

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

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IN RE: LOWER CHICHESTER

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BEFORE: VIRGINIA CAIN, Moderator
Pat Patterson, Regional Director

HEARING: Tuesday, December 4, 2018
7:07 p.m.

LOCATION: Lower Chichester Township
1410 Market Street
P.O. Box 1255
Linwood, PA 19061

WITNESSES: Nancy Harkins, Eve Miari, Bill Adams,
Coryn Wolk

Reporter: Sean Egbert

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NONE OFFERED

P R O C E E D I N G S

MS. CAIN: Good evening, everyone. My name is Virginia Cain. I am the Southeast Community Relations Coordinator for the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection and the moderator for this evening's hearing.

Thank you all for coming, and with that, I will turn it, briefly over to Pat Patterson, our Regional Director, for a few opening remarks.

Mr. PATTERSON: Thanks, Virginia. And I just wanted to thank the community here. Joe Possenti and Mark Possenti, representing Lower Chichester Township, and of course, the entire Board of Commissioners. And Rocco Gaspari, Jr., who suffered a family tragedy this week. And they're attending to those family responsibilities today, as are so many folks from Lower Chichester.

Rocco Gaspari, Sr., is obviously, a legend in this part of the county and everywhere. And our best wishes go out to him and his family.

Also joining us here this evening is a representative from Senator Tom Killian's office. That's John McNichol, a field representative for Senator Killian. And I don't see any other Lower

1 Chichester officials in the room yet. So again, we
2 thank them for their hospitality. And I'll turn it
3 back to Virginia.

4 MS. CAIN: Thanks, Pat.

5 Like I said, Pat Patterson, Regional
6 Director based in our Norristown office. I am
7 Virginia Cain, Community Relations Coordinator.
8 From our air quality program we have Janine
9 Tulloch-Reid and Jane Guo. They are the ones that
10 helped sign you in this evening.

11 And also seated next to us we have our
12 stenographer Sean, who is here tonight to help
13 transcribe all the comments for the record.

14 The purpose of the hearing this
15 evening is to receive public comment on the draft
16 air quality plan approval that DEP is intending to
17 issue to Adelpia Gateway, LLC, where a compressor
18 station to be located in Lower Chichester Township.

19 Air quality plan approvals are
20 intended to address air pollution sources and
21 applicable control devices.

22 After a thorough and complete review
23 of an application, DEP's air quality program
24 generates a draft plan approval that would contain
25 specific conditions, including monitoring and

1 recordkeeping, that would ensure that the
2 construction and operation are conducted in
3 compliance with applicable rules and regulations.

4 That draft plan approval is what we
5 are currently receiving comments on. After the
6 comment period ends, which is December 14th, DEP
7 will consider all comments, whether received here
8 tonight spoken or submitted in writing to the
9 Department.

10 All of those comments carry equal
11 weight and consideration, and DEP will incorporate
12 them as applicable into the final plan approval.
13 The application, the draft plan approval, the
14 technical review memo and additional information on
15 submitting comments has been posted on DEP's
16 Adelphia project webpage. And it's been up there
17 for several weeks now. If you haven't looked at it,
18 I encourage you to do so. And that can be found by
19 the visiting www.DEP.PA.GOV/southeast.

20 As we move towards this comment, a few
21 ground rules and reminders that this is a public
22 hearing. We'll proceed as follows. I will call
23 those who have indicated they wish to provide
24 comments for the record in the order that you have
25 registered.

1 When it is your turn, please come to
2 this microphone. Clearly state your name and
3 address, spell any words that may be less common,
4 such as last names, or words that you might use in
5 your comments and then begin.

6 You will have three minutes to provide
7 your remarks. We ask that organizations designate
8 one speaker to provide testimony on its behalf, and
9 you may not relinquish your time to others.

10 During this hearing DEP will not be
11 responding to questions or comments. Instead, all
12 comments received this evening or submitted to the
13 Department before the 14th will be submitted - I'm
14 sorry, will be responded to in a comment response
15 document that will also be publicly available to
16 each commenter, as well as posted on the website.

17 We ask that there be no interruptions
18 to give everyone an equal opportunity to speak.
19 This includes loud disruptions, such as applause or
20 booing. These disruptions limit the time of others.

21 And as a final reminder, the testimony
22 received tonight or any written comments already
23 submitted or that may come in until December 14th
24 all carry equal weight and will be considered
25 according - equally during the final consideration.

1 So with that, we will begin receiving
2 comments. First, I think I saw Nancy come in.
3 First we have Nancy Harkins.

4 MS. HARKINS: I'm Nancy Harkins. I
5 live at 1521 Woodland Road, West Chester,
6 Pennsylvania. I appreciate the opportunity to
7 comment on this permit.

8 My husband and I live Westtown in
9 Chester County, and we are very alarmed by the
10 declining air quality in our region and the impacts
11 on community health beyond the boundaries of Marcus
12 Hook, Lower Chichester and even the Commonwealth of
13 Pennsylvania.

