

**PIPELINE TASK FORCE
THURSDAY, September 9, 2021
East Goshen Township Building
FINAL MINUTES**

Members Present:

Vice Chair Bill Wegemann; Members: Jim Christenson, Christina Morley, Gerry Sexton

Others Present

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>FEMA</i>	<i>Federal Emergency Management Agency</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

Bill called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. and noted that this is the first in-person meeting in 1.5 years. Bill led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Moment of Silence

Bill called for a moment of silence for first responders and health care workers and to remember all those that served and lost their lives on 9/11/01.

Recording

The meeting was recorded to the YouTube for later viewing by request.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes from August 12, 2021, were unanimously approved.

Public Comment

None

Chairperson's Report

Bill reported for Caroline:

- The last Chester County Sunshine meeting was held on August 31, 2021. During the public comment period residents asked the Commissioners to do more in regard to Sunoco and the recent subsidence(s).
- During the storm caused by the remnants of Ida, the casing that was lost by ET at the West Whiteland site was unearthed and floated to the surface.
- Christina added that she presented at the Sunshine meeting the letter that the Pipeline TF and BOS sent to the PUC supporting the action requested by the Chester County Commissioners to shut down the 8- and 12-inch -line.
- Bill thanked Christina for representing the TF and Township at this meeting. He read the first and last paragraphs from the [letter](#).

Legislative Updates

Bill has not received an update regarding the meeting that Representative Dianne Herrin had with Joe McGinn from ET.

Bill reported that Representative Dianne Herrin along with a representative from Montgomery County introduced a bipartisan bill to hold contractors accountable for past failures. Although not directly related to pipeline safety, this bill could have overlying implications.

Old Business

Subsidence update

There was no report on the subsidence on Route 352. This will be on the next meeting agenda.

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

Christina provided background on the Chester County's Vulnerability Assessment of Hazardous Liquid and Gas Pipelines which is part of the [Chester County Hazard Mitigation Plan](#). She explained that Chester County has the responsibility to provide a hazard assessment every 5 years. The last document from 2015 did not have any solid information on pipelines. A new plan was due in 2020, but due to COVID, there was a delay. The 2021 version is in a draft format. It includes a detailed section on HVLs. Municipalities and cities within Chester County should adopt this plan once finalized. The plan should also help mitigate the impact of risks such as floods, tornadoes, invasive species, hazardous releases etc.

The TF discussed the probability and risk charts provided in the document. Christina explained that this data shows that in Chester County there is a very high probability seeing

an incident happened involving a gas or liquid pipeline. In the past, it was always stated that an incident involving a gas or liquid pipeline was a low probability with a high consequence. This in turn provided a false sense of security.

Gerry noted that the data shows that the impact level of an Environmental Hazards was graded as "limited #2". He feels that pipelines should be rated higher. He also noted that further clarification regarding spatial extent and duration should be provided.

Christina noted the following data was utilized in conducting the vulnerability assessment:

- Population within the hazard zone.
- Number of structures within the hazard zone.
- Estimate replacement value of structures in hazard zone

Bill referenced Township maps that show 90% of the East Goshen Township population is impacted within ½ mile of a pipeline.

Christina referenced the [Chester County Emergency Operations Plan](#) from February 2019. The Planning Assumptions Section states that if there is an emergency or disaster, the responsibility first falls on the municipality. Then County will help once the municipality is overwhelmed. The State response will occur 24 hours after the incident. Lastly, Federal response will be within 48-72 hours.

Once the County completes the draft of the Hazard Mitigation Plan, all municipalities can adopt it by resolution. The County will collect and send the resolutions to FEMA.

The TF discussed that even though the public comment period on this draft has passed, it is still beneficial to submit comments to the coordinator.

Christina made a motion to ask the Board of Supervisors if it is acceptable for the EGT Pipeline TF to send comments regarding the Risk and Hazard Vulnerability Section regarding Hazardous Liquid Pipelines to the Chester County Coordinator that is working on the Hazard Mitigation Plan.

Bill seconded. The motion passed 4-0. This will be on the September 25th Board of Supervisors agenda.

The TF thanked Christina for her work on this summary.

New Business - None

Liaison Reports

Christina reported that at the Conservancy Board meeting she explained the importance of the Chester County Hazard Mitigation Plan. She asked the TF members, as liaisons, to inform to their respective ABC.

Any Other Matter

Gerry explained that he received an email via ReadyChesco from the Chester County Department of Emergency Services that included a link to the Toolkit for fire departments. He noted that the toolkit uses the “All Hazards Approach” and was concerned since this does not apply to ME. He will forward the email to the group.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

The next meeting will be in person on Thursday, October 14, 2021, at 6:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Susan D'Amore

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