

Upper Delaware Council
PROJECT REVIEW COMM. MEETING MINUTES
Dec. 21, 2010

Committee Members Present: Peckham, Keesler, Roeder, Richardson, Rando, Rajsz
NPS Partner: McGuinness
Staff: Douglass, Soete, Coney, Ramie
Guests: J. Niflot, P. Chase

The UDC's Project Review Committee held its monthly meeting at the Council office on Tuesday, Dec. 21, 2010 due to the holiday schedule. Chairperson Fred Peckham called the meeting to order at 7:15 p.m. A motion by Rajsz seconded by Roeder to approve the Nov. 23 meeting minutes was carried. There was no public comment on the agenda.

Discussion Items Report/Substantial Conformance Review:

DRBC Draft Natural Gas Development Regulations: The Delaware River Basin Commission released their draft natural gas development regs on Dec. 9. Soete is reviewing. The comment deadline is March 16, 2011. Peckham said we need to start our comment letter now and have a draft for the next committee meeting so we can make any changes before the March deadline. The draft regs are posted on the DRBC website for public review at www.drbc.net.

NYS Gov. Paterson vetoed the bills for a state moratorium on gas drilling and instead filed Executive Order 41. The order compels DEC to complete its review of public comment on its draft regs, make such revisions to the Draft SGEIS that are necessary, ensure that environmental impacts are appropriately avoided or mitigated consistent with SEQRA, and ensure that adequate regulatory measures are identified to protect public health and the environment; and on or about June 1, 2011 DEC shall publish a Revised Draft SGEIS, accept public comment for a period of 30 days and schedule public hearings on such revisions. Peckham noted that Governor-elect Cuomo would need to approve a continuation of Paterson's Order once Cuomo takes office Jan. 1, 2011.

The DRBC has passed a resolution terminating the administrative adjudicatory hearing in January unless Kevin Schrader enters an appearance in the hearing by submitting a written notice to the hearing officer within 10 days of receipt of a notice provided by the DRBC staff. Richardson noted that in the Bloomberg.com newsletter, they're suggesting there will be a decrease in natural gas production by Chesapeake and Exxon due to the decline in prices for gas. Peckham noted the gas companies in partnerships have to continue to drill in Pennsylvania to establish a drilling unit. New York State is different. Once the bit's in the ground they have to finish in 3 years. Gas company won't produce as much but will keep drilling. Rando noted that Tennessee Gas Pipeline is putting in new line. They are planning alternate routes for the pipeline and it looks like mostly in Westfall Township. Not in the river corridor so far. Soete added there's also a line in Bradford County being proposed. Peckham reported there's a compressor station outside the Village of Hancock too.

Proposed Sullivan County (NY) Casino: Soete reported that the proposed Sullivan County casino in Bridgeville will still need federal approval.

FERC License Transfer AER NY and Eagle Creek: FERC has dismissed an application for a license transfer of the Swinging Bridge Project from AER to Eagle Creek in Mongaup Valley. The transfer of licenses for the Mongaup Falls Project and the Rio Project had already been approved. The Swinging Bridge Project issue is that public access to Toronto Reservoir has not been provided as is required in the original FERC license.

Town of Cochection Zoning Law Amendment: Richardson announced the town board of Cochection met on Nov. 24 to discuss the zoning law amendment. Consultant Tom Shepstone was to send the Council the draft. The town would like the Council comments by next month.

Pond Eddy Bridge Update: On Dec. 17 following regular bridge inspection, PennDOT District 4 determined that it will change the weight limit on the Pond Eddy Bridge from 7 to 4 tons. Repairs of the bridge will be conducted as soon as possible.

Old Business None

New Business

UDC Draft Comment Letter to DRBC - draft gas regs: Peckham asked the committee to review the DRBC's draft natural gas development regs online and send comments to Soete. The Council will need to take action at the March Council meeting in order to meet the comment deadline. The public hearing dates for the draft regulations have not been announced as yet.

History Channel Gas Drilling Program: Peckham mentioned he's been looking at the History Channel's broadcast on gas drilling and finds it very interesting. The name of the program is "Modern Marvels".

Public Comment None

Adjournment A motion by Rando seconded by Roeder to adjourn the meeting at 7:45 p.m. was carried.

Carol Coney, Office Manager