



**US Army Corps  
of Engineers**  
Philadelphia District

Wanamaker Building  
100 Penn Square East  
Philadelphia, PA 19107-3390  
ATTN: CENAP-OP-R

# Public Notice

Public Notice No.  
**CENAP-OP-R-2013-00114**

Date

**JAN 09 2015**

Application No.

File No.

In Reply Refer to:  
**REGULATORY BRANCH**

This District has received an application for a Department of the Army permit pursuant to Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. 1344).

The purpose of this notice is to solicit comments and recommendations from the public concerning issuance of a Department of the Army permit for the work described below.

**APPLICANT:** Columbia Gas Transmission, LLC (Columbia)  
Ms. Melissa Dettling  
5151 San Felipe, Suite 2500  
Houston, TX 77056

**AGENT:** NV5  
Ms. Erica Bowyer  
850 Bear Tavern Road, Suite 106  
West Trenton, NJ 08628

**WATERWAY:** Wetland (W400-PA) near an unnamed tributary to the East Branch of the Brandywine Creek.

**LOCATION:** Lat: 40.015781 N, Lon: -75.712674 W. The linear wetland is located along the south side of the US 30 Bypass, 1,650 feet west of the intersection of Creek Road and US 30 Bypass in Caln Township, Chester County, PA.

**ACTIVITY:** The applicant proposes to install a 26 inch gas transmission line through wetland W400-PA via open cut trench method. This will entail clearing all vegetation from the right-of-way and the additional work space within W400-PA, striping and segregating the topsoil, opening the trench, welding the pipe string together, laying the pipe, back filling the trench, and lastly, placing the segregated top soil back over top of the entire work area. This will result in the temporary disturbance of 2.207 acre of W400-PA. Of the 2.207 acres of impact, 1.501 acres of W400-PA will be permanently maintained as right-of-way over the pipeline. This will result in the permanent conversion of this area from a Palustrine Forested (PFO) wetland to a Palustrine Emergent (PEM) wetland. There is no loss of overall wetland acreage, just the conversion from one type of wetland to another. Columbia has proposed that the remaining 0.706 acres of wetland will be allowed to regenerate naturally

after being restored to preproject grade. Columbia does not propose any tree or shrub planting as part of the restoration of the 0.706 acres.

At this time geo-technical exploration has not been completed at W400-PA due to property access constraints. If geological conditions permit, the applicant proposes to install the section of pipeline under W400-PA utilizing Horizontal Directional Drill (HDD) technology obviating the need for a Section 404 permit under the Clean Water Act for this crossing.

The single and complete crossing of W400-PA is part of a larger pipeline loop (Loop 1278) that is 9.5 miles long. Loop 1278 is part of an overall Project consisting of Loop 1278 and Loop 10345 which consists of 9.6 miles of 20 inch gas pipeline in Gloucester County, New Jersey. Other wetland and waterway crossing along Loop 1278 will be authorized by Pennsylvania State Programmatic General Permit-4 and crossing of Section 10 waterways along Loop 10345 in New Jersey will be authorized by Nationwide Permit 12, Utility Line Activities.

The crossing of waters and wetlands within the state of New Jersey that are only subject to federal jurisdiction under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act are being permitted by the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP). This is because the State of New Jersey has assumed permitting authority for Section 404 of the Clean Water Act for all waters and wetlands that are wholly located 1,000 or more feet from a navigable water of the United States within the State of New Jersey.

**PURPOSE:** Columbia Gas Transmission, LLC has undertaken a looping project, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) Docket Number CP14-17-000, to increase capacity on Columbia's existing pipeline system by 312,000 dekatherms per day of firm transportation to service growing mid-Atlantic markets, including local distribution companies connected to Columbia's existing Hanover (Adams County, Pennsylvania) and West Deptford (Gloucester County, New Jersey) Laterals and power generation load growth on the West Deptford Lateral. Columbia has stated that the Project is supported by binding Precedent Agreements with contract terms ranging from 10 to 15 years from the Project in-service date.

Columbia and FERC, as the lead federal agency, are currently completing consultation under Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). Wetland W400-PA and two additional wetlands in PA are scheduled for Phase II bog turtle surveys during April and May of 2015. A final permit decision will not be rendered until the Corps of Engineers can insure compliance with Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act.

