

**EAST GOSHEN TOWNSHIP
PIPELINE TASK FORCE MEETING
1580 PAOLI PIKE
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 20, 2018
FINAL MINUTES**

Present: Members: Judi DiFonzo, Caroline Hughes, Russ Frank, Karen Miller, Bill Wegemann; David Shuey, Liaison and Township Supervisor; Mike Lynch, Township Supervisor; Rick Smith, Township Manager; Frank Sullivan, Don Herb and Kevin Heym – Emergency Hazmat Unit; Bill Turner, Emergency Services; Kevin Miller, EGT Emergency Management Coordinator.

Call to Order & Pledge of Allegiance

David called the meeting to order at 5:03 p.m. and led the pledge of allegiance. David is serving as the facilitator of the Pipeline meetings until a chairperson/vice chairperson is elected.

Moment of Silence

David called for a moment of silence for firefighters and first responders.

Recording

No one was recording the meeting.

Approval of Minutes

Russ made a motion to approve the minutes of the November 27, 2018 meeting as amended. Bill seconded. The motion passed 5-0.

Chairman's Report

None.

New Business

a. **Presentation/Discussion regarding Pipelines**

David welcomed the various members from the Chester County Department of the Emergency Services. He explained that the Pipeline Taskforce is challenged with how to help residents and help Emergency Services (ES) in relation to pipeline safety. The Taskforce compiled a list of questions to address this.

Caroline asked what can be shared with us regarding about how ES would respond in case of a suspected pipeline leak scenario.

- Frank explained that the daily efforts of ES concentrate on public safety. If an emergency occurs, the calls are dispatched simultaneously to the police, fire department and County Hazmat Unit. In addition the pipeline company would be notified as well.

Caroline asked if ES has hydrocarbon gas detectors.

- Don explained the Hazmat Unit and the fire departments have a 4 gas monitors. This equipment can detect: 1) flammability 2) oxygen 3) carbon monoxide 4) hydrogen sulfide.

David questioned how often law enforcement personnel attend training? For example; Do WEGO officers know not to drive into the fumes?

- Frank stated that back in May, approximately six law enforcement officers attended the training and this is typical of all training sessions. He further explained that when 911 receive an emergency call, there is communication from the call center; the police, who are typically the first to arrive at the scene, conduct a primary assessment and report back to the call center.

David questioned how ES communicates with the pipeline company during an Emergency?

- Frank explained that when a call comes into 911, they notify the appropriate pipeline communication center. The pipeline company will initially send a field tech out who is familiar with the pipeline in this area and then send in more senior personnel as needed.
- Don continued that the communication is face-to-face at the command level.
- Bill T. explained that the first priority in responding to an emergency is life safety, not stopping the leak.

David stated that the Taskforce needs to be able to advise the community on how to recognize a leak. In a past incident, a resident struggled to receive answers in a timely matter because she did not contact 911. There is also concern with Wellington due to the close proximity of the Sunoco pipeline. Can the County provide assistance?

- Frank stated that a past tabletop exercise addressed and focused on a potential leak north of Wellington. The County has a Design Team that will work with the operator of a specific facility to develop an emergency operations plan. Once the plan is developed, they will choose a scenario and conduct a table top exercise to see if the plan is appropriate. These exercises are then reviewed; strengths and weaknesses are noted and the plan is modified as needed.

David questioned what residents and management at Wellington know about evacuation vs shelter in place.

- Frank stated that Wellington is working with ES on their plan.

Mike questioned if East Goshen could have a tabletop exercise focusing on Wellington?

- Don stated that the request should be sent to Bill T.
- Bill T. stated that there are planning steps that would need to complete first; but it would only take a couple of months to conduct the tabletop exercise.

David question if County can help the Taskforce improve communications? E.g. the need to inform parents to stay away if there is an incident at a school.

- Frank explained that the schools have Emergency Operations Plan that address this issue and that they already are working with ES.

Bill W. asked how we educate the general public. E.g. do not use cell phone due to the ignition hazard. Is the “ignition issue” included in the tabletop exercise?

- Frank explained that the recent tabletop included site evacuations and hospital influx. Don explained that the tabletop exercise sponsor controls what is covered in the exercise.

Bill W. stated Sunoco has completed their risk assessment. This is not given to the public; but wanted to know if ES has it?

- Bill T. stated that the risk assessment is part of Sunoco’s Integrity Management Plan. ES has had an opportunity to review the risk assessment which includes the modeling and distancing information for various types of incidents.

Mike L. asked if ES obtain any insights or made any change to their protocol based on this review.

- Bill T. stated that their review did not cause any changes to their emergency plans. He continued that whenever a pipeline company provides information, ES will in turn incorporate it into their plans as needed.
- Don added that pipelines are not new to the County. The ES staff has been trained on what to do in the event of a pipeline emergency.

Caroline asked about how the evacuation process is conducted. Especially if the leak is an NGL; ES personnel should not enter the area if there is a vapor cloud.

- Don stated that the ES response is no different for this type of situation. He reiterated that life safety is always the top priority.
- Frank added that the air quality is monitored on the perimeter of the site and that situational awareness starts at dispatch.

Caroline expressed concern that one cannot tell where the vapor clouds are and ES personnel could potentially drive into the area and ignite the cloud. Cell phones may also cause ignition.

- Frank explained that they have designated call zones: hot, warm & cold – which is all documented in their ES guide book to which they refer.
- Bill T. added that County gives the local fire department the call and relevant information. How they address the situation and move forward is determined by the incident commander on the scene.
- Kevin H. noted and explained that the meters and radios ES carries are “intrinsically safe”. This means that they will not cause an ignition.
- Bill T. noted that there is no documentation and/or scientific evidence that support cell phones igniting a vapor cloud.

