

Upper Delaware Council  
PROJECT REVIEW COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES  
May 25, 2010

Committee Members Present: Keesler, Roeder, Richardson, Rando  
Committee Members Absent: Peckham  
NPS Partner: McGuinness  
Staff: Soete, Coney, Ramie  
Guests: N. Rajsz

The UDC's Project Review Committee held its monthly meeting on Tuesday, May 25, 2010 at the Council office in Narrowsburg, NY. Vice-Chairperson Dolores Keesler called the meeting to order at 8:15 p.m. A motion by Roeder seconded by Richardson to approve the April 27 meeting minutes was carried. There was no public comment on the agenda.

**Discussion Items Report** Soete reviewed with the committee the Discussion Items Report; some highlights included:

**Tennessee Gas Pipeline (Wayne & Pike Counties):** FERC (Federal Energy Regulatory Commission) posted an Order issuing a certificate and approving abandonment for Tennessee Gas Pipeline Company for the 300 Line Project. PA DEP and Wayne Conservation District approvals are still pending. Soete heard from the Wayne Conservation District that in another phase of the project, the entire length of the pipeline will have a loop running parallel to the existing pipeline. At the present time, plans call for only certain segments to have the loop.

**NPS Mongaup Visitors Center Update:** NPS has notified the Council that the two mobile building units earmarked for the temporary Upper Delaware Visitors Center at the Mongaup, no longer a viable project, have been transferred to a unit of the National Park Service in Paterson, NJ, Paterson Great Falls.

**Natural Gas Drilling/Leasing in the Region Update:** The Delaware River Basin Commission has announced that they will not approve gas well pads until they have their new regulations in place, but they'll review water withdrawals under the current regulations. Soete mentioned that he and Douglass have been invited, and are serving, on the Wayne County Oil and Gas Task Force on the subcommittees for planning and public outreach. The Task Force is doing a workshop on June 15 on home water well testing as it relates to gas drilling. The Pennsylvania Environmental Quality Board this week approved first-of-its-kind regulations to protect waterways from the effects of natural gas drilling wastewater.

**Barnes Landfill (Town of Highland):** Soete noted that he would be contacting the NYS DEC regarding the status of the Barnes Landfill maintenance situation. The state escrow account has run out regarding the caretaking of this site and the matter had been referred to the NYS Attorney General's office for further follow-up.

**Bluestone Mountain Estates (Damascus Township):** The PA DEP completed an administrative review of Bluestone Mountain Estates' New Land Development Plan Application Component 2-Residential on April 23. Additional phases of review are required.

**Hawks Nest Parapet Wall Rt. 97:** The UDC has been informed by the Upper Delaware Scenic Byway, Inc. that it sent a letter of support to the NYS DOT supporting the DOT's scenic overlook improvement project scheduled for the fall of 2010 to repair the Hawks Nest Parapet Wall and provide graffiti removal.

**Susquehanna-Roseland 500-Power Line Update:** Public Service Electric & Gas is still planning to begin construction of the Susquehanna-Roseland 500-kilovolt power line this summer but only the easternmost portion. Part of this line crosses the Lackawaxen River, a tributary to the main stem Delaware River.

**Alliance Energy Mongaup System license transfer:** Alliance Energy has provided an application to FERC for the transfer of licenses, and FERC is soliciting comments and motions to intervene regarding the

transfer. The transferee is Eagle Creek Hydro Power and includes licenses for the Swinging Bridge, the Mongaup Falls, and the Rio Reservoir hydro projects located on the Mongaup River in Sullivan and Orange Counties in New York. The Mongaup River flows into the main stem Delaware River. The deadline for comment is 30-days from the FERC notice that was dated April 30. The committee wished to comment on this transfer. A motion by Richardson and seconded by Roeder that staff will prepare a comment letter for the June Council meeting was carried. Staff will notify FERC that a comment letter is coming.

**New York Regional Interconnect (NYRI), corridor-wide and beyond, new activity:** On May 19, New York Regional Interconnect filed a motion with FERC for an extension to FERC 730 Form for year ended Dec. 31, 2010. The form deals with financial incentives that NYRI is seeking. The request is posted on the FERC website.

**Town of Cochection Zoning Law Amendments Update:** Soete reported that he had done a quick review of the Town of Cochection's proposed zoning law amendments. A section in one of these amendments indicates that "all extraction industries shall comply fully with the New York State Law and provide evidence of such compliance in connection with any Special Use application. Exploration and recovery of natural gas shall be considered an extraction operation." Soete noted that most of the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River corridor in the town is comprised of the AC and RU Districts and extraction industries shall be permitted as Special Uses in the AC and RU Districts with some restrictions. The Cochection Planning Board meets on May 27. The committee wanted a comment letter to be issued to the town on the amendments. Soete noted that he will prepare a comment letter for the committee's review at its June meeting.

**Old Business** None

**New Business**

**Draft FY 2011 Committee Work Plan:** The committee was provided with a draft FY 2011 work plan to be reviewed and finalized at the June committee meeting. Rajsz had a few questions on Soete's listserv, mentioned in the work plan, what it entailed and the time it took to do. Soete reviewed the parameters of his listserv which covered about 10 topics. Included on the list were Council members and other interested parties that requested to be on the list. This task is time consuming but the dissemination of the information Soete felt was important and keeping with the Council's mandate. He was sending the list from his home PC without charging the Council for his time since the ISP service the Council uses had an outgoing threshold that disallowed the number of email recipients that were being served unless the Council obtained the next level up in service which amounted to a doubling of the monthly charge. The committee was concerned with Soete using his personal time for work. There were suggestions made, like Google Groups, where the information could be posted for information. The committee asked Soete how they could rearrange this work to make it better for him, and for him to think about it and let the committee know.

**TAG 2009-02 Town of Delaware, request for payment:** The committee reviewed a request for payment from the Town of Delaware on its TAG project that was completed – local laws and ordinances uploaded to the town website, \$1,700. A motion by Roeder seconded by Rando to approve the payment was carried.

**Technical Assistance Grant Program Applications Opened:** The committee was provided with copy of a UDC news release announcing the application period was open for the fiscal year 2011 grant round. The application deadline is July 13, 2010. Due to the new financial terms of the UDC's Cooperative Agreement with the NPS, timeframes have been altered for this program. No longer will project time extensions be allowed. Basically, the grant project has to be completed and request for payment made within a 10-month timeframe. The announcement of the awards will be made at the Oct. 7 UDC meeting; mid-term progress reports are due Feb. 28, 2011 and the deadline for project submission and request for payment is July 25, 2011. Information and forms can be located at the Council's website: [www.upperdelawarecouncil.org](http://www.upperdelawarecouncil.org), click on the TAG Program link.

**Public Comment** None

**Adjournment** A motion by Richardson seconded by Roeder to adjourn the meeting at 9:11 p.m. was carried.

Carol Coney, Office Manager