction of a water obstruction or encroachment that consists of both direct and indirect impacts located in, along or across, or projecting into a watercourse, floodway or body of water that are restored upon completion of construction. This does not include areas that will be maintained as a result of the operation and maintenance of the water obstruction or encroachment located in, along or across, or projecting into the floodway.

The proposed Project will cross 64 wetlands palustrine emergent (PEM), palustrine scrubshrub (PSS), palustrine forested (PFO)) and 3 ponds (PuB) in Westmoreland County including a total of 2.755 permanent acres and 0.793 temporary acre, as defined by

PADEP. As presented in Attachment 11 Table 2, impacts to these wetland resources include the following:

- All wetlands will be restored to meet wetland criteria, there will be no permanent loss of wetland area/acreage (i.e., no fill);
- A total of 3.320 acres of PEM including 2.532 acres of permanent and 0.788 acre of temporary impact;
- A total of 0.023 acre of PSS including 0.018 acre of permanent and 0.005 acre of temporary impact;
- A total of 0.096 acre of PFO including 0.096 acre of permanent and 0 acre of temporary impact;
- A total of 0.109 acre of PuB including 0.109 acre of permanent and 0 acre of temporary impact [Note: land disturbance impacts to all 3 ponds will be avoided as two ponds will be crossed via HDD and the other pond is not crossed by the pipelines/trenches];
- All PEM, PSS, and PuB areas will be restored to their pre-existing conditions;
- A total of 0.007 acre permanent PFO to PEM conversion;
- A total of 0.089 acre of PFO areas will be restored to PFO;
- SPLP has developed a Compensatory Mitigation Plan to mitigate for the permanent impacts to wetland resources in Westmoreland County (refer to Enclosure F of this Attachment); and,
- Refer to the Project's Impact Avoidance, Minimization, and Mitigation Procedures provided in Attachment 11, Enclosure E, Part 4 for details regarding wetland restoration and monitoring.

Each wetland crossed by the proposed Project in Westmoreland County was evaluated in accordance with 25 Pa. Code § 105.17(1) to determine whether or not the wetland area satisfied the requirements for classification as an Exceptional Value (EV) wetland resource. Enclosure E Part 2 of this Attachment (Resource Identification and Project Impacts) describes the process for identifying EV wetlands and how the Project will comply with the antidegradation requirements associated with EV wetlands. In addition, Enclosure C of this Attachment provides a function and values assessment of all the wetlands crossed by the Project. The following presents a summary of the impacts to the EV wetlands crossed by the Project:

- No wetlands crossed in Westmoreland County are classified as EV wetlands.

In order to minimize wetland impacts, SPLP proposes to cross 16 wetlands in Westmoreland County via the HDD/Bore crossing method. Although this method eliminates all temporary surface impacts associated with the typical open cut method, there is a potential for an inadvertent return of the drilling fluids into the wetland. Accordingly, SPLP has prepared an Inadvertent Return Assessment, Preparedness, Prevention and Contingency Plan for the Project (Attachment 12, TabC). This plan details the impact minimization measures and response protocol in the event of an inadvertent return near a wetland. SPLP will adhere to the plan during all construction activities where the HDD construction method is planned under wetlands.

Wetland impacts resulting from construction of the proposed Project in Westmoreland County include temporary disturbance to vegetation, soils, and hydrology. Topsoil within the wetlands will be separated during construction and then replaced to original horizon and elevation in wetland areas to maintain the natural seed bed and to facilitate with revegetation of the wetland areas. In addition, all wetlands will be restored to their pre-construction contours/elevations such that surface water hydrology is restored and the re-establishment of hydrophytic vegetation is facilitated. Impacts to wetland hydrology vary depending on the primary source of hydrology, underlying geology/soils, and the wetlands position relative to the water table (i.e., perched water tables, confining layer, and/or fragipans to maintain hydrology). SPLP has designed the Project to avoid and minimize impacts to wetland resources to the greatest extent possible, and will conduct all activities in accordance with their Chapter 102 Permit requirements and will implement erosion and sediment control best management practices (BMPs), including appropriate ABACT measures for EV wetland resources, as presented below. . Enclosure E Part 4 of this Attachment (Impact Avoidance, Minimization, and Mitigation Procedures) provides a detailed description of the wetland construction methods as well as a discussion of potential impacts to wetlands, including the impact avoidance and minimization measures SPLP has and/or will implement. In addition, Enclosure E Part 2 of this Attachment (Resource Identification and Project Impacts) provides a more detailed description of potential direct and indirect/secondary wetland impacts, including hydrology, and mitigation measures for the Project.

As mentioned above, 2 wetlands in Westmoreland County will undergo a permanent vegetative cover class change (permanent conversion) from PFO to PEM; neither are EV Wetlands. As a result of a combination of construction avoidance/minimization measures and post-construction planting/mitigation measures, the permanent conversion has been reduced to a total of 0.007 acre in this county, none of which is in EV wetlands. The table below lists each affected wetland’s functions and values (refer to Attachment 11, Enclosure C, Part 2), along with its EV status, the wetland area delineated, acreage of Project impacts, and acreage of permanent conversion.

**Permanent Vegetation Cover Type Conversion Impacts in Westmoreland County, by Wetland, Including Wetland Functions and Values**

Wetland ID	EV Status (Reason for EV Designation) <sup>1</sup>	Total Wetland in Survey Area (acre) <sup>2</sup>	Project Impacts		Total PFO Conversion (acre) <sup>5</sup>	Description of Wetland Functions and Values
			Wetland in PADEP Temp. Impact/ Temp. Work-space Area (acre) <sup>3</sup>	Wetland in PADEP Perm. Impact Area/ Perm. ROW (acre) <sup>4</sup>		
P15	N/A	0.345	0	0.059	0.005	Groundwater Recharge/Discharge, Sediment/Toxicant Retention, Nutrient Removal, Provides Riparian Buffer, Landscape Support, Natural Adjacent Land Use
P33	N/A	0.532	0.021	0.099	0.002	Floodflow Alteration, Sediment/Toxicant Retention, Nutrient Removal,

