

MEETING ON SUNOCO/ENERGY TRANSFER PIPELINE ISSUES
at Sol Finestone Elementary School, 1090 Eagle Road, Newtown, PA
February 27, 2025 Meeting Minutes

The February 27, 2025 public meeting of the Sunoco/Energy Transfer Pipeline Issues was called to order by Chair Yvette Taylor at 7:30 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 were Assistant Township Manager Judy Caporiccio, Township Solicitor Will Oetinger, Esq., Township Engineer Amanda Fuller, P.E., Planning & Zoning Director Denise Burmester. Representing Sunoco/ Energy were Joe McGinn, Carl Borland, James Franciscus, Matt Gordon and Brian Jimenez. Representing the U.S. Department of Transportation Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) was Brian Lethcoe. Representing the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) were Dave Brown and Rich Staron. Brendan O'Boyle represented the Bucks County Health Department.

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 several resolutions are on the agenda regarding the Sunoco pipeline leak, and residents will have continuing opportunity to address their concerns and questions. She stated that a 20% reduction is not enough for this crisis and the pipeline should be shut down.

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

AUTHORIZATION FOR CLEAN WATER FEASIBILITY STUDY

A motion was made by Mr. Weldon and seconded by Mr. Thomas to direct the Township Manager to utilize staff and consultants to evaluate as quickly as possible the upfront and long-term costs and timeframe for implementation for clean water options. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

ENGAGEMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL SPECIALISTS

A motion was made by Mr. Weldon and seconded by Mr. Thomas to engage W. David Fennimore, Owner and Principal Geologist of Earth Data Northeast, Inc., as project manager overseeing the Township's role and activity in the Sunoco Pipeline leak crisis. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

ENGAGEMENT OF ENVIROMNTAL COUNSEL

A motion was made by Mr. Thomas and seconded by Mr. Weldon to accept the engagement letter submitted by Stacey Halliday from the law firm of Arnold & Porter in Washington D.C to serve as our environmental counsel in the Sunoco Pipeline leak crisis. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

TOWNSHIP REQUEST TO DEP RELATED TO SUNOCO PIPELINE LEAK

A motion was made by Mr. Weldon and seconded by Mr. Thomas to authorize the Board Chair to sign letter to DEP expressing the Township's intention to be involved in the Act 2 process for the development of remediation and reuse plans for Mt. Eyre Manor, as well as any other impacted areas within the Township, related to the Sunoco Pipeline leak. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

Ms. Taylor listed recently received documents that have been posted on the Township website related to the Sunoco pipeline and encouraged residents to continue to check UpperMakefield.org for more information and links as they become available and to sign up for Ready Bucks alerts.

The supervisors expressed appreciation to the residents and their efforts in regard to this situation.

MT. EYRE NEIGHBORHOOD RESIDENTS TASK FORCE OPENING AND UPDATE

Christine Wojnovich, 128 Walker Road, provided background that her well is checked regularly but product is still accumulating after the leak was fixed, causing questions and concerns about the process.

Bryan Roberts, 8 Old Barn Court, voiced that A sleeves are a known issue, yet they have not been replaced. He encouraged Sunoco to protect the history and future of the community and shut down the pipeline.

Clement Smith, Jr, 102 Spencer Road, asked questions about testing procedures, MTBEs, installation of water filtration systems, and inspections following the July 2023 flood in the Township.

Mike Nelson, 103 Spencer Road, described the negative impact of the pipeline leak on the neighborhood, and asked that the pipeline be shut down until after a full investigation to ensure no additional hidden dangers.

Kimberly Smith, 102 Spencer Road, inquired about Sunoco's purchase of house(s) in the neighborhood and described the effects of the cleanup on the neighborhood.

Senator Steve Santarsiero thanked the residents and the Township for advocating and holding Energy Transfer accountable, and reiterated the need to shut the pipeline down. He inquired about the status and timeline for well and soil testing, test results and reporting, and remediation plans and timeline. He assured his support through the cleanup process.

Laura Restrepo from Senator Fetterman office shared that the Senator's office is monitoring the situation and commended the community for being proactive and keeping the Senator informed.

Kyle Melander from Congressman Fitzpatrick's office, thanked the community and the Township for their continued engagement and agencies for their attendance. He read the joint letter from Congressman Fitzpatrick and Senator Fetterman urging PHMSA to shut down the pipeline until a thorough investigation is complete.

SUNOCO/ ENERGY TRANSFER UPDATE TO THE UPPER MAKEFIELD COMMUNITY

Joe McGinn, Matt Gordon, Gus Borland, James Franciscus and Rob Burke represented Sunoco, and the team apologized for the leak in the pipeline. Their presentation provided updates regarding their voluntary 20 % reduction in pressure, water testing status and statistics, pipeline inspection and integrity testing status and plans, and filtration system installations. The team committed to rebuild trust and restore the community.

