

# **IMPORTANT COMMUNITY UPDATE ON BISHOP TUBE**

**For new neighborhood residents:** There is a former manufacturing site called Bishop Tube at the end of Village Way whose property extends behind Fahnestock and Spring Roads. The plant closed in 1999, but the toxic chemicals used there are still in the soil and are seeping into the air and Little Valley Creek. Despite the contaminated conditions, a developer plans to build townhomes there, the construction of which would spread the toxicity, further endangering us and anyone who buys those homes.

A group of residents and organizations formed the “Clean and Green Bishop Tube” community action group ([bit.ly/BishopTubeCleanGreen](http://bit.ly/BishopTubeCleanGreen)) 5 years ago to advocate for the site to be protected as natural open space.

## **THE LATEST DEVELOPMENTS**

In September 2021, the PA Dept. of Environmental Protection (DEP) released a voluminous and highly technical proposal to address contamination at Bishop Tube. Yet they held a public hearing on it only 45 days later, insufficient time for experts and the public to review a plan that is unclear, incomplete, flawed and fails to protect people and the environment.

The proposal and associated documents can be found at the PADEP website: <https://bit.ly/PADEPBishopTube>

The East Whiteland Township Board of Supervisors is holding a meeting on Bishop Tube on Thursday, January 20 at 7:00pm. The deadline for public comments to the DEP on the proposal is Monday, January 31, 2022.

## **LEARN MORE and MAKE YOUR VOICE HEARD in 2 EASY WAYS:**

**Attend the Thursday, January 20, Board of Supervisors meeting at 7PM** either in person or via Zoom. Go to [www.eastwhiteland.org](http://www.eastwhiteland.org) - on the Home page, look for the headline “Board of Supervisors will hold a hybrid meeting regarding Bishop Tube 1/20/22 at 7:00PM.”. **To attend via ZOOM, click the “Read on...” link on the night of the meeting to find the Zoom link.**

## **AND**

### **Submit a public comment to the DEP by January 31:**

- Via email to [RA-EP-SEROECB@pa.gov](mailto:RA-EP-SEROECB@pa.gov) (put “*Bishop Tube Public Comment*” in the email Subject line)
- Or via mail to Dustin A. Armstrong, Environmental Protection Specialist, PA Department of Environmental Protection, 2 East Main Street, Norristown, PA 19401.

**From the Clean & Green Bishop Tube Community Action Group**  
**Learn more at [bit.ly/BishopTubeCleanGreen](http://bit.ly/BishopTubeCleanGreen)**



## **The DEP Proposal to “fix” the contaminated Bishop Tube site is insufficient and jeopardizes the health, safety and welfare of our community**

- The Bishop Tube site contains TCE (trichlorethylene), a dangerous chemical linked to fetal heart defects, kidney cancer, leukemia and other illnesses. According to a 2020 investigative report, the EPA found TCE damages the human body at a level 500 times greater than previously thought. Contaminants have also been detected in the Little Valley Creek, which runs through the site. Failure to properly and completely remediate contamination at the site, combined with new development, is a threat to our environment, health, safety, and peace of mind.
- The DEP Proposal calls for additional data and study to determine the extent of contamination and final actions to take – thus, more information is still needed before any decisions can be made.
- The flawed reports that the DEP relied on for its Proposal are based on the assumption that onsite soil will be removed when that is not being proposed and fail to consider other potentially hazardous chemicals that are known to be on the site.
- The DEP wants to inject unspecified chemicals into the soil to combat the existing contaminants but doesn't know yet what chemicals will be used.
- The Chester County Planning Commission, the East Whiteland Township Environmental Advisory Council and the federal Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry all advised the Township not to approve residential housing at this site, but the Township and the DEP ignored their expert advice and the risks that development poses to human and environmental well-being.
- A Village Way access might be required if the equipment needed for the cleanup doesn't fit under the Malin Road overpass, plus the current townhouse plan includes an emergency entrance at the end of the street. These possibilities could result in a permanent traffic entrance for the general public, transforming our quiet neighborhood into a daily thruway with attendant noise, accident threats and harmful impacts on property values.
- DEP has failed our community for decades in not properly addressing Bishop Tube years ago and in prioritizing the desires of the companies responsible for polluting the site and the townhouse developer over the health and safety of the community and the environment.

### **A townhouse development at the end of Village Way could lead to:**

- ✓ **Increased traffic**
- ✓ **Decreased property values**
- ✓ **Environmental damage**
- ✓ **Increased health risks**

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on Thursday, January 20, at 7PM**

**AND**

**Submit a public comment to the DEP on Bishop Tube by January 31, 2022**