The decision whether to issue a permit will be based on an evaluation of the activity's probable impact including its cumulative impacts on the public interest. The decision will reflect the national concern for both protection and utilization of important resources. The benefits which reasonably may be expected to accrue from the work must be balanced against its reasonably foreseeable detriments. All factors which may be relevant to the work will be



considered including the cumulative effects thereof; among those are conservation, economics, aesthetics, general environmental concerns, wetlands, cultural values, fish and wildlife values, flood hazards, flood plain values, land use, navigation, shore erosion and accretion, recreation, water supply and conservation, water quality, energy needs, safety, food and fiber production, mineral needs and welfare of the people. A Department of the Army permit will be granted unless the District Engineer determines that it would be contrary to the public interest.

The Corps of Engineers is soliciting comments from the public; Federal, State, and local agencies and officials; Indian Tribes; and other interested parties in order to consider and evaluate the impacts of this proposed activity. Any comments received will be considered by the Corps of Engineers to determine whether to issue, modify, condition or deny a permit for this proposal. To make this decision, comments are used to assess impacts on endangered species, historic properties, water quality, general environmental effects, and the other public interest factors listed above. Comments are used in the preparation of an Environmental Assessment and/or an Environmental Impact Statement pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act. Comments are also used to determine the need for a public hearing and to determine the overall public interest of the proposed activity.

Comments on the proposed work should be submitted, in writing, within 30 days to the District Engineer, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Philadelphia District, Wanamaker Building, 100 Penn Square East, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19107-3390.

Columbia and FERC are currently finalizing the cultural resource reports for the project, including the crossing of wetland W400-PA. A final permit decision will not be rendered until the Corps of Engineers can insure compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act.

The Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, as amended by the Sustainable Fisheries Act 1996 (Public Law 104-267), requires all Federal agencies to consult with the National Marine Fisheries Service on all actions, or proposed actions, permitted, funded, or undertaken by the agency that may adversely effect Essential Fish Habitat (EFH). A preliminary assessment of the species listed in the "Guide to Essential Fish Habitat Designations in the Northeastern United States, Volume IV: New Jersey and Delaware", dated March 1999, indicates that the proposed project, crossing of wetland W400-PA, would have no effect on managed species. The August 2014 FERC EA states "According to correspondence received from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, National Marine Fisheries Service (NOAA Fisheries), the Project area does not support Essential Fish Habitat as defined under the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (Public Law 94-265 as amended through January 12, 2007)." For the purposes of the FERC EA the term "Project" refers to the overall project of both pipeline loops.

In accordance with Section 307(c) of the Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972, applicants for Federal Licenses or Permits to conduct an activity affecting land or water uses in a State's coastal zone must provide certification that the activity complies with the State's Coastal Zone Management Program. The crossing of wetland W400-PA is outside the PA Coastal Zone.

First Pennsylvania Resources (FPR) has prepared a compensatory mitigation plan on behalf of Columbia. As compensatory mitigation for the permanent conversion of 0.90 acre of PFO wetlands to PEM wetlands the mitigation plan will permanently protect 6.825 acres encompassing 3.65 acre of degraded PEM wetlands, 1.09 acre of riparian buffer, and 2.11 acre of adjacent uplands along an unnamed tributary to Marsh Creek. The 3.65 acre wetland will be maintained as a herbaceous wetland and protected in perpetuity. Marsh Creek is a tributary to the Brandywine Creek and is within the drainage area of many of the impacts from the Loop 1278 project, including the crossing of wetland W400-PA. The 3.65 acre wetland is currently a monoculture of reed canarygrass (*Phalaris arundinacea*) and has historically been impacted by agricultural activity. The mitigation plan indicates the reed canarygrass will be nearly eliminated and the wetland seeded and planted with appropriate native vegetation followed up by continuing invasive species management. A mix of large and small sized tree and shrub material will be planted in the uplands and riparian corridor. No in channel work is proposed for the stream.

In accordance with Section 401 of the Clean Water Act, a Water Quality Certificate is necessary from the State government in which the work is located. Any comments concerning the work described above which relate to Water Quality considerations should be sent to this office with a copy to the State.

