

**MEETING ON SUNOCO/ENERGY TRANSFER PIPELINE ISSUES
at Sol Finestone Elementary School, 1090 Eagle Road, Newtown, PA
February 13, 2025 Meeting Minutes**

The February 13, 2025 public meeting of the Sunoco/Energy Transfer Pipeline Issues was called to order by Chair Yvette Taylor at 7:47 p.m. In attendance were the following members of the Board of Supervisors: Chair Yvette Taylor, Vice Chair Ben Weldon, Treasurer Braun Taylor, Member Tom Cino and Member Tim Thomas. Also in attendance Assistant Township Manager Judy Caporiccio, Township Solicitor Will Oetinger, Esq., Township Engineer Amanda Fuller, P.E., Planning & Zoning Director Denise Burmester. Representing Sunoco/ Energy Transfer: Joe McGinn, Matt Gordon, Gus Burtland, James Franciscus, Rob Burke. Representing the U.S. Department of Transportation Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA): Bryan Lethcoe. Representing the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP): Dave Brown and Pat Patterson. Representing the Pennsylvania Department of Health: Dr. Julie Miller. Representing the Bucks County Health Department: Brendan O'Boyle.

Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance

Ms. Taylor led in the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance, which was followed by a moment of silence.

Ms. Taylor announced that this Board of Supervisors meeting has been advertised and there is a resolution pertaining to Sunoco pipeline leak on the agenda. Residents will have continuing opportunity to address their concerns and questions to Sunoco and the various governmental entities.

Ms. Taylor then requested that attendees, agency representatives and those intending to speak under Public Comment sign in on the sheets provided.

Resolution No. 2025-02-13-01- A resolution of the Board of Supervisors of Upper Makefield Township, Bucks County, formally articulating serious concerns regarding the response by Energy Transfer to the fuel pipeline leak in Upper Makefield Township and insisting upon additional actions and remediation efforts which prioritize the health, safety, and welfare of residents

Ms. Taylor read the resolution aloud. A motion was then made by Mr. Weldon and seconded by Mr. Thomas to approve Resolution No. 2025-02-13-01 articulating serious concerns regarding the response by Energy Transfer to the fuel pipeline leak in Upper Makefield Township and insisting upon additional actions and remediation efforts which prioritize the health, safety, and welfare of residents. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

Mt. Eyre Neighborhood Residents Task Force Introduction and Opening Statement

Dan LaHart and Florent Moise represented the Mt. Eyre Neighborhood Residents Task Force and provided an opening statement and presentation stating their concerns about the Sunoco Pipeline leak. They expressed appreciation to Upper Makefield Township, Congressman Brian Fitzpatrick, Senator Steven Santarsiero and Representative Perry Warren for their support. During the opening statements, the Task Force expressed concerns about education, communication and resources, demanded that PHMSA shut down the pipeline, and urged that an advocate emerge.

Sunoco Update

Joe McGinn, Matt Gordon, Gus Burtland, James Franciscus and Rob Burke represented Sunoco and provided a presentation and update. The team apologized for the leak in the pipeline and said a response team is now working full time on this project. The leak occurred at an area in the pipe that

had been previously repaired. That section of pipe removed was sent to an independent lab, where PHMSA was witness to the testing. That section was replaced with a new pipe. The pressure in the pipeline has been reduced by 20% and Sunoco/ET has continued visual inspections of the pipeline. There is no evidence of additional leaks. The investigation continues and the pipeline will be inspected for integrity with inline tools and additional actions taken dependent on the investigation results.

There was an explanation of the bedrock and fractures in the area and the water testing process, stating that as of this date, 127 wells have been tested, 92 have results and 6 of those wells are impacted by the leak; 102 additional wells are set to be tested.

Carbon filtration systems are offered for homes within the Mt. Eyre buffer zone and for all core area residents. Energy Transfer has contracted with Suburban Water to install these systems, and there are currently 13 scheduled for installation.

Energy Transfer will enter into the DEP Act 2 remediation process, which is DEP oversight of the cleanup and includes community outreach (including door-to-door) and regular updates. A community support center opened at 1798 Dolington Road for general information, requests and bottled water pickups.

Next steps include additional testing, filtration systems, clean-up, treatments and community outreach. The team reiterated that they are committed to cleaning up their mess.

