

DEP Responses to 2/4/25 Questions from Mt. Eyre Residents:

Most identified topics/questions of residents to be addressed:

1. **Contamination Testing** – Can you confirm how many wells are contaminated and where they are located? Are there additional properties that haven't been tested that will be? Are you going to conduct soil sampling to determine if there is any soil contamination? Are you removing contaminated soil and replacing it with clean backfill?
DEP expects Energy Transfer to respond to this question.
2. **Status of the Leak Investigation & Mitigation** – When did the leak start? How much product was lost? How does Sunoco monitor the pipeline for safety? What can we anticipate moving forward for Sunoco to ensure resolution of the pipeline so that a leak does not occur again? What is Sunoco's plan for addressing contaminated wells, cleaning ground water and providing filtration for future risk for those houses in the neighborhood?

DEP expects Energy Transfer and PHSMA to respond to this question.

3. **Health Concerns** – Is our water safe for drinking, bathing and household tasks? What should residents be doing to protect their health? What are the protocols if a well is tested negative or positive? How are you going to monitor for those residents who do not currently have a positive well but may in the future?
DEP expects Energy Transfer to also answer this question and understands PADOH is creating resources to address health related questions.

DEP recommends that residents test private well waters periodically. Here are some guidelines to follow when testing your water that can be found at [Water Testing | Department of Environmental Protection | Commonwealth of Pennsylvania](#) (click to open new window):

- **Test your water every year for total coliform bacteria, nitrates, total dissolved solids, and pH levels.**
- **If you suspect other contaminants, test for those too.**
- **Always use a state certified laboratory that conducts drinking water tests.**

Residents potentially impacted by the pipeline release can reach out to Energy Transfer's hotline (877-397-3383) to request sampling be conducted by Energy Transfer and/or they can perform their own sampling and submit samples to a certified laboratory. A list of local certified laboratories was provided to Upper Makefield Township and is available on their website

[PrivateWells_LabCertification-dep.pdf](#) (click to open new window). The recommended primary compounds of concern to be analyzed at this time are listed below, along with the recommended laboratory method.

DEP has also indicated in public meetings that if the supply well results meet the Statewide health standard medium specific concentrations (MSCs), then the water can be used for drinking, cooking, bathing, etc. A link to DEP's MSCs can be found at [Statewide Health Standards | Department of Environmental Protection | Commonwealth of Pennsylvania](#) (click to open new window). A summary of the standards for primary compounds of concern are also included below.

Compound	Analysis Method	Standard (ug/L)
Benzene	EPA Method 524.2	5
Ethylbenzene	EPA Method 524.2	700
Toluene	EPA Method 524.2	1,000
Methyl tertiary butyl ether (MTBE)	EPA Method 524.2	20
1,2,4-Trimethylbenzene (1,2,4-TMB)	EPA Method 524.2	130
Isopropylbenzene (cumene)	EPA Method 524.2	840

1,2-Dichloroethane (EDC)	EPA Method 524.2	5
Total Xylenes	EPA Method 524.2	10,000
Naphthalene	EPA Method 524.2	100
1,3,5-Trimethylbenzene (1,3,5-TMB)	EPA Method 524.2	130
Ethylene Dibromide (EDB, 1,2-Dibromoethane)	EPA Method 504.1	0.05
Compound	Analysis Method	Standard (mg/L)
Lead	EPA Method 200.7 or 200.8 (based on lab availability)	5

Standard = residential, used aquifer Statewide health standard medium specific concentration

4. **Communication** – What is the communication plan moving forward to keep the community informed? Will there be a single site that the residents can rely on for all information? Why didn't the Township communicate the investigation when it began? Who should resident's legal counsel contact for Sunoco, DEP and Upper Makefield Township?
Alex Langan, Esq. (484-250-5930) is DEP's internal counsel assigned to this project.

The following questions have been collected from over 20 separate households and have not been edited. They capture our concerns. We anticipate that these questions will be answered in a comprehensive written response if not addressed during the Township Meeting.