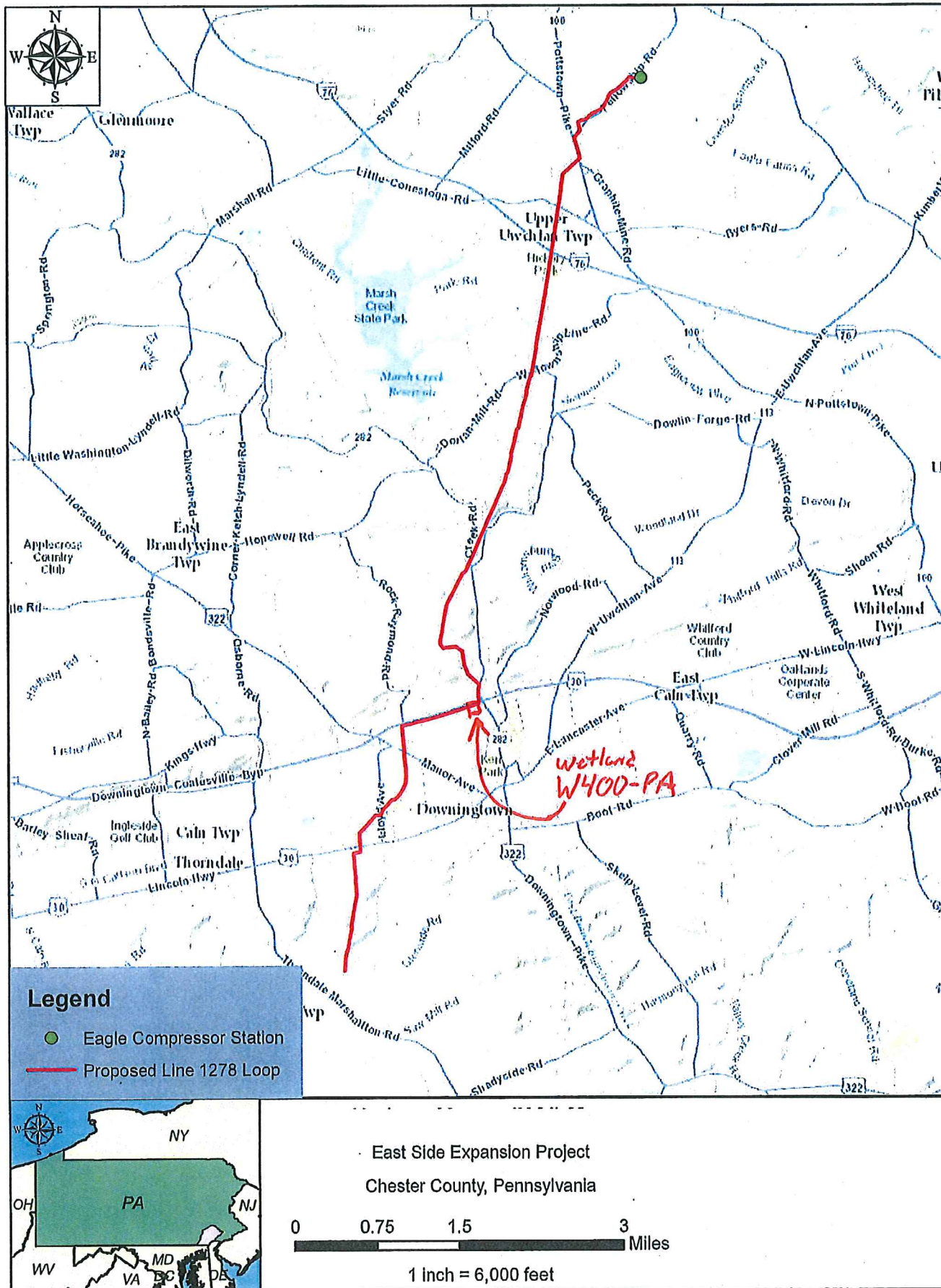
The evaluation of the impact of the work described above on the public interest will include application of the guidelines promulgated by the Administrator, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, under authority of Section 404(b) of the Clean Water Act.

Any person may request, in writing, to the District Engineer, within the comment period specified in this notice, that a public hearing be held to consider this application. Requests for a public hearing shall state in writing, with particularity, the reasons for holding a public hearing.