Wetland ID	EV Status (Reason for EV Designation) <sup>1</sup>	Total Wetland in Survey Area (acre) <sup>2</sup>	Project Impacts		Total PFO Conversion (acre) <sup>5</sup>	Description of Wetland Functions and Values
			Wetland in PADEP Temp. Impact/ Temp. Work-space Area (acre) <sup>3</sup>	Wetland in PADEP Perm. Impact Area/ Perm. ROW (acre) <sup>4</sup>		
						Provides Riparian Buffer, Large Areal Extent, HQ or EV Watershed, Landscape Support, Low Adjacent Land Use
	<b>Totals</b>	<b>0.877</b>	<b>0.021</b>	<b>0.158</b>	<b>0.007</b>	

Notes:

1. EV = Exceptional Value  
N/A = Not Applicable (Wetland is Not Exceptional Value)
2. Survey Area was typically a minimum of 200 feet wide or wider, depending on location, and in all cases exceeded the proposed Project limits of disturbance.
3. PADEP Temporary Impact/Temporary Workspace Areas are the construction workspace areas that will not become part of the 50-foot-wide permanent ROW for the Project. Typically, this consists of any workspace beyond the 50-foot-wide permanent ROW, including additional temporary workspaces, and temporary access roads.
4. PADEP Permanent Impact Area/Permanent ROW is the area necessary for the operation and maintenance of the water obstruction or encroachment located in, along or across, or projecting into the wetland. The permanent ROW will be 50 feet wide for this Project. Although PADEP defines operation and maintenance activities as permanent impacts, all wetlands affected by the Project will be restored to pre-construction conditions including the presence of wetland soils, hydrology, and hydrophytic vegetation. In addition, the Project does not involve any permanent fill and there will be no permanent loss of wetland area associated with the Project. SPLP will not maintain the ROW through wetland areas (i.e., no mowing); therefore, the pre- and post-construction conditions of the Project-wide wetland areas will be the same, except for a nominal areal extent (approximately 0.4 acre) of forested wetland that will be converted to emergent wetland.
5. Final PFO Conversion is the total acreage of wetland vegetation cover type converted from PFO vegetation to scrub-shrub or emergent wetland vegetation, after on-site restoration and plantings. Onsite restoration will include replanting all PSS in disturbed areas, and replanting PFO areas in accordance with the Compensatory Mitigation Plan (Attachment 11, Enclosure F). There will be no loss of wetland acreage due to fill.

The nature and size of the cover type conversions in each wetland would not significantly or adversely affect the functions and values of these wetlands. There will be no loss of wetland acreage due to fill or new impervious areas in the wetland, and the areas will be restored to wetlands and permanently revegetated and stabilized. Accordingly, the functions of groundwater recharge/discharge and floodflow alteration should remain equally effective as the existing pre-construction wetland condition. In some cases, functions/values may be enhanced with a conversion of PFO to PEM, such as where emergent/meadow vegetation functions more effectively than forest vegetation for sediment/toxicant retention and nutrient removal. With respect to the riparian buffer function, for wetland P15, the area of conversion is located further than 50 feet from the nearest stream and should not affect the riparian forested buffer; for P33 only 0.002 acre would be converted from a forested riparian buffer to an otherwise vegetated riparian buffer that would continue to provide buffering capacity for the stream. A small change in cover type will have neutral or no effects on certain functions/values, such as wildlife

habitat (changing one type of habitat [forested] to another [emergent/meadow], large areal extent, HQ or EV Watershed, landscape support, and low adjacent land use.

Overall, the amount of PFO conversion represents a small fraction of the overall wetland, compared to both the size of that wetland delineated in the Project survey area (as detailed in the table), and also of the larger wetland that typically extends beyond the Project survey area. The total amount of PFO conversion in Westmoreland County represents 0.8% of the total delineated area of the two wetlands that have a permanent conversion. Where the total size of those same wetlands outside the survey area is typically much greater, this percent would be even further reduced. In summary, the very small amount of permanent conversion of vegetation cover type in these wetlands would not represent any meaningful change or reduction of the overall functions/values of the wetland.

As summarized above and presented in detail in Enclosure E Part (Resource Identification and Project Impacts), the Project will have no adverse impacts on EV wetlands (105.18a(a)) and will not have a significant adverse impact on the other wetlands (105.18a(b)) crossed by the Project in Westmoreland County.

#### **Erosion and Sediment Control Measures**

As presented in Section 3.0 of the Erosion and Sediment Control Plan Narrative (Chapter 102 Permit Application), SPLP will implement a number of erosion and sediment control measures to protect both the stream and wetland resources, including HQ/EV resources, in Westmoreland County. Specifically, general stabilization and structural controls will be used to (1) divert stormwater flows away from exposed areas, (2) convey runoff, (3) prevent sediments from moving off-site, and (4) reduce the erosive forces of runoff waters. Compost filter socks and other structural controls that will be utilized during construction activities will include the following:

***Vegetative Stabilization Controls:*** Grounds disturbed by any of the operations necessary to complete the work for this Project will be permanently seeded, or if specified, sodded, unless occupied by structures or paved. A temporary cessation of earth disturbance activities that lasts for four days or longer requires temporary stabilization. Disturbed areas, which are at final grade, will be seeded and mulched immediately. If seeding cannot be completed immediately after the area reaches final grade due to weather conditions, the disturbed area will be stabilized and mulched with straw at the rate of 3 tons per acre.

***Structural Controls:*** Temporary control facilities to be used during construction include the use of compost filter socks and rock construction entrances. Other structural controls as described below may also be used as deemed necessary based on conditions encountered in the field. Installation guidelines and locations for the below devices are as shown on the Erosion and Sediment Control drawings (Attachment 12). The temporary control measures that will be used on this Project include, but are not limited to [Note – those identified in bold text are suitable for use in HQ/EV resources]:

- **Compost Filter Socks:** This temporary sedimentation control measure consists of wood or metal posts driven through a compost filled mesh tube. Filter socks will be located as needed on side-slope and down-slope boundaries of disturbed areas.

