

**PIPELINE TASK FORCE MEETING
THURSDAY, September 24, 2020
TELE CONFERENCE
DRAFT MINUTES**

Members Present:

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

Others Present

David Shuey, Township Supervisor; Rick Smith, Township Manager; State Senator Katie Muth, Don Vymazal, Chief of Staff

COMMON ACRONYMS:

<i>ACOE</i>	<i>Army Core of Engineers</i>
<i>BI&E</i>	<i>Bureau of Investigation and Enforcement</i>
<i>BOS</i>	<i>Board of Supervisors</i>
<i>CCATO</i>	<i>Chester County Association of Township Officials</i>
<i>DCNR</i>	<i>Department of Conservation and Natural Resources</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>ET</i>	<i>Energy Transfer Company</i>
<i>FOI</i>	<i>Freedom of Information</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 6:30 p.m. Bill led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Moment of Silence

Caroline called for a moment of silence for those lost in the service, first responders, health care workers and those battling COVID.

Recording

The meeting is automatically recorded to the cloud via Zoom meeting settings.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes from September 3, 2020, were unanimously approved.

Chairperson Report

Caroline reported that there was a natural gas pipeline explosion in Lake Worth Florida on 9/24. This accident was located near the turnpike and caused nearby residents and a school to shelter in place.

Caroline reported that due to the Marsh Creek spill, DEP ordered the rerouting of the ME2 pipeline. This order will create a new group of easement owners. She explained that it would be good to empower and educate these easement owners. She asked if TF members reach out to easement owners in EGT to see if anyone would share their personal experience and knowledge.

Caroline reported that the PA DEP approved the Adelpia permits. PennEast has not yet been granted their permits. The NJ DEP declined the PennEast project permits.

Caroline noted the PUC hearings on the Safety Seven case will be held from September 29 to October 9 and again on October 13 to 14. She expressed disappointment that Senator Killion has retracted his intervention to the case. Bill also stated he was surprised and disappointed of this retraction.

In regard to the Baker's Case again Sunoco in Cumberland County, David reported that the PUC ordered Sunoco to hold a public outreach meeting with the constituents and emergency services.

Public Comment

Senator Katie Muth thanked the TF for all for their work. She explained that she and Representative Otten have requested weekly calls with the DEP regarding the Marsh Creek incident. Some other participants are DCNR, Fish and Boat, Chester County Health Department, Conservation District, Chester County Commissioners, the PUC, DCNR and Representative Comitta.

Christina explained that the ACOE receives copies of any notice of violations issued. She continued that significant changes such as switching to open trench and crossing over waterways could affect Sunoco's permits. An FOI is needed to access the ACOE permits. Don agreed to investigate the FOI and reach the ACOE to get copies of permit and correspondence.

Bill noted that ET has not yet appealed the reroute within the 30 days allotted. David asked if the reroute was part of the recent approval to use open trench to which Senator Muth replied that it is not.

There was discussion about ET delisting 3 stocks and the affects this would have on the Public-School Employees Retirement (PSERS).

Senator Muth explained that she had requested a public hearing be held prior to the reroute at Marsh Creek and currently still wants to have a public hearing. Caroline thanked Senator for asking for a public hearing and said that these hearings have been beneficial in the past.

David stated that the open trench method poses a risk because the pipeline that is carrying NGLs is positioned 4 feet from the surface; therefore, it can be easily struck by a utility or contractor.

Caroline stated that there has not been an update from the PA Attorney General's office regarding the ongoing pipeline investigation.

Bill expressed frustration that for the last 6 years no safety-related pipeline bills have been passed or reached the governor. He explained that HB 2293 regarding Emergency Response Plans finally passed the house and went to the senate. He questioned if there was a possibility this could be voted on in the senate before the next election. If the Senate does not act on HB 2293 by the end of the current session, the bill will die and will have to be reintroduced in the next session.

David mentioned that the Exxon mobile cracker plant exploration may include a site in Philadelphia. If this transpires, this could impact this area with demand for new supply lines.

Current Pipeline Events Impacting East Goshen

Christina explained that Pennoni originally documented the Hershey Mill Village Square Shopping Center easement as a wooded area. Pennoni later corrected the documents to state it is a non-wooded area. She expressed concern that the trees were removed and will not be replaced by Sunoco. David added that easement agreements prohibit the landowner from planting trees so that Sunoco can conduct arial observation. She questioned repercussions the Township will have over Sunoco if this refurbished easement causes flooding on Boot Road.

In response to these questions, Rick explained that Sunoco is responsible for regrading and restoring the easement and cannot change the stormwater management. He noted that this easement has been condemned. Rick continued that for the permit conditions to be met by Sunoco, the socks will remain until the grass is fully established. If erosion became an issue after the socks are removed, the Township would need to engage its engineer for proof.

Any Other Matter

Due to the upcoming holidays, it was agreed by the TF to hold the monthly November and December meetings on the scheduled workshop dates: November 12 and December 10 at 6:30 pm.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

The next meeting is Thursday, October 22, 2020, at 6:30 pm via Zoom.

Respectfully submitted,
Susan D'Amore