What's Happening/Going On?:

1. What was the issue? What happened? How much product was spilled? When did the leak start, etc.
DEP expects Energy Transfer to respond to this question.
2. How many properties are affected? How many have been tested? How many are negative, positive, in process? Where are they located, etc.?
DEP expects Energy Transfer to respond to this question.
3. What is the impact on health? For properties affected, is the water safe for drinking, cooking, bathing, washing, watering lawns, etc. For property not affected, are there any immediate concerns?
DEP understands PADOH is creating resources to address health related questions.
DEP addressed this question in #3 Health Concerns above.
4. What is the immediate fix? Just replacing the faulty pipe? Will there be any other checks on other sections? How do we know this will not re-occur on other parts of the pipeline? How will you monitor your equipment?
DEP expects Energy Transfer to respond to this question.
5. What is the remediation plan for the neighborhood?
 - a. For the wells and properties impacted, what is the plan for remediation and continuous monitoring?
 - b. For the wells that are not currently impacted but could be in the future. Are there any preventative measures that need to be installed, and what is the plan for ongoing monitoring?**Energy Transfer indicated to DEP they will be entering the Act 2 cleanup program. Information about Act 2, also referred to as Land Recycling Cleanup Program, can be found at [Land Recycling Program | Department of Environmental Protection | Commonwealth of Pennsylvania](#) (click to open new window).**
6. Is our drinking water safe?

DEP understands PADOH is creating resources to address health related questions.

DEP addressed this question in #3 Health Concerns above.

7. When did the leak start?

DEP expects Energy Transfer to respond to this question.

8. How much product was lost?

DEP expects Energy Transfer to respond to this question.

9. How do you know?

DEP expects Energy Transfer to respond to this question.

10. What should residents be doing to protect their health?

DEP understands PADOH is creating resources to address health related questions

As indicated in #3 Health Concerns above, DEP recommends sampling of private supply wells.

11. What is the communication plan for keeping the community informed?

DEP expects Energy Transfer to respond to this question. In addition, DEP will continue to respond to complaints submitted by calling 866-255-5158 or online at [Submit a complaint online](#) (click to open new window). In addition, DEP will share field narratives with Upper Makefield Township upon completion.

12. Why didn't the Township communicate the investigation when it began?

DEP expects Upper Makefield to respond to this question.

13. Who should residents' legal counsel contact for Sunoco, DEP and Upper Makefield Township?

As indicated in #4 Communication above, Alex Langan, Esq. (484-250-5930) is DEP's internal counsel assigned to this project.

14. Can you confirm how many contaminated wells there are and what streets that they are located on (based off your most recent results)?

DEP expects Energy Transfer to respond to this question.

15. When did all of these issue(s) start? Can you please provide an accurate summary on the history of everything that is happening and share a cohesive timeline, so we all understand?

DEP's timeline of activities includes the following items:

In late September of 2023, DEP was made aware by a resident that ET was investigating in the area for a possible leak in the Twin Oaks-Newark Pipeline. DEP reached out to ET for further information and in early October of 2023, received sampling data from a residential well nearby that did not indicate a detection of petroleum-based contaminants. ET also claimed that their investigation did not indicate a release from the pipeline at that time. DEP provided information to the owner of the well regarding testing and treatment systems that are commercially available.

In September and October 2024, DEP received four complaints asserting some issues with odor and water quality concerns with their wells. The nature and frequency of the complaints did not indicate a larger problem, and well owners were advised to look into testing and treatment systems if they had questions about their wells. During this time, a homeowner's sampling result indicated the presence of bacteria but still no indication of petroleum-based products.

In December 2024, DEP was made aware of sampling conducted by a homeowner's insurance company indicating petroleum-based contaminants exceeding state standards, and the presence of petroleum-based product floating on the surface of the well.