14 Compressor stations are permanent
15 facilities that pollute the air 24 hours a day, as
16 long as gas is flowing through pipelines.
17 Day-to-day emissions from compressor stations are
18 subject to highly episodic variations due to
19 pressure changes and maintenance-related deliberate
20 releases and can create periods of potentially
21 extreme exposures.

22 The scientific community is only
23 beginning to understand the adverse impacts of shell
24 gas development on human health and the environment,
25 but already numerous hazards and risks have been

1 identified.

2 I'd like to address three points. The
3 first is that there is overwhelming scientific
4 evidence of the harm from fracking. The concerned
5 health professionals of New York and the physicians
6 for social responsibility developed a compendium of
7 such evidence, which I'm referencing.

8 The compendium outlines several
9 studies that have documented a sharp increase in
10 atmospheric ethane. This trend reverses the
11 previous decades-long decline. If this rate
12 continues, U.S. ethane levels are expected to hit
13 1970s levels in about three years.

14 Ethane is a potent precursor to ground
15 level ozone. Emission from compressor station
16 contribute to ozone creation and include several
17 carcinogens, including benzene and formaldehyde.

18 To permit additional industrial
19 methane emitting operations will have serious
20 consequences for citizens far beyond the compressor
21 station and would be reckless.

22 Second, as bad as the harmful effects
23 are, they have not been accurately measured and
24 tracked. For example, in 2016, the EPA acknowledged
25 that it had dramatically underestimated

1 health-damaging air pollutants from such operations.

2 Emissions from compressor stations,
3 typically, include carbon monoxide, nitrogen oxides,
4 benzene, formaldehyde and xylene, but levels of
5 these smog-forming compounds are seldom measured
6 directly.

7 Finally, the public has the right to
8 know the basic facts surrounding the operation of a
9 compressor station, including the number and volume
10 of pollutants, and their known or suspected health
11 effects. But beyond this basic information, the
12 public also has the right to expect the opportunity
13 to review a scientifically sound study of the
14 potential health impacts of a compressor station
15 before it is built.

16 It is the DEP's mission to protect our
17 air, water and land from pollution in order to
18 provide for the health and safety of all of its
19 citizens. I urge the DEP to fulfill its mission to
20 protect our community and deny this permit.

21 Thank you.

22 MS. CAIN: Thank you, Nancy.

23 Next we have Eve Miari.

24 Nancy, are these the same?

25 MS. HARKINS: Yes.

1 MS. CAIN: You can begin.

2 MS. MIARI: Good evening. My name is
3 Eve Miari, I'm here tonight on behalf of the Clean
4 Air Council. The Council is a non-profit
5 environmental organization that has been working to
6 protect everyone's right to breathe clean air for
7 over 50 years.

8 The Clean Air Council has 37,000
9 member activists, including many members here in
10 Delaware County. The Council wishes to address air
11 quality concerns associated with Adelphia's permit
12 application, 230025 for the Marcus Hook compressor
13 station in Lower Chichester Township.

14 Compressor stations generate emissions
15 of volatile organic compounds, nitrogen oxide,
16 hazardous air pollutants, carbon monoxide and
17 methane. These emissions are produced through a
18 combination of combustion leaks and venting. NOx
19 and VOCs form ground-level ozone, a main constituent
20 of smog and can lead to coughing, chest pain and
21 throat irritation, worsening respiratory conditions,
22 such as bronchitis, emphysema and asthma.

23 NOx also contributes to the formation
24 of fine particulate matter, which has been linked to
25 increase heart attacks, aggravated asthma, decreased

1 lung function and for those already suffering from
2 heart and lung disease, premature death.

3 Such impacts have been documented in
4 residents living up to two miles from compressor
5 stations.

6 Lower Chichester Township is just one
7 square mile, so this means the compressor station
8 could potentially impact all 3,500 residents of the
9 township. Approximately 36 percent of households
10 have children under 18 and the township is also
11 among the several schools.

12 Lower Chichester abuts Chester
13 Township, an Environmental Justice area, while the
14 compressor station itself would not be in Chester,
15 the prevailing winds would bring any emissions
16 directly into Chester.

17 DEP's Office of Environment Justice
18 works to ensure that Pennsylvanians most at risk for
19 pollution and other environmental impacts have a
20 voice in the decision-making process. It is not
21 clear what, if any, efforts that OHA has made to
22 ensure the residents of Chester have been made aware
23 of this proposal, or if they had opportunity to comment
24 on the proposal and potential impact to public
25 health.

1 Adelphia could mitigate some of the
2 risk to residents of Lower Chichester and
3 neighboring townships by installing an electric
4 compressor station instead of a gas-powered one.

5 There are many benefits associated
6 with the electric alternative, including reducing
7 combustion emissions, improving local air quality,
8 reducing potential for methane leaks and curbing
9 greenhouse gas emissions, and reducing overall
10 emissions as the grid incorporates more renewable
11 energy.

12 Given the urgency of addressing
13 climate change concerns highlighted by the recent
14 Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change Report and
15 the Fourth National Climate Assessment, all efforts
16 should be made to reduce methane emissions
17 associated with gas-powered compressors. The
18 facility could do more to incorporate natural gas
19 STAR emission reduction recommendations.

