

Upper Delaware Council  
**PROJECT REVIEW COMM. MEETING MINUTES**  
**Sept. 23, 2008**

Committee Members Present: Roeder, Richardson, Fluhr, Bowers, Keesler  
Committee Members Absent: Shafer  
Partner: Martinez  
Staff: Soete, Ramie  
Guests: S. Schultz

The committee chairperson Harold Roeder Jr. called the meeting to order at 7:15 p.m. A motion by Bowers seconded by Fluhr to approve the Aug. 26 meeting minutes was carried. There was no public comment on the agenda.

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

**Millennium Pipeline Update:** On Aug. 30, the Millennium Pipeline Company notified Trout Unlimited of planned stream crossings in the next two weeks starting Labor Day as reported to FERC that included 56 streams in Delaware County, 26 streams in Sullivan County, and 35 streams in Orange County.

**Tennessee Gas Pipeline TGP 300 Line Expansion Project Update:** On Sept. 17 Douglass attended a meeting sponsored by Shohola Township at which representatives from Tennessee Gas Pipeline explained the proposed TGP Line Expansion Project. The pipeline was basically PPL's proposed Route A in Pike County. Fluhr reported that top officials from Tennessee Gas attended including the Project Director. They were very cooperative. The line should be done in 2010. FERC will be involved; they'll seek public input; additional property is needed; new pipe must be a certain distance from the other existing pipeline; doing engineering studies; they'll need staging areas; in the event of damaged pipe there are shutoffs on both sides; training is available for local fire companies; and Tennessee Gas will meet on a regular basis with the stakeholders.

On Sept. 30, PA State Representative Peifer is sponsoring a briefing for local officials at the Settler's Inn in Hawley regarding the proposed Tennessee Gas Pipeline Expansion Project.

**New York Regional Interconnect proposed transmission line update:** On Sept. 18, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) approved incentive rates for NYRI on condition that the NYS Public Service Commission determines the 190-mile transmission line either ensures reliability or reduces congestion, and approves siting for the project (a news release from FERC was provided to the committee).

The Sept. 19 issue of the *Federal Register* includes the U.S. Dept. of Energy's proposed regulations for "Coordination of Federal Authorizations for Electric Transmission Facilities" pursuant to the Federal Power Act. DOE proposes several additional provisions that may be added after consideration of public comments. The comment deadline is Oct. 20, 2008.

The NYS PSC as part of a Ruling on Sept. 17 has decided to hold a total of 14 public hearings within the proposed NYRI transmission line route. A hearing schedule has not been finalized. The move was a victory for citizens' groups who have been fighting the line for more than two years.

**Natural gas leasing/drilling in region update:** According to media reports, Chesapeake's natural gas offers are being pulled from the table and hundreds of landowners have received letters regarding this matter. Meanwhile, the company continues to pursue leasing in NYS. Chesapeake implies that the PA lease pulling was due to a changing market and new regulations.

**Pond Eddy Bridge Update:** PennDOT has invited NPS and UDC to an agency meeting to discuss the Pond Eddy Bridge on Oct. 1 in Dunmore, PA.

**Upper Delaware Scenic Byway Visitors Center Update:** The UDC received a form letter (handout provided to committee) from the Sullivan County Division of Planning and Environmental Management indicating the Sullivan County Legislature's intent to be Lead Agency in the environmental review of the proposed construction of a visitors center for the Upper Delaware Scenic Byway (NYS Rt. 97) along the

route in the Town of Cohecton. The Notification of Intent was sent to all involved and interested agencies with the request that they consent to the lead agency proposal. The deadline for a response was Oct. 7. A motion by Bowers seconded by Richardson approving the proposal was carried.

**Town of Cohecton-Little Joseph Mine:** On July 31, the NYS DEC approved the mining permit with 17 conditions and 6 general conditions for the Little Joseph Realty Corp. Part of the conditions was reclamation of land prior to commencing mining in Phase 2. By mining in phases and reclaiming the site, it appears that the mine will be in substantial conformance with the Land and Water Use Guidelines in the *River Management Plan*.

**DRBC Flexible Flow Management Program (FFMP) Update:** The Delaware River Basin Commission has issued the following statement: "In order to more fully consider the proposed Water Code Amendments for implementation of a Flexible Flow Management Program for the New York City Delaware Basin Reservoirs, the Commission will postpone a vote on the amendments until no earlier than the next Commission meeting, scheduled for Dec. 10, 2008."

**County of Sullivan (NY) announces "Image Mate" Software Now Available:** The Sullivan County Legislature has announced it had taken another step in its goal of promoting open government with the installation of "Image Mate" on the Sullivan County website. "Image Mate" is a real property tax tool that allows residents to access, via the internet, assessment, pictometry and tax information within the convenience of their home or office. The software also includes a tax calculator for buyers as well as pdf documents of tax maps for viewing purposes. Sullivan County is also in the process of converting the paper tax maps to the GIS digital format for each property in every municipality within the County. To access "Image Mate", simply access the County's website at [www.scgnet.us](http://www.scgnet.us) and select Real Property Tax Services from the drop-down menu and click on the Property Assessment Data link on the left-hand side of the page.

#### Old Business

**TAG extension requests:** The committee discussed two Technical Assistance Grant projects extension requests from the grantees. They were approved on motion by Bowers and seconded by Fluhr. They included: TAG 2007-06, Town of Lumberland-Eldred School History; and TAG 2007-07, Town of Lumberland-review/update comp plan.

#### New Business

**Town of Cohecton, gas drilling update:** Richardson reported that the Town of Cohecton held a NIMS (National Incident Management System) meeting where the gas drilling exploration was discussed. This emergency management group was concerned with getting procedures in place to meet any gas drilling emergencies that would involve local fire and ambulance personnel. This preparation should be done in all towns in the County that will have gas drilling/exploration in their borders.

**Public Comment** None

**Adjourn** A motion by Fluhr seconded by Bowers to adjourn the meeting at 8:45 p.m. was carried.