16. Can you share more details on what the pinhole is that has been found? What does that mean for all of us?

DEP expects Energy Transfer to respond to this question.

17. When did Sunoco "first learn" that there were leaks or ground water infiltration?

DEP expects Energy Transfer to respond to this question.

18. How many areas and homes have currently been impacted by chemical infiltration?

DEP expects Energy Transfer to respond to this question.

19. What is the precise chemical composition of the chemicals that have been detected?
DEP expects Energy Transfer to respond to this question and provide Safety Data Sheets as indicated in public meetings.
20. How many known carcinogens/toxins have been identified?
DEP expects Energy Transfer to respond to this question and understands PADOH is creating resources to address health related questions.
21. When or has the EPA been notified?
A notice of release was communicated to EPA through the National Response Center release reporting system on February 2, 2025.
22. Has there been testing of area wells, sewers, aquifers, and ground water?
DEP expects Energy Transfer to respond to this question.
23. How deep did Sunoco go to test?
DEP expects Energy Transfer to respond to this question.
24. Did Sunoco install or do they plan to install additional/updated monitoring devices and where? (This harkens back to previous problem where they indicating they had monitoring devices in place, but nothing was noted by Sunoco devices this time —WHY?— it was only when neighbors began to smell chemical gases or it impacted drinking water that Sunoco was contacted and was made aware of the situation)
DEP expects Energy Transfer to respond to this question.
25. What are the monitoring devices currently detecting?
DEP expects Energy Transfer to respond to this question.
26. Have soil samples been taken? Where? How deep? What has been detected in the soil?
DEP expects Energy Transfer to respond to this question.
27. Some of the wells are rather deep — has water been tested?
DEP expects Energy Transfer to respond to this question.
28. What is the plan to remediate and test to see if remediation is working?
DEP expects Energy Transfer to also respond to this question.
29. What is the plan for people not impacted now, but who may be impacted later by seepage over time? I ask this because you mentioned that some people impacted were not necessarily close to the actual leak. Therefore, what will the scope of the area to be tested?
DEP expects Energy Transfer to also respond to this question.
30. Will there be a schedule of testing soil and water not just now but over a specified period of time (maybe years) of those neighbors in and around the leakage area - no problem today doesn't necessarily mean one won't turn up down the line.
DEP expects Energy Transfer to also respond to this question.
31. Why has this happened a second time in less than 2 years?
DEP expects Energy Transfer to respond to this question.
32. How does Sunoco plan to compensate those impacted/those impacted in the future and make residents' well water (and possibly soil and air) safe again - what things should people be doing to protect themselves from harmful toxins because I can tell you those types of products release benzene into the air and that is a known carcinogen.
DEP expects Energy Transfer to respond to this question.
33. What are all of the tankers in the neighborhood doing?
DEP expects Energy Transfer to respond to this question.
34. What is the plan to evaluate the entire pipeline?
DEP expects Energy Transfer to respond to this question.
35. Probing- was the initial spot found through probing? What good is probing? The entire pipeline should be exposed and evaluated including under where it crosses the street.
DEP expects Energy Transfer to respond to this question.
36. What's the plan for cleaning ground water?
DEP expects Energy Transfer to respond to this question.