Compost filter socks will be sized in accordance with PADEP Construction Detail provided in Attachment 4 of the Chapter 102 Permit Application. Compost filter socks will be used in drainage areas with HQ and EV waters.

- **Silt Fence:** This temporary sedimentation control measure will be installed at existing level grade. Both ends of each fence section will be extended at least 8 feet upslope across undisturbed ground at 45 degrees to the main fence alignment to allow for pooling of water. A 6-inch deep trench will be excavated, minimizing the disturbance on the downslope side. The bottom of the trench will be at level grade. Silt fence will be sized using in accordance with PADEP Construction Detail provided in Attachment 4 of the Chapter 102 Permit Application. Silt fence will not be used in drainage areas with HQ and EV waters – See Compost Filter Socks.
- **Rock Filter Outlet:** Rock filter outlets will be used, as necessary, to address problems of concentrated flows to sediment barriers. In the event of unanticipated concentrated flow and sediment barrier failure, a rock filter outlet will be installed unless the concentrated flow can be diverted away from the barrier. Rock filter outlets used in drainage areas with HQ and EV waters need a 6” layer of compost installed on the upslope side of the rock.
- **Compost Sock Sediment Trap:** This temporary sedimentation control measure is useful in controlling runoff from access roads and may also be used at other locations where a temporary sediment trap is appropriate. The minimum base width will be equivalent to the height of the trap and sediment accumulation will not exceed 1/3 the total height of the trap. Ends of the trap will be a minimum of 1 foot higher in elevation than the mid-section, which will be located at the point of discharge. Compost sock sediment trap will be sized in accordance with PADEP Construction Detail provided in Attachment 4 of the Chapter 102 Permit Application. Compost sock sediment traps can be used in drainage areas with HQ and EV waters.
- **Tarpaulin Covers:** Tarpaulin covers will be used, as necessary, to protect topsoil storage stockpiles from wind and precipitation erosion. Stockpile slopes will be 2:1 or less. A minimal amount of soil will be stockpiled so that the height of the stockpile is less than 35 feet.
- **Rock Construction Entrance:** Temporary access routes will be established on and proximate to the site to facilitate construction activities. The use of access routes will help confine truck and equipment traffic to specific corridors thus minimizing land disturbance and protecting vegetation. Site traffic during wet weather will be limited. No vehicles will be permitted in streams or rivers.
- **Wash Racks:** Wash racks will be used at rock construction entrances and will be designed to accommodate anticipated vehicular traffic. A water supply will be made available at wash racks to wash the wheels of vehicles exiting the site. Reasonable methods which are sanctioned by the PADEP as alternatives to installation of tire wash stations on public road access points for gathering pipeline projects in EV/HQ or siltation impaired watersheds include:
  - For paved surface public roads: use of a vacuum truck sweeper or sweeper with a catch bin attachment.



- For dirt or gravel surface public roads: rigorous manual removal of mud/dirt from vehicle/equipment tires prior to exiting construction site, supplemented by immediate recover, by manual or mechanical means, of soil which may become discharged onto public roadways. Dust control and/or compaction via rolling of the dirt public road surface will be implemented as needed.
- **Pumped Water Filter Bag:** Pumped water filter bags may be used to filter water pumped from disturbed areas prior to discharging to surface waters. Compost filter socks will be installed within 50 feet of any receiving surface water or where grassy area is not available. Filter bags will be installed in accordance with PADEP Construction Detail provided in Attachment 4 of the Chapter 102 Permit Application.
- **Erosion Control Blanket:** A manufactured erosion control blanket will be installed on all slopes 3:1 or steeper and within 50 feet of surface water or 100 feet of special protected waters (HQ/EV resources). The blanket will be biodegradable but capable of providing protection for two growing seasons. Straw or similar fiber material will be placed between two biodegradable nets. The top net will be heavyweight and UV stabilized; the bottom net will be a lightweight netting. Erosion control blankets will be anchored and stapled in place in accordance with the manufacturer's recommendations and the detail on the construction drawings provided in the Chapter 102 Permit Application. For slopes between 3:1 and 1:1 use erosion control blanket SC 150 as manufactured by North American Green or Owner approved equal material or equal method.
- **Waterbars:** Waterbars will be installed across the ROW on all slopes greater than 5 percent. Waterbars will be constructed at a slope of 2 percent and discharge to a well-vegetated area. Waterbars will not discharge into an open trench. Waterbars will be oriented so that the discharge does not flow back onto the ROW. Obstructions (e.g. compost filter socks) will not be placed in any waterbars. Where needed, they will be located below the discharge end of the waterbar. Waterbars will be installed in accordance with PADEP Construction Detail provided in Attachment 4 of the Chapter 102 Permit Application.
- **Trench Plugs:** Impervious trench plugs are required for all stream, river, wetland, or other water body crossings. Trench plugs are also used on slope run spacing and will be installed in accordance with the Chapter 102 Permit Application.

**a. Food chain production**

Wetlands traversed in Westmoreland County are considered to have some potential for food chain production and support all the trophic levels including producers and primary, secondary, and tertiary consumers. Specifically, the 64 wetlands and 125 streams crossed in Westmoreland County support a diversity of macroinvertebrates, insects, amphibians, reptiles, herbivorous species, and predators (carnivores and omnivores). During construction of the proposed Project, vegetation will be removed and the animals will be temporarily displaced. In the case of less mobile species, mortality of some individuals could result during construction but this loss will not alter the species composition or populations of the animals affected. Until restoration of the proposed Project area is

completed, the food chain production in the affected wetlands will be temporarily altered. However, restoration/seeding of the ROW will occur immediately following construction and revegetation of the wetland areas will occur within the first growing season. Similar to the natural succession of wetland areas, establishment of the temporarily disturbed scrub-shrub and forested areas will take several more growing seasons to reestablish but the areas will colonize quickly with producers and the higher trophic level species from the adjacent habitats.

