

**MINUTES OF  
CITIZENS ADVISORY COUNCIL  
July 9, 2024**

**CITIZENS ADVISORY COUNCIL (CAC) MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Robert Barkanic, Chairperson	Duane Mowery
Trisha Salvia, Vice Chairperson	James Schmidt
George Ambrose	Jerome Shabazz
Jacquelyn Bonomo	Thaddeus Stevens
Cynthia Carrow	John Walliser
William Fink	James Welty
Jason Foster	Timothy Weston

**DEP STAFF PRESENT (other than Presenters):**

Ian Irvin, Executive Director  
John Ryder, Deputy Secretary of Field Operations  
Casey Damicantonio, Policy Office

**CAC MEMBERS ABESENT:**

John St. Clair

**CALL TO ORDER:**

Chairperson Barkanic called the meeting to order at 12:31 PM.

**RESOLUTION FOR JEROME SHABAZZ AND TIM WESTON:**

Chairperson Barkanic presented two resolutions, thanking Jerome Shabazz and Tim Weston for their time as Chair and Vice-Chair, respectively.

Chairperson Barkanic motioned to approve both Resolutions. Jim Schmid seconded, which was unanimously approved.

**DEP UPDATE**

Deputy Secretary John Ryder provided the following update:

*Enforcement and Compliance Policy*

The Department is taking a closer look at their enforcement and compliance work by revisiting their 2004 policy called standards guidelines for identifying, tracking

and resolving violations. The Department has developed a new process for multimedia inspections as well as a site selection and ranking strategy. The Department has also developed some new electronic tools as well as some weighted matrices for regional programs to use when they are discussing multimedia site prioritization.

### *Permitting*

The Department has been working on the reduction of its backlog since December of 2023 with almost 2200 permits in queue. As of June 28, the Department is down to 970 permits, which represents a 56% reduction in backlog. The initial goal was to reduce backlog by 10% each month, so there is still some way to go before that goal is met.

### *PAYback*

The Department has been successful in the implementation of the Shapiro Administration's PAYback program, which is an online money-back guarantee system that guarantees permits go through within a certain timeframe. Since the program went into effect on November 1, the Department has reviewed 16 of those applications. Currently there are only 14 permits that are eligible for a payback. The Department has currently received zero payback requests since the program started on November 1.

Q&A included the regions doing well with recruiting and retaining employees, but they do struggle keeping professional engineers and geologists.

### **APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES:**

Chairperson Barkanic solicited additions or corrections to the June 11, 2024 Minutes. Executive Director Irvin provided two corrections:

**George Ambrose motioned to approve the Minutes of the June 11, 2024 meeting, as amended. Timothy Weston seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.**

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### **CAC COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

#### *Legislative Committee*

The Committee is shifting focus away from electronic waste toward House Bill 2388, which updates the duties and powers of the Pennsylvania Energy

Development Authority (PEDA). HB 2388 has passed out of the House with bipartisan support. The Committee will also continue looking into HB 2393 (FPR Bill) and PACER and PRESS.

### ***Strategic Issues Committee***

The Committee met on June 28 to review upcoming presentations. The Committee is still soliciting ideas for the joint meeting with EJAB in November. Ian Irvin will be meeting with EJAB on July 15.

### ***Public Participation Committee***

The Committee is working on setting up a meeting date but has not reached a consensus yet.

### ***Policy and Regulatory Oversight Committee***

Nothing to report.

## **NEW BUSINESS/OPEN DISCUSSION:**

### ***DEP Advisory Committee Meeting Guidance***

The DEP issued guidance to the Advisory Committees regarding meeting procedures. The CAC already meets many of the suggestions, and Policy Director High Garst mentioned that the procedures in the guidance document are not required and the document largely used CAC meetings as a model for other meetings to base themselves on.

### ***Annual Report Finalization***

The final reports should be on the CAC website sometime this week. Ian will also send them to the General Assembly, the Governor's Office and the Secretary later this week.

### ***CAC Member Handbook***

The handbook is mostly done, the last step is running it by the DEP graphics department to make it look professionally presentable. There will be updates made to the handbook as necessary.

### ***Mining Reclamation Advisory Board***

The CAC formally approved Jason Foster as one of the representatives to sit on the MRAB.

