



# Public Information Meeting

Maggie Lynn Underground Mine  
Noncoal Application

Deemston Borough, Washington County

Wed. December 13, 2023

6:00 pm to 8:00 pm

Deemston Borough Municipal Building

Josh Shapiro, Governor

Jessica Shirley, Acting Interim Secretary



**pennsylvania**  
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION



# **OFFICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE WELCOME**

Amelia Benson – Regional Coordinator  
Office of Environmental Justice, PA DEP

# Welcome

- **Tips for participating:**
  - For those online, to ask questions, click on the Chat icon in the lower-right of your screen.
  - Questions welcome! Type your questions and comments into the box any time.
  - For those in the room, please just raise your hand any time, although know there will be Q and A at the end.

# Ground Rules

- The purpose of this forum is to share information. The expectation is that all participants will interact respectfully and avoid offensive language/profanity.
- For those online, all mics are muted until you are called upon
- For those in the room, please wait until you are invited to speak

# Agenda

- I. Office of Environmental Justice Welcome
- II. New Stanton District Mining Office Welcome
- III. Overview of Permit Process
- IV. Project Specifics
- V. Review of Comment Process & Complaint Process
- VI. Question and Answer

# Maggie Lynn Underground Mine - Permit Boundary



Census Tract 7957  
Washington County

Source: Esri, Maxar, GeoEye, Earthstar Geographics, CNES/Airbus DS, USDA, USGS, AeroGRID, IGN, and the GIS User Community

Map Sources:  
Maggie Lynn Underground Permit Boundary: Digitized from Exhibit 6.2 Environmental Resources Map (revised December 2023) submitted by Geotech Engineering, Inc.  
Environmental Justice Area (2015): PASDA.  
1/2 Mile Area of Concern: Calculated using ArcGIS software.



### Legend

- 1/2 Mile Area of Concern
- Environmental Justice Area (2015)
- Maggie Lynn Underground Permit Boundary



The Department assumes no responsibility for the accuracy or completeness of this information.

# Notification and Information

- **Maggie Lynn Underground Mine Website**
- PA Bulletin (Jan 2022; Expect re-notice 12/30/23)
- Public Notices by Applicant (Jan-Feb 2022; Re-notice TBD)
- Washington County Conservation District public review copy
- New Stanton DMO public review copy
- DEP Press Release
- Direct outreach to previous complainants



# DEP TECHNICAL PERSONNEL

Dave Thomas – District Mining Manager, NS DMO

Chad Meyer – Environmental Program Mgr, NS DMO (Remote)

*Jim Edwards – Permitting Chief, NS DMO*

Diane Roote – LPG (Lead Reviewer), NS DMO

Chris Vought – Sr. Civil Engineer, NS DMO

Adam Snyder – Blasting and Explosives Inspector, NS DMO

Jaimie Wyant – Surface Mine Conserv. Insp. (MCI), NS DMO

Andy Walker – MCI Supervisor, NS DMO (2Q24 Matt Somogyi)

