

Sierra Club of Pennsylvania, Southeastern PA Group Executive Committee Meeting
October 7, 2015
Meeting held at CityCoHo, 2401 Walnut Street

ExCom Members Attending: Bill Brainerd, Mike Hoppus, Anne Lovett, Dennis Winters, JimWylie,
By Phone: John Butler, Pat Beaudet, Prasad Ramnath, Karen Melton
Other Members Attending: Emily Davis, Catherine Zukoski, Mary Chmielewski
ExCom Members Absent: Len Finegold, Dave Moscatello, Mathew Himmelein

The Meeting was called to order by Dennis at 6:45.

Bill introduced Catherine Zukoski, who is running for the ExComm and her sister, Mary Chmielewski.

Secretary: Mike moved, Bill seconded that the minutes be approved as emailed. The motion passed.

Treasurer: The balance in the C4 account Begin at \$4459.81

Expenditures included

\$200	Coho rent,
\$14.00	Bank Charges

Balance: \$4245.81

Emily moved, Mike seconded that the that the treasurer's report be approved. The motion passed.

Standing Committee Reports

Newsletter/Communications: (Pat) The newsletter is in progress. Dennis is working on the layout and Jim is doing a second editing. The printer will be paid in two installments: the first when he receives the job and the second within 30 days following job completion. It goes to the printer October 12. It will be mailed electronically on October 18 and by US post on October 19.

Conservation Committee: (Jim) Jim presented the SE PA group brochure. See attached. Mike reported that Mariner East has a meeting for Chester County land owners in the path of the proposed pipeline. Clean Air Council had a speaker and is organizing a law suit against Sunoco but the court ruled in favor of Sunoco. An appeal will be made. See attached flyer.

The PA DCNR is having a series of public meetings to present and discuss its master management plan. The Philadelphia hearing is on October 8th at the Fairmount Park Horticultural Center. Mike and Bill will go.

Political Committee: no report

Education Committee: Michael Mann will be the speaker for the November Program which will be held in the auditorium in the Bonnell Building CCP on Monday, November 9. Bill asked us to consider purchasing advertisements in a number of publications. Bill moved that he be authorized to send up to \$1600 to publicize the event. Jim seconded the motion. The motion passed with one abstention.

Nomination Committee: Jon Paul Jaworski is dropping off the ExComm. Those running for the 5 available seats are: Anne Lovett, Dennis Winters, JimWylie, John Butler, Prasad Ramnath, Gerald Brown and Catherine Zukoski. Ballot is in newsletter.

Old Business:

Green justice Philly: There will be a launch on October 14. It was suggested that notification of the event be added to the email blast going out to publicize the Michael Mann talk.

The Oil train subcommittee has prepared a letter to Senators Casey and Tooney to be signed by the member organizations. (see attached). Joanne will be asked to sign it.

Outings / Picnic: Jim reported that the kayaking outing on the 12th on Schuylkill River in Pottstown was attended by a dozen people under a full moon. The event ended with a picnic.

New Business:

Oil import Bans: Jim presented sign-on letter PA environmental groups in opposition to the lifting of oil export bans. (see attached)

Announcements: none

Reminders:

Conservation Committee Member Specialties:

- MTR – Jim Wylie
- Energy Conservation & Efficiency – John Butler
- Wind – PTC support – Gillian Norris
- AEPS support – Karen Melton
- Water – Robin Mann
- Smog – Gary Lytle/Jackie Wilson
- Transportation – Dennis Winters
- Land Use – Dennis Winters

Meeting Call-in Number:

1-866-501-6174, PIN is 1004100#.

Pennsylvania Environmental Groups: Sign on Letter in Opposition to Lifting the Oil Exports Ban:

Dear Decision-maker,

With polar ice caps melting faster than anticipated, another record setting summer behind us, and increased storms, droughts, and wildfires growing more severe across the nation, it's clear we need to do more to stop global warming, and we need to act soon.

That's why we, the undersigned organizations support the Clean Power Plan, which sets the first-ever limits on global warming pollution from power plants. But to stave off the worst impacts of global warming we must move quickly to reduce carbon pollution from oil as well from the electricity sector.

That's why I support keeping the ban on crude oil exports. Research shows that lifting the ban could result in up to 7600 more wells and 3.3 million more barrels drilled daily. This oil will create more global warming pollution and the oil will need to be transported across the country via rail or pipeline, which likely means more spills and more accidents.

For the sake of our environment, our communities' health, and our economy, we urge you to do everything you can to defend the Clean Power Plan and oppose any efforts to weaken or repeal it. And we call on you to keep the decades-old ban on crude oil exports in place.

