

Environmental Advisory Council
Jefferson Hills Borough, Pennsylvania
Meeting Minutes
February 23, 2022

Attendance

Roll call was captured by Zoom participation, Kevin Polick, Lori Bartrug, Rick Moore, Tom Donohue, Joey Lynch. John Stinner and Christina Weir. Meeting via Zoom only (Borough Conference Room not available)

PFAS Discussion

Discussed a bill moving through the PA senate to develop an alternate foam. Rick indicated that this bill would take awhile to be put to law.

Tom mentioned that the borough's emergency response team should update Hazmat procedures for a per or polyfluoroakyl chemical release from fire-fighting foam.

Tom, in the EAC's February report to council mentioned the incident the EAC was apprised of, where foam was used, i.e. a tanker truck accident along RT 51. A Council member was aware of another fire at the All Crane company on Rte. 837 where foam was also used more recently.

Rick provided a background on the federal and state regulations, sampling and an estimate of future regulatory action for these chemicals

US Steel Clairton Works Air Quality

Kevin indicated there is no news about US Steel.

Tom noted nothing will likely change for 2 more years until the older ovens are shut down .

Christina indicated that some of the information discussed during EAC meetings is information directly from US Steel. Members of the EAC should be discussing information to formulate an EAC opinion in regard to the environment. Tom indicated that what was reported to the Planning Committee was from the EAC minutes where there were no comments challenging U.S. Steel's.

Kevin reiterated what Terry had indicated at last month's meeting that gas wells in Glassport may be contributing to air quality. Tom provided a review of the information on the priorities for plugging abandoned wells. Tom to resend the article on the plugging of abandonment wells.

Tom encouraged EAC members to continue to share thoughts on US Steel and consider questions for the plant manager.

Beneficial Use of Mining

Gateway engineers is looking into software that can open old GIS information. There may be funds through Borough Council if it wouldn't be too much cost, likely around April.

Terry connected with someone with DOE about water testing and rare earth metals. Tim Shuman of the Peters Creek Watershed was asked about critical minerals and Tim does not have a wide range s of metals sampling. DOE appears to be fine with typical past analyses.

Schumann pointed out to Tom the Tomco wetlands maintenance of 5 years is almost up. Tim asked about the continued ownership and the likelihood that Tomko may be willing to grant the land back to some entity now their responsibility is near complete . Lori indicated that the sales agreement precludes use of the property for any other use. The property, according to Tim, has a number of state listed rare and endangered species. Kevin asked if there are grants to continue the maintenance and potentially make it an educational wetland. Tom indicated that there may be grants for this from the county conservation district.

Ravensburg Bridge Coal Waste Pile

Tom discussed the coal pile below Ravensburg bridge and mentioned environmental concerns with runoff into Peters Creek and unknowns about underground contamination.

John Stinner indicated that the EAC should go through council for support in determining the future of this property. John indicated that the EAC should collectively organize some ideas and propose them to council.

Christine's thoughts - We should support remediation and determine an avenue for this.

Rick offered to complete some research on the PADEP options for brownfield sites and remediation grants.

Peters Creek Adopt-a-highway.

Rick to send John information on the date for cleanup and dedication of the road signs. John requested to be sent contacts of any community groups that would also be involved.

John wants to coordinate with several groups to have clean ups on the areas of most concern that Rick pointed out in a list to John.

New Development of Mill Stone Village Property

Tom indicated that it might be a good tour some evening for observing sediment control for developments. There were several members who expressed interest. Tom will see if he can get a date from the property owner or engineer.

Lori – Motion to adjourn, Joey second. Meeting adjourned at 7:25 pm.