

Notice is hereby given that the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (Department) will hold a public hearing on September 26, 2023 concerning the applications for a new large industrial minerals (noncoal) surface mining permit and associated NPDES permit submitted by Bishop Brothers Construction Company, Inc., which is located at 1376 Leisure Drive, Towanda PA 18848. The proposed mine site is referred to as the Minard Mine and is located in Athens Township, Bradford County, Pennsylvania. The mining permit application number is 08230301 and the NPDES permit application number is PA0270041. All interested parties are encouraged to attend the hearing.

The application is being reviewed by the Department's Moshannon District Mining Office located at 186 Enterprise Drive Philipsburg, PA, 16866. The phone number for the Moshannon office is 814-342-8200. The email address for the Moshannon office is [RA-EPMOSHANNON@pa.gov](mailto:RA-EPMOSHANNON@pa.gov).

The proposed site consists of 360.7 acres and is situated at on the property of Jeanette Minard. The proposed permit area is situated 0.5 miles south of the intersection of Mile Lane Road (SR-4020) and Meadowlark Drive (T-303). The Sayre 7.5 Minute U.S.G.S. Topographic Map contains the area described. Mining of sandstone and sand & gravel is proposed within the permit area.

The site is located within the Chemung River and Tutelow Creek watersheds. The associated NPDES application proposes discharges of stormwater from the support/processing area and discharges of treated water from the mining pit to Tutelow Creek, which is designated as Warm Water Fishes, Migratory Fishes. The draft NPDES permit document and fact sheet are available on the DEP webpage (see details below). A draft NPDES permit notice was published in the Pennsylvania Bulletin on August 5, 2023.

The application includes proposals for three (3) variances to conduct mining activities within 100 feet of the Chemung River and Tutelow Creek; to conduct blasting; and to change the postmining land use from cropland to unmanaged water impoundment and forest to unmanaged natural habitat. The stream encroachment activities consist of: installation of a bridge to cross Tutelow Creek, installation of a culvert to cross unnamed tributary 1 to Tutelow Creek, and three (3) encroachments of Tutelow Creek for mining support activities and mineral extraction as described in the application documents.

The public hearing will be held at the Athens Area High School Auditorium, 401 W Frederick St, Athens, PA 18810, on Tuesday September 26, 2023, starting at 6:00 p.m. and ending at 8:00 p.m. or sooner if testimony is complete. Doors will open at 5:30 p.m. The public hearing is for the collection of comments only. Department staff do not directly answer questions during the hearing. During the hearing, Department staff will first give a brief update on the status of the applications, then accept oral comments of three minutes or less regarding the permit applications. A transcript of the public hearing, including all oral comments, will be produced by a stenographer.

To register to testify at the hearing, contact Jordi Comas, Environmental Justice Coordinator, at [jcomas@pa.gov](mailto:jcomas@pa.gov) or 570-327-3656. Onsite registrations to testify will also be taken as space allows.

Anyone wishing to submit written comments may give a copy to the Department during the hearing. Written comments will also be accepted until September 26, 2023 and should be sent to John Mital, Licensed Professional Geologist, Moshannon District Mining Office, via email at [jmital@pa.gov](mailto:jmital@pa.gov) or via mail to the Moshannon District Mining Office. All comments, whether provided orally or in writing, will be given equal consideration and will be addressed by DEP in a comment and response document when the permit decision is issued.

Paper copies of the applications are available for public inspection at the Athens Township Municipal Building, 45 Herrick Avenue, Sayre, PA 18840, and electronically at <https://www.dep.pa.gov/About/Regional/North-central-Regional-Office/Community-Information/Pages/Minard-Mine.aspx>. You also may find the webpage by searching for “Minard Mine” via search engine.

If you are a person with a disability wishing to attend this meeting and require an auxiliary aid, service, or other accommodation to participate in the proceedings, please contact Jordi Comas to discuss how we may best accommodate your needs. If necessary, you may use the AT&T Relay Service by calling 1-800-654-5984 (TDD Users) or 1-800-654-5988 (Voice Users) and request that your call be relayed to Jordi Comas.