Sincerely,

Staffer's name _____

Organization's name _____

Organization's address _____

Organization's email address _____

Organization's phone number _____

September 2015

The Honorable Senator Robert P. Casey, Jr.
393 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Senator Patrick J. Toomey
248 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Sens. Casey and Toomey:

We, the undersigned environmental, public health, and faith-based organizations representing thousands of Philadelphians strongly urge you to request that the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) conduct a worst-case scenario drill involving an oil train derailment in Philadelphia. The Philadelphia Energy Solutions (PES) refinery is the largest recipient of Bakken crude oil in the nation with a capacity to process over 300,000 barrels a day of crude oil which arrives on aging railroad infrastructure. Based on US Census Data, more than 400,000 Philadelphians live within the US Department of Transportation's (DOT) potential impact zone along the City railroads. It is imperative that FEMA conduct a worst-case scenario drill in Philadelphia, so that emergency responders and City officials are able to plan, prepare, and become best equipped to respond to an oil train derailment which potentially risks the lives, property, and the environment for hundreds of thousands of Philadelphians. Anyone located downwind or downstream of an oil train derailment may also be in harm's way.

FEMA has conducted similar drills in other areas like Jersey City, New Jersey and La Crosse, Wisconsin. The drills help local and state responders and emergency officials to prepare for a derailment. They also help to identify weaknesses in their ability to respond. The drill in Jersey City showed that 87 residents would immediately be killed and 500 more would be severely injured.

There has been an increase in crude-by-rail accidents across the continent, forcing evacuations, drinking water shutoffs, property damage, expensive environmental cleanups, and lost lives. On the evening of January 20, 2014, a crude oil train derailed on the Schuylkill Arsenal Bridge in South Philadelphia, resulting in 2 train cars, one containing crude oil, dangling over the Schuylkill River, a source of drinking water for Philadelphia. This incident left crews working to right the tank cars for days, in the midst of a snowstorm. On January 31st of this year, 11 tank cars derailed in a train yard in South Philadelphia, forcing hazardous materials crews to respond.

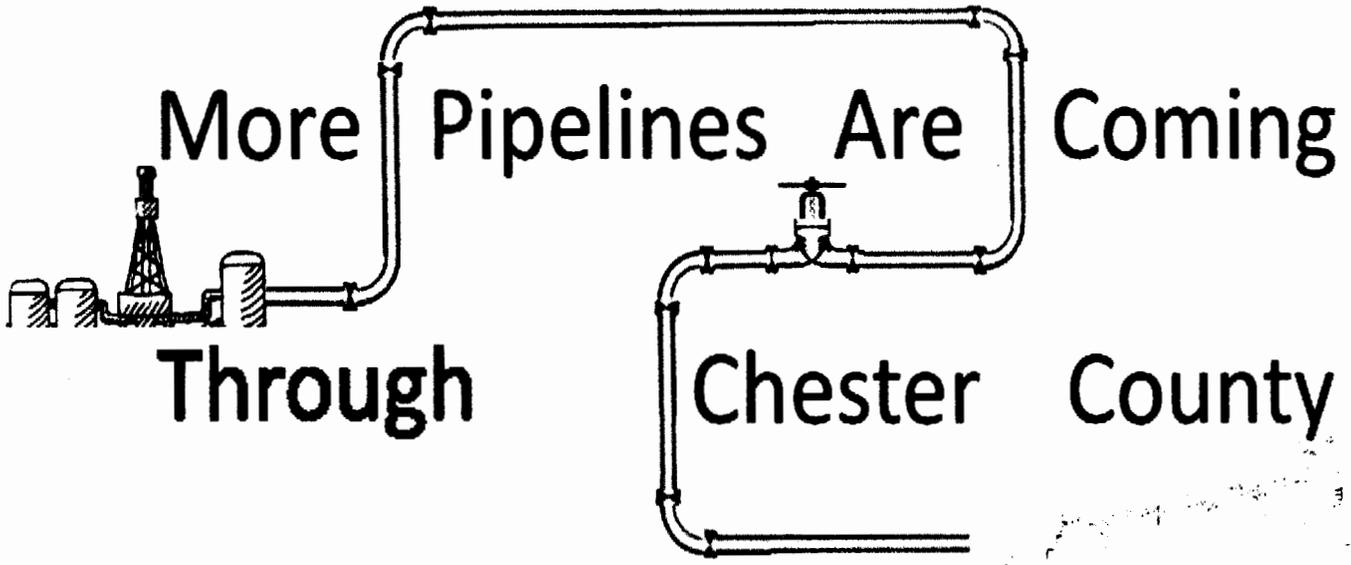
Many Philadelphians have expressed legitimate concern that the City may not be prepared to handle an oil train derailment. The fears are heightened by indifference from Philadelphia's Office of Emergency Management (OEM) to adequately address concerns, assess the risks, and communicate with the public about preparing for and responding to a potential derailment. In a recent State Impact article, OEM's Director stated that, in preparing for an oil train derailment, members of the public need to make their own individual plans for responding to an emergency¹. Given this disregard, this is an important moment for the Federal Emergency Management Agency to step in and prepare our City. As the agency responsible for major federal disasters, the agency owes it to itself and the people of Philadelphia to hold a worst-case scenario drill for an oil train derailment.

