COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

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IN RE: EASTON ROAD PFC HSCA SITE

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BEFORE: VIRGINIA CAIN, Moderator

MEETING: Monday, November 18, 2019
8:22 p.m.

LOCATION: Lenape Middle School
313 West State Street
Doylestown, PA 18901

SPEAKERS: Bre Hasman, Tim Bergere, Hope Grosse

Reporter: Brian D. O'Hare

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PROCEEDINGS

MS. CAIN: Okay.

We will now begin the formal public hearing on the Hazardous Sites Cleanup Act site known as Easton Road.

As I state earlier, my name is Virginia Cain and I am the moderator for this evening. I will call those who have indicated they wish to provide comments for the record in the order they have registered.

When it is your turn, please come to the microphone, here to my left, clearly state your name and address, spelling your last name, and spelling any words that may be less common and then begin your comments. You will have up to three minutes to provide remarks and we ask that organizations designate one speaker to provide testimony on its behalf. Time may not be relinquished to others.

It looks like we're going to have a little bit of extra time, so I will give you a couple of extra seconds. When you're about at one minute, you'll see this sign (indicating).

During the hearing, DEP will not
respond to questions or comments. Instead, all comments received this evening or submitted to the Department in writing will be responded to in a comment-response document.

We will ask that there be no interruptions to give everyone an equal opportunity to speak. Going over your time, yelling, excessive applause, and booing are disruptive to the hearing process and limit the opportunity of your neighbors to hear, listen, and speak.

This hearing is also being held in conjunction with an open public comment period, which is open until January 17th, 2020.

A few ground rules for tonight's hearing. First, please silence your cell phones. If you have a sign, please keep it directly in front of your body as to not obstruct the view of an audience member. Please be respectful of each speaker and of the entire audience, and please remember your time limit.

We will now begin the public hearing. As a reminder, I will not answer any questions or comments. And with that, we will begin.

Registration is officially closed, and I will call the first speaker, Bre Hashman.
MS. HASHMAN: All right.

It's going to be a slow walk. My name is Breanna Hashman. It's H-A-S-H-M-A-N. My address is 4230 Chestnut Street, Philadelphia, PA 19104.

I work for Clean Water Actions. I'm speaking in support of full house filtration systems for local water supplies involving granular, activated carbon, GAC, or reverse osmosis systems. When I read about the meeting, I thought it was about water filtration system for the public, but I think that these homes are a guide to how we can apply these different methods on a larger scale.

In regards chronic exposure, when DEP sets an enforceable MCL years from now it will only compound potential health issues to residents. What the DEP has now, since 2016, this site has PFAS contamination. How much longer will we expose residents - residents to chemicals that other countries, states, and municipalities have deemed unsafe?

The use of GAC or other simple filters will prevent not only PFAS contamination of drinking water, but also proactively protect constituents against the large main ground water contaminates.

I'll be the first person to tell you
that we researchers lack conclusive evidence to predict health risks for specific individuals based on levels of PFAS exposure. It's hard to establish cause and effect in those types of scenario, but that doesn't mean risk to the public - public health isn't important.

Risks to individuals are more definitive because we have - not because we have 15 bodies of research, it's because we don't have enough studies on this complex and reactive compound that are so long lasting in the environment that they are deemed, quote, forever chemicals.

We don't know all the precursor compounds that can form PO - PFOS or PFOA. PFOS or PFOA can change different compounds as they move through the environment. We're more than just two species, PFAS species is so important. This community deserves to have the PFAS species sample that DEP has deemed important enough to sample for their current state wide sampling initiative.

My final striking is how this field has evolved over time in the community. When a new hypothesis is presented in a study, and since I peter out, it's discredited, you didn't isolate it with research groups or strengthen it over time.
The link between chronic PFAS exposure and health problems is strengthening with time. And it's not just in one science or discipline. These chemicals are being studied and discovered by scientists across the globe in the fields of ecology, toxicology, epidemiology, isotopic geochemistry, and biogeochemistry.

Researchers in the DEP can't prevent the health risks individuals' face when it comes to PFAS. But what do know is that communities exposed to PFAS and long terms in contained drinking water tend to have higher rates for illnesses compared to national rates or the rates of unaffected neighboring municipalities. We also know that there are studies that have shown strongly between these illnesses and PFAS exposure through animal toxicology studies.

Figuring out differences between correlation and causation can be hard -

MS. CAIN: You have one minute.

