

# Mountain Gathering, LLC

## BUCKEYE COMPRESSOR STATION TO MONROE NORTH METER SITE NATURAL GAS PIPELINE

York and Switzerland Townships,  
Belmont and Monroe Counties, Ohio

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### APPLICATION FOR SECTION 401 WATER QUALITY CERTIFICATION

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## **PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

Mountain Gathering, LLC, proposes to install a 20-inch-diameter permanent gas pipeline identified as the Buckeye Compressor Station to Monroe North Meter Site Natural Gas Pipeline. The final pipeline route will be approximately 19,300 linear feet in length. This natural gas pipeline will be installed to convey natural gas from the Buckeye Compressor Station in York Township, Belmont County, to the Monroe North Meter Site in Switzerland Township, Monroe County. A Topographic Location Map for the complete alignment is provided in **Appendix VI, Attachment A**.

This project will convey natural gas from the Buckeye Compressor Station, which will collect natural gas from several well pads upon the completion of construction in late 2014, in Belmont County to market at the Monroe North Meter Site in Monroe County. The proposed alignment will impact seven (7) wetlands and six (6) streams, which have been described within a Pre-Construction Notification (PCN) submitted for 404 USACE approval on June 13, 2014 (see **Appendix VIII**). Construction is scheduled for fall 2014, but will not proceed until all permit approvals have been received.

Three (3) of the streams discussed in the PCN require 401 Water Quality Certification (WQC); these streams are described below and within this 401 WQC package. Additional surface water feature details can be found in the Wetland Delineation Report included as part of the PCN in **Appendix VIII**.

Stream 4 is a perennial watercourse that serves as a tributary to Porters Run, which connects to Captina Creek and ultimately to the Ohio River. Stream 4 is about 8 feet wide, has variable banks about 1 to 2 feet high, and has a stream bottom consisting of cobble, gravel, and silt. The riparian areas on both sides of the stream are wide and support immature forest, shrub, or old field. Stream 4 received a Primary Headwater Habitat Evaluation Index (HHEI) score of 42, designating it with a rating of Rheocrene Perennial. This classification warranted macroinvertebrate evaluation by a Level 3 Qualified Data Collector; the macroinvertebrate data indicated Stream 4 was Class IIIA. See the HHEI form and macroinvertebrate datasheets in **Appendix III, Attachment A**.

Stream 8 (Bearallow Run) is a perennial watercourse that serves as a tributary to Big Run (WWH), which connects to the Ohio River. Stream 8 is about 8 feet wide, has variable banks about 2 to 4 feet high, and has a stream bottom consisting of cobble, gravel, and silt. The riparian areas on both sides of the stream are wide, steep, and support mature forest. Stream 8 received a Primary HHEI score of 65, designating it with a rating of Class III Perennial. This classification warranted macroinvertebrate evaluation by a Level 3 Qualified Data Collector; the macroinvertebrate data indicated Stream 8 was Class IIIB. See the HHEI form and macroinvertebrate datasheets in **Appendix III, Attachment B**.

Stream 12 is a perennial watercourse that serves as a tributary to Big Run, which connects to Captina Creek and ultimately to the Ohio River. Stream 12 is about 6 feet wide, has variable banks about 6 inches to 2 feet high, and has a stream bottom consisting of cobble, gravel, and silt. The riparian areas on both sides of the stream are wide and support mature forest. Stream 12 received a Primary HHEI score of 42, designating it with a rating of Rheocrene Perennial. This classification warranted macroinvertebrate

evaluation by a Level 3 Qualified Data Collector; the macroinvertebrate data indicated Stream 12 was Class IIIA. See the HHEI form and macroinvertebrate datasheets in **Appendix III, Attachment C**.

**Avoidance**

Mountain Gathering, LLC, considered several possible routes between the Buckeye Compressor Station and the Monroe North Meter Site for this project. Route choice is limited by the topography in the area, property access constraints, and surface water impacts. The nature of linear construction projects limits the ability to avoid crossing streams that occur in an area.

Best management practices will be implemented at each surface water crossing and every effort will be made to reduce the impact to water quality. These efforts for Streams 4, 8, and 12 are discussed in detail within the Alternatives Analysis included in **Appendix V**.

**Minimization**

Mountain Gathering, LLC, is dedicated to minimizing impacts to water quality. Standard construction practices involves the installation of best management practices and commitment to minimally impact water quality at each surface water feature encountered. The Alternatives Analysis in **Appendix V** describes these efforts in detail.