Likewise, aquatic life in the 43 perennial streams crossed in Westmoreland County would be temporarily impacted at, or downstream from, the proposed construction sites. Potential impacts include the degradation of benthic habitat due to direct disturbance to the bottom substrate in the trench zone, and associated disturbances to aquatic vegetation and invertebrates with the construction ROW. Indirect impacts from sedimentation may affect areas downstream of some sites depending on the type of construction method and water flow/conditions at the time of construction, but generally conditions would be expected to resolve relatively quickly (*e.g.*, dry crossing methods involving in-stream excavation would have a limited effect on downstream sedimentation for a period of 1 to 3 days). Impacts to food chain production in the 82 ephemeral/intermittent streams crossed in Westmoreland County are expected to be less as these streams typically support a less diverse assemblage of aquatic life/species due to lack of a sustained presence of water in these streams.

## **b. General habitat**

### **1. Nesting**

SPLP has prepared a Project-specific Migratory Bird Conservation Plan (Attachment 9 – Project Description) that incorporates the general recommendations of the USFWS’s Adaptive Management Practices for Conserving Migratory Birds. One of these measures is a commitment to clear all trees located within the construction ROW in Westmoreland County between September 1 and March 31 to avoid impacts to the nesting period of most birds. In addition, SPLP has routed the Project adjacent to (and overlapping) existing ROWs to the maximum extent practicable, which will serve to reduce the loss of nesting habitat.

Following construction, the nesting potential for birds requiring forest edge conditions or canopies for nesting will be shifted to the new ROW edge. The nesting potential for birds that nest on or near the ground will be increased and reestablished within the ROW. There will be a permanent, but negligible, decrease in the nesting potential for birds that require forest interior habitat for nesting.

During operation, the Project would not have adverse impacts on nesting in Westmoreland County.

### **2. Spawning**

Construction of the proposed Project may have an adverse effect on fish spawning in the 43 perennial streams crossed in Westmoreland County if conducted during the

fish spawning seasons. However, short-term, direct impacts to spawning fish are generally avoided by adherence to permit conditions restricting work within stream channels to dates outside the fish spawning seasons. SPLP would adhere to the PADEP's/PAFBC's in-stream construction time windows designed to reduce impacts to fisheries; SPLP anticipates any required restrictions will be written into the permit on a stream-specific basis. In addition, direct impacts to spawning fish will be avoided by use of the HDD crossing method that does not disturb the stream bed or banks: 24 streams in Westmoreland County will be crossed using the HDD method.

Indirect, long-term impacts to fish spawning could occur if substantial changes to stream substrate or current patterns result from construction. However, substantial changes to stream substrate and current patterns are not anticipated as a result of the Project because the native stream substrates will be replaced and stream bed and banks will be restored as closely as possible to the original contours following construction.

Some amphibian species may spawn in depressions in seasonally flooded wetlands. If construction occurs during the spawning season, some losses may occur. After Project construction and wetland restoration are completed, there is not expected to be a long-term adverse impact on amphibian spawning.

During operation, the Project would not have any impact on spawning in Westmoreland County.

### **3. Rearing**

The Project has been co-located with existing ROWs to the extent possible and is not located in remote, undeveloped expanses of land, as such the 64 wetlands located within the Project area in Westmoreland County are not considered to have a high potential for wildlife rearing. Some animal species more tolerant of human activity and rural landscapes may occur in the Project area and may utilize the Project area sporadically for rearing their young. However, the impacts to wildlife rearing are expected to be minimal as the wildlife will just relocate or utilize adjacent areas with similar habitat during construction activities. No long-term impacts to rearing are anticipated as a result of the Project.

During operation, the Project would not have adverse impacts on rearing areas in Westmoreland County.

### **4. Resting**

The 64 wetlands and 125 streams crossed by the Project in Westmoreland County are expected to be used for resting by a variety of birds and mammals. However, similar to the areas used for rearing, wildlife are likely to utilize more remote areas for resting. Impacts to wildlife resting areas are expected to be minimal as the wildlife will just utilize adjacent areas with similar habitat during construction activities. No long-term impacts to resting areas are anticipated as a result of the Project.

During operation, the Project would not have adverse impacts on resting habitat in Westmoreland County.

## **5. Migration**

SPLP has prepared a Project-specific Migratory Bird Conservation Plan (Attachment 9 – Project Description) that incorporates the general recommendations of the USFWS's Adaptive Management Practices for Conserving Migratory Birds. One of these measures is a commitment to clear all trees located within the construction ROW in Westmoreland County between September 1 and March 31 to avoid impacts to the nesting period of migratory birds. In addition, SPLP has co-located the Project adjacent to (and overlapping) existing ROWs to the maximum extent practicable, which will serve to reduce the loss of nesting habitat. Based on these measures and others that SPLP will implement, bird migration patterns are not expected to be affected by the Project.

Direct impacts to migrating fish species (*e.g.*, trout) in the 43 perennial streams crossed by the Project in Westmoreland County would generally be avoided by adherence to permit conditions and restricting work within stream channels to dates outside the fish spawning/migration seasons. In addition, all streams will be returned to their pre-construction contours following construction and there would be no long-term obstacles/obstructions preventing fish from migrating upstream or downstream.

During operation, the Project would not have adverse impacts on migration in Westmoreland County.

## **6. Feeding**

Construction activities would temporarily affect the 64 wetlands and 125 streams crossed in Westmoreland County to function as feeding areas. Specifically, clearing of the construction ROW and excavation of the trench would temporarily eliminate food sources on the ROW and would discourage wildlife from feeding in the general Project area.

Excavation of wetland habitats would temporarily remove primary production, causing wildlife species to seek other areas to feed until the ROW became revegetated. Similarly, the turbidity level in streams that have flow/water present at the time of construction may be slightly elevated and result in less feeding activities in the Project area. However, following restoration of the ROW and reestablishment of pre-construction conditions the feeding habits of local wildlife will return to normal.

During operation, the Project would not have any impact on feeding activities in Westmoreland County.

## **7. Escape Cover**

Incremental widening of the existing ROW and/or clearing of new ROW in Westmoreland County would have a negligible, short-term effect on escape cover. After construction and revegetation are completed, the existing ROW will be widened and will provide essentially the same escape cover that existed prior to construction. Although the understory layer of shrubs and small trees that had developed because of increased light availability along the forested ROW edge will require several growing seasons to reestablish, this same habitat type will still be available on the other side of the ROW that was not disturbed during construction.

