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DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION



Policy Office

Public Participation in the Permit Review Process

July 15, 2013

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Agenda

1. Importance of Public Participation – Alisa Harris
2. Details of Draft Policy – Rob Altenburg
3. Questions and Answers

Policy Background

Policy on Public Participation in the Permit Review Process

- Compliments recent development of Permit Review Process, Permit Decision Guarantee.
- Provides clear guidelines for how DEP responds and considers public comments.
- Outlines how DEP will conduct public meetings and hearings regarding permit applications.

Changes in the Draft Policy

What is (and isn't) changing?

- Our support for public participation is not changing.
- Updates outdated information
- Focus on policy
- Encourages consistency

Introduction to Permits

- Why we issue permits
- General permits versus Individual permits

➤ Introduction to Public Participation

Purpose

- Providing information for the decision making process
- Gaining a better understanding of the impacts
- Improving communication
- Improving transparency

Types of Public Participation

- Public Hearings
- Public Comment Periods
- Public Information Meetings
- Informal Conferences

Department Considerations

What Type of Participation Will be Offered?

- Required by statutes and regulations
- Case-by-case factors:
 - Significant local interest in hearings?
 - Is it an Environmental Justice area?
 - What will best serve the public?
 - History of the application
 - Available resources

DEP Guidance and Resources

- Sources of Information
 - DEP eLibrary
 - eFACTS and eNotice
- Contacts
 - Program
 - CRCs
 - EAs for EJ Areas

Other Resources

- Pennsylvania Bulletin – <http://pabulletin.com>
- Regulations – <http://pacode.com>
- Statutes – <http://www.legis.state.pa.us>
- Local Media

Department Links

- <http://goo.gl/w8U48> (Public Participation Policy)
- DEP: <http://www.dep.state.pa.us>
- eLibrary: <http://www.elibrary.dep.state.pa.us>
- eFACTS:
<http://www.dep.state.pa.us/dep/efacts>
- eNotice:
<http://www.ahs.dep.pa.gov/eNOTICEWeb>



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Questions?

Comment deadline: July 22, 2013

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