



For Immediate Release:

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Successes At East Whiteland Township Meeting About Toxic Bishop Tube Site

East Whiteland Township, PA- Members of a growing community group in East Whiteland Township have been attending meetings with the Township Supervisors demanding that the severely contaminated Bishop Tube Site be fully remediated and protected as natural green space for the community. On June 7th, community members and staff from Delaware Riverkeeper Network used tough questioning at a Township organized meeting to lay out their growing concerns regarding proposed heavy residential development at the site after implementation of an only partial remediation plan. In response to a presentation from the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (PADEP), they also provided information on the high level of toxins at the site, concerns about the proposed residential development on a site that is so seriously contaminated and challenged the failure of the PADEP to be fully forthcoming with critical information. Community requests that township officials apply for state funds to hire an independent expert to evaluate remediation proposals, that the township withdraw its support for a state grant to advance the project, and that the township submit comment on the project in response to an open public comment period were reiterated. Within 5 days these three items were added to the agenda for the Township's next regular business meeting to be held June 14.

Township Supervisors Drummond and Orlow were in attendance at the June 14 meeting. Supervisor Holmes was absent. Nearly two dozen members of the community action group and Maya van Rossum, the Delaware Riverkeeper, were also in attendance. Several key items were discussed and advanced at the meeting with regards to the Bishop Tube proposal:

- ⇒ Shortly before the meeting, the proposed agenda item regarding the supervisors sending a letter to withdraw their letter of support for the million-dollar grant to advance the O'Neill and Constitution

Drive Partners (CDP) proposal had been removed from the final agenda. When asked why, the Supervisors in attendance said it was because Supervisor Holmes was not present to participate in the discussion.

- ⇒ Supervisors Drummond and Orlow voted to submit an application to the PADEP for a Technical Evaluation Grant to support independent technical review of proposed site remediation plans. The group also requested that the Township ensure the DEP understands and supports the Township's intent to use the funds to assess any remediation scope of work/plan being considered for implementation by Constitution Drive Partners as part of CDP's effort to advance residential development of the site.
- ⇒ Supervisors Drummond and Orlow supported submission of a comment on the PPA document that is currently out for comment.
- ⇒ Supervisors Drummond and Orlow voted in support of an extension of the time for the Board to render decision on the land development application for the Bishop Tube site. They extended that time frame out to the greatest degree the town's attorney advised they were allowed under the law- 90 days.

“We are pleased that public officials are taking seriously the concerns of the public regarding the highly contaminated Bishop Tube site and the community's goal to secure full clean up of the site, at the expense of responsible parties, that the proposed heavy residential development of the site not be advanced and that the township find a way to protect the site as natural open space for the benefit of the community,” said Maya van Rossum, the Delaware Riverkeeper, leader of the Delaware Riverkeeper Network.

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Delaware Riverkeeper Network (DRN) is a nonprofit membership organization working throughout the 4 states of the Delaware River Watershed including Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Delaware and New York. DRN provides effective environmental advocacy, volunteer monitoring programs, stream restoration projects, public education, and legal enforcement of environmental protection laws.