



Maryland Department of Planning
Maryland Historical Trust

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ORIGINAL
REGULATORY COMMISSION

December 18, 2007

Mr. Kenneth F. Litfin, Project Manager
HATCH
100 Sylvan Parkway
Amherst, NY 14228-1146

PF07-12-000

Re: Dominion Transmission, Inc.
Storage Factory Project -Middletown, Maryland Compressor Station
Frederick County, Maryland
Section 106 Review - FERC

Dear Mr. Litfin:

Thank you for your recent letter, dated December 3, 2007 and received by the Maryland Historical Trust (Trust) on December 7, 2007, initiating consultation with our office regarding the above-referenced project. We offer the following preliminary comments and recommendations regarding the project's historic preservation issues.

According to your submittal, the Maryland portion of the project entails construction of a new compressor station, located west of the Town of Middletown. The facility would occupy approximately 11 acres of the 135-acre parcel and would connect to Dominion Transmission's existing natural gas transmission pipeline, situated immediately east of the project area. Since the project will require approvals from the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC), it will be subject to review under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended. The Section 106 review process requires the involved federal agency to consider the effects of the proposed project on significant historic properties, including architectural and archeological resources. Part of the review process involves consultation between the agency (or its designee) and our office to identify and evaluate historic properties that may be affected by the project and to develop measures to avoid, reduce or mitigate any adverse effects on significant historic properties.

The Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties (MIHP) presently records numerous cultural resources, including several which are listed in or have been determined eligible for the National Register of Historic Places (National Register), located within and in the vicinity of the project area. Fox's Tavern (MIHP #F-4-028) is situated in the northwest corner of the property. The circa 1780s tavern was previously determined eligible for the National Register. The parcel also includes archeological site 18FR297, a prehistoric lithic scatter that has never been evaluated for its National Register eligibility. Other notable properties in the general vicinity include the Middletown Historic District and the South Mountain Battlefield. During project planning, the project sponsor will need to identify and evaluate historic and archeological properties within the project's area of potential effects, in consultation with the Trust.

For archeology, a Phase I survey of the project area is warranted, in order to identify and evaluate any archeological resources that may be impacted by the project. The survey should be performed by a qualified professional archeologist, and conducted in accordance with the *Standards and Guidelines for Archeological Investigations in Maryland* (Shaffer and Cole 1994). A copy of the draft survey report should be submitted to the Trust for review. Based upon the survey results, we will be able to determine whether or not the project will affect significant archeological resources and make appropriate

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recommendations regarding measures to avoid, reduce, or mitigate any effects. Copies of the Trust's Standards and Guidelines and a directory of consultants are available at www.marylandhistoricaltrust.net. We will be happy to provide further guidance and assistance regarding the archeological survey, if desired.

For historic buildings and landscapes, please provide the Trust with plans or a detailed description of the proposed compressor building and accessory structures, a list of the historic and potentially historic properties that may be directly or indirectly affected by the project, and an assessment as to whether or not the project will diminish the characteristics that make any of them eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. This assessment should be performed by a qualified architectural historian, preservationist, or historian as described in the *Standards and Guidelines for Architectural and Historical Investigations in Maryland*.

Further consultation with our office, and consideration of the project's potential effects on historic and archeological resources, will be necessary as project planning progresses for this undertaking, in order to satisfactorily complete the Section 106 requirements. We look forward to working with you and the other involved parties to address the project's historic preservation issues. If you have questions or require further assistance, please contact Jonathan Sager (for historic built environment) at 410-514-7636 / jsager@mdp.state.md.us or me (for archeology) at 410-514-7631 / hcole@mdp.state.md.us.

Thank you for providing us this opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,



Elizabeth J. Cole
Administrator, Project Review and Compliance

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