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## **PRESENTATIONS:**

**Hydrogen and Carbon Dioxide Pipelines and Carbon Capture Utilization and Storage**  
**Nita Raju Community Liaison Office of Pipeline Safety – Eastern Region U.S.**  
**Department of Transportation**

The Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) is an administration under the United States Department of Transportation and contains the Office of Pipeline Safety and the Office of Hazardous Materials Safety. The mission of PHMSA is to protect people and the environment by advancing the safe transport of energy and other hazardous materials that are essential to daily life. They work to achieve their goals through several means, including grants, research and development (R&D), regulation, and outreach.

PHMSA has regulated the transportation of hydrogen gas by pipeline since 1970. Since 2010, there have been five reported hydrogen incidents, none of which caused any fatalities or injuries. There are currently 11 projects related to hydrogen pipelines with a total of \$10.6 million in PHMSA funding. On March 25, 2024, PHMSA posted a proposed information collection in the Federal Register. This proposal would revise forms to collect data on blending of hydrogen gas with natural gas within gas pipelines, among other changes. The public comment period closed, after an extension, on June 24, 2024.

PHMSA was given authorization to regulate carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) via the Pipeline Safety Reauthorization of 1988. PHMSA regulates the transport of supercritical CO<sub>2</sub> under 49 CFR Part 195. These regulations include location applicability exceptions, design for low temperature and to mitigate fracture propagation, pressure testing exceptions and conditions for use. There are currently two R&D projects underway that are looking to fill safety gaps that are not yet known. Both projects will be completed later this year.

Carbon Capture Utilization and Storage (CCUS) is a term for processes that remove CO<sub>2</sub> where it is generated and stores or transports it for later use. Pipelines connect carbon capture location to carbon storage and utilization locations. These pipelines are also regulated by PHMSA, though they do not have explicit authority over carbon capture equipment or permanent sequestration of CO<sub>2</sub>. New and expanded pipeline projects have recently been introduced since the Inflation Reduction Act and Bipartisan Infrastructure Law was passed.

Q&A included that PHMSA is still doing R&D to see which pipelines are safe to reused to transport hydrogen. PHMSA did have an R&D forum in 2023 in which they discussed hydrogen pipelines.

### **Critical and Rare Earth Minerals Recycling** **Bernadette Lynch on behalf of SCORE Consortium** **Ned Eldridge, ELoop**

Supply Chains of Recovered Elements (SCORE) is a consortium with the mission-to build fully capable supply chains for domestic sourcing and production of critical minerals from waste streams. Their service area includes a five-state region of Michigan, Wisconsin, Ohio, West Virginia, and Pennsylvania with strength in metals manufacturing to form a new industrial base for the region.

The SCORE project looks to extract minerals such as:

- Scandium, Germanium, Gallium, Niobium, Vanadium, and Platinum

From waste streams such as:

- Coal ash, bauxite residue, mine tailings, titanium dioxide, phosphogypsum

For a variety of uses including:

- Defense, manufacturing, fuel cells, fiber optics, pharmaceuticals, and high technology.

eLoop is another group that is looking to introducing Artificial Intelligence-Robotics in the demanufacturing of electronic scrap. They began participating in the electronic equipment recycling industry in 2008. They were also the first in the industry to install robotics with the FPD Pro, the first fully automated AI robotic processing system in the nation, in April of 2023.

eLoop believes robotics will lead to many benefits within the e-waste industry.

These benefits include:

- Increased production capacity and speed
- Completion of tedious tasks allowing more efficient use of personnel
- Separating plastics and removing metal contamination
- Creates a database of all makes and models processed

Q&A included that it seems like e-waste collection and recycling seems like it would be economically viable, especially when you have robots speeding up disassembly. However, there are certain materials that, if they were recycled, would have to be a fee attached for that to be economically sustainable.

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**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

The following individuals, and the organizations they represent, if any, provided comments at the meeting. Links to their written comments are provided. In cases where written comments were not provided, a brief summary is provided:

[Larry Scheiger](#)

[Keith Myers](#)

[Barbara Brandon](#)

[Karen Feridun](#)

[Laurie Barr](#)

The next meeting of the CAC will be September 10, 2024 at 12:30 PM.

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**ADJOURNMENT:**

**With no further business, Timothy Weston moved to adjourn the meeting. Jerome Shabazz seconded the motion, and all were in favor.**

**The July 9, 2024 meeting of the CAC was adjourned at 3:39 PM.**