

FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20426

OFFICE OF ENERGY PROJECTS

In Reply Refer To:
OEP/DG2E/Gas Branch 4
Eastern Shore Natural Gas Company
Docket Nos. CP17-28-000

October 10, 2018

Mark Parker
Engineering Manager
Eastern Shore Natural Gas Company
1110 Forest Avenue, Suite 201
Dover, DE 19904

**Re: Variance Request Approval for Extended Hours of Construction at Amtrak
Horizontal Directional Drill on the Parkesburg Loop**

Dear Mr. Parker:

I grant your October 4, 2018 request, as supplemented on October 9, 2018, for Eastern Shore Natural Gas Company (Eastern Shore) to conduct a horizontal directional drill operation on a 24-hour basis, as part of the 2017 Expansion Project. As requested, Eastern Shore plans to conduct a horizontal directional drill operation at approximate Station 30+50 in order to drill the pipe in a northerly direction under the Southern and Amtrak railroad lines between Station 26+00 and Station 29+00. Amtrak is requiring that Eastern Shore undertake a continuous drilling operation for the 850-foot HDD segment beneath Amtrak's rail lines. As part of its request, Eastern Shore has committed to implementing noise and lighting mitigation measures to reduce impacts to neighboring residences.

Your request is in compliance with Environmental Condition 5 of the Commission's July 21, 2016 *Order Issuing Certificate* (Order) issued to Eastern Shore in the above-referenced docket. We have confirmed the receipt of all federal authorizations relevant to the approved activities herein. I remind you that Eastern Shore must comply with all applicable remaining terms and conditions of the Order. If you have any questions, please contact me at (202) 502-6590.

Sincerely,

Douglas Cotton
Environmental Project Manager
Office of Energy Projects