Additional information concerning this permit application may be obtained by calling Glenn Weitknecht at (267) 284-6563, via email at [Glenn.R.Weitknecht@usace.army.mil](mailto:Glenn.R.Weitknecht@usace.army.mil), or writing this office at the above address.

  
for Frank J. Cianfrani  
Chief, Regulatory Branch

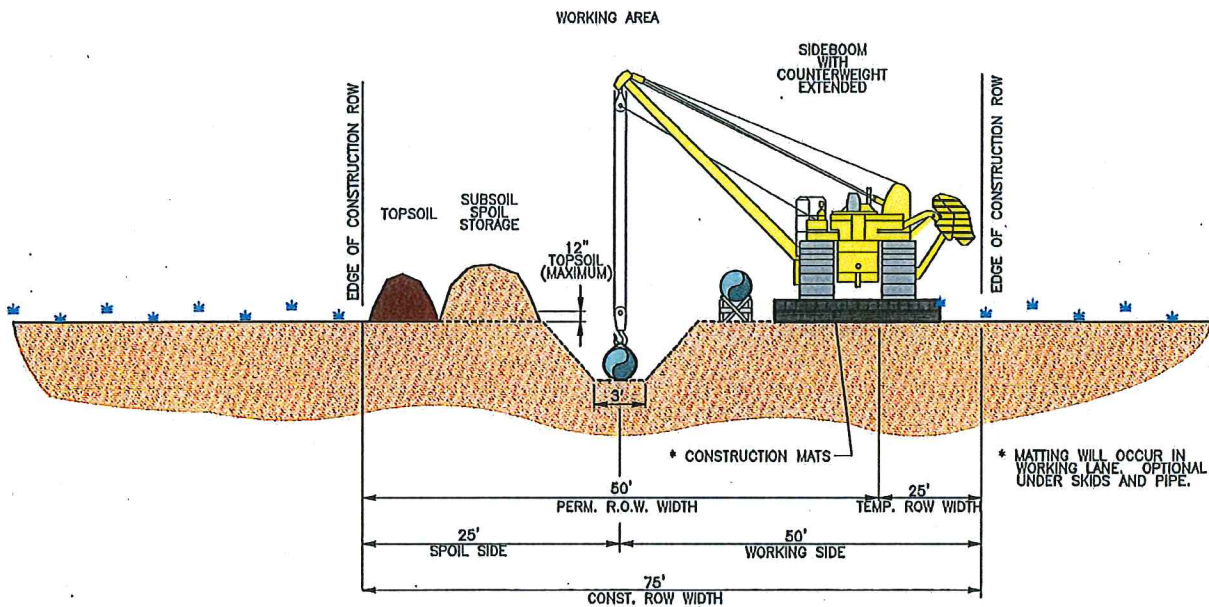






Crossing of Wetland W400~PA

[illegible]



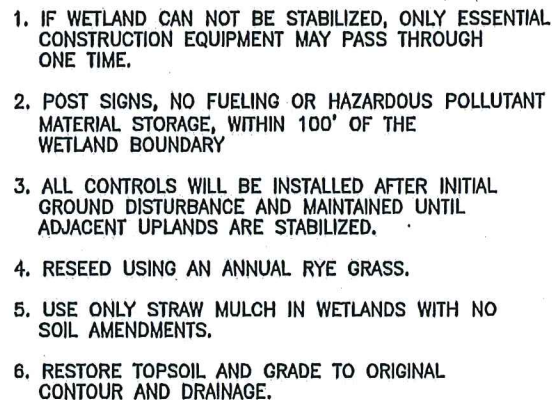
**NOTE:**

EXTRA DEPTH MAY BE REQUIRED FOR CONCRETE COATED PIPE OR WEIGHTS





SILT SOCK MAY BE PLACED IN WETLAND ALONG TOPSOIL STOCKPILE SIDE AS AUTHORIZED, IF SLOUGHY OR MUCKY SOILS ARE PRESENT.

