

MCCS Town Hall Meeting Minutes

Middletown Township Building

August 14, 2017 @ 7:00pm

Presenters: Eric Friedman, Seth Kovnat, Bibianna Dussling

Notes: George Siter

Intro

- Bibianna asks the group to rise for Pledge of Allegiance
- Bibianna then introduces the agenda and presenters from MCCS
- Eric Friedman discusses the complications of ME2 related self-evacuation (knowing wind direction, walking on foot, having minimal time, alert system or lack thereof, etc.)
- None of the invited guests were able to attend with the exception of a Rep from State Police barracks
- We are closing in on the one-year anniversary of the formation of MCCS
- Town hall meeting originated due to scheduled Middletown Township Council meeting being cancelled due to lack of quorum
- State Senator Tom Killion and State Rep Chris Quinn are still working with other officials to schedule public meeting with Sunoco Logistics (ETP)

Hazards Study

- Seth Kovnat presented the key findings from Hazards Study that was commissioned by MCCS members and completed by Quest Consultants
 - True definition of “natural” gas liquids
 - Worst-case scenarios
 - Large scale leak evacuation is 3 to 5-mile radius
 - Different types of releases / leaks
 - Delayed ignition creates extreme scenarios
 - Vapor cloud explosion presents unknown scenarios
 - Creates “BIC lighter” effect until materials empty once valves close
 - Can settle and remain in soil
 - Hazards study used DEP specific info from applications
 - Contention regarding proximity of closest pumping station
 - Ran 2 scenarios: 1,200 & 575 PSI to plot immediate ignition impact status
 - Bibianna clarifies PHMSA’s role (data supplied to emergency responders)
 - Seth demonstrates Potential Impact Radius (PIR) by county (active vs. non-active)
 - Example of real NGL explosion – Follansbee, WV
 - Outlined population density by county (500 people impact at high density, 1,000 people w/ delayed ignition)
 - Simple failure scenarios can dramatically impact and Sunoco’s industry worst leak rate has to be factored in

Q & A

- What are ignition sources? In event of leak could be anyone within radius from simple ignition sources like cell phone.
- Resident wants PA judges to see the group's presentation and understand the science better
- There are multiple pipelines to consider (8 inch, 12 inch, 16 inch, 20inch)
- There have been leaks on 8 and 12 inch pipelines (Edgemont & Chi Chester)

Tom Smith

- Asks Seth if you need specific info from operator (Sunoco) to do QRA
- Seth doesn't believe that you need operator's input in order to quantify what can happen and how likely and instead can rely on public records w/ appropriate scenarios
- The concern is that Middletown Township officials linked Sunoco Logistics and risk assessment contractor (DNV). Ultimately, DNV was terminated due to conflict of interest

Chris Garriga

- First learned of the proposed pipelines from William Evans
- Chris recently requested via editorial for the entire Township Council to resign because they weren't informed when they voted unanimously 6-0 on September 26, 2016 to grant easements to Sunoco Logistics in order to build the proposed Mariner East 2 Pipelines
- Chris has previously requested information be posted on the township website regarding ME2
- Chris reasserted that the lack of research led to the uneducated unanimous vote despite over 200 people in attendance that night w/ the significant majority of residents adamantly opposed
- Township Council has twice sent letters to Middletown residents stating they weren't accountable for the ME2 pipeline installation in Middletown
- Chris commended MCCS for time, effort, money to protect the community
- Township Council had the option to vote Yes, No, Need More Time
- Township was paid \$1.8M for easements but residents will suffer loss of property values and diminished sense of safety... the payout pales in comparison to those negative impacts
- Chris believes the township negotiated the "worst deal possible" and was offended that Council took pride in the negotiation outcomes
- The lawyer employed by the Township, James Flandreau, has yet to submit invoices to Middletown for any work on pipeline negotiations. Of equal if not greater concern, Mr. Flandreau has no expertise with land rights and actually specializes in workman's comp cases
- Township officials are looking to shift the blame to Governor Wolf and while he played a role, he has different motivations. He's trying to fill a \$3-billion-dollar budget gap, so he thinks \$150 million annually will help that cause. The Governor doesn't live in Middletown, but our council does. They should have known better and acted to protect our neighbors.
- Chris encouraged residents to vote for change and fight for information that will protect residents land rights
- The Township should've kept the tax-cut and used it to inform the public and to hire a proper lawyer with a specialty in land rights.
- Vote for change at the township level

