

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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OPENING REMARKS

By Ms. Cain

4 - 6

TESTIMONY

By Ms. Hashman

6 - 8

DISCUSSION AMONG PARTIES

8 - 9

TESTIMONY

By Mr. Bergere

9 - 11

By Ms. Grosse

11 - 12

DISCUSSION AMONG PARTIES

12 - 13

CERTIFICATE

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E X H I B I T S

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NONE OFFERED

P R O C E E D I N G S

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

1 respond to questions or comments. Instead, all
2 comments received this evening or submitted to the
3 Department in writing will be responded to in a
4 comment-response document.

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

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

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

21 We will now begin the public hearing.
22 As a reminder, I will not answer any questions or
23 comments. And with that, we will begin.
24 Registration is officially closed, and I will call
25 the first speaker, Bre Hashman.

1 MS. HASHMAN: All right.

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

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

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

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

25 I'll be the first person to tell you

1 that we researchers lack conclusive evidence to
2 predict health risks for specific individuals based
3 on levels of PFAS exposure. It's hard to establish
4 cause and effect in those types of scenario, but
5 that doesn't mean risk to the public - public health
6 isn't important.

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

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

21 My final striking is how this field
22 has evolved over time in the community. When a new
23 hypothesis is presented in a study, and since I
24 peter out, it's discredited, you didn't isolate it
25 with research groups or strengthen it over time.

1 The link between chronic PFAS exposure and health
2 problems is strengthening with time. And it's not
3 just in one science or discipline. These chemicals
4 are being studied and discovered by scientists
5 across the globe in the fields of ecology,
6 toxicology, epidemiology, isotopic geochemistry, and
7 biogeochemistry.

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

18 Figuring out differences between
19 correlation and causation can be hard -

20 MS. CAIN: You have one minute.

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

25 MS. CAIN: Thank you.

1 MS. HASHMAN: So it's time then?

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

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

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

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

20 We are the township, with the borough,
21 has had many recent assaults on the water supply.
22 The Kempath site has contaminated Doylestown Borough
23 water supply. Many neighboring communities have
24 been impacted by PFAS, and I don't see any reason to
25 why the internal response action can't include an

1 action for a public water supply well which has been
2 impacted by the same PFAS containments that we're
3 concerned about in the interim action. That well is
4 out of service. Needs to be placed back into
5 service to serve the township residents.

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

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

19 Right now, one of the criticisms that
20 we're not making a hazardous substance is, is the
21 concern that it might create an unfunded mandate if
22 we declare the PFAS a hazardous substance. That's
23 nonsense. Right now, we have townships in
24 Warrington and now Doylestown Township who are
25 without a remedy and have - and have to impose on

1 the tax payers the cost of either not putting that
2 well back in service and getting water from other
3 services or paying to put their own treatment
4 systems up.

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

10 Thank you.

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

13 Okay.

14 Hope Grosse.

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

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

1 Pennsylvania Department of Health.

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

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

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

25 Thank you.

1 MS. CAIN: Thank you. Next we have
2 Dave Donahue. Dave? Victor and Jessica? Victor or
3 Jessica? Michael Donner. Michael? Great.

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

6 Okay.

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

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

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

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

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25 HEARING CONCLUDED AT 8:35 P.M.

CERTIFICATE

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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



Brian D. O'Hare

Court Reporter