Kyle Melander – Congressman Fitzpatrick’s office

Mr. Melander expressed appreciation for the residents’ involvement and work. He provided an update that the Congressman has requested that Energy Transfer shut down the pipeline, sent a letter to PHMSA outlining his concern regarding Energy Transfer maintaining operation of the pipeline, and spoke with Secretary of Transportation Sean Duffy about shutting down the pipeline.

U.S Department of Transportation, Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) Update

Bryan Lethcoe represented the U.S. Department of Transportation Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) and provided updates since the last meeting. He explained the process of their investigation, which provided PHMSA with sufficient documentation to keep the pipeline open. He confirmed that Sunoco voluntarily reduced the pressure in the pipeline by 20 percent. Mr. Lethcoe said that six (6) sleeves have been excavated and inspected in five (5) areas and found to be sound. They are continuing investigations, interviews with residents and water testing. He stated this is a high priority and PHMSA commits to every effort for the safety of the residents. He then outlined requirements of their Order to Sunoco, which includes reporting and a public awareness program, and stated PHMSA’s commitment to the requirements and enforcement.

Senator Steven Santarsiero

Senator Santasiero thanked the Supervisors, regulatory agencies and residents of Mt. Eyre for their diligence, and he committed to continue to advocate for the residents. He proceeded to ask questions of Sunoco regarding well testing and said that absent a guarantee that the pipeline is not leaking, the pipeline must be shut down for health and safety of the residents. He referenced that the Pennsylvania Constitution guarantees the right to clean water, and implored PHMSA shut down the pipeline.

State Representative Perry Warren

Representative Warren also thanked the Upper Makefield Township Supervisors, regulatory agencies

and residents of Mt. Eyre and appreciated the communication system that has been developed. He reiterated to the Sunoco/Energy Transfer representatives to take back the message to “do the right thing” and shut down the pipeline until there is a guarantee that there are no additional leaks for the health and safety of the residents.

PA Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) Update

Patrick Patterson and Dave Brown represented the PA Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) and expressed appreciation for the Upper Makefield Board of Supervisors, regulatory agencies, and neighbor efforts. They stressed the priority of this project and relayed DEP’s continued commitment as a resource to residents and the Township. DEP receives daily updates from Energy Transfer, monitors their work and treatment systems and continues site visits. They stated that the EPA is aware of the situation but is not involved at this time.

PA Health Department Remarks

Dr. Julie Miller, Toxicologist, represented the Pennsylvania Department of Health (PA DOH) and said a fact sheet is being prepared to answer questions received about the water usage and safety, which will be posted on the Township’s website. She encouraged residents to forward their test results when received for review and a one-on-one conversation regarding the next steps. Dr. Miller said the PA DOH will continue to monitor the situation and provided the following contact information:
Hotline – 717-787-3350, email – DBHB@pa.gov.

Brendan O’Boyle – Bucks County Health Department

Mr. O’Boyle affirmed that the Buck County Health Department will be involved if monitoring wells are installed and also with any septic issues.

Mt. Eyre Neighborhood Residents Consolidated Questions

Kristin Wojnovich, 128 Walker Road, provided background on her well and water issues. She first reported a petroleum odor in 2023, which was determined by DEP to be bacterial. In February 2025, an inspection of the well showed petroleum in the well, which has been skimmed and continues to accumulate fuel.

Dan LaHart, 114 Spencer Road, relayed residents’ concerns about their physical and emotional health, the smell of gas fumes for an extended period, and that pets that won’t drink the water. He requested that the Dept. of Health be proactive on behalf of the residents. Mr. LaHart then asked questions about the process to determine the size of the leak, product flow, the plume, aquifer studies and probe tests. He questioned the integrity of the test, noted that the wells caps were not opened which indicate a lack of communication between Sunoco and the testing company, and expressed the neighbors lack of confidence. Mr. Gordon of Sunoco asked for names and addresses after the meeting.

Florent Moise, 939 Mt. Eyre Road, asked about the quantity of product flowing in the pipeline during peak, the size of the leak, and the source of the odor reported in 2023.

Dan LaHart , 114 Spencer Road, questioned why the pipeline has not been shut down and why different technologies have not been employed to assess threats since the current detection system did not find the leak. He asked for MSDS sheets for products that flow through the pipeline and for an explanation of why MTBE is appearing in test result. Mr. LaHart questioned future use of the homes purchased by Sunoco and concerns about negative impact on the neighborhood and community. Supervisor Thomas expressed shock and disappointment that Sunoco purchased properties without notifying the Township.

