

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

Attendance:

Present: Terry Ackman, Kevin Polick and Tom Donohue

Zoom: Joey Lynch, Lori Bartrug and John Stinner

Jefferson Hills Cleanup Day March 25th (delayed due to bad weather):

Utilizing Rick Moore's list of identified roads

PA Adopt a Road / Peters Creek Road:

Scouts' dedication of Peter's Creek Road cleanup adoption postponed to a future date

US Steel adoption process – in process (Polick)

Trout stocking scheduled for noon, March 25th

United States Steel (USS) Clairton Works Update (Polick):

US Steel Clairton Works 2021 Environmental Report is published and available at:

<https://www.ussteel.com/documents/40705/71641/USS+Clairton+Works+Operations+Environmental+Report+2021.pdf/5734848a-2bbf-6448-9cab-7d008a23f160?t=1646082857897>

USS Clairton Works Community Advisory Panel Update (Polick):

March 22, 2022, 1st qtr 2022 meeting began regarding *safety* - emphasis on knowing your surroundings. December 17th, 2021, runaway car on Maple ave by plant entrance – fortunately no injuries. With the winter darkness, lighted stop signs are being installed at the entrances.

Environment: March 19, 2022, a flushing liquor spilled occurred. Fish and Boat Commission inspected that evening and PA DEP was there the next day to inspect. No liquid entered the river.

Compliance Stack Testing: beginning 2022 testing schedule.

Air Pollution Episode Rule (Inversion) ACHD: USS Clairton Works plan was resubmitted March 2nd and waiting Allegheny County Health Department approval. Regarding the latest inversion, USS Clairton Works was implementing their plan prior to the warning from ACHD as they were determining a potential inversion from their monitoring equipment.

Discussion about Air Quality Index vs National Ambient Air Quality Standard.

Discussions on the ACHD fines (link to the media articles at the end of these minutes) and US Steel's opinion. Main point stated for the CAP members - the Consent Agreement ACHD was to announced penalties quarterly. This latest announced fine was an accumulation of 2nd, 3rd and 4th Qtr 2021.

ACHD will be holding public comment on coke gas regulations on May 11th at the Clairton Municipal building.

Stated that except for the inversion on Tuesday, March 15th, SO₂ has been under the max since the startup after the fire.

Stack Plant Performance, 1st Qtr on target for the best. Feb was 99.6% - only 4 exceedances. Comparison to 2005 which was roughly 85%.

13 & 14 Battery Regenerator Cleanouts: Any idle hot process impacts the refractory brick. 64 chamber doors completed to date at a cost of \$7 million. Total project estimated cost is \$21 million.

Community: Discussion about their “SERVE” (veteran based) group. It supports Shepard’s heart (veteran home), Clairton’s Memorial Hill, Homestead Cemetery, Sister’s Place and the American Legion.

Federal Orphaned Well Program (Donohue):

Government funding – How / What basis to apply for the funding
Grants – how to lobby for / reference article
Review Borough mapping for the number of these wells in the Borough

DOE -Water Sampling:

(Donohue) Requesting to see recent water samples from Peter’s Creek
(Ackman) Discussion on old documentation referencing water samples and bug studies of Peter’s Creek. Samples of high aluminum correlated to areas of no bugs and fish.

Walton Road (Ackman / Donohue):

Flooding occurring for our residents. Walton is a state road and PennDot has previously dredged the “No Name stream” in the past but the current supervisor has no plans to do it in the future. Some of additional water maybe coming from old mine openings in the area. Tom and Terry as private citizens may approach our state representative for assistance

Excessive Salt Use:

On Waterman Road by S-Bend, large amount of salt place from prior storm (Bartrug). Will follow up with borough maintenance (Lynch)

Wetland (Donohue):

Continue to investigate if the property can be handed over from Tomko Construction to care-taking entity, i.e. the watershed association or the borough, etc. Also, what is necessary to make it project ready.

Beneficial Use of Mining, Water Quality and Abandoned Well:

Maps (Ackman): still in progress
Coal refuse pile by Ravensburg Bridge (Group): Keep it on the agenda list. Unknown what the next steps may be.
(Ackman): In other similar coal refuse pile situations the common practice was to place a cap of clay on top to minimize rainwater infiltration.
Pile could be used for mining of rare earth materials

PFAS / Fire Foam:

Continue to push electors about the bill. Follow the status.

EQT Gas Well Pad – Union township (Polick):

Residents contacted Polick about concerns on a EQT gas well off of Pumpkin Center Road in Union Township which is very close to the Allegheny County / Jefferson hills borough border. Emphasis was regarding an upcoming Union Township council meeting and have the residents voice their concerns about future air and water quality and the level of planned restrictions on the new fracking pad and well heads.

Meeting ended with 1st motion by Polick and 2nd by Ackerman

Following are articles sent to EAC members for this month's discussions and reference:

EPA AIR QUALITY FORECAST FOR TODAY AND TOMORROW

<https://www.airnow.gov/?city=Clairton&state=PA&country=USA>

U.S. Steel Fined by County

<https://triblive.com/local/u-s-steel-hit-with-859k-in-fines-by-alleghey-county-health-department/>

and again..

<https://triblive.com/local/u-s-steel-slapped-with-1-8m-fine-for-alleged-hydrogen-sulfide-emissions/>

Air Quality Good News

<https://triblive.com/local/all-alleghey-county-air-quality-monitors-meet-federal-standards-a-first-in-two-decades/>

HYDRO POWER FROM COAL MINES

https://www.heraldbulletin.com/news/local_news/new-use-for-old-mines-pumped-storage-hydropower-gaining-momentum/article_becd4f8e-89c8-11ec-a6da-1766773589b4.html

FEDERAL ORPHANED WELL PROGRAM

<https://www.blm.gov/programs/energy-and-minerals/oil-and-gas/federal-orphaned-well-program>

FEDERAL ORPHANED OIL AND GAS WELL CLEANUP INCLUDING PA FUNDING

[https://www.doi.gov/pressreleases/biden-administration-announces-115-billion-states-create-jobs-cleaning-orphaned-oil#:~:text=This%20is%20a%20key%20initiative,orphaned%20oil%20and%20gas%20well.'](https://www.doi.gov/pressreleases/biden-administration-announces-115-billion-states-create-jobs-cleaning-orphaned-oil#:~:text=This%20is%20a%20key%20initiative,orphaned%20oil%20and%20gas%20well.)

PA PROGRAM FOR ORPHANED OIL AND GAS WELL CLEANUP FUNDING

https://www.sharonherald.com/news/25-million-for-abandoned-well-cleanup-just-the-start-of-work-in-pa/article_2f7f05b6-13d1-51b7-859c-f3982ea17e98.html