Please request that FEMA's Director, William Craig Fugate, hold a drill within the next six months, so FEMA can help Philadelphia safeguard its people, communities, and the environment.

Sincerely,

cc: William Craig Fugate, Director, FEMA
Mary Ann Tierney, Region III Administrator, FEMA

¹ Hurdle, Jon "Philadelphia's Top Emergency Planner Won't Disclose Oil-train Plans" State Impact Pennsylvania July 13, 2015. Available at: <https://stateimpact.npr.org/pennsylvania/2015/07/13/philadelphias-top-emergency-planner-wont-disclose-oil-train-plans/>



Are We Prepared?



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Gas Pipeline Facts

Chester County, already the 3rd highest pipeline county in PA, is poised to experience a significant increase in pipeline infrastructure. Current estimates show an additional 30,000 miles of pipelines over the next 20 years in PA. Sunoco Logistics Partners LP is actively engaged in repurposing their **84 year old Mariner East I pipeline** to transport highly volatile, odorless Liquid Natural Gas (ie. propane, butane, and ethane – LNG) under high pressure (1,480 psi) from the Marcellus Shale region to their Marcus Hook refinery. The plan is to then **ship 90+% overseas**. Mariner I's 8 inch pipeline had been used to transport petroleum products (ie. gas, oil, jet fuel) from Marcus Hook to western Pennsylvania. Now Sunoco plans to add the Mariner East II pipelines (two 24 inch) to follow the right of way of Mariner I. These pipelines will require 18 pump stations, two in Chester County with 34 foot flare stacks. If LNGs escape they will revert back to their gaseous state and are extremely flammable. There have been over **200 pipeline failures in the US since 2006**, Sunoco Logistics has been responsible for 18 in Pennsylvania.

Concerns

1. Air quality compromised by the flare stacks and its potential for exacerbating asthma and similar respiratory conditions
2. Water pollution from leaking pipes which will cross many of the County's rivers and streams as well as noise and light pollution.
3. Increased risk of fire and explosions from leaks and ruptures. The natural gas liquids are odorless and thus leaks will be difficult to detect.
4. The impacted townships will share in the responsibility for detecting leaks and controlling fires and explosions, but are they adequately prepared for this?
5. Further use of any fossil fuels such as natural gas will only accelerate climate change.
6. Pennsylvania is only one of two states in the US without an agency with overall regulatory powers for pipeline siting.
7. Decreased home values, increased homeowner's insurance, and loss of property usage.

Questions

Just recently the Hopewell Township's (New Jersey) Board of Health ruled that the PennEast pipeline, if constructed, will adversely affect the health of the township's citizens.

1. How will air and water pollution be monitored?
2. How are health affects being monitored?
3. Are our first responders trained and ready for pipeline emergencies? Who is paying for their training?
4. Who is liable for emergencies and other impacts? Do pipeline companies have adequate insurance?
5. Who is responsible when the equipment fails? (Leased equipment could release the user from liability)?

For more information and take action

<http://southeastern.pasierra.org/ConsvPipelines.html>

This flyer prepared with help from:
The Clean Air Council,
Pipeline Safety Coalition

Send questions or to join our mailing list, contact:

Bernie Greenberg (pipeline cmte champion) - hikerbern@comcast.net
Jim Wylie (southeastern PA conservation chair) - jim.wylie@verizon.net

PROTECT

Conservation Committees

Oil Trains

The risk of derailment and catastrophe increases with the rise of Bakken Oil trains traveling through highly populated and environmentally sensitive areas.



Pipelines

There is a race to build gas line infrastructure to feed the expanding refineries on the east coast in a vicious cycle of drill, mine, burn. Are we prepared?

Solar Rooftops

Clean, renewable solar energy opportunities abound in Philadelphia. Let's organize our neighborhoods to go solar.



Air Quality

The threat to our lungs from particulate matter is unending. Smog from power plants and vehicles is the culprit. Education and action is what's needed.

