

PIPELINE TASK FORCE
Thursday, June 8, 2023
East Goshen Township Building
FINAL MINUTES

Members Present are highlighted

Chair: Gerry Sexton; Vice Chair: Jim Christenson

Members: Judi DiFonzo, Paul Kersavage, John McDonough

Others Present are highlighted

Township Supervisor: David Shuey; Township Manager: Derek Davis; Office Administrator: Ashley Nowak

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 5:32 pm and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Moment of Silence

Gerry called for a moment of silence to honor the true meaning of Memorial Day and remember all our military personnel who have died in service to our country.

Recording

The meeting was not being recorded.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes from the meeting on May 11, 2023 were unanimously approved.

Public Comment

None.

Chairperson's Report

Gerry reported that in addition to the carbon dioxide pipelines, he intends to research hydrogen pipelines and will report his findings to the group in the future.

Gerry also updated the group on an article from the Daily Local News on public water/sewer systems. This piece provided some insights regarding how the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission operates. These could explain some of PUC decisions and actions with respect to pipelines.

Old Business

Update on leak detection at valve stations

No update.

Proposed New Rulemaking from PHMSA

On May 18, 2023 PHMSA published a new proposed rule titled "Pipeline Safety: Gas Pipeline Leak Detection and Repair." This subject is of great interest to the PTF. David noted that for the first time PHMSA is including environmental protection. There have been several requests to PHMSA to extend the deadline (currently 07/17/2023) for comments. Gerry will update the group with a plan for our response. [PMN: PHMSA extended the comment period to 08/16/2023. Gerry emailed the PTF on 07/28/2023 with a plan for submitting comments. This will be discussed at the next PTF meeting on 08/10/2023.]

ME2 Pipeline Construction Records

The main objective is determining if Energy Transfer complied with the applicable pipeline design guidelines during the ME2 project in EGT. Paul was able to speak with someone at PHMSA, but the responses he received were very vague. Paul will incorporate comments from the group and finalize the letter to PHMSA. Derek will review it with the BOS and then send it to PHMSA.

Update on carbon dioxide pipelines

The group briefly discussed an article sent by Paul about a carbon dioxide pipeline that ruptured in Mississippi in 2020. Education regarding carbon dioxide pipelines is an important next step. David will review this topic with the BOS.

New Business

Future Newsletter Article

Jim will draft an article for the next township newsletter and send it to the PTF for comments. After the article is finalized, he will send it to Ashley who will submit it to Jess Wilhelmy for publication. [PMN: This was completed on 06/23/2023.]

Reports

Legislative Update

Judi suggested that the PTF track bills in the PA Senate and House of Representatives that are related to pipelines and provide updates. The group decided to put this task on hold for now.

Liaison Reports

None.

Any Other Matter

None.

Correspondence

None.

Next meeting

There was a unanimous vote to cancel the meeting scheduled for July 13, 2023. Therefore, the next meeting is scheduled for August 10, 2023 at 5:30pm.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:16 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Ashley Nowak, Office Administrator

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