

## **Environmental Assessment**

Environmental Article 14.104 and COMAR 26.19.01.06-C3 requires an environmental assessment to be provided along with each application to drill or operate a gas well in the State. The environmental assessment submitted to the Department will be coordinated with other State agencies including: the Department of the Environment, Department of Natural Resources, Maryland Geologic Survey & Maryland Historical Trust for comment.

The following is an outline of items to be addressed in the Environmental Assessment.

**Site Conditions-** Describe the existing site conditions for all areas to be affected by the drilling operations. (agricultural, wetlands, forest, open space, other). Please provide specific details on any proposed changes to the existing land use. Describe the existing land use of all adjacent parcels of land.

**Historical Landmarks-** Identify any historical landmarks that could potentially be affected by drilling operations, pipeline construction and access road creation. The Maryland Historical Trust (MHT) is a state agency dedicated to preserving and interpreting the legacy of Maryland's past. For assistance in obtaining historical & archeological landmark information visit MHT's website at <http://mht.maryland.gov/>

**Endangered Species-** Will the proposed drilling operation affect any threatened or endangered species? For information on rare and endangered species in Maryland please visit the Wildlife and Heritage Service Natural Heritage Program of the Department of Natural Resources website located <http://dnr.maryland.gov/wildlife/espaa.asp>

**Streams & Water bodies-** Will any new roads crossing existing streams need constructed? Where will frac water be obtained? Will any Tier 2 streams be impacted by drilling and fracing operations? For information about Tier 2 streams please visit the Department of the Environments website at;  
<http://www.mde.state.md.us/ResearchCenter/Data/waterQualityStandards/Antidegradation/index.asp>

**Noise Analysis-** Identify all noise sensitive areas including dwellings and non residential buildings. Describe the anticipated decibel levels created from drilling operations to the closest noise sensitive areas. Describe any measures to be implemented to control noise pollution. Describe the duration of time noise pollution may occur. List all potential noise sources (engines, pumps & compressors) associated with the drilling operation. Describe how decibel levels will be monitored.



**MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT**

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**Air Quality-** Will the drilling operation impact air quality. List and describe equipment used in drilling operation that releases emissions. What measures are used to control emissions?

**Transportation-** How will the drilling and fracing operations affect local roads and existing transportation systems? What time of day will trucks enter and exit the site? What are the weight restrictions of all bridges to be utilized? What is the estimated number of trips to be made to the site? (including frac water importation & disposal)

**Public Health & Safety-** Will the proposed drilling or production operation affect public health and safety?