Sensible Transportation

Looking for opportunities to promote non-fossil fuel based transportation.

Beyond Coal

Coal burning power plants are part of our history, not our future.

LEARN

SPG hosts periodic lectures and discussion sessions with local experts on the topic. Usually held at Community College of Philadelphia

Michael Mann – The Hockey Stick and the Climate Wars – Nov 9, 2015.

"There is no threshold below which radiation is known to be safe. Every release of radiation contributes to an increase in "background radiation".."

- Jeff Schmidt, Sierra Club

EPA's Carbon and Methane Rules

Philadelphia Bike Share

Saving Energy At Home

Nuclear Energy

Marcellus Shale Gas Drilling

The Wind Debate

Bdrandywine Greenway

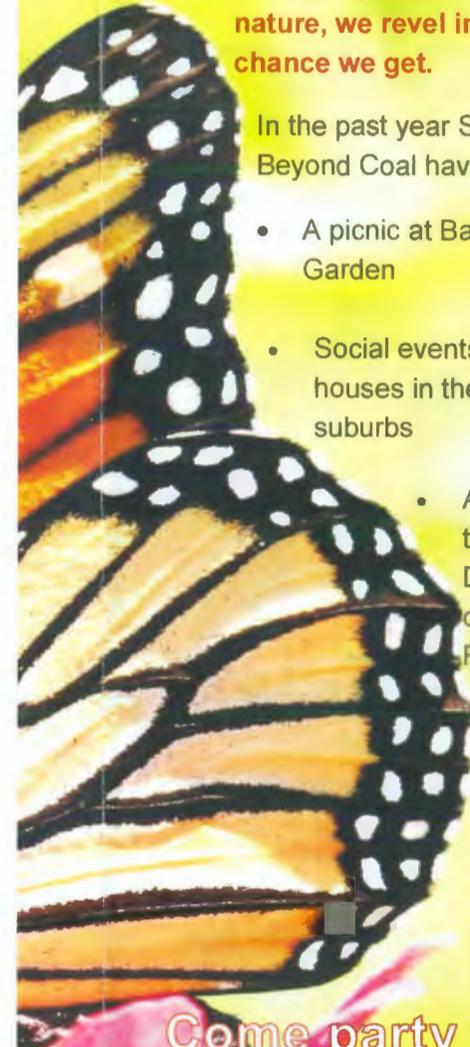
Beyond the Clean Air Act

ENJOY

We don't just work to protect nature, we revel in it every chance we get.

In the past year SPG and Beyond Coal have organized:

- A picnic at Bartram's Garden
- Social events at coffee houses in the city and the suburbs
- A reception for the Padde-2-DC Expedition on Boathouse Row



Come party with the tree-huggers !

ENDORSE

Often the best way to effect change is by influencing our elected officials.

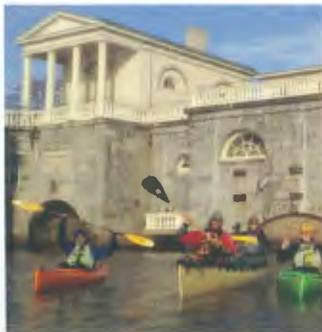
A Sierra Club endorsement is often a coveted item on a candidates' resume.

We interview and consider candidates for endorsement from township supervisor on up. Check our website for SPG's latest endorsements.

EXPLORE

On the trail or in the region's local waterways – we always want to see what's around the bend.

In 2015 we explored the Brandywine River, the Schuylkill River, Wissahickon Creek, John Heinz Wildlife Refuge and more.



CONNECT

SPG

southeastern.pasierra.org



Southeastern PA Sierra Club

Chair: Anne Lovatt

annelovatt@verizon.net

Vice-Chair: Dennis Winters

dennis.winters@verizon.net

Editor: Pat Beaudet

pbeaudet@juno.com



PACleanAir



Organizing Rep: Gary Lytle

gary.lytle@sierraclub.org

phillysierraclub.org

VOLUNTEER

If you would like to volunteer to help with any of our conservation, political, newsletter or education committees, or contribute an article, please contact:

Conservation Cmte Chair: Jim Wylie

jim.wylie@verizon.net

Political, Ed Cmte Chair: Bill Brainerd

wbrainerd3@gmail.com

Newsletter: Pat Beaudet

pbeaudet@juno.com

Beyond Coal Campaign: Gary Lytle

gary.lytle@sierraclub.org



SIERRA CLUB

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Southeastern PA Group



Environmental activists and volunteers engaged in local, regional and global issues that affect our lives and the planet we pass on to our children.