

Proposed Merrion Oil & Gas Unconventional Well Development

This information sheet serves as a summary overview of applications before DEP for the proposed project. Additional information can be found at www.dep.pa.gov/southwest.

WHERE

Merrion Oil & Gas Corporation (Merrion) is proposing to drill and operate an unconventional gas well site on U.S. Steel Corporation's (U.S. Steel) Edgar Thomson Plant property. The property is located primarily in North Versailles Township, but also includes East Pittsburgh and North Braddock Borough, all in Allegheny County.

All or a portion of these municipalities, along with neighboring Borough of Braddock, are designated environmental justice areas where 20% or more of the community lives below the poverty line and/or 30% are non-white minority; populations that have historically borne more adverse environmental impacts.

WHAT

The proposed project involves construction of an unconventional gas well pad, two access roads, and five fresh-water storage tanks. Additionally, Merrion intends to construct a 2,770 ft natural gas pipeline and a 2,990 ft fresh-water pipeline. The proposed project area is located on property owned by U.S. Steel at the Mon Valley Works Edgar Thomson Steel Plant, which would be the sole consumer of the natural gas extracted. A portion of the site will discharge stormwater to the North Braddock Borough MS4 Storm Sewer System along Braddock Ave. Other portions of the site will discharge or have the potential to discharge stormwater to Turtle Creek and unnamed tributary (T64495) to Turtle Creek (WWF, Siltation-Impaired, TMDL-impaired (metals, pH)). Total Disturbed Area is 13.4 acres.

THIS PROJECT WOULD REQUIRE SEVERAL DEP PERMITS

This project requires approvals and permits from the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP).

- **Erosion and Sediment Control Permit** (ESP070218-001) - required for earth disturbance activities associated with oil and gas exploration, production, processing or treatment operations or transmission facilities when earth disturbance is five acres or greater. A DEP engineer reviews the permit application and the applicant's plans for how stormwater runoff from the site will be handled.
- **Utility Line Stream Crossing Permit** (GP05020718002) - required for activities located in, along, across or projecting into a watercourse, floodway or body of water, including wetlands. As part of the DEP review process, this permit application is reviewed by a DEP biologist.
- **Drill and Operate Well Permit** (003-22563) - required to drill and operate an unconventional oil or gas well. As part of the DEP review process, the drilling permit application is examined by a DEP geologist.

The Allegheny County Health Department (ACHD) oversees air quality within Allegheny County. Any questions regarding air quality and whether an air quality permit is necessary for the proposed activity should be directed to ACHD.

CURRENT STATUS

- DEP published notice of the Erosion and Sediment Control Permit application in the March 2, 2019 edition of the Pennsylvania Bulletin, which included notice of a 30-day comment period. The application is currently under technical review.
- The applicant submitted a response to the deficiencies with the Utility Line Stream Crossing Permit application that DEP is currently reviewing.
- DEP issued a second technical deficiency letter regarding the Drill and Operate Well Permit application on March 20, 2019.

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NEXT STEPS

At the conclusion of the public comment period, DEP will review all questions and comments received and issue a Record of Decision at the conclusion of its permit application review.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

DEP is currently accepting public comments on the Erosion and Sediment Control Permit application under review. DEP will accept comments postmarked April 1, 2019 or prior mailed to DEP's Southwest District Office: Oil and Gas Program Manager, 400 Waterfront Drive, Pittsburgh, PA 15222 attention: Brian Bailey, P.E.

Responses should include the name, address and telephone number of the person submitting the comments; identification of the permit application number (ESP070218-001), and concise statements regarding the relevance of the information or objections to issuance of the permit.

To review the application, a person may visit the Merrion Oil & Gas tab of DEP's website, www.dep.pa.gov/southwest, or request an Informal File Review at <https://www.dep.pa.gov/Citizens/PublicRecords/Pages/Informal-File-Review.aspx>. Hours for appointments are Monday through Friday 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

MORE INFORMATION

More information on DEP's Oil & Gas Program is available at <https://www.dep.pa.gov/Business/Energy/OilandGasPrograms/Pages/default.aspx> and DEP's Office of Environmental Justice is available at www.dep.pa.gov/environmentaljustice.

