



## **Columbia Pipeline Group Files Commission Permit Application for Loudoun Compressor Station Improvements**

I wanted to inform you that on May 22nd, Columbia Pipeline Group filed a Commission Permit application with the County for improvements to its Loudoun Compressor Station as part of the "WB XPress Project". The application can be found [here](#).

The improvements include installation of pipeline control valves to be located inside two new acoustically insulated buildings. There will also be a third new building to house electric equipment. Please note that there is no increase in compression horsepower associated with this application. Additional information about this project can be found on Columbia's project website [here](#).

Columbia has applied to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) for a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity for construction, modification, operation, and maintenance of various facilities along its Line WB natural gas transmission pipeline system in West Virginia and Virginia. During the FERC Application process, applicants are encouraged to cooperate with state and local governments to address state or local aspects of a proposed project under FERC review. Please note that on a local level, Columbia has worked diligently to keep the surrounding community informed of its planned improvement. This community outreach has included an information session at the Greene Mill Preserve clubhouse

on April 19, along with meetings and additional communication with Green Mill Preserve residents.

To view the FERC application, click [here](#) and search "WB Xpress".

See below for additional information about Loudoun County Commission Permits, the Commission Permit process, and subsequent time frames.

### **What is a Commission Permit?**

A Commission Permit is used to verify that any proposed street, park, public area, public structure, public utility, public building or public service corporation (other than railroads), whether publicly or privately owned, is in keeping with the County's adopted Comprehensive Plan before it is constructed or established.

Once an application is accepted as an active case for processing, the Department of Planning and Zoning will assign a project manager. This person will serve as the point of contact and coordinator during the entire review of the application. The state mandated time line for review of a Commission Permit application is 60 days from the date the application is accepted.

At my request, county staff created the following outline of the Commission Permit process which includes standard and state required time frames:

### **Commission Permit Process and Estimated Time Frames**

Action	Time-Frame	Notes
Pre-application Meeting	Up to the applicant	Recommended prior to submitting the application.
Application Submittal	15 calendar days for staff to review for completeness (may go through more than one iteration)	If application is complete, a preliminary schedule is provided to the applicant unless such time shall be extended by the Board of Supervisors.
Staff Review/Referral	Up to 30 calendar days for staff to provide comments to the applicant regarding the proposal	Staff review is limited to evaluating whether the general location, character, and extent of the use are in substantial accordance with the Comprehensive Plan.
Applicant's Response to Staff's Referral Comments	Up to 15 calendar days for applicant to provide staff with responses	If applicant does not adequately address referrals comments, the application may be delayed until it is deemed ready to move forward.

Planning Commission Public Hearing	Approximately 30 calendar days after applicant response to staff's referral comments	Public notice is the same as that required for a rezoning or special exception.
Planning Commission's Decision on Commission Permit	Up to 60 calendar days to act upon the Commission Permit	Following the hearing, the Commission can approve/deny or forward to a Planning Commission Work Session. Failure of the Commission to act in 60 days is deemed approval of the Commission Permit.
Board Action	Up to 60 calendar days after the date of the Planning Commission's action on the Commission Permit	Board can ratify or overrule the Planning Commission's decision using same evaluation on whether the general location, character, and extent of the use are in substantial accordance with the Comprehensive Plan.

For additional information on this application, the Department of Planning and Zoning can be reached at: [dpz@loudoun.gov](mailto:dpz@loudoun.gov) or 703-777-0246.

As always, I will continue to keep you informed as updates become available.

All my best,



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