Operation of the Project would not have any impact on escape cover in Westmoreland County.

## **8. Other**

Impacts to other general habitats were not identified during the wetland delineation surveys or stream characterization in Westmoreland County.

### **c. Habitat for Threatened and Endangered Plant and Animal Species**

SPLP has coordinated extensively with the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (PADCNR), the Pennsylvania Game Commission (PGC), the PAFBC, and the USFWS throughout the entire Project planning process. Based on this coordination a number of species of concern have been identified in the Project area and SPLP has conducted all surveys and developed conservation plans as required by the agencies. SPLP has received either a “no effect/impact” or a “not likely to adversely affect” determination from the PADCNR, the PGC, the PAFBC, and the USFWS. Attachment 6 (PNDI and Agency Coordination) of this application provides a detailed summary of these agency consultations as well as all of the agency approved conservation plans. SPLP will adhere to all conditions provided within the final determination letters and associated conservation plans to ensure that the agency determinations remain valid.

### **d. Environmental study areas**

#### **1. Sanctuaries**

The Project does not cross any known plant or wildlife sanctuaries in Westmoreland County.

#### **2. Refuges**

There are no designated wildlife refuges known to occur within or near the proposed Project area; consequently, none will be impacted by the proposed Project in Westmoreland County.

### 3. Other

The Project crosses two Core Habitats in Westmoreland County, as listed in the table below. The Project also crosses one Supporting Landscape.

The Project crosses the Lowber Slopes Biological Diversity Area (BDA) for approximately 0.05 mile with a temporary access road. No aquatic resources will be impacted by the Project in this area. The access road will utilize an existing roadway; therefore, impacts will be temporary and minor. There will be no long-term impact to this area. It will continue to provide essential habitat for the species utilizing the habitat and there will be no change in the existing land use.

The Project also crosses the Sewickley Creek Slopes BDA for approximately 0.3 mile, and impacts 2 streams within this area. There will be 0.022 acre permanent stream impact and 0.009 acre temporary stream impact to these resources, as defined by PADEP (refer to Section B.1). A discussion of wetland/stream construction methods and mitigation measures that SPLP will implement when crossing these resources is presented in Section B.1 (below) and Enclosure E, Part 2.

The Project is co-located with existing ROW where it crosses the Sewickley Creek Slopes BDA. Part of this area will be crossed using HDD methods; therefore, there will be limited above ground disturbance to the area. There will be some temporary disturbance associated with construction, and an area located immediately over the pipelines will be maintained free of all tree and shrub growth following construction. There will be no long-term impact to the purpose/function of this area as it will continue to provide essential habitat for the species utilizing the habitat and there will be no change in the existing land use.

The Project is co-located with existing ROW where it crosses the Supporting Landscape. There will be a minor expansion of existing ROW habitat, but no new edge habitat will be created. By co-locating with existing ROW, the Project will minimize permanent habitat alterations to the maximum extent practicable. There will be no long-term impacts to the purpose/function of this area as it will continue to provide essential habitat for the species utilizing the habitat and there will be no change in the existing land use.

## **B.2 Water Quantity and Streamflow**

### **a. Natural drainage patterns**

Construction of the proposed Project in accordance with SPLP's Impact Avoidance, Minimization, and Mitigation Procedures (Enclosure E, Part 4 of this Attachment) is not expected to affect natural drainage patterns in Westmoreland County. There are no stream relocations, enclosures, or channel deepening/dredging activities proposed in conjunction with the Project's 125 stream crossings in Westmoreland County that could alter drainage patterns in the Project area. Upon completion of construction in the 64 wetlands crossed, all soil disturbed during construction will be replaced to original horizons and contours.

### Core Habitat Crossed by the Pennsylvania Pipeline Project in Westmoreland County

Resource	Distance Crossed (miles)	Stream Resources (number)			Stream Impacts (acres) <sup>a, b, c</sup>		Wetland Resources (number)			Wetland Impacts (acres) <sup>a, b, c</sup>			List of Streams Crossed	List of Wetlands Crossed
		Other	HQ/EV	HDD/Bore	PADEP Permanent <sup>d, e</sup>	PADEP Temporary	Other	EV	HDD/Bore	PADEP Permanent <sup>d, e</sup>	PADEP Temporary	Conversion		
Lowber Slopes BDA	0.05	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sewickley Creek Slopes BDA	0.3	2	0	1	0.022	0.009	0	0	0	0	0	0	S172 S225	0

Source: PADCNR 2016

<sup>a</sup> The Project will have minor temporary impacts associated with construction.

<sup>b</sup> Disturbed areas will be restored in accordance with the E&S Plan located in Attachment 12.

<sup>c</sup> Attachment 11, Enclosure E, Part 4 provides a more detailed discussion of impacts to streams and wetlands, impact avoidance and minimization measures, and a description of the crossing construction measures that will be used.

<sup>d</sup> Permanent impacts are those areas affected by a water obstruction or encroachment that consist of both direct and indirect impacts that result from the placement or construction of a water obstruction or encroachment and include areas necessary for the operation and maintenance of the water obstruction or encroachment located in, along or across, or projecting into the floodway.

<sup>e</sup> Although PADEP defines operation and maintenance activities as permanent impacts, all wetlands and streams affected by the Project will be restored to pre-construction conditions.

Notes:

Although PADEP defines operation and maintenance activities as permanent impacts, all wetlands affected by the Project will be restored to pre-construction conditions including the presence of wetland soils, hydrology, and hydrophytic vegetation. In addition, the Project does not involve any permanent fill and there will be no permanent loss of wetland area associated with the Project. SPLP will not maintain the ROW through wetland areas (i.e., no mowing); therefore, the pre- and post-construction conditions of the Project-wide wetland areas will be the same, except for a nominal areal extent (approximately 0.4 acre) of forested wetland that will be converted to emergent wetland.

Although PADEP defines operation and maintenance activities as permanent impacts, all streams affected by the Project will be restored to pre-construction conditions including the elevation/contours, channel substrate, stream banks, and flow conditions/patterns. In addition, the Project does not involve any permanent fill and there will be no permanent loss of stream area associated with the Project.

