

**PIPELINE TASK FORCE WORKSHOP
THURSDAY, August 12, 2021
TELE CONFERENCE
FINAL MINUTES**

Members Present:

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

Others Present

Township Supervisors David Shuey and Michele Truitt; Township Manager Derek Davis

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>CCPC</i>	<i>Chester County Planning Commission</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 6:31 p.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Moment of Silence

Caroline called for a moment of silence to remember those serving in our military both here and in Afghanistan and for our first responders and health care workers fighting this wave of the pandemic.

Recording

The meeting was recorded to the cloud via Zoom meeting settings.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes from July 8, 2021, were unanimously approved as amended.

Public Comment

None

Chairperson's Report

- Caroline stressed the importance of paying attention to West Whiteland regarding the issues of multiple sink holes and the more recent incident of the lost casing that happened during Sunoco's drilling.

Local officials are gathering information to determine what has happened. Caroline asked that TF members, as Chester County residents, to contact the County Commissioners to voice concerns. The Commissioners recently wrote a letter to the PUC asking to stop the 8- and 12-inch pipeline flow and for an investigation to be conducted.

Christina made a motion that the Pipeline TF recommend to the BOS to send the PUC a letter that is similar in content to the July 19th letter sent by the Chester County Commissioners. This letter should reflect the safety of East Goshen residents who commute, work, shop and recreate in West Whiteland. Caroline seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

David asked that the TF draft the letter.

Caroline will send the group a copy of the County letter.

Caroline mentioned that there is a Sunshine meeting on August 31 at 10 am. This topic will be on that agenda. Christina stated that she will be attending.

- Caroline stated that it is the 1-year anniversary of the Marsh Creek spill accident. The creek is still contaminated, has areas that boaters cannot access and has had changes in the ecology.

Legislative Updates

Bill reported that he attended the following meetings:

- 7/21 with Senator Carolyn Comitta, her staff and Ron Cocco from EGSEA
- 7/26 one-on-one Zoom with Representative Dianne Herrin

At these meetings he requested a status on the pipeline safety bills that are in both the Senate and House. He learned that there are no updates or movements on these bills. Bill explained that Carolyn Comitta's office later informed him that there are 17 House bills and 8 Senate bills on pipeline safety regulations. There is no confidence that these will be acted upon. Senator Comitta did voice her support for the PUC rulemaking changes that were outlined in the July 20th article in the Pittsburgh Gazette. She noted that there was the omission of the remaining life rulemaking study on all old pipelines in the state of PA. Senator Comitta asked if the TF could write letters of support to which Bill explained that the TF and EGSEA have already written letters.

Bill stated that Dianne Herrin is scheduled to meet with Joe McGinn from ET on August 13. He would like to raise the question: are there any trust reserves set aside to fund a catastrophic pipeline event and how will that type of event be handled? David explained that this would be in a public document and due to ET's size, they are self-funded. Christina added that she has reviewed their 10K filings and ET does not have adequate insurance coverage. The TF discussed ET's limited reliability and how restitution may fall on municipal government. The company is structured such that the parent company is not responsible for the subsidiaries.

Old Business

Michele Truitt to visit Houston Sunoco Plant

- Michele explained that Joe Massaro from ET was assigned to go with her on the Houston Sunoco Plant Tour. She met with the director and manager of the control room. Michele stated that she will send ET's answers to the TF. The meeting lasted 1.5 hours and included a tour of the control room.
- Michele noted the following regarding the control room:
 - There are ways and means in place to help operators with fatigue such as changing ambient lighting, standup desks, and exercise equipment.
 - To become a control room operator, there is a vigorous screening process that tests multitasking and focusing ability.
 - The operators work 12-hour shifts, with a set number of days off/on.
 - They are allowed ample breaks.
 - An extra full-time person is available for coverage.
- Michele spoke to the director about a concern that was previously discussed by the TF regarding the rude manner in which operators respond and react to residents calling the ET hotline. ET plans to roll out a new number and streamline the process. There was discussion that residents should first call 911. Michele was told that it would be helpful if a resident could report the cross street and/or the pipeline marker number when calling ET's hotline. Caroline stated that residents should receive confirmation that there is indeed an emergency occurring.
- Sunoco/Energy Transfer has not yet developed a monthly communication plan with the County 911 center. Joe Massaro is assigned to be working on this. ET agreed to work with the Township on a safety and evacuation plan. Joe Massaro should be contacting Derek. David emphasized that it is critical to find out who from ET will be working on this with the Township.
- Michele explained that ET is independent from the power grid. The center works constantly on an uninterruptable power source.
- Michele stated that she implored ET to stop drilling at the Exton site.
- All emergency safety devices and Township devices were stated to be intrinsically safe. Christina asked if this could be put in writing because this information is contradicting to ET's materials and what has been communicated by PHMSA. There was discussion around this and the associated discrepancies.
- All incident reports are recorded in Central Standard Time.
- Michele was grateful for the opportunity for the tour. The TF thanked her.

- David stated that the main outcome from this visit is to find out when ET will contact the Township to develop the evacuation plan and the response to the community. This plan needs to be specific especially due to EGT's uniquely vulnerable population.

Subsidence update

Derek explained that the area on Route 352 has been mowed and measurements were taken on 7/22, 7/26 and in the beginning of August. There has been no change to the area. The measurements are: 4 ft 2.5 inches x 7 feet 3.5 inches with a depth of 3 feet and 1 inch.

Continue discussion on the Chester County Vulnerability Assessment of Hazardous Liquid and Gas pipelines (part of the Chester County Hazard Mitigation Plan)

The TF will discuss this topic at the next meeting (9/9/21). Christina will resend the summary and [links](#) to the TF.

New Business

2022 Budget

Bill motioned that \$1,000 be add to the 2022 budget. Judi seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. It was noted that the 2021 budget was \$0, 2020 budget was \$2000 and the 2019 was \$3000. To date, no funds have been used.

Future ABC Meetings

The Pipeline Task Force will meet in person in the EGT Board Room on the 2nd Thursday of the month at 6:30 pm.

Liaison Reports

Christina reported that she attended the Conservancy Board meeting and explained the importance of the Chester County Hazard Mitigation Plan. This robust document has several sections that would be of interest to this board.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:29 p.m.

The next meeting will be in person on Thursday, September 9, 2021, at 6:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Susan D'Amore

F:\Data\Shared Data\Minutes\Pipeline Task Force\2021\Pipeline TF Mins 08-12-21 FINAL.docx