William Evans

- James Flandreau is a workman's comp lawyer
- \$1.5M of the \$1.8M will be allocated for the Route 1 / Route 352 intersection improvement, renovations to the Roosevelt School and additional work on the Smedley Tract
- Many residents, including Mr. Evans, warned Council of the dangers of dealing with Sunoco and selling off Township land. They politely listened, but ignored resident's concerns.
- Mr. Evans believes it's insane what they've done and believes the entire Council should be removed immediately, but unfortunately PA does not allow constitutional override
- In the near future, taxes will go up, but property values will go down

Brookhaven Resident Christina Johnson

- Pipeline in coming right through their backyard
- How can we stop this? What can we do?
 - Legal Action
 - Presence at local meetings
 - Watch dogs – holding elected officials to commitments
 - Call or email your township councilperson, state rep, state senator, congressperson
 - Votes will trump campaign contributions
 - Call or email the DEP and PUC
 - Monitor environmental issues

Eric Friedman

- Townships have more authority than perceived
- Residents are acting
- 2015 Edgemont leak still affecting homeowner
- 1992 Edgemont Sunoco pipeline leak still impacting property 25 years later
- Sunoco has had 291 leaks over the last 10 years w/ little to no recourse

David Irving

- Middletown Township Resident for over 40 years
- How does gas get transmitted? Pipelines are the safest option.
- What can really be done given that project is 90% complete (audience members disagreed)
- How do we create jobs? What is the alternative?
- MCCS needs to better clarify what alternatives are available

Bibianna Dussling

- We're focused on safety, what the alternatives are actually aren't our responsibility
- We instead work with other local organizations and elected officials to promote awareness
 - Protect Penn Delco
 - Uchwlan Community Group
- Delaware County Officials are currently focused on All Hazards approach via work w/ Delaware County Emergency Services

Phil Bloc

- This project is corporate profit, plain and simple, not progress (taking property is not progress)

Edgemont Resident

- 20-year resident w/ a deep respect for nature
- These products will be shipped to Scotland and Norway where fracking is prohibited
- We're taking ALL the risk and the shipping destination is also in danger given the highly combustible nature of these products

Seth Kovnat

- Pinhole leaks can result in very large vapor clouds and the detection system is very limited
- Seth proposes a pipeline corridor similar to what Alaska has... PA is one of only two states with no state level pipeline oversight
- Resident asks Seth if an ME1 or ME2 leak / explosion would impact other nearby pipelines... Seth said he hasn't looked into that in-depth, but does have concerns that would need to be validated

Jack Richardson

- Lives near Riddlewood Drive and bought home 47 years ago
- Wants to know why the pipeline is anywhere near schools and is worried about the contents of the pipelines.
- Mr. Richardson stated that Sunoco Logistics appears to do a lot of on-site monitoring and pipelines may be the safest way to transport.
- He also believes the pipelines will be built, but believes Sunoco Logistics much do a much better job of selling the public on the contents and any inherent dangers.

Miscellaneous Comments

- Legal action is still pending on a number of fronts
- Don't put kids at risk... what is the school district doing? Deferring to County Emergency Services work on multi-hazards study
- Why are local and state officials waiting until 2017 to develop risk assessment and emergency response planning given that this project has been in development since 2012?
- If successful in stopping pipelines, what happens next? Leverage for geothermal?

Richard Smith

- Middletown Township resident on War Admiral Lane
- Praised MCCA regarding actions, discussion and educated insights
- Suggested we put together a video depicting worst-case scenario
- Strong alternatives need to be provided. Seth explained that converting materials to alcohol was suggested, but basically ignored.
- This is an emotional issue. Please stay grounded in logic. No formal plan for any of this...

- A significant leak or explosion may never happen, but these pipelines and their contents are different, no doubt.
- Continue to hold folks responsible for decisions
- There is a fine line between alarmist and awareness and MCCA has walked that line well