

PIPELINE TASK FORCE
Thursday, August 11, 2022
East Goshen Township Building
FINAL MINUTES

Members Present are highlighted:

Chair Gerry Sexton; Vice Chair Jim Christenson
Members; Judi DiFonzo, Bill Wegemann

Others Present

Township Supervisor: David Shuey; 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>ET</i>	<i>Energy Transfer</i>
<i>FEMA</i>	<i>Federal Emergency Management Agency</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>NGL</i>	<i>Natural Gas Liquids</i>
<i>PHMSA</i>	<i>Pipeline Hazard Materials and Safety Administration</i>
<i>PMN</i>	<i>Post Meeting Note</i>
<i>PTF</i>	<i>Pipeline Task Force</i>
<i>PUC</i>	<i>Public Utility Commission</i>

Call to Order & Pledge of Allegiance

Gerry called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Moment of Silence

Gerry respectfully called for a moment of silence for our first responders.

Recording

Derek stated that this meeting was being recorded using Zoom.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes from the meeting on June 9, 2022 were unanimously approved.

Public Comment

None.

Chairperson's Report

The PTF discussed adding new members. Derek asked for some specifics which would be helpful in the recruiting effort. Gerry will get input from the PTF and provide this to Derek. [Post Meeting Note: Gerry emailed a list of qualifications for new PTF members to Derek on August 8, 2022. Derek will post it on the township website and Facebook to start.]

At the PTF meeting on May 12, 2022, David recommended that the PTF reach out to Mike Groover, Chester County Deputy Director for Emergency Management. Gerry stated that on June 6, 2022 he emailed Mr. Groover regarding the East Goshen Township Pipeline Task Force and our interest in the Request for Proposal to develop an addition to the operations plan specific to NGL pipeline hazards. Gerry has not received a response and will resend the email. [PMN: Gerry resent the email to Mr. Groover on August 17, 2022 and copied David, Derek, and the PTF.]

There is a link on ReadyChesco Weekly Announcements from Chester County Department of Emergency Services to Pipeline Emergency Response Training. It is open to first responders throughout Pennsylvania. The training is in-person and allows first responders to engage with local pipeline operators. The sponsors include many of the pipeline companies that operate within EGT. Jim will check with our local fire companies to make sure they are aware of this training.

The PUC fined Energy Transfer \$51,000 in June for violations related to pipeline construction through an apartment complex in Middletown Township, Delaware County. Relative to this situation is a legal battle involving the apartment complex and municipal officials regarding emails between the township and ET. The apartment complex is calling for the township to be transparent and release those emails. This underlines the importance of the transparency demonstrated by the EGT Board of Supervisors and the PTF with respect to all pipeline matters.

Energy Transfer recently pleaded no contest to criminal charges that it systematically polluted waterways and residential water wells during construction of its Mariner East pipelines. Under the plea agreement, residents who live near the pipelines and have private water can request independent testing. Derek stated there may be a few residents in EGT who are impacted. He will further investigate and notify them if necessary. [PMN: Gerry emailed a link to Derek, David, and the PTF on August 16, 2022 from the Office of the Attorney General for Mariner East Pipeline water testing.]

Reports

Legislative Update

Gerry mentioned four bills introduced by State Representative Kristine Howard that would increase penalties on polluters and give the attorney general greater powers to prosecute. These bills are in response to violations by Energy Transfer during construction of the Mariner East 2 pipeline.

Bill gave an update on follow-up actions from the Q&A with State Senator Carolyn Comitta at the meeting on June 9, 2022.

Old Business

Adelphia valve station leak detection

Derek will draft a letter requesting Adelphia to install external leak detectors at their natural gas valve station on Paoli Pike. David will review and approve this letter and then it will be sent to Adelphia.

New Business

Leak detectors at other valve stations in EGT

The PTF unanimously approved a motion for the BOS to request that pipeline operators install external leak detectors at all valve stations and above-ground facilities for pipelines carrying hazardous materials within EGT. The justification for these requests is similar to that for the Adelphia valve station.

Texas Eastern pipeline in EGT and proposed LNG plant in Chester

Gerry summarized a report by WHY News from June. This item was brought to Gerry's attention by Christina Morley. Penn America Energy is proposing to build a liquid natural gas (LNG) plant in Chester. This LNG would be for export. The article stated that the natural gas supply to this plant would tap into the Texas Eastern pipeline starting at the Eagle compressor station in Chester Springs and ending at the planned Chester Junction station in Delaware County. From there the final five miles of new pipe would connect to the liquification plant. This Texas Eastern line runs through EGT. At this early stage of the proposal, it does not sound like new pipelines would be installed in EGT. However, the pipeline owner has a right-of-way and could replace or upsize their pipelines or install additional pipelines as was the case with Mariner East. This project has not yet been widely publicized but is expected to be a contentious issue in Chester. Derek will further investigate and determine the appropriate course of action (if any) regarding notification of EGT residents living along the Texas Eastern pipeline.

EGT pipeline map

The PTF utilizes the current pipeline map on the EGT website. Gerry asked if a large hardcopy could be produced which would make details easy to read. Derek will provide 36" x 24" copies of the map from the township plotter.

Liaison Reports

David stated that on July 19, 2022 the BOS approved sending the letter to Adelphia discussed above.

Any Other Matter

Judi discussed two booklets from FEMA she saw on the ready.gov website. One is a guide to citizen preparedness and the other is a guide for alerts and warnings. She noted there was a lack of information regarding pipeline emergencies. Adding this topic to these guides would be integral with the Chester County Hazardous Mitigation Plan. Derek said this is something he could discuss at meetings with the PA State Association of Township Supervisors. Judi will draft a letter to appropriate government agencies asking for information on what to do in a pipeline emergency. The PTF will review this draft letter at a future meeting.

Jim will prepare an article from the PTF for the Fall Newsletter. [PMN: Jim emailed Derek this article on August 26, 2022.]

Derek announced that Ashley Nowak has been hired as the EGT Office Administrator and will start August 22, 2022. Ashley will be the PTF liaison.

Correspondence

None.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 6:58 p.m.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be on Thursday, September 8, 2022, @ 5:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Gerald Sexton

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