Bill W. asked that since methyl mercaptan will not be added to the NGL products in the Sunoco pipelines, what advice can you give residents to identify a leak?

- Don explained that if trees, bushes and other vegetation are dead in an area, this could indicate a leak. He continued that there are so many variables and it is difficult to instruct the public to follow “steps 1, 2, 3, 4” etc. Each situation is different.

David asked Kevin Miller if the EGT Emergency Plan includes the ES county plan or is it different.

- Kevin M. explained that they do indeed use the county plan and also have specific items for local situations. He also stated that each facility is required to have its own all hazard plan which has been adapted to their specific facility. He continued that Wellington needs an evacuation plan for its facility. It does not matter why they need to evacuate, they just need a plan on how to move out the residents in the event of an emergency.

Caroline stated that if an NGL leak occurs and does not ignite, the vapor cloud will continue to grow quickly. How is an evacuation handled?

- Frank stated that health care facilities and schools must have plans in place already. The initial decision on whether to shelter in place or move out is up to leadership of the facility. This decision is then coordinated with the incident commander.
- Frank stated that it is up to school leadership to have evacuation plan.
- Kevin M., who is also the Exton Fire Chief, explained that in West Whiteland a representative from the fire company has met with the school leadership to review this issue and establish a relationship.

Judi stated that schools may be prepared but asked if the schools are preparing the parents? She suggested that parents need a checklist on what to do.

- Frank said that Dr. Scanlon and the WCASD have tried to educate parents by holding meetings on pipeline emergencies.
- Mike suggested that Judi contact Dr. Scanlon suggesting this checklist.

Mike asked the ES staff what gas monitoring devices are available to homeowners and also if larger industrial units are available.

- Don stated that for homes there is a methane only detector. Some industries have installed meters at their fence line, but the monitoring is limited to their property. The Downingtown School District is considering purchasing an infrared camera to be placed at a pipeline valve site adjacent to one of their school.

Bill W. asked where the Sunoco Pipeline Control Center is located.

- Frank stated the control center is in Houston, Texas and it monitors the pipelines 24x7x365. If an incident is identified, the Control Center calls 911 who then dispatch the Chester County Hazmat Team, fire department and police. Personnel from Sunoco will also be dispatched to the scene.

David asked if Sunoco has distinct and enhanced procedures for a High Consequence Areas, such as East Goshen Township, versus low consequence areas (rural PA).

- Bill T. stated he was not able to answer that question. He continued that the Protected Critical Infrastructure Information Program (PCII) from Homeland Security states that Sunoco could share their procedures but the challenge is to get Sunoco to agree to share that information.

Caroline asked in case of a vapor cloud; who calculates and determines the entry point into the area. Delayed detection vs early detection will determine how big vapor cloud becomes.

- Don explained that due to the many variables, the units dispatched at the time of the incident will make that call. It is a “game day decision.”

Bill W. asked if ES has received the Emergency Response Plan from Sunoco.

- Bill T. stated that they have asked Sunoco for a copy of their Emergency Response Plan but did not receive. They were told they need to go to the Marcus Hook location and review it there. He continued that when ES asked Enterprise for a copy of their Emergency Response Plan, they received it the next day.

David Shuey asked the ES if there was anything they feel we didn’t ask and that we should.

- Frank stated that this open communication is very good. We could include all parties next time, law enforcement, fire and ES. He continued that we need to consistently ask residents to sign up for Ready Chesco and Smart 911. And the Township could publish a section in newsletter on how to recognize a leak and they can continue to promote the 811 procedure (Pa One Call), since many leaks are caused by improper digging.

David extended an open invitation to ES and for them to ask us whenever they have anything we can do to help residents or help them.

The Task Force thanked Frank, Kevin H. Don, Bill T. and Kevin M. for their efforts keeping East Goshen residents safe.

Select Regular Meeting Dates:

It was agreed that the next meeting will be January 24. It will be advertised that the regular taskforce meetings will be the 4th Thursday of the month and workshops on the 3rd Thursday as needed. Rick invited all to the January 12 annual planning meeting at 8:00.

Old Business

David suggested that given the time the Task Force would defer the other items on the agenda to the next meeting and asked if the Task Force members had any other comments or questions.

Bill W. asked Rick on the status of the Bow Tree/Matlack HDD. Rick stated that Sunoco has received approval from PA DEP to re-start but has not started working yet.

Bill W. stated that the Listen and Learn with Dr. Steinbraber on December 11 went well. Dr. Steinbraber answered questions until 10 pm. East Goshen's pipeline efforts are gaining national exposure on her social media pages.

Caroline gave an update on the petition filed by six other residents and herself that was the subject of a hearing on 11/29 & 11/30. The Emergency Petition was denied. The hearing on the Complaint will be held at a later date.

Caroline stated that Sunoco tried to utilize the PUC letter that was sent to school district superintends stating the ME1 pipe was safe. The PUC Bureau of Investigation and Enforcement has filed a formal complaint against Sunoco as a result of the Morgantown leak.

Caroline also reported that in the last 2 weeks alone, 6 workers were injured and one was killed while working on the Sunoco Mariner project.

Action Items and Items for next meeting

- a. Rick will send Bill W. copy of the email he sent to FERC about the Adelphia project.
- b. David stated that the Task Force needs to compile what we have learned and devise a plan.
- c. Consider recommendation for an addition valve
- d. Consider recommendation regarding the IMP.
- e. Consider recommendation on confidential information.

Public Comment

No public comment.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:25 pm.

The next meeting is Thursday, January 17, 2019 at 5:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan D'Amore