Mike Hammond, 1021 River Road, asked for an explanation of why the leak was not detected sooner, why other detection systems were not used and the history of A sleeves.

A resident provided the history that led to installation of the pipeline, related easements and limited restrictions. He asked for a commitment from Energy Transfer to adjust the easement to protect the community in the future and for a piece of the removed pipe for third party analysis.

Dan LaHart, 114 Spencer Road, requested immediately: clean water, clean soil, compensation and care, safe and transparent pipeline operations, shut the pipeline down now.

Public Comments/Questions

Supervisor Ben Weldon thanked the residents for their presentation. He asked Sunoco to explain the criteria that determined the 6 wells are impacted, questioned what could cause MTBE and Benzene to appear in some test results, and asked Sunoco to provide a map or data table that shows the sampling results.

Supervisor Tim Thomas requested an explanation of the well test procedure/process, and asked why a physical well test was not performed in 2023. Sunoco confirmed that their current SOP and protocol now includes a physical well examination.

Supervisor Yvette Taylor requested information on the products being sent through the pipeline.

Kimberly Smith, 102 Spencer Road, requested information for product flow from 2023-present, questioned why the pipeline remains open, and requested agency representatives who can provide answers attend future meetings.

Natalie Miranda, 102 Crestwood Road, thanked the PA Department of Health and Bucks County Health Department for attending and asked for guidance on using water for bathing and laundry. Ms. Miranda asked Sunoco for reimbursement of health screening.

Joe Babiasz, 102 Crestwood Road, asked what type of jet fuel is flowing through the pipeline.

Supervisor Braun Taylor asked how many houses Sunoco purchased and if NDAs were included, why this type of sleeve was used, why sleeves were used instead of repairing by replacing the section of damaged pipe, what caused the dent that led to a repair, if Sunoco reported previous incidents to PHMSA and repercussions of not reporting.

Supervisor Tom Cino expressed extreme disappointment that the Township and residents cannot get straight answers regarding the safety of the well water and frustration that people with affected wells are not being provided with clean water immediately.

Kat LaHart, 114 Spencer Road, thanked the Board of Supervisors and government agencies for getting involved, stated that Sunoco's integrity program failed and ruined their community, and asked PHMSA how residents can further help.

Clem Smith, 102 Spencer Road, questioned what evidence Sunoco had of the leak, asked the annual revenues of this pipeline, commented that the pipeline is failing and susceptible to aging, questioned why new technologies are not being used for detection, and shared resident concerns about health and

dropping property values due to the leak. He reminded elected officials of the responsibility per the State Constitution to provide clean water and urged them to demand that the pipeline be shut down.

Ginny Kerslake of Chester County/West Whiteland Township provided a history of a similar experience with leaks in the Mariner East Pipeline involving the same operator. She urged Energy Transfer and the regulators to shut the pipeline down until the investigation is complete, cautioned homeowners not to sign anything without legal review and to continue contacting State representatives for assistance.

Doug Gumbs, 108 Pondview Drive, inquired about reimbursement for testing by an outside contractor.

Cathy Magliocchetti, 6 Spring Court, questioned why the top of the well was not inspected in 2023, stated that her well test today did not include the top of the well demonstrating that the SOPs in place are not being followed. She questioned the plume trajectory, asked how a buffer could be established when the spill has not been defined, and noted that the map does not show flow going toward the river.

Kathryn Katona, 11 Daffodil Lane, Newtown, inquired about the location of the A sleeves, asked for the amount of liquid that has been lost from the pipeline as well as the contaminants, and requested that the detection systems be tested.

Mt. Eyre Neighborhood Residents Closing Statement

Brian Roberts urged the regulatory agencies to ensure the safety and protection of the residents, the elected officials to be the voice of the people, and PHMSA and the Department of Transportation to demand shutdown of the pipeline until it is proven to be safe.

He urged the citizens to continue to stand together and sign petitions to shut down the pipeline.

He urged Energy Transfer/Sunoco to be transparent, ensure the safety and integrity of the pipeline, protect the community and shut down the pipeline.

Next Meeting and Adjournment

Ms. Taylor announced the next meeting will be on February 27, 2025 at Sol Finestone Elementary School at 7:30 p.m. A motion was made by Mr. Weldon and seconded by Mr. Thomas to adjourn the meeting at 11:25 p.m. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

Respectfully submitted,



David R. Nyman
Township Manager

Approved: March 4, 2025