



Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection

Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP)
Upper Makefield Pipeline DEP Webinar, December 8, 2025
Questions & Answers

Note: Due to time constraints, the below questions, submitted for the December 8 webinar were not addressed during the virtual meeting. For all other questions addressed during the virtual December 8 townhall, please see the recorded webinar on [DEP's website](#).

When was the date that they detected a higher level of benzene in well 9D?

Answer: Monitoring well 9D was first sampled on September 12, 2025; the benzene concentration was 22 micrograms per liter ($\mu\text{g}/\text{L}$), or parts per billion. Subsequent samples were collected September 19 and November 6 with results of 11 $\mu\text{g}/\text{L}$ and 16 $\mu\text{g}/\text{L}$, respectively.

At what point will the DEP order be updated to mandate an off-lot water solution for the lifetime of the pipeline, so that ET/Sunoco can provide greater focus on remediation as opposed to trying to maintain the integrity of the water of 150+ households?

Answer: DEP has no plans at this time to update our order to include a requirement for an alternative water supply.

What is the status of the radon risk assessment and potential remedial measures referenced in the 9/9/2025 DEP virtual meeting? Can you share any analysis performed during the risk assessment?

Answer: DEP requested that SPLP respond to the public concerns with radon in groundwater interacting with the carbon treatment of home well POETs. On October 2, 2025, SPLP provided the following response:

POET systems that include GAC vessels are effective in removing radon that may be naturally present in groundwater, and in fact are recommended by the Department for treatment of radon in groundwater. The presence of a POET system with GAC vessels does not elevate the concentration of radon in the water that is used and consumed in the home. Therefore, the presence of a POET system with GAC vessels does not increase the potential of exposure to radon either via inhalation or ingestion.

(“GAC” refers to granular activated carbon.)

DEP’s Environmental Cleanup and Brownfields Program and Radiation Protection Program have further discussed this issue, and we provide the following comments.

- Radon in water is not generally a significant problem in the area, but if a property has a radon mitigation system, we recommend that homeowner test for radon in their well water.
- If the home has a POET, then the GAC will slowly accumulate radon decay products, such as Pb-210. Changing out the GAC every few years, depending on the radon concentration in the water, will reduce problems from the decay products.
- If the GAC eventually becomes saturated with decay products and is no longer effective at treating the groundwater for radon, then the radon in the effluent water will be the same as the well water in the home without a POET.
- Gamma radiation exposure may exist near a POET that has accumulated radon decay products, but we expect that exposure to be relatively low and confined to the area near the POET (not the house as a whole).
- Residents can contact the Radiation Protection Program with additional questions about radon in POETs. Questions may be directed to Denise Bleiler, 717-783-4870, dbleiler@pa.gov.

At Sunoco's 10/30/2025 virtual meeting, a Sunoco representative claimed that they installed monitoring wells working from the outer edge of the plume, towards the leak location. The potable well at 108 Spencer Rd. was most likely contaminated by June 2024 – but Sunoco did not install the first phase of monitoring wells beyond 108 Spencer. The closest monitoring wells to 108 Spencer are MW-9 and MW-10, but they were not added until Phase 3. Does DEP agree with Sunoco's assessment that they installed monitoring wells from the outer edge of the plume, working inwards towards the leak?

Answer: Multiple monitoring wells must be installed to characterize the groundwater plume, and this is an iterative process. DEP has determined that additional monitoring wells should be installed and sampled, as stated in our November 21, 2025 deficiency letter for the interim site characterization report.

Slide 5 noted that the sub-slab vapor intrusion tests showed "no exceedances." Did any samples have detectable quantities of fuel components below the exceedance threshold?

Answer: In October 2025, 11 homes had sub-slab sampling performed by SPLP. None of those results exceeded DEP's screening values for vapor intrusion. There were detections of chemicals at concentrations below screening values.

The monitoring well slide stated that aside from MW-9D, other wells were "below standards." Did other monitoring wells have any detectable quantities of fuel components?

Answer: The 26 new monitoring wells were sampled in August. Only MW-9D had an exceedance for benzene. There were detections of jet fuel chemicals below standards in several of the wells. (These results are now publicly available on SPLP's [website](#).)