

**From:** [Debra Mobile](#)  
**To:** [EP, SERO ECB](#)  
**Subject:** [External] Bishop Tube Proposal  
**Date:** Monday, January 31, 2022 8:51:36 PM

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To whom it may concern,

**I am particularly concerned about the lack of communication that continues to exist between the DEP and the community at large. It seems that after reviewing your current proposal, there are no steps aimed to improve that communication.**

When the original proposal was released back in September the community was not afforded an opportunity to ask questions and receive answers about its' contents. We were led to believe that the DEP was exploring options to find a venue to meet with the citizens of East Whiteland Township. In stead of meeting with the community to discuss the merits of the proposal and answer questions, the DEP chose to move directly to a hearing at an early point in the review process. This hearing was scheduled so quickly that even the township's consultants had not enough time to review the thousands of pages of data. Community members and township supervisors asked repeatedly to meet with the DEP before the hearing, yet our requests were denied.

The DEP indicated that all questions which arouse from the hearing would be answered at a later time, after the response period ended on January 31st. Once again the community was denied the opportunity to have an open dialog with the DEP in order to help them determine the merits of the proposal which is currently on the table. The DEP must ensure that adequate opportunity for public input into decisions as additional information becomes available.

The proposal has a large number of gaps within specific actions. It calls for additional testing in a number of areas as well as the use of chemicals and techniques which are not yet specified. However there are no methods within the proposal to communicate the data or update the methods to the public at large. The DEP must develop a plan which included methods of communication as well as opportunities for the community to give input into the on-going phases of the project.

The community has serious concerns about their safety during the attempts to clean-up the Bishop Tube site. The current proposal offers no indicators of how that safety is to be ensured. The DEP must provide information about the provisions which will be taken to protect the public. The areas addressed should include, but are not limited to, ongoing methods used to monitor air quality, methods used to monitoring tor clean up effects on ground water run-off, frequency of safety testing, security plans for the site and equipment, methods of communication with the community, and the hierarchy off individuals who will be responsible for communication within the DEP. The DEP must provide close oversight and ensure adequate communication with the community throughout the remedial process.

The current proposal fails to give the community an adequate overview of the project. The

DEP needs to provide a timeline by which the community can evaluate the progress. The DEP will need to provide a method of communicating the progress which has been made with regard to the timeline and/or scope and sequence of the project. The DEP needs provide a hierarchy by which the community can continually get answers to questions, provide input, report problems, and communicate particularly when there is an emergency. The proposal should inform the public how the remediation will be financed and how additional safety procedures will be financed. Township cannot take on the DEP's role of ensuring the safety of the public and environment.

Debra J Mobile  
(she/her)

42 Village Way  
Malvern, PA 19355