Upper Delaware Council
PROJECT REVIEW COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
Jan. 26, 2010

Committee Members Present:	Peckham, Keesler, Roeder, Richardson, Rando
NPS Partner:	S. Schultz
Staff:	Douglass, Soete, Coney, Ramie
Guests:	J. Niflot

The Upper Delaware Council's Project Review Committee held its monthly meeting on Tuesday, Jan. 26, 2010 at the Council office on Bridge Street in Narrowsburg, NY. The meeting commenced at 8:38 p.m. A motion by Richardson seconded by Keesler to approve the Dec. 15, 2009 meeting minutes was carried. There was no public comment on the agenda.

Election of 2010 Committee Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson: A motion to nominate Peckham as chairperson and Keesler as vice-chairperson was seconded by Rando. No further nominations were made. By vote, Fred Peckham was elected committee chairperson and Dolores Keesler was elected vice-chairperson of the committee for calendar year 2010. Peckham conducted the remainder of the meeting.

Discussion Items Report: Soete reviewed the Discussion Items Report he handed out; some highlights—

Tennessee Gas Pipeline 300 Line Expansion Project (Pike and Wayne Counties, PA): According to media reports, a Tennessee Gas Pipeline Erosion and Sediment Control plan involving 17 miles and 314 acres of land disturbance in Wayne County and 15 miles and approximately 260 acres in Pike County has been reviewed by conservation districts' staff and deemed inadequate.

NPS Mongaup Visitor Center: Sandy Schultz reported that NPS has closed out the design work with the engineer for the Mongaup Visitor Center project. They are waiting for lease agreement sign-off from NYS DEC. The mobile trailers to be used at the visitor site have been purchased and are in storage. They have found the front money to use for the Upper Delaware Scenic Byway's reimbursement grant toward site development.

Update Natural Gas Leasing/Drilling in the Region: NYS DEC has received to date 12, 576 comments on the dSGEIS as of the Dec. 31, 2009 comment deadline. There is no deadline for the DEC review of the comments received. New York City has called for a drilling ban in the watersheds around their reservoirs. Newfield Exploration Company hopes to drill a couple of vertical test wells utilizing air drilling this year in Damascus Township. Newfield also proposes to drill test wells this year in Manchester Township. On Jan. 25, both pro-drilling and anti-drilling forces demonstrated in Albany at the Capitol building and met with some legislators.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has announced an "Eyes on Drilling" Tipline for citizens to report non-emergency suspicious activity related to oil and natural gas development. The agency is asking citizens to call 1-877-919-4EPA, toll free, if they observe what appears to be illegal disposal of wastes or other suspicious activity. Anyone may also send reports by email to eyesondrilling@epa.gov. Citizens may provide tips anonymously if they don't want to identify themselves. In the event of an emergency, such as a spill or release of hazardous material, including oil, to the environment, citizens are advised to call the National Resource Center at 1-800-424-8802.

Update Susquehanna-Roseland proposed electrical line, Northeast PA:
The PA Public Utility Commission granted conditional approval for PPL Electric Utilities to construct the controversial, multimillion-dollar, high-voltage electrical Susquehanna-Roseland line in Northeast Pennsylvania. The result of the binding poll is largely consistent with the recommended decision of the Administrative Law Judge, which approved with conditions PPL's application to construct a new 500kV transmission line. The National Park Service is preparing an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act and conducting public scoping meetings for a construction and right-of-way permit requested from Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area, Middle Delaware National Scenic and Recreational River, and Appalachian National Scenic Trail, in

connection with the transmission line that would cross these areas. The committee was provided with written material on this issue.

Update Pond Eddy Bridge Project: The PennDOT District 4-0 office issued a Travel Advisory for Rt. 2011 Flagstone Road in Pike County on Jan. 26. The road was closed as a tractor trailer was stuck at Rosa Road, Shohola Township (Pond Eddy Bridge). The empty tractor trailer was eventually removed and the Bridge re-opened. There has been a weight limit on the bridge due to its deteriorating condition.

Cell Tower Variance Hearing (Lackawaxen Township): As a follow-to last month's meeting, Soete reported that the proposed cell tower construction in Lackawaxen Township will be out of the Upper Delaware River corridor.

New York Regional Interconnect proposed transmission line, new activity (corridor-wide): Soete reported that on the FERC website Dec. 16, 2009 there was posted correspondence from New York Regional Interconnect, Inc. to U.S. Court of Appeals for the DC submitting a Petition for Review of three orders issued by FERC under OA08-52. Soete indicated that NYRI was looking for review of some FERC rulings that impacted the proposed transmission line project.

Old Business

NPS dSGEIS comment letter to NYS DEC: Peckham: Peckham inquired of Schultz what NPS meant by the 2,000 feet outside of NPS area for gas drilling in their comment letter to DEC on the dSGEIS. Schultz responded that the comment letter covered all park areas that might be impacted by the Marcellus Shale gas drilling. NPS would like to not see activities in the River Valley that could negatively impact the resource, that's why they recommended site specific reviews by the DEC so an "extra look" could be taken.

New Business

PennDOT Pond Eddy Bridge Project Team Teleconference Jan. 12: Ramie reported that the Pond Eddy Bridge Project Team held a teleconference on Jan. 12. The Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) still has not been signed by all the parties involved, but PennDOT is analyzing the comments on the matter that they did receive.

Public Comment None

Adjournment A motion by Roeder seconded by Richardson to adjourn the meeting at 9:14 p.m. was carried.

Carol Coney, Office Manager