*Barry Alexin – Mining Engineer Consultant, BMS*

William Hudak – Mine Safety Engineer Manager, BMS

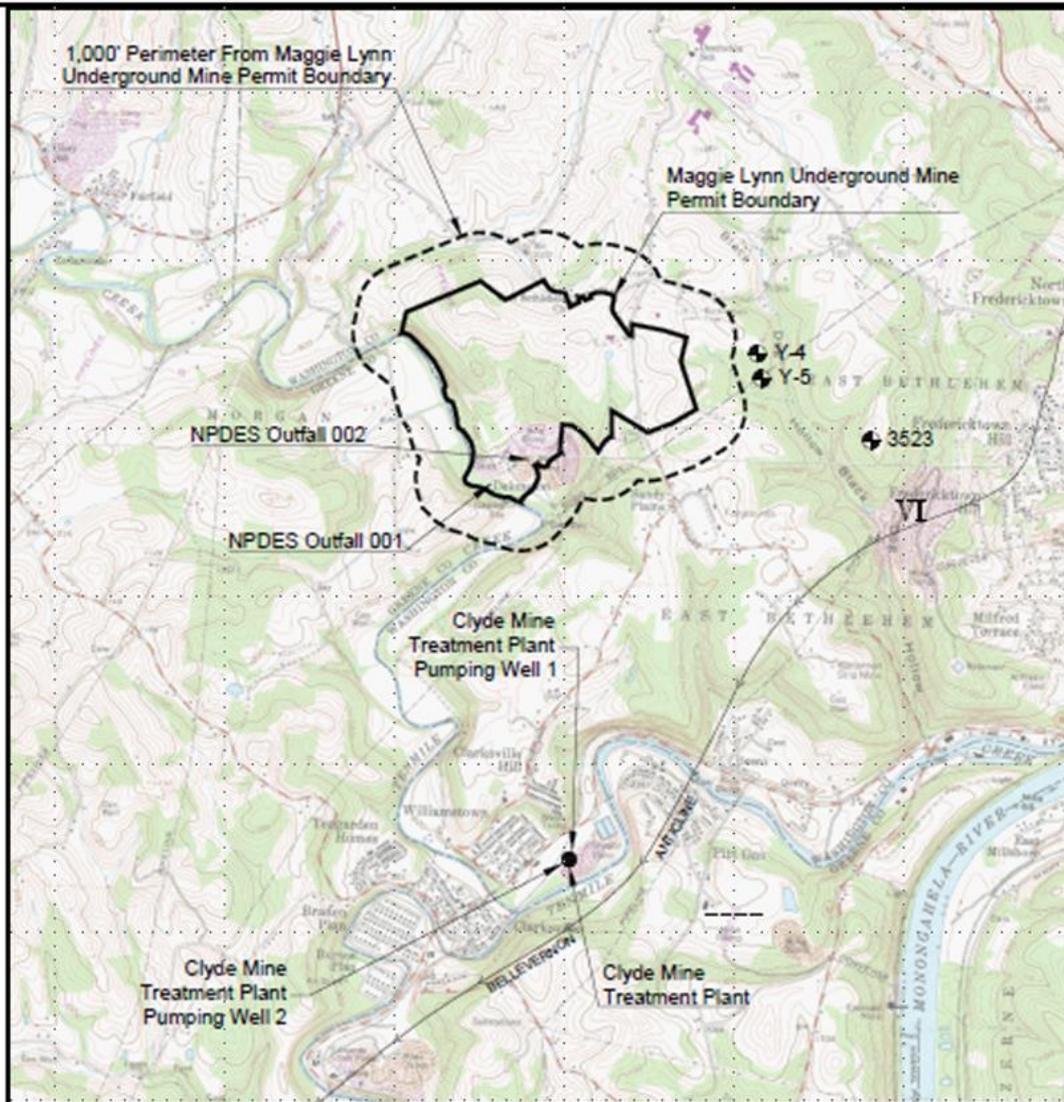
*Jonathan Tolson, Air Quality Inspector, SWRO*



# OVERVIEW OF PROPOSED PROJECT SPECIFICS

Diane Roote, P.G. – Lead Reviewer  
New Stanton District Mining Office, PA DEP

# Site Location Topographic Map



**SITE LOCATION MAP**  
**ELLSWORTH & MATHER, PA 7.5 MIN. QUADRANGLES**

# ▶ Proposed Maggie Lynn Underground Mine

*Information Provided by the Applicant, Neiswonger Construction, Inc.*

- 359.1-acre site along Morey Rd (SR 2041) and N-NE of Tenmile Creek (All surface activities west of Morey Rd; proposed underground mining west and east of Morey Rd)
- 256.6 acres proposed for underground Benwood Limestone mining
- 110.1-acre surface activity area (develop face-up area/portal entries to underground; processing, storage, transport of mined limestone)

