

Chester County Government – Pipeline Actions and Activity

Commissioners/Chester County Government Actions and Specific County Emergency Response Actions

(As of August 2019)

Commissioners/County Government Actions

- Worked with pipeline safety groups, municipalities, the PUC, PEMA, FERC and pipeline operators for many years.
- Adopted the Pipeline Notification Protocol.
- Created the Pipeline Information Center website – one of the most comprehensive resources on everything pipeline available in the State.
 - More than 4,500 visits every month, sometimes as high as 15,000 visits a month.
 - Since 2017, completed over 400 updates to the PIC website including the pipeline projects page, news section, safety info and mapping.
- Planning Commission completes extensive pipeline project reviews, primarily when FERC Environmental Impact Reports or Assessment reports are issued. These reviews are coordinated with the Chester County Health Department, Conservation District and Water Resources Authority and have
 - corrected misinformation
 - identified missing information
 - requested additional analysis to ensure full extent of resource impacts are understood and addressed.
- Commenced legal action against Sunoco by intervening in the Flynn et al. v. Sunoco Pipeline LP proceeding before the PUC.
- Terminated two temporary easements held by Sunoco on county property (Chester County Library in Exton).
- Suing Sunoco in the Chester County Court of Common Pleas, asking the court to prohibit the company from starting construction on two county-owned properties.
- Provided consultation service of Chester County Conservation District for Uwchlan resident experiencing stormwater issues related to Sunoco pipeline installation/construction work.
- Employed the services of the County’s engineering experts, McCormick Taylor, to review three Horizontal Directional Drilling (HDD) reevaluation reports submitted by Sunoco to the PA Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) for pipeline crossings within Chester County. Comments made by McCormick Taylor note concerns and pose pertinent questions that are recommended the DEP ask of Sunoco.
- Directed Chester County’s Department of Emergency Services (DES) to undertake an independent pipeline safety evaluation much more robust than a risk assessment. The evaluation is studying the threats and hazards associated with the pipeline and is modelling possible impacts to validate that the Department of Emergency Management has the appropriate capabilities in place to respond to those impacts.

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County Emergency Response Actions

- Assisted Uwchlan Police with Pipeline Training for officers – all officers must now take this training through National Association of State Fire Marshals.
- Chester County HazMat team instituted specialized Pipeline Technician training.
- Purchased special detection meters for the HazMat team; held table top emergency exercises.
- Supported Downingtown and West Chester School Districts with training of hazardous materials response procedures.
- Purchased a pipeline training prop at the Public Safety Training Campus (funded by Sunoco/ETP).
- Gathered (nearly all!) pipeline operator emergency plans to better prepare for mass notification and neighborhood emergency practices.
- Part of the Chester County Association of Township Officials (CCATO) Pipeline Committee – reviewing safety guidelines and compiling best legislation to develop best practices for Chester County and the State.
- Supporting Uwchlan, Upper Uwchlan, West Whiteland, West Goshen, East Goshen and Westtown Townships with community preparedness presentations.
- Providing long term care facilities and nursing homes with training on pipeline emergencies.
- Purchasing of weather stations for school facilities that are within half a mile of an NGL pipeline – to more easily determine atmospheric conditions/wind direction should an evacuation be necessary.
- Creating 9-1-1 addresses for all NGL pipeline valve station locations – to be entered as premise alerts in the 9-1-1 Computer Aided Dispatch system.
- Travelled to US Department of Transportation Safety Institute in Oklahoma City to participate in Pipeline Safety Compliance Training and to Texas A&M University to participate in Hazardous Materials Pipeline Emergency Response Technician Training.