

IT'S ABOUT DAM TIME

you heard the facts about the

CONOWINGO DAM



6 million pounds of pollution flow from the dam each year

Unmaintained reservoir = 100 years of sediment buildup and **trapped pollution**

Natural water level

The unnatural flow past the dam harms plants and animals

Migratory fish can't reach the streams where they reproduce

TO THE CHESAPEAKE BAY

THE PROBLEM

It's about dam time to value the health of the Chesapeake Bay over the profits of a **billion dollar energy corporation!** After years of stalling by Constellation Energy, the owner of the Conowingo Dam, Maryland's Department of the Environment (MDE) will soon be determining the environmental requirements it will place on Constellation as part of its water quality certification. The corporation needs this before it can get its federal hydro-electric dam license. **Let's make sure MDE stays strong on the 2018 water quality certification Constellation maneuvered out of in 2019!** The federal license is for **FIFTY YEARS**, so MDE's decision will impact the health of the Bay and the lives and livelihoods of the people who depend on it for decades to come!

WHAT'S AT STAKE?



Since its construction in 1928, the owners of Conowingo Dam have done nothing to clean up the pollution containing sediment that gets trapped in the reservoir behind the dam. Now it is full and spews out more than 6 million pounds of pollution every year!



The millions of pounds of pollution behind the dam threaten our collective decades-long efforts to restore the Bay.



Tourism and outdoor recreation around the Chesapeake bring in \$11.6 billion annually, support 104,000 Maryland jobs, and provide \$1.7 billion in tax revenue. Don't let Constellation continue to jeopardize this!



Each year, 25.6 million pounds of seafood are harvested in Maryland. This harvest is valued at \$60,317,112 and includes blue crabs, striped bass, and oysters.



We support clean energy, but because of its tremendous negative environmental impact, Constellation is not providing "clean" energy from Conowingo!

HOW DID WE GET HERE?

- The Conowingo Dam was due for a 50-year Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) license renewal in 2014.
- To get a FERC license, the dam owner needs a water quality certification from the State of Maryland. To get the certification, a series of environmental studies must be done in the area around the dam.
- Constellation (formerly Exelon), the dam's owner, repeatedly submitted incomplete study data as part of their certification application, so they were denied a certification in 2014, 2015, 2016, and 2017. *Delay tactic?*
- Constellation finally submitted a complete water quality certification application in 2017 and was granted a certification in 2018.
- The Maryland certification had several requirements, including that Constellation pay \$172 million/year to fund pollution reduction efforts on the Susquehanna River to offset the pollution coming from the dam. *They shouldn't be allowed to profit while polluting a public resource!*
- Constellation filed suit in state and federal courts to overturn the requirements of the certification and petitioned FERC that Maryland had waived the right to grant the water quality certification. *They're legal bullies!*
- MDE felt pressured to negotiate with Constellation behind closed doors on the terms of a new, watered-down settlement. *No opportunity for public scrutiny or comment!*
- FERC granted the 50-year license based on the closed door settlement in 2021.
- Waterkeepers Chesapeake, Lower Susquehanna Riverkeeper Association, and ShoreRivers challenged the unlawful FERC license in federal court and WON!
- The December 2022 court decision vacated the FERC license and stated that MDE never withdrew its 2018 water quality certification, which should be included in the license – not the grossly inadequate settlement. *YAY FOR THE BAY!*
- Now is the time to put pressure on MDE to uphold the requirements of the original 2018 certification!

TAKE ACTION!

Tell Serena McIlwain, Secretary of MDE, to enact the 2018 certification that protects our water quality. This would protect:

- the livelihoods of watermen
- recreation and tourism in Maryland
- millions of taxpayer dollars that have gone towards cleaner water in the Susquehanna and Chesapeake Bay

Visit ConowingoDam.org to learn more.

IT'S ABOUT DAM TIME!
Let's make it happen!



Scan the QR code to sign the petition.