



# United States Department of the Interior



## FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

300 Westgate Center Drive  
Hadley, MA 01035-9589

June 26, 2017

### MEMORANDUM

**To:** Susquehanna River Coordinator, Mid-Atlantic Fish & Wildlife Conservation Office  
Attention: Sheila Eyler, Project Leader

**From:** Jesus Morales, Hydraulic Engineer, Fish Passage Engineering

**Subject:** Inspection of Fishways at Conowingo Hydroelectric Project (FERC #405) on April 27, 2017

A seasonal inspection of the fish passage facilities at the Conowingo Hydroelectric Project (Project) was performed at 9:00 am on Thursday, 04/27/2017. The Project is owned and operated by the Exelon Corporation (Exelon). The USFWS (Service) review team was led by Sheila Eyler and Richard McCorkle. Consultants from Normandeau Associates, Inc., and personnel from Pennsylvania Fish & Boat Commission, Maryland Department of Natural Resources, and NOAA-Fisheries were also present. On the day of the inspection the river flow was around 70,000 cfs.

Salient fish passage issues have been identified by the Service over the past few years in a number of annual fish passage inspection reports. During this year's site inspection, even though most major fish passage issues previously recorded continued to be persistent, no new or additional fish passage concerns were observed.

An agreement for future fish passage efforts intended to address Conowingo's existing fish passage issues was achieved and submitted to FERC on June 7, 2016. As part of the Phase-1 fish passage requirements agreed to in last year's settlement agreement, the Service is actively collaborating with Exelon and their consultants on the fish passage work that the licensee has agreed to do this year. This inspection memo presents some of the work and progress accomplished by the licensee and its consulting firms by the time of the site inspection.

#### **Data collection in the EFL:**

- Last year, in accordance with the settlement agreement, Exelon installed a number of water level data loggers within the East Fish Lift in order to measure and record actual hydraulic conditions within the fishway under a range of river flow conditions.
- These recorded measurements would be later used to develop rating curves for all the operating gates settings in the fishway, and to calibrate an internal CFD model of the lift. The results of the rating curves work was submitted to USFWS by Gomez and Sullivan engineers.



- A permanent eel ladder has been built and installed adjacent to the West Fish Lift on the west side of the Project's tailrace.

Thank you for the opportunity to participate in this review. For questions please contact Jesus at 413-253-8206.