



TO Environmental Justice Advisory Board
FROM Office of Environmental Advocate
DATE October 23, 2013
RE: Regional Environmental Advocate Updates

Southwest and Northwest OEA Update

Neiswonger Construction, Inc., Deemston Borough, Washington County: On Thurs., May 30, 2013, EA Morewood held an Environmental Justice Public Informational Meeting regarding a surface coal mining permit application. (Auth # 972626) The meeting was hosted by Mr. Mike Johnston of Neiswonger Construction. Attending were Mr. Richard Palmer, DEP Mining Program and several residents including Mr. Ken Jericho, President, Deemston Borough Council. No concerns were raised regarding this permit.

AMFIRE Mining Company, LLC, Dora No. 8 Mine (CMA#33971301), Indiana County: On Mon., June 4, Kim Morewood held an Environmental Justice Public Informational Meeting on the Revision for Permit Expansion of 2673.2 Permit & Subsidence Control Plan Acres from 1-3PM at the Plumville Volunteer Fire Department, 107 Indiana Street, Plumville. PA 16246. The meeting was hosted by Robert Bottegal of AMFIRE and Nate Garlitz from GForce Engineering Services, LLC. Attending the meeting from DEP were Kim Morewood, Jay Winter, and Brian Lohr. The meeting was attended by several members of the community but there were no concerns regarding this permit.

Regional Industrial Development Corporation of Southwestern Pennsylvania (RIDC), Pittsburgh, Allegheny County: On Thurs., July 25, EA Kim Morewood facilitated a conference call between Dan Sharek and Nate Strum of RIDC and SWRO Growning Greener Program Staff Jeff Fliss to discuss a potential grant application sites in Parkway West Business Park, Findley Township and Innovation Ridge, North Fayette Township. RIDC will be submitting the application and was very appreciative to have had their questions answered by Mr. Fliss.

EPA 2013 Community Involvement Training: On Tues., July 30 & Wed., July 31 EA Kim Morewood participated in the online live streaming for the EPA 2013 Community Involvement Training Conference held in Boston, MA. Session topics included: *Working Effectively with Locally Elected Officials; Koppers: What Would You Do? Chaos to Communication; and Promoting Community Involvement with Little to No Outreach Budget!*

The Hill District Consensus Meeting, Pittsburgh, Allegheny County: On Fri, August 9, EA Morewood and LGL Schimmel attended The Hill District Consensus Meeting. Redevelopment of the Lower Hill District to include the "Curtain Call" project was the main focus of the

meeting. Other presentations included updates on the Hill Grocery Store, the Youth Organizing Program, the Consumer Health Coalition and the Elected Officials Report.

Little Blue Run Residual Waste Disposal Impoundment, Greene Township, Beaver

County: On Thurs., August 15, EA Kim Morewood and CRC John Poister facilitated an open house and public meeting for the closure plan of First Energy's Little Blue Run Residual Waste Disposal Impoundment. The meeting was held at the Hookstown Volunteer Fire Department Hall from 6-8 PM and was attended by 120 people, including members of The Environmental Integrity Project, the Sierra Club, and several members of the press. DEP Waste program staff and First Energy staff were available to answer questions during the open house. Testimony from the public included repeated requests that the Department order a monitoring period of no less than thirty years for this site.

Southeast and Northeast OEA Update

Delta Thermo Energy A, LLC (DTE): Delta Thermo Energy A, LLC submitted an application to DEP for a **general permit** to utilize municipal solid waste (MSW) and sludge from the City of Allentown's Wastewater Treatment Plant as feedstock to produce a fuel to generate electricity for their use and sale. The facility will be designed with equipment capable of processing an average of 120 tons per day of MSW and 47 tons per day of sewage sludge as feedstock. Feedstock for the facility will be prepared onsite from MSW and sludge. The facility will use presorting of the MSW to assist in the recovery of recyclable materials and a Resource Recovery System (RRS) to convert feedstock to fuel that will be combusted to generate steam, which in turn will power a turbine to generate electricity. Sewage sludge and waste will be trucked to the facility from the City of Allentown Wastewater Treatment Plant. The treatment plant is located right next to the DTE site. All trucks will be weighed on a scale as they enter the facility and will be dumped at the plant's tipping floor; trucks delivering sludge will dump into the shredded raw material pit, both located in the rear of the facility. Bulk items in the waste such as mattresses, furniture, and large appliances will be sorted and removed from the site. The recyclable materials will also be sent off-site. Under newly enacted land use legislation, state agencies will consider and may rely upon comprehensive plans and zoning ordinances when reviewing applications for the permitting of facilities. A public meeting was planned for the purpose of providing information and to answer questions about the proposed Air Quality Plan Approval application, the proposed waste permit and already issued NPDES permit. The community attempted to have the Borough Council place a referendum be place on the ballot for vote. The community prefers that the permit for the facility be denied. Wright has been in contact with a Lehigh University Professor who has been working with the residents. The professor requested a public meeting through the SER OEA for the largely EJ Latino/Hispanic community. Wright and the Northeast region CRC and program staff prepared the documents; OEA Director oversaw and edited the documents and sent for Spanish translations. An interpreter has also been arranged for the public meeting.

Chester Environmental Partnership (CEP) Booth Street Initiative: In 2006, CEP conducted a door-to-door survey with the residents in an area directly across from 3 known sources of air emissions. The residents reported complaints of dust; and health and respiratory problems associated with air pollutions, such as asthma. Also, rodent sightings were mentioned. In 2012 and 2013, CEP, Covanta Energy, Abbonizio Construction and DELCORA met with the Mayor

and Council to discuss the need to relocate the residents living in close proximity to polluting industries. Although these industries have installed new technology to become economically sound, safe and reduce pollution, residential living has proven to not be compatible next to these facilities. In a letter to the Mayor and City Council, CEP outlined the needs from the City that CEP, DELCORA, Covanta and Abbonizio need to move forward on the Booth Street Initiative. The letter covered bringing the Chester Economic Development Authority (CEDA) on board to do a feasibility study to determine the cost of acquisition and demolition of properties along with the relocation of residents. Monthly or bi-monthly meetings convened to look at ways each party involved (governments, private and public sector leadership) can contribute to the revitalization, redevelopment and land reuse. Also, relocating current residents to environmentally, safe communities. CEP forwarded the Mayor copies of the CEP *Environmental Impact Survey* that identifies existing health and safety issues and the community interests as it relates to living in the present conditions with waste processing industries and Crozer Keystone Hospital Systems Asthma Assessment and Chester Asthma Prevention Cooperative Agreement that identifies environmental health issues in children. Wright, EJAB and CEP members have been working on the project.

Southwest Philadelphia Junk/Car Salvaging Exporting (5) Sites: Wright received a call from a resident in Southwest Philadelphia with concerns about the zoning policy change that they were unaware of and junk/auto exporting companies that are the result of the zoning change. Five sites that are exporting cars, mattresses, etc., to other countries have been located in this small Southwest Philadelphia community. These facilities are opened illegally and are creating disruption, resentment and a noticeable change in the community's quality of life. At the request of the residents, Wright was invited to a meeting by City Councilman Kenyatta Johnson's Chief of Staff, along with the Planning Commission, Streets Department and residents. The residents discussed their concerns and questions and were promised a review of the questions and a future community meeting. The Planning Commission agreed to change the zoning so no more of these facilities were sited in their neighborhood and the Streets Department is investigating. The residents want the facilities shut down and have reached out to all their legislators, the local church, ACLU, Public Interest Law Center, Mayor's Office of Immigrant and Multicultural Affairs, and have also prepared a draft petition to have these sites shut down.

2013 PA Brownfields Conference Southeast Region Awardee Presentations, CEP Awardee: Wright has been participating in meetings with CEP Brownfields Committee and providing background information for the presentation. The presenter will be a CEP business and industry member.

Peter Simone Landscape Architects Awardee: Wright prepared background information and West Ambler Civic Association (WACA) history for the new Director of the WACA, who will be participating with Peter Simone Landscape Architects, Whitpain Township and Wissahickon Watershed in the 2013 PA Brownfields Conference Presentation "*Reaching Community Consensus for Adaptive Reuse of Contaminated Sites.*" In 2005, the WACA was established as a neighborhood volunteer organization of people united in their desire to improve the quality of life and promote civic engagement in the West Ambler section of Whitpain Township. Most meetings are held at the American Legion Post 769 in Ambler. The WACA objectives are:

- Relationship building

- Physical improvements
- Education
- Recreation
- Safety

WACA will seek partnerships with Merck Foundation, the Philadelphia Horticultural Society, local churches, the University of Pennsylvania, Temple University, Gwynned Mercy College, Montgomery College Community College; Germantown Academy, and the Wissahickon Watershed, Township and legislators to seek grants to secure identified improvements. WACA is awaiting the results of its 501(c) (3) application and will conduct annual individual mail solicitations, establish a website, and use Facebook and other social media.

UPenn Community Outreach and Engagement Core (COEC) Center of Excellence in Environmental Toxicology (CEET): Wright participates in the Stakeholder Advisory Board meetings to discuss air quality and environmental health that are important and relevant to communities. COEC is required by the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS) to research questions as they relate to community, develop partnership with stakeholders and provide scientific and technical assistance to their stakeholders. COEC's new initiatives include: lead in rural communities and diesel emissions from trucks. Wright has worked with COEC on community projects in Ambler, Chester and Philadelphia.

Ardmore Shopping Plaza, Montgomery County: Wright spoke with ECP Program Manager and Rev. Pollard. Rev. Pollard arranged to have his attorney contact Rob Fox to continue negotiating for sampling of the homes.

Strong Cities, Strong Communities (SC2) and the City of Chester Initiative, Delaware County: Wright has been attending the Chester City Hall meetings. The federal interagency collaboration aims to build a foundation for economic transformation by increasing the capacity of Chester city government for revitalization and economic development. Discussion included *Chester Coalition Resource Guide: Improving Access to Services, Arts and Dialogue: Building Blocks for Community and Economic Development, Chester Cultural Corridor* [restoring DeShong Park and Museum; establishing Chester Faith and Neighborhood Council]. LaSalle also hosted a forum at Widener for any non-profits in Chester and surrounding area. Partners include: Widener University, EPA, Small Business Association, Health and Human Service Agency, Crozer, Keystone Mercy, Health Partners, Chester Senior Center, PA Humanities Council and Chester Upland School District.

DVRPC EJ Work Group Meeting, Philadelphia: OEA was invited to participate in DVRPC's Regional Community and Economic Development Forum (RCEDF). The focus of the meeting was on immigration and its role in building a strong regional economy. DVRPC highlighted the DVRPC's recent Data Snapshots on immigration in the region. Amanda Bergson-Shilcock of the Welcoming Center for New Pennsylvanians gave a presentation followed by a panel discussion moderated by WHYY's Elisabeth Perez-Luna,. The panelists were Jennifer Rodriguez of Philadelphia Mayor's Office of Immigrant and Multicultural Affairs, Prof. Domenic Vitiello of the University of Pennsylvania, and Dr. Nicholas Montalto of Diversity Dynamics, LLC. This

RCEDF meeting is a part of Global Philly six weeks of events and activities that highlight the many international dimensions of Greater Philadelphia. Wright was able to connect the Southwest Philadelphia community with the Mayor's Office of Immigrant and Multicultural Affairs and Amanda Bergson-Shilcock of the Welcome Center. Rodriguez has scheduled a meeting with the Southwest Philadelphia community residents.

South-central and North-central OEA Update

Community Environmental Project (CEP): The Community Environmental Project (CEP) policy is available for a 30-day public comment period beginning October 26 and closes November 25 at 5:00 pm. The CEP policy, in certain situations, allows a person or entity to propose a CEP in lieu of a penalty to DEP. Projects have to be environmental and health related.

Ardmore Plaza: After speaking again with the Chris Ball representing Ardmore Plaza, it was reported they have been in contact with Mr. Williams, the attorney Rev. Pollard referred them too. They were hoping contact would be made again soon to proceed with discussions on testing for the three remaining homes near the site.

Rolling Hills Landfill, Berks County: DEP agreed to the Delaware County Solid Waste Authority's (DCSWA) request for two CEP projects in Berks County in lieu of a penalty. One project is with the Reading High School in Reading, and EJ area. An energy audit to the school will be conducted and environmental education and projects performed. The other site was in Topton and involves a stream bank stabilization and restoration to Toad Creek. The Berks County Conservation District is administering the projects for DCSWA. The advisory council for Rolling Hills landfill has expressed dissatisfaction toward the projects.

Citizen's Guide to DEP Regulations: OEA has had the guide updated and a new cover created. The policy office weighed in on reformatting and providing content for the guide. Overall, citizens should find it easier to understand how the process works and when the public can influence and impact regulations. The new guide will be used and circulated throughout the state. They are also being printed for distribution during the Chapter 78 public hearings.