

**PIPELINE TASK FORCE MEETING
THURSDAY, MAY 28, 2020
FINAL MINUTES**

Members Present:

Caroline Hughes, Chair; Bill Wegemann, Vice Chair; Members: Judi DiFonzo; Christina Morley, Gerry Sexton

Others Present

David Shuey, Liaison, Township Supervisor; Rick Smith, Township Manager, Josh Maxwell, Chester County Commissioner; Eve Miari, Clean Air Council; Melissa DiBernardino, Russ Frank, Dianna Masha

COMMON ACRONYMS:

<i>BOS</i>	<i>Board of Supervisors</i>
<i>CCATO</i>	<i>Chester County Association of Township Officials</i>
<i>DEP</i>	<i>Department of Environmental Protection</i>
<i>EGT</i>	<i>East Goshen Township</i>
<i>EGSEA</i>	<i>East Goshen Safety and Environmental Advocates</i>
<i>HDD</i>	<i>Horizontal Directional Drilling</i>
<i>IR</i>	<i>Inadvertent Return</i>
<i>ME1</i>	<i>Mariner East 1</i>
<i>ME2</i>	<i>Mariner East 2</i>
<i>PHMSA</i>	<i>Pipeline Hazard Materials and Safety Administration</i>
<i>PUC</i>	<i>Public Utility Commission</i>
<i>TF</i>	<i>Task Force</i>

Call to Order & Pledge of Allegiance

Caroline called the meeting to order at 5:01 p.m. and Christina led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Moment of Silence

Caroline called for a moment of silence to honor our first responders, those that have fallen in service and those fighting this pandemic.

Recording

Susan reported that she was recording to the cloud.

Chairperson Report

Caroline outlined the topics for discussion:

- 2 recent announcements:
 - o Sunoco's announcement that the 16-inch line is now active.
 - o PennEast has teamed up with Adelphia.
- A Rolling Stone Article regarding how a local municipality in Pennsylvania was able to get the DEP to revoke a permit for an injection well. She stated that an opportunity for a joint effort could now exist for the Township's Pipeline TF and Sustainability Advisory Committee.

- State Impact Article regarding how the Revolution pipeline explosion in Beaver County resulted in a huge fine for Energy Transfer. DEP has also uncovered hundreds of new violations.
- PUC Press Release regarding a new settlement in Morgantown and an open comment period.

Adelphia/PennEast

Caroline introduced Eve Miari from the Clean Air Council to discuss the Adelphia/PennEast Topic. She stated that there are residents in East Goshen with easement agreements with Adelphia that could be impacted.

Eve provided background on the PennEast project explaining that it was to start in the Poconos and head east into New Jersey (NJ). However, the NJ DEP rejected the application and PennEast cannot move forward with their original plan. PennEast has proposed a modification that would interconnect with Adelphia.

David asked if methane gas will still be transferred and if there are any new pipes being introduced.

Eve confirmed that it is methane and that she is not aware of any changes to Adelphia. She added that PennEast is a new 36-inch pipeline – compared to Adelphia which is 18 inches. She continued that the pipelines are to interconnect east of Bethlehem.

David stated that EGT's easement only permits the exiting 20-inch pipe; no new pipes can be added, and the contents are restricted to methane.

Eve stated that there is a possibility that if the New Jersey pipeline is null/void, PennEast may look to expand the Adelphia pipeline. The group discussed the pressure of the 2 pipelines and their different sizes and valve stations.

Eve stated that the communities in North Eastern PA have been actively against the PennEast pipeline for the last 5 years. They have signed municipal and county resolutions of concern. She continued that these communities could use support from those that live along Adelphia. She stated that the council is trying to educate the surrounding community.

Eve explained the permits were denied to PennEast in NJ. There is a lot of conservation and preserved land in this area. These townships banded together and would not sign the easement agreements. They also signed resolutions of concern. These actions caused the permit to be blocked.

Christina raised the question if townships and counties should issue resolutions opposing PennEast connecting to Adelphia. Eve stated that there is no formal DEP public comment period. However, the council has sent comments to DEP anyway. She encouraged the Township to send comments if they have concerns.

David explained that the Township's current perspective with Adelpia is that there are no new excavation plans. The Township has the valve station on Paoli Pike that will be converted to blowdown. Before the BOS can sign a resolution, they will need to know what will change to the existing pipeline.