20 Finally, fence-line monitoring for HAPs
21 and VOCs should be considered as a measure to
22 protect public health and detect leaks in a more
23 timely manner. Pipeline integrity inspections
24 should take place more frequently than every five to
25 seven years.

1 In addition, a system must be put in
2 place for advance notification of blowdowns to
3 neighbors, schools and other sensitive populations,
4 so that residents can know to stay indoors and close
5 their windows.

6 Clean Air Council urges DEP to deny
7 the application in its current state and until these
8 issues are addressed.

9 Thank you.

10 MS. CAIN: Thank you.

11 And next we have Bill Adams.

12 MR. ADAMS: Good evening.

13 My name is Bill Adams. I live at 613
14 Georgetown Road, Wallingford, Delaware County. My
15 statement tonight is from a safety perspective. I
16 would hope that MJR, Adelphia Gateway's intention
17 will be to employ trained building trades
18 construction workers who have served state
19 registered apprenticeship programs and are regularly
20 safety-certified for their construction project on
21 the compressor station in Lower Chichester.

22 I currently represent electrical
23 workers from IBEW 654 that hope to be employed on
24 this project.

25 That concludes my statement. Thank

1 you.

2 MS. CAIN: Thanks, Bill.

3 Next Ken Kynett?

4 MR. KYNETT: Yeah, I apologize. I
5 think I signed in on the wrong form.

6 MS. CAIN: Oh, no worries.

7 MR. KYNETT: I was only signing for
8 attendance.

9 MS. CAIN: I just did that at a PUC
10 hearing the other day, so no worries.

11 Coryn Wolk, Wolk (changes
12 pronunciation).

13 MS. WOLK: Hi. I do plan to submit a
14 longer statement, but - so while I'm here, I figured
15 I'd give the basic verbal statement about some of
16 the emissions from the compressor station.

17 And to start off, Delaware County got
18 an F for air quality this year from the American
19 Lung Association, as did all of the counties around
20 Philadelphia and Philadelphia County.

21 And looking at the emissions limits
22 from one of the more recent documents for the
23 compressor station, the combined total emissions
24 for - potential for the facility, for VOCs is 23.49,
25 and the limit is 25, so that's 94 percent of the

1 maximum one can emit before having to have much
2 strict regulation.

3 And this is partly based off Adelphia
4 Gateway, or its owner company's own estimate. And
5 without having - it says that Adelphia's contacting
6 the manufacturer to verify this emission
7 calculation.

8 So DEP is going off an estimate by the
9 company that's applying for this permit that,
10 obviously, would not want to have to go through
11 Title 5 permit applications and having a hearing
12 without even having final information from the
13 company, which seems extremely premature given that
14 VOCs are a major pollutant, and that even with their
15 estimate, they're very close to the limit.

16 My other concern is that in that same
17 document, and this is the draft plan approval, it
18 says that the greenhouse gas emission potential is
19 34,000 tons per year, and that's the equivalent of
20 7,391 cars, roughly, by EPA's average greenhouse gas
21 emissions for one vehicle.

22 So to put that in context - or to
23 compare that to things that we're all familiar with,
24 that's a massive amount of pollution, a massive
25 amount of greenhouse gases. Already even in

1 Delaware County as a whole has incredibly bad air
2 quality, but Marcus Hook, especially, as anyone can
3 see, a concentration of industry. And this is not
4 only going to be an industrial area, but it's also
5 directly across the street from a fairly
6 concentrated residential neighborhood, that's
7 already overburdened.

8 In addition to the particulate matter,
9 and those emissions that result from this facility,
10 VOC especially, many of them are known to be
11 carcinogenic. So the already overburdened
12 population that's in very close proximity to this -
13 this is a real threat to them.

14 So going off estimates from the
15 company in the overburdened area is a very premature
16 way to proceed, especially when it seems like,
17 judging by the attendance here, many people don't
18 know about this addition to the industrial activity
19 in their neighborhood.

20 Thank you.

21 MS. CAIN: Thank you.

22 I don't normally do this, but is there
23 anyone else that wants to provide a comment?

24 Let the record reflect no one raised
25 their hand.

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This will conclude the public hearing. It is 7:24 p.m. As a reminder, the public comment period will close on December 14th. If you wish to submit comments between now and then, please feel free to use the resources in the window ledge. It was the quarter sheet paper.

Again, anything that you were to submit in writing, if you talk to any neighbors that you want to encourage them to submit, their comments are going to be considered equally to those that were received tonight. So please encourage anyone to still submit comments.

Thank you for being here, have a safe trip home, and goodnight.

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HEARING CONCLUDED AT 7:24 P.M.

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CERTIFICATE

I hereby certify that the foregoing proceedings, hearing held before Virginia Cain, Moderator, was reported by me on 12-04-18 and that I, Sean Egbert, read this transcript, and that I attest that this transcript is a true and accurate record of the proceeding.

Dated the 17th day of December, 2018

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Sean Egbert", is written over a horizontal line.

Sean Egbert,

Court Reporter