This will restore the direction and rates of flow to pre-construction conditions and will promote re-establishment of hydrophytic vegetation and wetland hydrology. Operation of the Project would not have any impact on the natural drainage patterns in Westmoreland County.

Enclosure E, Part 2 of this Attachment (Resource Identification and Project Impacts) describes the stream and wetland impacts associated with construction of the Project including the restoration of pre-construction contours and hydrology.

**b. Flushing characteristics**

Construction of the proposed Project in accordance with SPLP's Impact Avoidance, Minimization, and Mitigation Procedures (Enclosure E, Part 4 of this Attachment) is not expected to affect the flushing characteristics of the 125 streams crossed in Westmoreland County. SPLP has sited the ROW such that the stream crossings are generally perpendicular and thereby of minimal impact. In addition, the Project will not alter the volume of water or flow rates that the streams typically/naturally experience. Furthermore, stream channels will be restored to pre-construction contours, thereby restoring pre-existing flushing characteristics and patterns within both the stream and wetlands crossed. Similarly, operation of the Project would not have any impact on the natural drainage patterns in Westmoreland County.

**c. Current patterns**

As previously stated for the natural drainage patterns, there are no stream relocations, enclosures, or channel deepening/dredging activities proposed in conjunction with the Project's 125 stream crossings in Westmoreland County that could alter current patterns in the Project area.

Construction of the Project in accordance with SPLP's Impact Avoidance, Minimization, and Mitigation Procedures (Enclosure E, Part 4 of this Attachment) will not result in long-term changes to current patterns in streams or wetlands in Westmoreland County. All stream and wetland areas will be restored to their pre-construction contours such that there will be no potential for obstructions or alteration of flow/current patterns resulting from the Project. Operation of the Project would not have any impact on the natural drainage patterns in Westmoreland County.

Enclosure E, Part 2 of this Attachment (Resource Identification and Project Impacts) describes the stream and wetland impacts associated with construction of the Project including the restoration of pre-construction contours and hydrology.

**d. Groundwater discharge for baseflow**

Construction of the proposed Project in accordance with SPLP's Impact Avoidance, Minimization, and Mitigation Procedures (Enclosure E, Part 4 of this Attachment) is not expected to affect groundwater discharge that may be important for supporting stream baseflow or wetland hydrology in Westmoreland County. Trench plugs will be installed in



the trench at the entry and exit of all wetlands/streams crossed to prevent draining of wetlands/streams along the trench line. In addition, there are no groundwater control features or interceptor structures incorporated into the Project design. Topographic contours and drainage patterns will be restored following construction of the Project, and impacts to groundwater discharge are not anticipated in Westmoreland County.

**e. Natural recharge area for ground and surface waters**

Most of the 64 wetlands traversed by the proposed Project in Westmoreland County occur in areas of groundwater discharge and are not likely to be natural recharge areas for groundwater, but may act as recharge areas for surface waters. However, the pipelines are not expected to alter natural drainage patterns, flushing characteristics, or current patterns. Furthermore, the Project does not involve the addition of large expanses of new impervious surfaces. Therefore, impacts to the natural recharge of surface waters as a result of construction and operation of the proposed Project in Westmoreland County are unlikely.

**f. Storm and floodwater storage and control**

Construction in accordance with SPLP's Impact Avoidance, Minimization, and Mitigation Procedures (Enclosure E, Part 4 of this Attachment) will not result in a loss of wetland area. The Project includes the Conemaugh River Block Valve that will partially be located in a floodplain in Westmoreland County. However, the portion of the block valve station located in the floodplain includes the corner of the gravel pad that will be built to grade and not result in any change in surface contours/elevations; therefore, no alteration of floodwater storage or control is anticipated. In addition, SPLP is working with the county to ensure that the Project complies with their floodplain management requirements. Construction of the proposed Project is not expected to negatively impact the ability of streams or wetlands to either store or control storm and flood waters.

**B.3 Water Quality**

**a. Preventing pollution**

To prevent pollution SPLP will implement pollution prevention procedures outlined in its E&S Plan and supporting documents (Attachment 12) for protection of water quality during Project construction in Westmoreland County. Specifically, SPLP will implement their Preparedness, Prevention, and Contingency Plan (Attachment 12, TabA); Water Supply Assessment, Preparedness, Prevention and Contingency Plan (Attachment 12, TabB); and, Inadvertent Return Assessment, Preparedness, Prevention and Contingency Plan (Attachment 12, TabC) to prevent and address potential spills of hazardous materials/fluids during construction. In addition, SPLP has applied for and will adhere to all provisions of the Pennsylvania Erosion and Sedimentation Control General Permit No. 2 (ESCGP-2) to minimize pollution into the wetlands and streams crossed in Westmoreland County from erosion and sedimentation associated with the Project. Implementation of these plans and compliance with the permits will minimize the potential for pollution to the maximum extent possible.

SPLP has also developed a Void Mitigation Plan for Karst Terrain and Underground Mining and is provided as part of the E&S Plan and provides an assessment of potential impacts and avoidance and mitigation measures during open-cut and drilling procedures (Attachment 12, TabD). The Water Supply and Inadvertent Return plans also provide an assessment of the geology in terms of potential risks to groundwater supplies from below surface inadvertent returns. In addition, Enclosure E Part 2 provides a Project-wide description of the potential direct and indirect/secondary impacts to the wetland/stream resources crossed by the Project.

**b. Sedimentation control and patterns**

Construction procedures and best management practices that will be implemented in Westmoreland County by SPLP to control erosion and sedimentation into streams and wetlands during Project construction are provided in the Project's Impact Avoidance, Minimization, and Mitigation Procedures (Enclosure E, Part 4 of this Attachment) and E&S Plan (Attachment 12). In addition, SPLP will apply for and adhere to all provisions of the Pennsylvania ESCGP-2 to minimize pollution from erosion and sedimentation.