The group discussed the environmental concerns that pipelines have on the environment and the number of blowdowns in Chester County.

Commissioner Maxwell explained that an energy committee for the county held their first meeting today (5/28/20). They will be the conduit for environmental policy for county discussion including how environmental ordinances could help in making things more difficult for the pipeline industry. Caroline asked Commissioner Maxwell if the EGT Pipeline TF could help the County task force. He stated that he would check with them.

Eve concluded by telling the group to let her know if the Council can help in any way e.g. DEP comments / township ordinances.

Rick stated that if PennEast and Adelpia proposed any changes to the DEP, the Township would have been notified.

David stated he has the following questions:

1. Any new construction or integrity issues
2. What is the impact on EGT's valve station
3. What capacity changes are being proposed and what is the volume and the pressure of existing proposals

Caroline made a motion recommending that the BOS send a letter to DEP for clarification regarding the proposal between PennEast and Adelpia. Bill seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. Rick asked that additional questions be forwarded to him, and he will draft the letter for the June 9th agenda.

Public Comment

Russ Frank asked if the pipeline easement was written for only natural gas. Eve answered that they include liquid petroleum and oil. Russ said he believes that hydrocarbon and gasses are also included. He added that he believes Adelpia will be supplying power to Liberty Power Company in Essington.

Diana Masha explained that Adelpia dissects her back yard. She asked what changes will come of the PennEast /Adelpia project.

Melissa DiBernardino asked if there was an update on Boot Road by Paoli Pike. She reported that there are divots and it seems to be deteriorating.

Reports

Current Pipeline Events Impacting East Goshen

Rick reported that the 16-inch line is now operational between West Whiteland Township and Middletown Township.

Bill asked if there was product running presently? Rick answered yes and stated that the new pipeline is connected to the existing pipeline.

Melissa Bernardino asked if the 12-inch line is no longer needed. Rick clarified that the 12-inch line is still in operation in Uwchlan and Upper Uwchlan but not in East Goshen. Rick will get further clarity on what is happening with the 12-inch pipeline in East Goshen.

Bill expressed concerned that they are actively drilling next to a line that is running product.

Caroline commented that the information sent out by the township needs to be directed to the average resident. She asked how the Pipeline TF can help. Rick stated that the website will be updated, a map will be added along with a link for safety information.

Bill asked when will Sunoco be finished. Rick stated that the longest part that is left is from Bow Tree to Saints Simon and Jude Church; and that will be complete by January 2021.

Christina stated that she hopes her Right-To-Know request is rescheduled so she can review the Bow Tree documents.

Easement Renewals

Caroline indicated that residents in EGT are currently undergoing easement renewals at this time. These agreements are not on the same timeline. There was discussion what, if anything, the Township can do for owners who have issues. Rick stated that they need to seek legal advice.

PUC Press Release

Caroline explained that there is another comment period with the PUC and Sunoco on the Morgantown leak and the life study of ME1. Since this period is a 10-day window, a recommendation to the BOS could not be made. It was suggested that members submit their own comments. Caroline will send a link to the press release to the group.

Legislative Update

Bill stated that he has emailed the offices of Representative Carolyn Committa, Senators Andy Dinniman and Tom Killion asking for any updates to share for this meeting. Bill reported that Rep. Committa informed him that she was in contact with Joe McGinn and that Joe would contact Bill directly. Shannon Royer from Rep. Killion's office informed Bill that Rep Killion provided testimony to PUC in reference to the Flynn vs. PUC Sunoco complaint back in January. Killion's Pipeline Safety Bill remains to be approved by the senate. This bill would have passed earlier if not for the pandemic. That would have been the first one to have passed. Their office is closely monitoring the progress by the PUC and safety rulemaking process.

David asked if there is an update on PUC rulemaking. Rick explained that this process takes a while.

Old Business

PHMSA comment update

Due to COVID-19, the BOS did not meet to submit public comment to PHMSA regarding their proposal to its regulations concerning natural gas and hazardous liquid pipelines. Caroline reported that, at Gerry's suggestion, she submitted the comments on behalf of the EGT Pipeline TF.

Gerry reported that he could not find Caroline's comments online.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes from March 12, 2020, were unanimously approved.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

The next meeting is Thursday, June 25, 2020, at 5:00 pm via Zoom

Respectfully submitted,
Susan D'Amore

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