

PIPELINE TASK FORCE
THURSDAY, October 14, 2021
East Goshen Township Building
FINAL MINUTES

Members Present:

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

Others Present

Township Supervisors David Shuey and John Hertzog; 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>DES</i>	<i>Department of Emergency Services</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

Caroline called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Moment of Silence

Caroline called for a moment of silence for all those serving in the armed forces, those that have lost their lives serving and for all those helping during the pandemic.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes from September 9, 2021, were unanimously approved.

Public Comment

Caroline referenced an email from resident Joe Buonanno. Mr. Buonanno praised the work done by the East Goshen Pipeline TF. He referenced ET's insurance liability and

how extraction tax would benefit Pennsylvania. Caroline encouraged Mr. Buonanno to contact his local and state representatives. Caroline will forward the email to the group.

Chairperson's Report

Caroline recommended a 45-minute podcast from WHY? on ME. The podcast summarizes the project's problems, the challenges residents have faced, and the lessons learned. Caroline will forward the [link](#) to the TF.

Legislative Updates

Bill stated that he received an update from Representative Dianne Herrin's office regarding the meeting with Joe McGinn from Energy Transfer. He emailed the group the extensive review.

Highlights are as follows:

- **Grant for gas meter approval for Fire Chiefs Association** – Mr. McGinn responded that they are not eligible and was unwavering in his position.
- **Public Education/Emergency Response Planning** – Mr. McGinn indicated that responsibility for this planning lies within the government.
- **Representative Otten's HB1364** – Representative Herrin asked for support for this bill which could provide municipalities with the resources needed to independently monitor the pipeline and request independent risk assessments as a basis for emergency preparedness planning. Mr. McGinn declined stating that Energy Transfer is offering its own grants to municipalities for emergency preparedness planning.
 - Christina noted that Goshen Fire Company received a grant. She stated that the article in *The Daily Local* did not reflect the experiences correctly and was not conforming with Chester County. She stated that ET uses this opportunity for them to be highlighted complementarily. Christina does not support the individual grant process.
- Representative Herrin scheduled a **rally** in Harrisburg's rotunda for Monday, October 25 at 11 am. She, along with Senator Muth and Representative Otten, will continue to demand that Governor Wolf halt all new Mariner East permits.
- Representative Herrin is working with residents living on Boot Road that have wells that have dried up.

October 6th letter to Governor Wolf

Caroline noted her disappointment that Senator Kane abstained from signing the October 6th letter which asked Governor Wolf, Secretary McDonnell and Chairwoman Brown Dutrieuille to halt the ME project. She noted that his silence speaks volumes. She again encouraged all to email state and local representatives.

David asked about the status of hazard mitigation. He was under the impression that the Barnes decision required it. Caroline responded that it has been in "limbo" since March 2021.

David asked about the status of the End-of-Life Study. Caroline responded that it might be complete but not yet released.

Old Business

Subsidence update

The TF did not discuss this at the meeting.

Pipeline Hazard Vulnerability Response from EMS)

Derek previously shared with the TF the County's response to the Township's comment on the Chester County Hazard Mitigation Plan. Caroline expressed disappointment that the TF's comments were not allowed. The TF strongly feels that their comments need to be included in the plan. Derek agreed to draft and send a letter to Chester County Emergency Services.

Revisit All Hazards Approach with DES

Gerry asked if a follow-up meeting between with DES and the EGT BOS ever took place, to which David replied no. There was discussion regarding the all-hazards approach not being a fit for natural gas liquids pipeline emergencies. Gerry noted that all-hazards may not be the correct approach for a leak from a natural gas liquids pipeline but could possibly be used during an explosion. It was agreed that both the BOS and the TF are not in the position to compose a plan for pipeline emergencies. It was noted that the County has advertised an RFP for the development of an addition to their operations plan that is specific to NGL pipeline hazards.

Judi asked if there is a past NGL incident that can be used as a model. Caroline stated that the San Bruno CA and the Texas railroad incidents could be referenced. The TF discussed how these compare to a nuclear incident.

Action Items from Discussion:

- David will contact the County for more information on this process. He will inquire if the BOS and Pipeline TF can provide comment to it.
- David will contact Ernie Harkness regarding nuclear hazard mitigation
- Staff will ask Stephen Hiro, EMS and Vinnie D'Amico, Assistant EMS, to attend future Pipeline TF meetings.

New Business

Attorney General Criminal Charges against Sunoco

Caroline explained that 48 counts of criminal charges were brought against ET by the Attorney General's office. These charges were for environmental crimes; no public safety charges were included. It was noted that Attorney General Shapiro is asking for residents to contact his office if they feel their drinking water or property has been impacted by ET inadvertent returns.

David will announce this at the next BOS meeting on 10/29/21. Susan will post on the website, Next Door and send out via Constant Contact.

Adelphia

Caroline noted that the PennEast project was canceled because they were not able to secure the required permits. There was discussion about the affect this may have on Adelphia. Caroline will reach out to Eve Miari from Clean Air Council.

Bill asked if the Township has an Adelphia contact. Susan will check with Derek (He had left the meeting at this time.) if the Township has a contact. The TF would like to ask Adelphia about notifications to residents regarding blowdown occurrences and scheduled preventive maintenance. Christina added that a Community Education Program could be included in the next Township Newsletter. **Addendum: Newsletter Article due 11/19/21.**

Christina informed the group of a new pipeline project from the Williams company, a supplier of natural gas.

It was agreed to keep Adelphia and Williams on the next agenda.

Next Meeting

The TF agreed to meet on Thursday, November 18, 2021, @ 6:30 pm instead of November 11, 2021.

Liaison Reports - None

Any Other Matter

Jim will represent the TF at the Parks and Recreation Commission Toddler Trick-or-Treat event on 10/29.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

The next meeting will be in person on Thursday, November 18, 2021, at 6:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Susan D'Amore

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