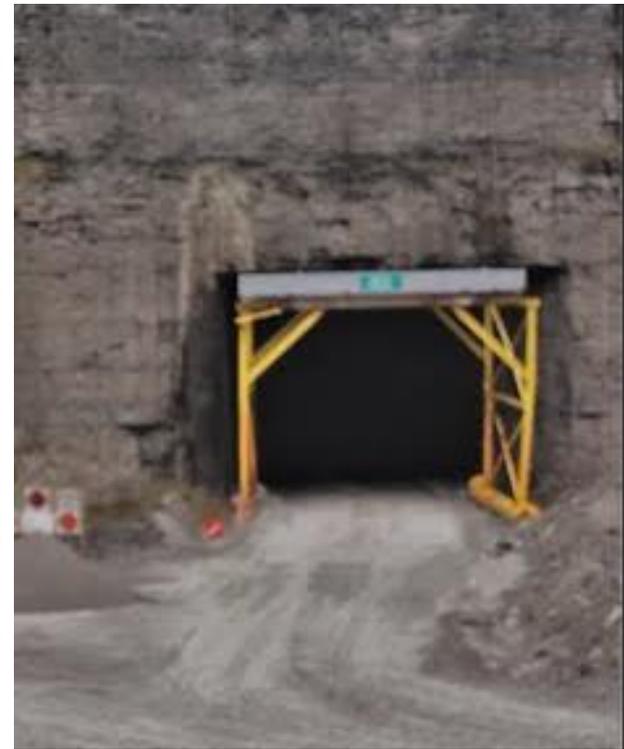
# ▶ Proposed Maggie Lynn UG Mine, Cont'd

*Information Provided by the Applicant, Neiswonger Construction, Inc.*

- Proposed new underground permit (63192001) encompasses existing Maggie Lynn Quarry SMP (63100401) and some of existing Hawkins SMP (63813210)
- Phased project (Phase 1: Portals 1-4 Commence UG Mining; Phase 2: Possibly Portals 5-7; Surface Activities throughout)
- Blasting proposed on the surface to develop portals and underground for limestone mining
- Two (2) NPDES Outfalls (surface, underground drainage)

# ▶ Proposed Maggie Lynn UG Mine, Cont'd.

- **Proposed Phase 1/2:** Faceup/Portal Development (Underground mining would begin in Phase 1 and continue in Phase 2)



# ▶ Proposed Maggie Lynn UG Mine, Cont'd.

- **Stone Processing – Active Current Quarry, Phase I, Phase 2**





# OVERVIEW OF PERMIT REVIEW PROCESS TO DATE

Diane Roote, P.G. – Lead Reviewer  
New Stanton District Mining Office, PA DEP

# ▶ Permit Review Process Highlights

- ✓ **Completed Steps**
- ✓ Administrative completeness review
- ✓ Accepted for technical review
- ✓ Initial public notification (Observer-Reporter Jan. - Feb. 2022)
- ✓ Reviewed public comments as of Apr. 2022
- ✓ Production of two technical deficiency letters (TDLs) (3/20/23 and 10/16/23)
- ✓ Technical review of SMP and NPDES applications to date (submittals thru 6/16/23)

# ▶ Permit Review Process Overview

## ➤ **Current Steps**

- Technical review of SMP/NPDES applications
- Review of applicant's 12/4/23 response to TDL 2
- Public meeting (12/13/23)

## **Upcoming Steps**

- NPDES application package sent to EPA
- Applicant places revised notice in newspaper of general circulation



# **OVERVIEW OF PROPOSED PROJECT SPECIFICS & ONGOING TECHNICAL REVIEW**

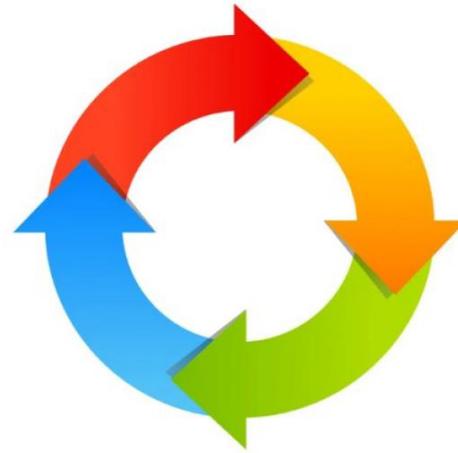
Diane Roote, P.G. – Lead Reviewer  
New Stanton District Mining Office, PA DEP

