

Upper Delaware Council  
**PROJECT REVIEW COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES**  
**May 27, 2008**

Committee Members Present: Roeder, Bowers, Richardson, Fluhr  
Committee Members Absent: Shafer  
Partner: Schultz  
Staff: Douglass, Soete, Coney, Ramie  
Guests: None

Committee Chairperson Harold Roeder Jr. called the meeting to order at 8:03 p.m. A motion by Bowers seconded by Fluhr to approve the April 22 meeting minutes was carried. There was no public comment on the agenda.

**Discussion Items Report:** The committee reviewed the Discussion Items Report; some highlights:

**Millennium Pipeline Project (various NY towns):** Douglass reported that he drove by the pipeline crossing in the vicinity of NYS Route 17 and was surprised that the right-of-way clearing was larger than anticipated. The old right-of-way resembled a jeep trail.

**New York Regional Interconnect, Inc. – proposed transmission line activities:** FERC sent a letter to NYRI May 13 stating that NYRI's petition for declaratory order requesting certain rate incentives (13.5%) was deficient and that additional information and clarification was required to process the filing.

The NYS PSC issued a ruling stating that NYRI did not have to provide additional information requested by CARI, as the request was premature.

As of May 27, NYRI has not submitted any new information on its Article 7 application to the NYS PSC, as requested.

**Lackawaxen Township, Holbert Bros. quarry expansion conditional use public hearing:** On May 15, UDC staff and NPS staff and their respective attorneys attended the continuance of the Holbert Quarry conditional use hearing at Lackawaxen Township. After testimony and numerous questions, legal representation in attendance requested a denial of the permit on the premise that the Township has already given as much permission as it can in expansion of the quarry by their own Zoning Ordinance regulations. The hearing is to continue on May 29.

**Pond Eddy Bridge (Town of Lumberland; Shohola and Westfall Townships):** Fluhr reported that PennDOT said the bridge design subcommittee will have a meeting and that we should hear from PennDOT in the next few months. Ramie reported that at the NY-PA Joint Interstate Bridge Commission meeting \$44,000 was allotted to repair the damaged pier on the bridge.

**Natural gas leasing/drilling in the Region, update:** UDC and NPS staff attended the Delaware Citizens public information forum on May 3. About 400 people attended. On May 21, UDC and NPS co-sponsored a Natural Gas Public Information Forum at the Wayne Highlands Middle School in Honesdale. An estimated 700 people attended. Additional forums to be held in New York State are being planned.

A one-hour, live call-in and webcast entitled "Pennsylvania's Gas Rush" was broadcast on WPSU (Penn State) and PA public television stations on May 22. The program is available on the WPSU website. The Northern Wayne Property Owners Alliance is currently negotiating with gas companies that met their criteria for landowner and environmental protections.

The law firm Hinman, Howard & Kattell will present an informational seminar on Oil and Gas Leases and the Legal Issues on May 29 at the Hancock Central School. The Damascus Citizens group will sponsor a Public Health Forum on May 31 at the Delaware Youth Center in Callicoon. Dr. Theo Colborn, the nation's leading expert on the health effects of gas well drilling, will present (via live telecast) evidence that the type of gas drilling proposed for the Upper Delaware region will cause extensive air pollution and contaminated water.

The committee discussed some of the concerns with the gas drilling. Fluhr noted the towns/townships need a sample ordinance or clause to put in town regulations regarding this issue based on

what options the local municipalities have since the gas drilling is exempt from many laws, including federal. Richardson offered that he thought the Sullivan County Planning Division was working on such a model ordinance for the New York towns. Soete commented the major issue will be impacts to the water quality and aquifers in the region.

**Upper delAWARE River Roundtable:** Soete noted that the UDC staff was participating in the meetings of the Upper delAWARE River Roundtable which was a networking and project collaborating group of watershed stakeholders. The next meeting is scheduled for June 5 at the Tusten Town Hall in Narrowsburg, NY.

**Town of Highland – Ascalona Campground:** It was reported that the NYS DEC inspected the Ascalona Campground site following a resident's complaint that gravel fill was being placed in the floodplain at the site. UDC was notified that DEC determined that no filling was being done in the river and that no violations had occurred.

**Town of Hancock – plans for proposed summer camp:** Soete noted that he briefly reviewed the engineering report and application for SPDES permit for RSB Land Development Summer Camp proposal in the Town of Hancock and concluded he had no comments on the project.

**Old Business** None

**New Business**

**NY-PA Joint Interstate Bridge Commission meeting May 27:** The committee was provided with a handout, "Schedule C – Proposed and Let Projects April 1, 2008-March 31, 2009", that staff received at the May 27 NY-PA Joint Interstate Bridge Commission meeting in Binghamton. Douglass referenced the handout while commenting that the Commission added \$44,000 for pier repair at the Pond Eddy Bridge, and that the replacement of the Callicoon Bridge will probably be changed to rehabilitation work.

**TAG procedure review:** The committee held discussion regarding the procedure it uses for the Technical Assistance Grant Program application review, scope of work changes, and funding ranking. Staff had developed new forms this year as well for quarterly reports and initial application review. The committee had this on their agenda for awhile and finally had time to have the discussion. Staff had provided a packet of information to the committee at an earlier date. Coney will put together a summary of the discussion and changes suggested and provide to the committee for follow-up.

**Public Comment** None

**Adjourn** A motion by Fluhr seconded by Bowers to adjourn the meeting at 9:21 p.m. was carried.

Carol Coney, Office Manager