



Wes Moore, Governor
Aruna Miller, Lt. Governor
Josh Kurtz, Secretary
David Goshorn, Deputy Secretary

November 29, 2023

Mr. Michael J. Klebasko
Wetland Studies and Solutions, Inc.
1131 Benfield Boulevard
Suite L
Millersville, Maryland 21108

RE: Environmental Review for Dickerson Power Plant, 21200 Martinsburg Road, Montgomery County, Maryland.

Dear Mr. Klebasko:

The Wildlife and Heritage Service has determined that this project site contains a significant portion of the catchment basin to the Three Spring Hollow site. This site encompasses three springs that flow over gravel, rocks, leaves, and woody debris from a small hollow. Some of the invertebrates found in the flowing springs include the state-listed endangered Vandel's Cave Isopod (*Caecidotea vandeli*) and the highly rare Pizzini's Cave Amphipod (*Stygobromus pizzinii*). These species are highly specialized subterranean species that are vulnerable to decreases in water quality. These animals are generally eyeless, colorless, and tiny, but are important parts of a healthy food web, and their sensitivity to degrading water quality make their presence an indication of clean groundwater. We would encourage the applicant to avoid activities that might alter the hydrology or reduce water quality in this system.

In addition, our remote analysis suggests that the forested area on this property contains Forest Interior Dwelling Bird habitat. Populations of many bird species which depend on this type of forested habitat are declining in Maryland and throughout the eastern United States. Interested landowners can contact us for further voluntary guidelines to help conserve this important habitat. The key to maintaining suitable breeding habitat for FIDS, and halting or reversing their declines, is the protection of extensive, unbroken forested areas throughout the region.

If the project changes in the future such that the limits of proposed disturbance or overall site boundaries are modified, please provide us with revised project maps and we will provide you with an updated evaluation. Thank you for allowing us the opportunity to review this project. If you should have any further questions regarding this information, please contact me at lori.byrne@maryland.gov or at (410) 260-8573.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lori A. Byrne".

Lori A. Byrne,
Environmental Review Coordinator
Wildlife and Heritage Service
MD Dept. of Natural Resources

ER# 2023.1536.mo