&

Christopher Vought, P.E. – Sr. Civil Engineer  
New Stanton District Mining Office, PA DEP

# ▶ Proposed Maggie Lynn UG Mine, Cont'd

- Review by **module** (hard copies, e-copy)
- NPDES Information
- Geology
- Hydrology
- Operations
- Proposed Blast Plan
- Air Pollution and Noise Control
- Underground Mining Plan (*Preliminary*)
- Proposed Reclamation



# ➤ Proposed Maggie Lynn UG Mine, Cont'd

- **NPDES Info and NPDES Application *Mod 2***
  - Sedimentation Pond P-1 (surface drainage from disturbed areas and groundwater draining from proposed underground mine)
    - Treatment provided in collection ditches/pond (flocculant use requested as sedimentation aid)
    - Final treated discharge to Tenmile Creek – Outfall 001
  - Sedimentation Pond P-2 (surface drainage)
    - Settling and clarification
    - Final treated discharge to UNT “E” to Tenmile Creek – Outfall 002

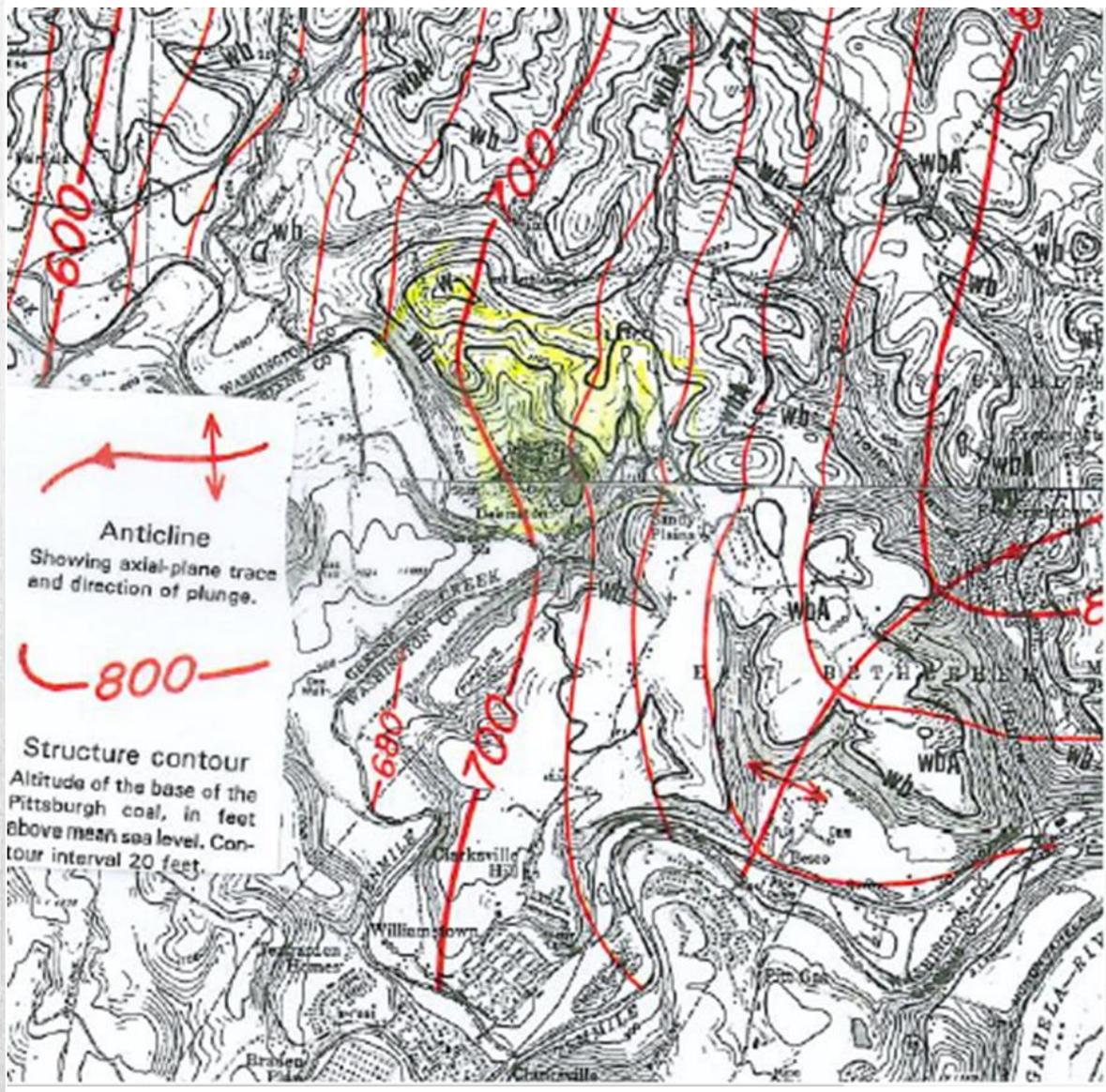
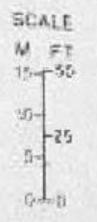
# ▶ Proposed Maggie Lynn UG Mine, Cont'd

