



Conowingo Dam Relicensed for 50 Years, Settlement Agreement with Maryland Finalized March 2021

On March 18, 2021, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) issued a new 50-year license to Exelon Generation Company, LLC's Conowingo Hydroelectric Project, located on the Susquehanna River in Lancaster and York Counties, Pennsylvania, and Cecil and Harford Counties, Maryland. The approval incorporates settlements involving, Exelon, the Department of the Interior, and the Maryland Department of the Environment, including requirements for addressing sediment issues, enhancing fish migration, protecting bald eagles and other wildlife, upgrading public recreation sites, and protecting archaeological and historic sites.

The Dam plays an important part in Bay clean-up. Bay partners generally agree that the Dam has stopped effectively trapping nutrients and sediment and that nutrients and sediment coming over the Dam could put Bay restoration efforts at risk.

In late 2019, in response to a lawsuit Exelon filed against the State of Maryland, Governor Hogan announced a proposed settlement with Exelon. Under the [agreement](#), Exelon will invest more than \$200 million, including nearly \$107 million in cash payments to support environmental initiatives, described by the State as follows:

- \$52M to implement new requirements for flow control to create more natural conditions in the Lower Susquehanna;
- \$47M for climate resiliency projects;
- \$41M to significantly increase efforts to remove debris flowing down the Susquehanna;
- \$25M to restore a healthy population of water-filtering mussels in the Susquehanna;
- \$19M for other projects to improve water quality in the Chesapeake Bay, including agricultural projects such as cover crops and forest buffers;
- \$12M to support MDE and DNR in overseeing and implementing the agreement;
- \$11M to make upgrades to improve the passage of migrating fish and eels;
- \$5M to conduct chlorophyll-A monitoring and reporting;
- \$1M for eel-related research and projects;
- \$500,000 to fund a study of dredged material management options.