**Environmental Advisory Council**

**Jefferson Hills Borough, Pennsylvania**

**Meeting Minutes**

**September 22, 2021**

**Attendance**

Roll call was captured by Zoom participation, Lori Bartrug, Kevin Polick, Rick Moore, Terry Ackman, & Tom Donohue on the virtual Zoom call.

**US Steel Clairton Coke Works Air Quality update**

Kevin talked about the communication with Clairton Coke Works (CCW).

CCW would prefer to meet with the EAC at their rather than a public meeting. Tuesdays and Wednesdays at 5 PM are best for them.

All members on call indicated their interest in attending. Kevin will send 2 dates to EAC Team to pin down the best date. Meeting would be at the General Office Building (GOB) outside the Mill.

Terry had forwarded the link earlier to members from the Sept. 16 issue of the Post-Gazette, where U.S. Steel announced plans to build a $3 Billion mini-mill in Alabama, Arkansas or a Greenfield site.

**Beedle Park**

Potential application for Dept. of Conserv. And Natr. Resources Funding this fall.

John Stinner is not attending, but there is potential for funding application. Rec department is the leading group on this initiative.

**Adoption of Peters Creek Rd**

Scouts (Rick) and or U.S. Steel (Kevin)?

Rick to send a letter to John Stinner requesting approval for adopting a portion of Peters Creek by Troop 210 from Whitehall, PA. The scouts will propose adopting the section from the Mountour Trail Campground just west of Gill Hall Rd. to Waterman Rd., approximately 1.1 miles long. Rick noted the program provides signage for the road designating the adopting group

Kevin - No additional information from US Steel, Kevin will contact them to see if still interested.

Adoption of areas can be completed here: <https://www.keeppabeautiful.org/programs/adoptions/>

**Beneficial Use of Mining**

Update on visit to obtain GIS Mapping info at the DEP, California, PA office, which maintains files for Bituminous Underground Coal Mines.

Terry obtained maps that are geo-referenced (approximately 6.2 GB). He needs the ability to view the e-files.

Terry also has an appointment with the surface mines bureau that typically closes / reclaims the surface mine areas.

Terry is also trying to get oil and gas well locations from the DCNR / PADEP in Pittsburgh.

Tom indicated that adequate information has been obtained to present the information to Borough Engineer - Michael Glister to begin investigating how we can view and work with the large files Terry has obtained.

**Other Items of Interest:**

**Transport of drilling waters by barge on Monongahela.**

Terry originally sent the article as an FYI. It was known that these barges are double-hulled for safety.

**ACHD hearing on proposed power generation plant in Elizabeth?**

Hearing was delayed. No additional news. Tom to check for additional news.

**Forever chemicals in the water**

Positive tests for these chemicals have been found in surrounding areas but the article did not reveal our PAWC intake has been tested yet. Many other international articles also referencing positive tests. Lorie referenced a Post-Gazette article from the summer concerning fire-fighting chemicals getting in the McKeesport water system.

Rick detailed information of Forever Chemicals:

The forever chemicals are Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS). These chemicals are manufactured for use in a wide variety of products including firefighting foam, metal and plating and finishing, textiles, paper and cardboard packaging, industrial and household cleaning products, surface coatings, paint and varnish, plastics, resins and rubbers, adhesives, antifogging materials, cement additives, oil industry, mining, photography, electronics, semiconductors, etching, pesticides, medical uses, oil spills as well as in non-stick cookware, fiber and fabric stain protection, food packaging, and personal care products. They are also found in landfills.

PFAS in Firefighting foam is specific to Aqueous Film-forming Foam (AFFF) that are used for extinguishing Class B Fires (Liquid fires). Class A firefighting foam, designed for material fires (houses, wildfires, etc.) does not contain PFAS.

Concerning the PA American Water Company, PAWC-Pittsburgh has tested their water distributions at two locations for PFAS, Hayes Mine Treatment Plant in Baldwin and Aldrich Water Treatment Plant in Elrama. Elrama is the location of the water intakes from the Monongahela River. Four sampling events were completed in 2014 and 2015 at both locations for six individual PFAS. The results were below detection limits (no detections of any PFAS).

Rick Moore expanded on the health concerns that have been linked to PFAS. The list is lengthy, but have included Birth defects, accelerated puberty, potential carcinogenic, low birth weight, transfer of chemicals into a human fetus in umbilical cord blood and to the newborn in breast milk, thyroid effects, high cholesterol, ulcerative colitis.

The US EPA has set heath advisory limits on two PFAS (there are over 9,000 PFAS). The advisory is 70 parts per trillion (individually or combined) in drinking water. Several other PFAS are being studied and new toxicological data is under development with other PFAS having either human health or ecological screening levels.

The topic is emerging, and the science is still determining what the safe exposure levels are.

Concerns applicable to Jefferson Hills Borough regarding PFAS would be the Fire departments use of PFAS-containing AFFF (foam) used for training and emergency response. The fire department should be aware of the types of foam in they use and where they use it for training or in emergency response. PFAS foam should not be used for training as there are alternative foams for this purpose.

Tom will make a contact with the Jefferson Hills Fire and Rescue to further investigate the fire suppression materials they use for fires and training purposes.

**General Business**

Discussion of EAC meeting forum and Zoom.

Tom to discuss with John Stinner about Zoom capabilities to conduct an in person meeting with Zoom capabilities. All agree that an in-person meeting is a good option, with ZOOM for those that cannot be present at the meeting.

A virtual option needs to be established so the link can be easily accessed.

Rick Motioned to adjourn, Kevin Seconded, meeting adjourned at 7:19 pm.