37. What's the plan to make sure we have enough water while they are remediating the contaminated ground water?
DEP expects Energy Transfer to respond to this question.
38. What's the Plan for closing contaminated wells and putting in new wells at those houses?
DEP expects Energy Transfer to respond to this question.
39. Is the plan to attach us to public water as that is the only way our houses will retain value?
DEP expects Energy Transfer to respond to this question.
40. The pipeline is how old? What caused this leak? Shouldn't the whole thing be replaced?
DEP expects Energy Transfer to respond to this question.
41. What are the current and next steps are being taken to find the root causes(s) of these issue(s)? How long do we think this will take? Will work continue to be done 24/7 to find a resolution?
DEP expects Energy Transfer to respond to this question.
42. Who's responsible for keeping all residents informed/updated on what's happening? What will the cadence of updates be? Daily?
DEP expects Energy Transfer to respond to this question.
43. Is our water safe to drink?
DEP understands PADOH is creating resources to address health related questions.
44. What should I be telling my family members who drank this same water and it has been confirmed contaminated?
DEP understands PADOH is creating resources to address health related questions.
45. Is there any reason to be concerned about contamination in the soil? And if so, what remediation efforts does Sunoco plan to undertake?
DEP expects Energy Transfer to respond to this question.
46. What are the replacement plans for the pipes by Sunoco? Neighbors have been led to believe that the lifespan of these pipes are 50-70 years old. And it sounds like we are in that range. How soon are they going to patch things as leaks spring? When are there plans to a larger-scale replacement?
DEP expects Energy Transfer to respond to this question.
47. Exactly how are we supposed to suspect if we do have contamination? We understand that there could be a smell, but is that always?
If your well is proximal to the pipeline release or a neighboring property with contamination, if it is odorous, discolored, or has a chemical taste, then DEP recommends that you ask Energy Transfer to test your water. DEP also understands PADOH is creating resources to address health related questions. DEP also expects Energy Transfer to respond to this question.
48. If we test "ok" right now is that for sure going to stay that way? And if not, how could we know if we should get tested again?
In general, DEP recommends that residents test private well waters periodically. Guidelines to follow when testing your water that can be found at [Water Testing | Department of Environmental Protection | Commonwealth of Pennsylvania](#). DEP expects Energy Transfer to respond to planned frequency of testing related to this release incident. DEP also understands PADOH is creating resources to address health related questions.
49. How often will Sunoco provide more testing for us in the future to ensure that we have stayed uncontaminated and when?
DEP expects Energy Transfer to respond to this question.
50. For the neighbors that are not currently affected but are in the immediate proximity of those who are, what periodicity will our wells be tested so that we have assurance that the plume has not spread? We have been restricting water use out of fear that the impacted areas will be drawn towards or expanded based on unknowns subsurface water flows and seasonal variations to the aquifer? The other follow on is similar. Those who are presently impacted are recycling the contamination into different layers of the aquifer based on our septic systems, so in time, just not the deepest wells could likewise be contaminated.

In general, DEP recommends that residents test private well waters periodically. Guidelines to follow when testing your water that can be found at [Water Testing | Department of Environmental Protection | Commonwealth of Pennsylvania](#) (click to open a new window). DEP expects Energy Transfer to respond to planned frequency of testing related to this release incident. DEP also understands PADOH is creating resources to address health related questions.

51. Are you proposing to provide well surface skimmers on the impacted wells? Remove what you can? Install pump and treat systems?
DEP expects Energy Transfer to respond to this question.
52. Can you outline a timeline for the next level of geological analysis and initial thoughts on remedial activity?
DEP expects Energy Transfer to respond to this question.
53. When was the current pipeline installed?
DEP expects Energy Transfer to respond to this question.
54. What products does the pipeline transport?
DEP expects Energy Transfer to respond to this question.
55. Where is the information on this pipeline located? There is a shocking lack of information on DEP's website.
DEP will continue to share our field narratives and answers to residents' questions with Upper Makefield Township to share with the community.
56. Can this type of leak or even potential future leaks erode the soil enough to cause a sinkhole?
DEP expects Energy Transfer to respond to this question.
57. Is the contaminated water safe to bathe, wash clothes, dishes and hands with?
DEP understands PADOH is creating resources to address health related questions.
58. Are we all connected to the same aquifer? Or do we all have our own water that is not connected to each other?
DEP expects Energy Transfer to respond to this question.
59. What steps need to be taken to move us from well water to municipal water?
DEP expects Upper Makefield Township and Energy Transfer to respond to this question.
DEP acknowledges that financial assistance is available for water quality improvement projects in Pennsylvania through the Pennsylvania Infrastructure Investment Authority (PENNVEST). Information about PENNVEST can be found at <https://www.pa.gov/agencies/pennvest.html> (click to open new window).
60. What was the diameter of the leak?
DEP expects Energy Transfer to respond to this question.
61. Can we have a picture of the hole?
DEP expects Energy Transfer to respond to this question.
62. Has Sunoco and DEP conducted air quality testing over a period of time?
DEP expects Energy Transfer to also respond to this question.
DEP has not performed air quality testing.
63. Is DEP doing their own testing or will the Township be hiring someone to conduct their own independent testing?
DEP has collected samples from one residential well. If the Township or residents perform independent testing, DEP will assist with interpreting the environmental aspects of the results.
64. In the summer Sunoco was here for a while and cleared out a big lot at the top of Bruce and Glenwood, what was happening then? This was where they store an excavator.
DEP expects Energy Transfer to respond to this question.
65. Is Sunoco involved with what has been done on Dolington Rd? If so, what is that?
DEP expects Energy Transfer to respond to this question.
66. How will residents be receiving the formal documentation of their test results?
DEP expects Energy Transfer to respond to this question.

