

Upper Delaware Council
PROJECT REVIEW COMM. MEETING MINUTES
Aug. 26, 2008

Committee Members Present: Roeder, Richardson, Bowers, Fluhr
Committee Members Absent: Shafer
Partner: Schultz
Staff: Douglass, Soete, Coney

The Committee Chairperson Harold Roeder Jr. called the meeting to order at 8:46 p.m. A motion by Richardson seconded by Bowers to approve the July 22 and Aug. 12 meeting minutes as amended was carried. The Aug. 12 amendment: spelling of "Tennanah" under Town of Fremont on page 2. There was no public comment on the agenda. Roeder on approval moved the "Public Comment" agenda item to the beginning of the meeting in order to accommodate Sundholm who was leaving.

Public Comment: John Sundholm questioned if the 2008 Technical Assistance Grants approved at the Aug. 12 committee meeting were a matter of public information prior to the full Council approval. Roeder explained all meetings are open to the public and the TAG awards recommended by the committee were public information. However, it should be noted that the grants are not official until approved by the full Council.

Discussion Items Report: The committee reviewed the Discussion Items Report; some highlights:

Tennessee Gas Pipeline TGP 300 Line Expansion Project – Wayne & Pike Counties: The Council has received copy of a letter dated July 14 from the Tennessee Gas Pipeline to the Pike County Commissioners regarding their plans to explore expanding their existing pipeline system to transport gas to and within Pennsylvania.

The Council received copy of letter (handed out) dated Aug. 21 issued by Shohola Township to the Tennessee Gas Pipeline expressing concern about one proposed expansion of their existing pipeline system in Shohola Township and requesting a meeting with TGP representatives to discuss what measures could be taken together to facilitate a smooth and cooperative relationship during the planning process.

Soete noted TGP's expansion would increase the existing pipeline footprint as well as provide looping lines. Fluhr added the township is concerned with more land being taken for rights-of-way as well as safety hazards with the increased amount of gas lines in such a small community.

New York Regional Interconnect proposed power line application: In late July, NYRI again submitted information to the NYS PSC to correct the deficiencies that the PSC found with NYRI's Article VII application submission. The PSC has not ruled on the submission as yet.

PPL Proposed Susquehanna-Roseland Power Line, route choice made: PPL has announced that it chose Route B for its power line expansion. This is an existing route. The Council had submitted a letter to PPL supporting Shohola and Lackawaxen Townships' opposition to proposed Route A.

Natural Gas Leasing / Drilling in Region, update: It was reported both New York State and Pennsylvania are looking at revising their regulations relative to gas drilling. Schultz added that the NYS DEC is looking at updating its Generic Environmental Impact Statement (GEIS). The NPS Superintendent has contacted the Sullivan County Planning Division to get on-board to provide comments on the scoping for the supplemental GEIS. Richardson noted Planning submitted for the towns to the state to be parties to the GEIS. It was felt by the committee that NPS and UDC should be parties as well. A motion by Fluhr seconded by Richardson that staff investigates the process to become parties to the NYS DEC GEIS process was carried.

It was mentioned that at the Sullivan County Planning gas leasing seminar, the geologist said Marcellus was 1000 feet thick and could be the mother-load of shale gas exploration. Roeder added he also said there was four more gas plays under Marcellus. That's why it's important to get environmental and property protections included in a gas lease. Horizontal drilling can put eight legs off a center with 1500 foot distance. They'll pipe gas from well to well this way; and less expensive than trucking.

Schultz noted that FERC regulates piping and they have eminent domain powers. Richardson commented that under the 4-town TAG project, Sullivan County Planning is to provide maps of where drilling is being done in the County. Roeder said when the gas companies' burn-off gas it should be in your lease that you get something for it as you're losing a mineral right from your property bundle.

Proposed Sullivan County Casinos, update: It was reported that the old Concord Hotel in Kiamesha Lake has been torn down to make way for a new hotel, convention center, racino and harness racetrack.

Damascus Township - Bluestone Mountain Estates update: Soete reported that logging is occurring on the Bluestone Mountain Estates property along River Road and it appears that a road is being cut near the ridgeline.

PA DCNR's strategic plan, public input meetings: PA Dept. of Conservation and Natural Resources has announced it will hold a series of six regional meetings to seek public input on how the DCNR is carrying out its strategic plan and what its future priorities should be. The meeting closest to the River corridor here is at PPL's Lake Wallenpaupack EE Center in Hawley on Sept. 9 from 2:30 p.m. to 5 p.m.

Town of Cochecton, Little Joseph Mine: Richardson reported that NYS DEC has approved the Little Joseph Mine permit, but lots of conditions were included with the permit.

USCOE proposed stream work: The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is proposing stream work on the East and West Branch Delaware; general permit items. Don Hamilton from NPS would have more information on this and Soete will contact him.

Old Business

TAG 2006-06 Town of Lumberland, water quality baseline monitoring 32 tribbs: The Council has received a letter from the Town of Lumberland indicating that its grant project cannot be completed within the timeline and therefore they are declining their grant. The Council will de-obligate the funds in the amount of \$1,750. A motion by Richardson seconded by Bowers to de-obligate these funds was carried.

PPL response letter Susquehanna-Roseland comment letter: The committee was provided with copy of a July 26 letter from PPL in response to the UDC letter with concerns about PPL's proposed Route A in its expansion project. PPL will take the Council's comments into consideration.

New Business

PennDOT: Issue 1 "Project Status" Factsheet Pond Eddy Bridge: The committee was provided with copy of the first issue of PennDOT's "Project Status" factsheet regarding the Pond Eddy Bridge.

NPS Report: Schultz reported that NPS put out bids for mobile units for the proposed Mongaup Visitors Center otherwise they would lose the funding. She handed out "Trailer Unit Floor Plan Layouts-Conceptual" to the committee. The Unit 1 Plan was without restrooms and Unit 2 was with. NPS hopes to have the mobile unit delivered in May 2009.

Public Comment None

Adjourn A motion by Bowers seconded by Fluhr to adjourn the meeting at 9:36 p.m. was carried.