After construction is completed, the contours in the 64 wetlands crossed in Westmoreland County will be restored, pre-construction drainage patterns will be re-established, and the wetland will be revegetated/stabilized to minimize erosion. Similarly, the banks of the 125 streams crossed will be restored to pre-construction conditions and stabilized in accordance with the E&S Plan (Attachment 12) to minimize erosion and sedimentation. In addition, Enclosure E Part 2 provides a Project-wide description of the potential direct and indirect/secondary impacts to the wetland/stream resources crossed by the Project. Compliance with all permit requirements will ensure that impacts associated with erosion and sedimentation are minimized or avoided in Westmoreland County.

**c. Salinity distribution**

Only freshwater streams and wetlands were observed during field surveys for the Project in Westmoreland County. There was no evidence of naturally occurring or human-induced salinity associated with the freshwater wetlands and waterbodies within the proposed Project area.

**d. Natural water filtration**

The removal and disturbance of vegetation during construction will temporarily reduce the natural water filtration ability of the 64 wetlands and 125 riparian areas crossed by the Project in Westmoreland County. However, in accordance with SPLP's Impact Avoidance, Minimization, and Mitigation Procedures (Enclosure E, Part 4 of this Attachment) and their Erosion and Sediment Control Plan (Attachment 12) erosion/sedimentation filtration measures will be implemented during construction to provide adequate water filtration to minimize stormwater pollution. After installation of the pipelines, the ROW will be seeded and revegetated, restoring permanent vegetation and natural water filtration for the long term. In addition, the sizes and dimensions of the wetlands and riparian buffers will not be altered. Therefore, construction and operation of the proposed Project in Westmoreland

County is not expected to have a long-term adverse impact upon the natural water filtration capabilities of riparian areas or wetlands.

#### **B.4 Recreation**

##### **a. Game species**

The Project does not cross any Pennsylvania State Game Lands in Westmoreland County; however, hunting is likely to occur on some privately owned properties crossed by the proposed pipelines.

Construction of the proposed Project in Westmoreland County would result in minor, short-term impacts to hunting, but these will be limited to the periods of active construction. Hunting activities and construction activities in the same area are not compatible and will be prohibited from occurring at the same time, for safety reasons. The Project construction/restoration schedule may overlap with the hunting season of a few game species and therefore may restrict hunting opportunities near the pipeline ROW. Similarly, SPLP will work with private landowners to avoid conflicts with hunting, to the extent possible. After Project construction and restoration, no impacts on populations of game species, or hunting activities, are anticipated. Similarly, operation of the Project will not affect future hunting opportunities/activities in the Project area.

##### **b. Non-game species**

The level of recreational activities involving non-game species, such as bird watching, wildlife photography, and amateur naturalist study occurring in wetlands/streams located within the proposed Project area in Westmoreland County is not known.

Recreational activities involving non-game species are not expected to be significantly affected by construction of the proposed Project as they will be limited to the construction period when activities will be prohibited within the Project area for safety reasons. After Project construction and ROW restoration in Westmoreland County, there should be no impacts on recreational activities involving non-game species.

##### **c. Fishing**

Fishing activities in Westmoreland County are limited to the 43 perennial streams crossed by the Project. Specifically, 21 of the Project streams have been designated by the PAFBC as Approved Trout Waters and 1 stream has been designated as both Approved Trout Water and Stocked Trout Stream. Additionally 8 streams have a designated use for CWF, 30 streams have a designated use for HQ-CWF, 12 streams have a designated use for WWF, 4 streams have a designated use for HQ-WWF, 12 streams have a designated use for WWF, MF, 48 streams have a designated use for TSF, 1 stream has a designated use for TSF, MF. Similar to the game and non-game recreational impacts, short-term impacts to fishing activities will be associated with the preclusion of these activities within the Project area during construction. No long-term impacts to fishing opportunities are expected to occur in Westmoreland County.

**d. Hiking and Water Trails**

During construction, hiking through the construction corridor will be prohibited. As identified in the table below, the Project crosses one hiking trail and two designated water trails in Westmoreland County. The existing pipeline ROW already forms a long, linear, relatively unobstructed corridor, which offers the potential for use as a hiking trail; however, the amount of hiking that occurs along the entire corridor is not expected to be significant, since most of the existing ROW passes through private properties.

**Hiking and Water Trails Crossed by the Pennsylvania Pipeline Project in Westmoreland County**

Name of Trail	Aquatic Resources Present
Great Allegheny Passage	No
Youghiogheny River Water Trail	Yes
Kiski-Conemaugh River Water Trail	Yes

Source: PADNCR and Rails-to-Trails Conservancy 2016

Impacts to the trails crossed in Westmoreland County are expected to be short-term and limited to the time needed for construction of the proposed Project. All water trails will be crossed using HDD methods; therefore, there will be no interruption to the use of these trails during construction of the Project. In addition, SPLP will obtain an Aid to Navigation (ATON) permit from the PFBC for the Water Trails crossed in Westmoreland County (refer to Attachment 7B for copies of the ATON plans).

Operation of the Project will not impact the long-term use of the recreational trails crossed.

**e. Observation (plant/wildlife)**

The Project has been sited along existing ROWs to the extent possible; therefore, there is limited to moderate potential for recreational plant or wildlife observation in Westmoreland County as most the properties are privately owned and there is limited access to the Project area. During construction, access to the Project area for the purpose of plant/wildlife viewing will be prohibited. Following construction, the ROW would be restored and revegetated, and wildlife are expected to return to the Project area and viewing opportunities would be restored. No long-term impacts to wildlife observation are expected in Westmoreland County.

**f. Other**

Other recreational activities that may occur in or near the proposed Project in Westmoreland County include biking, backpacking, camping, picnicking, horseback riding, canoeing, kayaking, boating, rafting, scenic drives, cross-country skiing, and motorized vehicle use (*i.e.*, all-terrain vehicles, snowmobiles). During construction, access to the Project area for the purpose of recreation will be prohibited. Impacts to recreation opportunities are expected to be short-term and limited to the time needed for construction of the proposed Project.