MS. HASHMAN: - but when you have correlation, so many of them, it becomes ridiculous to suggest that PFAS is not - is not the cause of public health concerns.

MS. CAIN: Thank you.
MS. HASHMAN: So it's time then?

MS. CAIN: Yeah. Next we have Tim Bergere.

MR. BERGERE: Thank you for your time this evening. My name is Tim Bergere, B-E-R-G-E-R-E. I live at 26 Radcliff Drive in Doylestown Township.

I'm here to speak primarily to the fact that the Department's proposed interactions does not include a treatment system for the public water supply well, which was the first well that was impacted and which drove the action - action in this case.

That is a public water supply well in which every township resident has an investment. It's right now at a high cost. There's probably a million dollars invested in that well, and more if you count the infrastructure to get that water to township residents.

We are the township, with the borough, has had many recent assaults on the water supply. The Kempath site has contaminated Doylestown Borough water supply. Many neighboring communities have been impacted by PFAS, and I don't see any reason to why the internal response action can't include an
action for a public water supply well which has been impacted by the same PFAS containments that we're concerned about in the interim action. That well is out of service. Needs to be placed back into service to serve the township residents.

I would also point out that the taxpayers have a right to have PFAS compounds designated as hazardous substances. The Department should take more concerned action to make sure there's a legislature change or a regulatory change to make them a hazardous substance.

Because right now, the township, if it has to proceed under the Safe Drinking Water Act, does not have legal authority under HASCA or SERPLA to pursue a responsible party for that cost because those substances are not hazardous substances. No cost to cover the contribution acts that could be filed to recover those costs.

Right now, one of the criticisms that we're not making a hazardous substance is, is the concern that it might create an unfunded mandate if we declare the PFAS a hazardous substance. That's nonsense. Right now, we have townships in Warrington and now Doylestown Township who are without a remedy and have - and have to impose on
the tax payers the cost of either not putting that well back in service and getting water from other services or paying to put their own treatment systems up.

And it is an unfunded mandated not to make them hazardous substances, and I think the Department needs to move forward as quickly as possible to designate the PFAS family of compounds as hazardous substances.

Thank you.

MS. CAIN: Thank you. Next we have Sue Thomas. Sue?

Okay.

Hope Grosse.

MS. GROSSE: Hi. I'm Hope Gross, 115 Samantha Lane, Lansdale. I represent Buxmont Coalition for Safer Water.

I would like to say that I believe that we know that our health - that this health - this seven parts per trillion is way too high. There is science done by ATFTR, government institutions stating that anything over 11 parts per trillion causes health problems. We have lists for them. They are online. They're - you can find them at the Department of Health on their website,
Pennsylvania Department of Health.

We also know that there's second hand health affects in vitro. We know that when we drink the water as a mother, that when I bear a child that these chemicals go into our children. That when we breastfeed our children, when we feed them bottle formula with PFAS in it, that these chemicals are going into our babies and we need to be more proactive.

We also know that ground water and surface water is polluting our food, polluting our fish. It's polluting our soil. And we need to make some changes, and we need an MCL in Pennsylvania. We need this class of chemicals, which is a large class of chemicals, we need them classified at a hazard - as a hazardous substance immediately.

The public water systems in this area as well as ones that are large and full of growth, their surface water, you know, system, they're - we get this water from our creeks that go into public water systems that people are drinking public water. And it's polluted. And we need this to change. And we can only get change if it's deemed a hazardous substance and MCL needs to be put in place.

Thank you.

Anyone else wishing to make comment for the record this evening?

Okay.

Please let the record show there's no one else present wishing to make comment.

This will conclude our public hearing portion of the night. As a reminder, the public comment period will be open until January 17th, and any comments received both tonight and any comments receives in writing until that time bear equal weight at the Department. If you wish to submit comments between now and then, please feel free to use the resources on this screen behind me or talk to one of us afterwards.

Thank you again so much for being here, and for all of your questions, your comments, and for listening to the Department. We're always here to answer those questions the best that we can.

Have a safe trip - trip home, and good night.

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HEARING CONCLUDED AT 8:35 P.M.
CERTIFICATE

I hereby certify that the foregoing proceeding was reported by me on 11/18/2019 and that I, Brian D. O'Hare, read this transcript and that I attest that this transcript is a true and accurate record of the proceeding.

Dated the 14th day of December, 2019

[Signature]

Brian D. O'Hare
Court Reporter