U.S DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION, PIPELINE AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS SAFETY ADMINISTRATION (PHMSA) UPDATE

Bryan Lethcoe, Region Director, represented the U.S. Department of Transportation Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) thanked the Township and the Community Task Force for keeping all involved accountable, and he provided updates since the last meeting. Mr. Lethcoe stated that a Notice of Proposed Safety Order was issued to Sunoco on February 13, 2025, and Sunoco submitted a response on February 19, 2025. PHMSA and Sunoco will hold a meeting at PHMSA offices in Houston on Wednesday, March 5, 2025.

PA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION (DEP) UPDATE

Dave Brown and Rich Staron represented the PA Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) and

also expressed appreciation to the Township and the residents. They provided updates and stated that the DEP has received the Notice of Violation from PHMSA, holds regular calls with Sunoco, receives daily data updates from Sunoco, and continue to make site visits.

PA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

There was no representation at this meeting but they provided a fact sheet handout, which is also available on their website.

MT. EYRE NEIGHBORHOOD RESIDENTS' ADDITIONAL TESTIMONIALS AND CONSOLIDATED QUESTIONS

Nathan Sciorfino of 209 Bruce Road asked for clarification of the definition of drinking water and stated that inconsistencies in procedures are causing doubts about the testing integrity.

Mr. Weldon referenced reporting data and the language being used that can misrepresent testing results.

Rich Maurer, 110 Spencer Road, questioned what types of analysis will be used across the plume to better determine age and duration of the release, air modeling at discharge points, noise abatement, and future communications.

Brenda Saget-Darling, 226 Bruce Road, shared personal health issues and implored Sunoco to do the right thing to protect the health and welfare of the residents and the community.

Mike Hammond of 1021 River Road, questioned inspection methods.

Sarah Baicker of 123 Walker Road shared inconsistent results for MTBE tests which raise questions as to the origins of the MTBEs.

Christine Wojnovich, 128 Walker Road, also shared that test results in 2023 did not show MTBE but today they are present.

Florent Moise, 136 Glenwood Drive, asked Energy Transfer to permit residents to choose their own water treatment systems rather than Energy Transfer choosing the systems.

Dan LaHart, 114 Spencer Road, asked Sunoco for increased communications and transparency with residents and the Township, to work holistically toward a solution, to fully inspect the pipeline and replace all A sleeves, and he implored agencies to do the right thing.

PUBLIC COMMENT/ QUESTIONS

John Huss, 194 Aqueduct Road, asked questions about the quantity of product released, impact on home values, disposal of removed product and potential impact on the River.

Ginny Kerslake from Whiteland Township in Chester County provided a history of similar experiences with leaks in the Mariner East Pipeline that led to a lack of confidence with this operator and their 3rd party contractor.

Parker Cohen, representing State Representative Perry Warren, referenced a pipeline leak in the Newtown area in the 1980's and stated that Sunoco was observed digging in Newtown recently.

Tom De Young, 939 Mt. Eyre Road, requested that a system be installed at his house although his well tested negative, his neighbors' wells tested for product.

Darryl Rizzo of 1058 Little Road, expressed concerns about property values, posed questions about insurance and financial responsibility, public water, and pipeline replacement.

Joe Babiasz, 102 Crestwood Road, questioned pipe manufacturing integrity and review of advisory bulletins.

Christina Brachelli, 650 Fir Ave in Langhorne, shared concerns for family members who live in the Mt. Eyre neighborhood. She expressed that people outside of Upper Makefield Township are carefully following the situation and are concerned about the effects of the pipeline leak on people, land and the river. She urged the Governor to shut the pipeline down.

Ellen Radow, 9 Timber Knoll Drive, asked questions about air quality testing, notifications to residents about well testing, and the results of the meeting between PHMSA and Sunoco.

Kathryn Kutana of Newtown asked for the amount of product released.

Jason Hipple, 205 Bruce Road, asked how much jet fuel is sent through the pipeline daily.

Rich Matusz, 112 Glenwood Road, said the delays and lack of transparency in providing data have led to a lack of trust.

NEXT MEETING AND ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Taylor announced the next meeting will be on March 11, 2025 at 7:30 p.m., location to be determined. A motion was made by Mr. Weldon and seconded by Mr. Thomas to adjourn at 12:02 a.m. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

Respectfully submitted,



Judy Caporiccio

Assistant Township Manager

Approved: April 1, 2025