

Phase IV Pipeline DEP Meeting Notes – March 6, 2024
DEP NCRO Williamsport, PA

Attendees: **DEP:** Brian Bailey, P.E., Program Manager
 Daniel Harvey, P.E., Environmental Group Manager
 Chris Mileto, Project Manager
 Christopher Yeakel, Aquatic Biologist Manager
 Erin Chambers, Aquatic Biologist 2
 Toby Boyer, Aquatic Biologist 1
 PGE: Nathan R. Harris, President
 Beran: Eric Dougherty, P.E., P.L.S., Project Manager
 Chris Frey, Environmental Biologist

Meeting Notes:

Nathan mentioned that the PGC has issued Final Approval for the proposed pipeline route. This approval (letter and any other documentation) will be attached to the resubmitted Joint Permit and ESCGP-3 packages.

DEP stated that the Mid State Trail Group and Trout Unlimited had many concerns related to the proximity of the pipeline to the Mid State Trail, the watercourses being impacted by the pipeline route, and “old growth forests.” PGE agreed to examine this area and consider replantings in the area that is closest to the Mid State Trail.

Nathan went through the Alternatives Analysis for many of the alternate routes as well as the proposed route and why it was the one to be chosen. He also described why boring was not an option for pipeline construction through the watercourse impact areas due to the long bore lengths, deeply incised streambeds, bedload domination and high energy of these watercourses which increases the likelihood of inadvertent returns. He also discussed why these riparian forested buffers must be cut no matter what methods were utilized due to the need for construction material/equipment access to the pipeline.

Nathan mentioned that the pipeline temporary and permanent right of ways had been shifted in the area adjacent to the Bark Cabin Wild Area and the Mid State Trail once the alignment crossed Wetland #7 (Station 40+00) and proceeded North (to Station 73+25) to provide an additional buffer to the Bark Cabin Wild Area and the Mid State Trail.

Nathan discussed some of PGE’s lease holds in and around the chosen pipeline route as well as how the proposed pipeline route would accommodate present and future natural gas transport for this area.

Nathan and PGE are to work closely with the DCNR and Mid State Trail in coordination of alternate trail reroutes/temporary relocations (if any) during pipeline construction.

Joint Permit (Items from Technical Deficiencies)

#2: DEP agreed with Chris Frey's explanation of impacts to Wetland 7 and why that wetland is not an EV wetland.

#4(a): DEP requested that impacts to and an evaluation of impacts to the Bark Cabin Area be mentioned in the Alternatives Analysis.

#4(b): Minimize impacts to the Mid State Trail by proposing more immediate backfill of the pipeline in areas being crossed.

#5 and #6: Chris Frey plans to expand upon Modules S2.D and S3.D in our resubmission package.

#9: Chris Yeakel requested that a monitoring plan for riparian plantings be included within the resubmitted Joint Permit Package. For Chapter 102, it would be for monitoring and maintenance plans with no reporting; For Chapter 105, it would be for monitoring and maintenance plans and reporting. Nathan and Eric felt that an extension would be necessary in order to get the plans and paperwork revised and resubmitted and Chris Mileto just asked that we email an extension request for an additional 30 days.

Beran will send the revised PIESCES worksheet to Erin and Chris for feedback prior to finalizing it for resubmission with the Joint Permit Package.