67. Are there any similar situations that have occurred in PA like this one (outside what took place at State College) or elsewhere in the US that involved Sunoco? And if so, how did they address the concerns and appropriately remediate it?
There have been other pipeline releases in Pennsylvania, including incidents from Sunoco / Energy Transfer pipelines. Environmental cleanups have taken place under DEP's Act 2 program.
68. How is the UP Township working with the state, local and potentially federal government to handle this? What steps is UP Township taking for us, its residents?
DEP expects Upper Makefield Township to respond to this question.
69. What experts have been consulted (specific names) and what consultants have been hired or contracted to manage the situation in Mt. Eyre?
DEP expects Energy Transfer to respond to this question.

Processes for Residents to Follow?:

70. What is the proper forum for all of the Mt. Eyre residents to use to stay connected on this topic?
DEP expects Energy Transfer to respond to this question.
71. What steps should homeowners take if you have been informed that you have a contaminated well?
DEP understands PADOH is creating resources to address health related questions.
72. At this point in time what is the research/actions being taken or taken if you have a contaminated well?
DEP expects Energy Transfer to respond to this question.
73. When we call our insurance company about this issue, what should we be asking for? Many of us have called our insurance company to try and be proactive but they have advised that they need more guidance. Can you provide guidance here in what exactly we need to ask them?
74. If we receive results from a water company doing testing independently from us and we see differing results, what steps should we take?
*DEP understands PADOH is creating resources to address health related questions. **If residents would like DEP's assistance comparing the results to drinking water standards, or would like to notify DEP of their independent test results, they can email the results to RA-EP-SEROECB@pa.gov.***

Next Steps?:

75. How soon will the meeting minutes/summary of this meeting be posted and shared for all neighbors to have available for reference?
DEP expects Energy Transfer to respond to this question.
76. Will updates continue to be shared via the UM Township site?
DEP expects Energy Transfer to respond to this question.
77. When and where will the next meeting be held to continue the discussion on this and any unanswered questions?
DEP expects Energy Transfer to respond to this question.
78. What next steps are being taken post today's meeting by Sunoco, UM Township and DEP? Will you be meeting daily to keep us updated?
DEP is in regular communication with Energy Transfer, the PADOH, PHMSA, the Township, and other parties. DEP has requested daily updates from Energy Transfer and calls at least once a week. DEP will promptly respond to citizen complaints and concerns, as well as inquiries from the Township. We will participate, as appropriate, in future public meetings. DEP will review all potable well testing data provided to us for comparison to drinking water standards. As Energy Transfer begins to perform an environmental site investigation, DEP will oversee that work in accordance with the Act 2 requirements.
79. When will we get the answers to the questions that weren't answered in this document by? How will the answers be shared with all Mt. Eyre residents?
DEP will provide written responses to the Township.