|   |                 |      |          |  |  |  |  |
|---|-----------------|------|----------|--|--|--|--|
| <p align="center"><b>CERTIFICATE</b><br/>TO THE BEST OF MY KNOWLEDGE, ALL COMPONENTS OF THIS DRAWING ARE DESIGNED IN ACCORDANCE WITH APPLICABLE NOTES, GUIDELINES AND SPECIFICATIONS.</p> |                 |      |          | <p align="center"><b>FIELD SERVICES<br/>ENGINEERING SERVICES</b><br/>P.O. BOX 1173 CHARLESTON, WV 25305-1173<br/>1700 WOODBINE AVENUE SE, CHARLESTON, WV 25314</p> |  | <p align="center"><b>Columbia Gas<br/>Transmission</b><br/><i>A Harsco Company</i></p> |  |
| <p align="center">DESIGN ENGINEER<br/>ANY CHANGES TO THE DESIGN SHOWN ON THIS DRAWING MUST BE APPROVED BY THE DESIGN ENGINEER</p>   |                 |      |          | <p align="center"><b>EAST SIDE EXPANSION<br/>MAINLINE CONSTRUCTION<br/>STANDARD WETLAND RIGHT-OF-WAY</b></p>   |  |  |  |
| NO.   | REVISION        | APPD | DATE     | SCALE: <u>N.T.S.</u>   |  | DRAWING NUMBER   |  |
| △   |                 |      |          |  |  | TA-6711-8627   |  |
| △   |                 |      |          |  |  | ISSUE  |  |
| △   | ISSUED FOR FERC | JHE  | 10/18/13 |  |  | A  |  |





- 1.) INSTALL TRENCH PLUGS ON BOTH SIDES OF THE WETLAND. TEMPORARY WATERBARS SHALL BE INSTALLED ON SLOPES GREATER THAN 5 PERCENT WHERE THE BASE OF THE SLOPE IS LESS THAN 50 FEET FROM A WETLAND. REFER TO STANDARD CONSTRUCTION WATERBAR AND TRENCH PLUG DETAILS.
- 2.) PIPELINE SHOULD BE A MINIMUM OF 5' BELOW THE LOWEST POINT IN THE WETLAND.

|   |                 |              |             |   |  |  |  |   |              |
|---|-----------------|--------------|-------------|---|--|--|--|---|--------------|
| <p align="center"><b>CERTIFICATE</b></p> <p>TO THE BEST OF MY KNOWLEDGE, ALL COMPONENTS OF THIS DRAWING ARE DESIGNED IN ACCORDANCE WITH APPLICABLE NGT&amp;S GUIDELINES AND SPECIFICATIONS.</p> |                 |              |             | <p align="center"><b>FIELD SERVICES<br/>ENGINEERING SERVICES</b></p> <p align="center">P.O. BOX 1273 CHARLESTON, WV 25325-1273<br/>1700 MACCORRLE AVENUE SE, CHARLESTON, WV 25311</p> |  |  |  |  |              |
| <p align="center"><b>DESIGN ENGINEER</b></p> <p>ANY CHANGES TO THE DESIGN SHOWN ON THIS DRAWING MUST BE APPROVED BY THE DESIGN ENGINEER</p>   |                 |              |             | <p align="center"><b>EAST SIDE EXPANSION</b></p> <p align="center"><b>TYPICAL WETLAND CROSSING</b></p> <p align="center"><b>RIGHT-OF-WAY ONLY</b></p>                                 |  |  |  |   |              |
| <b>NO.</b>  | <b>REVISION</b> | <b>APP'D</b> | <b>DATE</b> |   |  |  |  | <b>SCALE:</b> <u>N.T.S.</u>   |              |
|    |                 |              |             |   |  |  |  |   |              |
|    |                 |              |             |   |  |  |  | <b>DRAWING NUMBER</b>   | <b>ISSUE</b> |
|    | ISSUED FOR FERC | JHE          | 10/18/13    |   |  |  |  | TA-6711-8630  | A            |