The Project crosses both the Loyalhanna and Conemaugh Recreation Areas, UASCE

owned/administered properties, in Westmoreland County. Construction of the proposed Project through these areas may result in minor, short-term impacts to recreational uses including to fishing, hiking, biking, camping, and other recreational activities should construction occur during the busy summer recreation season. However, SPLP has committed to work with the USACE to minimize impacts during the busy summer recreation season. Other potential recreational impacts may include, but are not be limited to, restricted access to areas of the park or longer travel time (around construction areas), reduced wildlife/bird sightings due to temporarily displaced wildlife, detours on walking trails, and disruption of the natural viewsheds from the river/lakes (refer to Section 3.8).

To minimize recreational impacts, SPLP will coordinate with USACE regarding potential temporary closures or rerouting that may be required during construction, as well as signage, scheduling and standard security and safety provisions that may be required for the Project. As required, SPLP will provide proper notice/written notification of when work is expected to commence in these areas, periodic updates on project progress, a copy of current construction schedules, and notices of temporary changes and closures of trails and roads. SPLP will also coordinate with the appropriate person/persons prior to conducting operations on USACE owned/administrated properties. Hiking and biking through the construction corridor would be prohibited until construction is complete and those areas are restored to preconstruction conditions such that recreational activities (i.e. hiking, biking) can resume to pre-construction operating conditions.

Per USACE's request, SPLP will also implement timing restrictions on tree clearing as well as on construction to avoid the busy recreational season (summer) at USACE owned/administered properties. These timing restrictions may include avoiding construction from April 1st to after Labor Day weekend (end of August). SPLP also proposes to use the HDD construction method at major waterbody crossings to avoid recreational impacts on USACE properties. Furthermore, SPLP will HDD underneath the Bush Recreational Camp Area at Loyalhanna Lake to minimize/avoid potential Project impacts to recreational uses.

After Project construction and restoration, no adverse impacts on recreational uses are anticipated. With adherence to these guidelines, potential impacts to recreational uses during Project construction would be minimized and temporary during construction. It is anticipated that future recreational activities would resume to normal operations. As such, no long-term impacts to recreational sites and opportunities are anticipated as a result of Project operations.

## **B.5 Upstream and Downstream Property**

The proposed Project will not cause long-term degradation of water quality, alter flow volumes, or change the direction of flow in the 125 streams crossed in Westmoreland County. In addition, operation of the proposed Project is not expected to interfere with the riparian rights of upstream/downstream landowners or the storage capacity of floodplains in Westmoreland County. Enclosure E Part 2 provides a Project-wide description of the potential direct and indirect/secondary impacts to the upstream and downstream properties associated with the wetland/stream resources crossed by the Project.

## **B.6 Other Environmental Factors**

There were no other environmental factors of concern were identified in Westmoreland County during the field surveys or associated research activities conducted for the proposed Project.

## **C. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS ON ADJACENT LAND AND WATER RESOURCES**

Construction of the proposed Project in accordance with SPLP's Impact Avoidance, Minimization, and Mitigation Procedures (Enclosure E, Part 4 of this Attachment) is expected to avoid and minimize indirect impacts, to the extent possible, associated with the proposed Project in Westmoreland County. However, indirect and secondary impacts to adjacent lands or water resources may result from construction of the proposed Project in Westmoreland County in the areas located downstream/downgradient of the wetland and stream crossings. SPLP has prepared a Resource Identification and Project Impacts report (Enclosure E, Part 2 of this Attachment) that includes an analysis and discussion of potential secondary impacts and proposed mitigation measures associated with the Project.

## **D. CUMULATIVE IMPACTS**

SPLP has prepared a cumulative impacts analysis (CIA) (Enclosure E, Part 6 of this Attachment) to comply with the requirements of 25 Pennsylvania Code (Pa. Code) §§ 105.14(b)(14) and 105.15 to evaluate the cumulative impact of the Project and other potential or existing projects, and if numerous piecemeal changes may result in a major impairment of the wetland resources, including consideration of interrelated wetland areas (streams), affected by the Project. The CIA also has been prepared to comply with the requirements of §§ 105.18a(a)(6) and 105.18a(b)(6) to evaluate if the effect of the Project when considered in combination with the impacts of other potential or existing projects may result in the impairment of the Commonwealth's exceptional value (EV) wetland resources or a major impairment of the Commonwealth's other wetland resources, respectively.

Accordingly, the CIA prepared for the Project addresses the cumulative impact of the Project and other potential or existing SPLP projects and other projects within the Cumulative Impact Assessment Area (CIAA) of the Project (see Enclosure E, Part 6, Section 3.0 of this Attachment for a discussion of the CIAA). As part of this analysis, the numerous wetland impacts associated with all the Chapter 105 applications related to this Project have been evaluated to determine if the impacts may result in the impairment of the Commonwealth's EV wetland resources or a major impairment of the Commonwealth's other wetland resources. Refer to the CIA (Enclosure E, Part 6 of this Attachment) for additional information related to SPLP's cumulative impact analysis methods and results.

As presented in the Alternatives Analysis (Enclosure F, Part 3 of this Attachment), during initial and detailed planning, pipeline routing, and aboveground facility siting of the proposed Project, SPLP was prudent in siting the ROW to avoid and minimize impacts to wetlands and waterbodies to the extent practicable for the entire Project. However, because

this is a linear project, complete avoidance of all wetlands and waterbodies was not possible or practicable (Enclosure F, Part 3, Section 4.0 of this Attachment). As a result of this wetland impact avoidance and minimization effort, the Project will disturb approximately 36.7 acres of wetlands during construction, and with mitigation will result in a limited palustrine wetland cover type conversion of 0.405 acre across 19 wetlands. As demonstrated in this Project Impact analysis, with the implementation of the Project and best management practices as proposed, impacts to wetlands will be minor and temporary.

Based on SPLP's analysis of cumulative impacts, implementation of the Project and other potential or existing projects within the CIAA, in consideration of interrelated wetland areas (streams), will not result in the impairment of the Commonwealth's EV wetland resources or a major impairment of the Commonwealth's other wetland resources.

#### **E. OTHER WATER OBSTRUCTIONS OR ENCROACHMENTS**

All water obstruction and stream encroachments that require a permit to construct and operate the proposed Project in Westmoreland County are described in this Joint Permit Application.