- **Geology** *Mod 7*

- Phase 1 Faceup Area/Pit 1 Portals 1-4 – No coal measures to be disturbed/Pit 2 reclamation
- Potential Phase 2 Faceup Area/Portals 5-7 – No coal measures to be disturbed
- Coal Seams - Waynesburg A, Waynesburg Sewickley, Pittsburgh; Benwood Limestone below Waynesburg and above Sewickley Coals
- Western flank Belle Vernon Anticline; Benwood LS dips northwest at 1.2% (0.69 degrees)

# Proposed Maggie Lynn UG Mine, Cont'd

SYSTEM	GROUP	FORMATION	LITHOLOGY	UNIT
PENNSYLVANIAN AND PERMIAN	DUNKARD	WAYNESBURG		
		UNIONTOWN		
PENNSYLVANIAN	MONONGAHELA		Waynesburg coal	
			Little Waynesburg coal	
			Uniontown coal	
			Limestone D	
			Limestone C	
	PITTSBURGH		Limestone B	
			Limestone A	
			Berwood limestone	
			Sowickley coal	
			Fishpot coal Fishpot limestone	
COMEAUUGH CASSELLMAN			Redstone coal	
			Pittsburgh sandstone	
			Pittsburgh rider coal Pittsburgh coal	



# ▶ Proposed Maggie Lynn UG Mine, Cont'd

- **Hydrology** *Mod 8/Exhibit 6.2*
  - Background monitoring (existing quarry)
  - Sampled private wells and springs within 1000-ft
  - On going monitoring (mining activities must not degrade water)
  - Sampled private wells and springs within 1000-ft
  - Proposed monitoring program
    - Water quality (20 stream points, 3 springs, 3 other)
    - Monthly flow (1 spring, 1 pond, 8 stream points)
    - Static water level (3 wells/well in Pittsburgh Mine)
    - NPDES monitoring is separate item

# ▶ Proposed Maggie Lynn UG Mine, Cont'd

- **Hydrology Cont'd.** *Mod 8*

- Hydrogeologic setting

- Local flow (springs) associated with 1) topography and 2) perched system above Waynesburg Coal horizon
- 3) Benwood Limestone intermediate flow system
- 4) Regional groundwater flow system at Tenmile Creek

- Hydrologic impact of proposed mining activities

- Ave. 0.25 gpm per acre assumed inflow to ug workings (0.5 gpm assumed for sedimentation pond calculations)
- Lowest elevation of ug workings above normal Tenmile Creek level and above elevation of Clyde Mine Pool if pumping ceased

# ▶ Proposed Maggie Lynn UG Mine, Cont'd

- **Operations Maps, Operational Information** *Mods 9, 10, 12, 13, 14*
  - Operation map (mining areas (pit/portals), stockpiles (topsoil, product), Erosion & Sedimentation (E&S), and more
  - Operation description including plans, sequence, equipment, pit configuration, utility protections, bond
  - Engineering designs (E&S Controls; Impoundments)
  - Operations reviewed for encroachment to streams and wetlands (prior authorization from quarry unchanged)