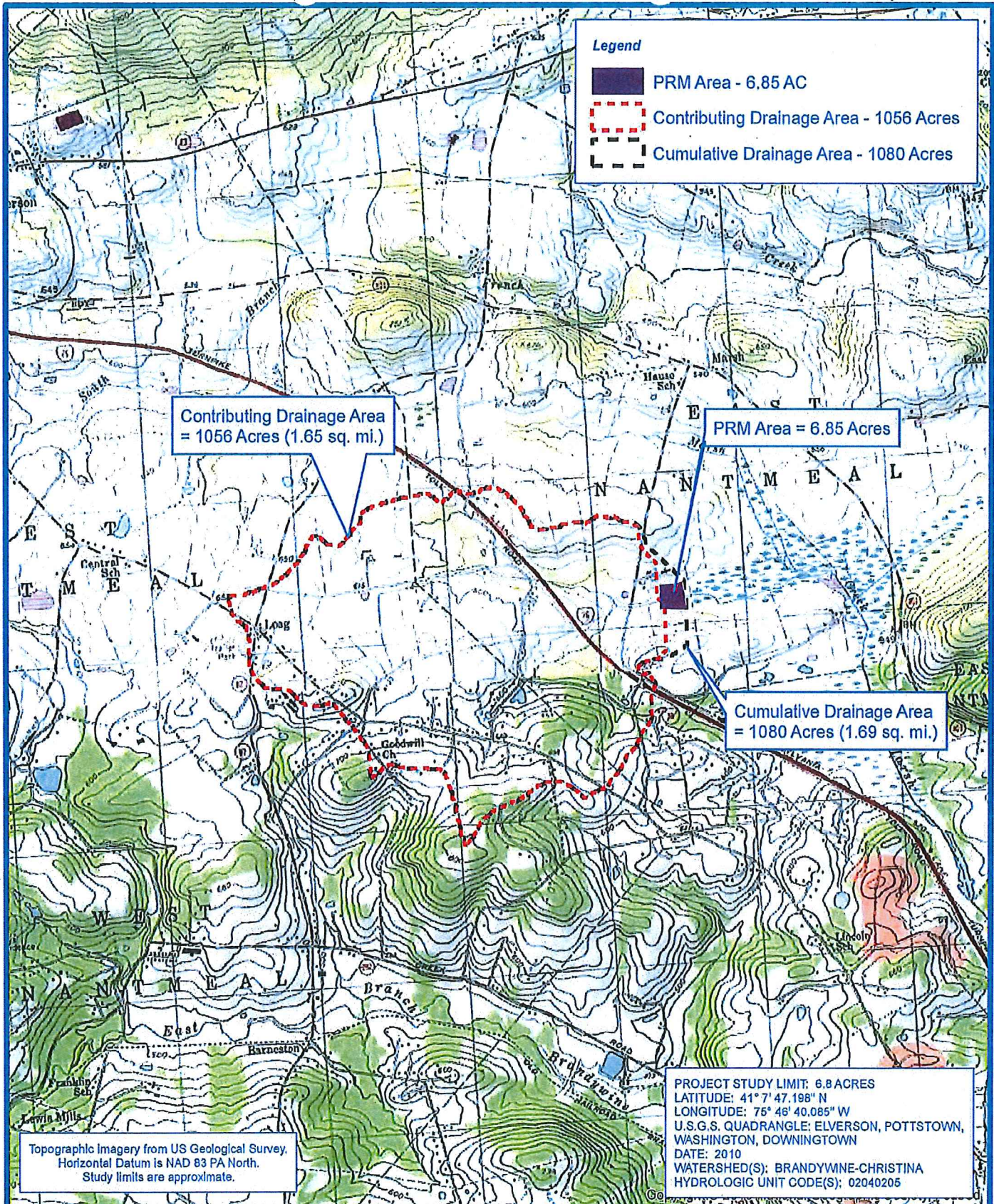


FIGURE 9  
PERMITEE RESPONSIBLE MITIGATION FOR THE  
EAST SIDE EXPANSION PROJECT  
DRAINAGE AREA MAP

CHESTER COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA





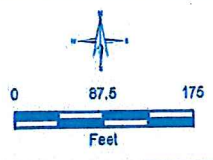


Proposed Mitigation Site  
 Lat 40.129215  
 Lon -75.780178

Imagery From ESRI Online.  
 Horizontal Datum Is NAD 83 PA North.  
 Study limits are approximate.

**Legend**

- Stream
- Project Limits - 6.85 AC
- Riparian Buffer Enhancement - 1.09 AC
- Upland Buffer - 2.11 AC
- Wetland Enhancement - 3.65 AC



**FIGURE 10**  
 PERMITEE RESPONSIBLE MITIGATION FOR THE  
 EAST SIDE EXPANSION PROJECT  
 RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT MAP  
 CHESTER COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA

