Public Participation in the Permit Review Process

July 15, 2013

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Agenda

1. Importance of Public Participation – Alisa Harris

2. Details of Draft Policy – Rob Altenburg

3. Questions and Answers
Policy on Public Participation in the Permit Review Process

• Compliments recent development of Permit Review Process, Permit Decision Guarantee.
• Provides clear guidelines for how DEP responds and considers public comments.
• Outlines how DEP will conduct public meetings and hearings regarding permit applications.
Changes in the Draft Policy

What is (and isn’t) changing?

• Our support for public participation is **not** changing.
• Updates outdated information
• Focus on policy
• Encourages consistency
Introduction to Permits

- Why we issue permits
- General permits versus Individual permits
Purpose

- Providing information for the decision making process
- Gaining a better understanding of the impacts
- Improving communication
- Improving transparency
Types of Public Participation

• Public Hearings
• Public Comment Periods
• Public Information Meetings
• Informal Conferences
Department Considerations

What Type of Participation Will be Offered?

• Required by statutes and regulations
• Case-by-case factors:
  – Significant local interest in hearings?
  – Is it an Environmental Justice area?
  – What will best serve the public?
  – History of the application
  – Available resources
DEP Guidance and Resources

• Sources of Information
  – DEP eLibrary
  – eFACTS and eNotice

• Contacts
  – Program
  – CRCs
  – EAs for EJ Areas
Other Resources

• Pennsylvania Bulletin – http://pabulletin.com
• Regulations – http://pacode.com
• Statutes – http://www.legis.state.pa.us
• Local Media
Department Links

- [http://goo.gl/w8U48](http://goo.gl/w8U48) (Public Participation Policy)
- DEP: [http://www.dep.state.pa.us](http://www.dep.state.pa.us)
- eLibrary: [http://www.elibrary.dep.state.pa.us](http://www.elibrary.dep.state.pa.us)
- eFACTS: [http://www.dep.state.pa.us/dep/efacts](http://www.dep.state.pa.us/dep/efacts)
- eNotice: [http://www.ahs.dep.pa.gov/eNOTICEWeb](http://www.ahs.dep.pa.gov/eNOTICEWeb)
Questions?

Comment deadline: July 22, 2013

Send comments to: Robert Altenburg
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