# ▶ Proposed Maggie Lynn UG Mine, Cont'd

- **Noncoal Underground Mine *Mod 15***
  - Preliminary plans for portal development and underground mine development including underground blast plan
    - Opening Plan including Emergency Response Plan
  - Preliminary underground development map
  - Mine geology and hydrology
  - Sealing plans

# ▶ Proposed Maggie Lynn UG Mine, Cont'd

- **Proposed Blast Plan *Mod 16***
  - Blast plan for existing quarry; not yet revised for the underground permit (typically after issuance)
  - Noncoal blast schedules required to be published annually and distributed to local governments and utilities within 1,000 feet of blasting area
  - NS DMO blast inspector reviews all elements of blast plan and implementation (explosives storage, blast loading plans, restrictions, road protection, public notifications, records)
  - Blasting conducted by PA Licensed Blasters

# ▶ Proposed Maggie Lynn UG Mine, Cont'd

- **Air Pollution and Noise Control Plan** *Mod 17*
  - Air Quality Permit issued from DEP SW Regional Office Air Quality Program for stone processing
  - Dust control (lime stockpiles/access/haul roads) by watering and/or calcium chloride use
  - Hoods/dust collection devices for drills
  - Topsoil stockpiles seeded to prevent wind erosion
  - On-site speed limit
  - All trucks hauling product will be tarped securely

## ▶ Proposed Maggie Lynn UG Mine, Cont'd

- **Noise Control Plan** (trucks, excavators, back-up alarms, drill, blasting, crushers, conveyors)
  - Operations to encompass one daylight shift (no nights, weekends, holidays)
  - Noise assessment conducted. (Revised 12/4/23)  
Operations to utilize OSHA-approved equipment with mufflers
  - Use of jake brakes will be minimized
  - Backup alarms needed for safety purposes

# ▶ Proposed Maggie Lynn UG Mine, Cont'd

- **Reclamation Modules** *Mods 18, 19, 20, 21, 23*
  - Depicts how site will look upon reclamation
  - Postmining Land Use and Reclamation
    - Current applicant plans are to use underground workings for storage post-mining
    - Portals expected to remain but bonded for sealing
    - Notarized landowner requests included in app for non-AOC reclamation, and haul road, pond, associated ditches to remain post-mining
    - The 100' stream barriers will remain forestland

# In Event Permit is Issued

- New Stanton DMO
  - Inspects surface activities (MCI, Blasting Inspector)
  - Phase 2 permitting/bonding
- Bureau of Mine Safety review ongoing
  - Mine Opening Plan/Roof Control Plan
  - Safety Zone Plan
  - Tenmile Creek Stage/Clyde Mine Pool Notifications and/or Work Stoppage
  - Operational Mine Maps/Mine Development Maps
  - Underground Disposal Plan (stone process waste)
  - Underground Mine Inspections



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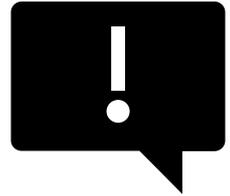
# REVIEW OF COMMENT PROCESS

Chad Meyer  
Environmental Program Manager  
PA DEP NSDMO

# Submitting Comments

(25 PA Code Chapter §77.122)

- A comment may be a specific concern or question related to the proposed operation.
- Neiswonger Construction, Inc. will publish revised public notices in Observer-Reporter (Date TBD)
- Comments may be submitted 30 days after this public meeting on any aspect
- If DEP intends to issue an NPDES permit, draft limits will be published in the *Pennsylvania Bulletin* initiating a 30-day public comment period



# Submitting Comments

- To submit written comments or concerns:
  - U.S. Mail: Dept. of Environmental Protection, New Stanton District Mining Operations, 131 Broadview Road, New Stanton, PA 15672
  - Email: [RA-EPNEWSTANTON@pa.gov](mailto:RA-EPNEWSTANTON@pa.gov) (Attn: Tracy Norbert)
  - NS DMO Phone: 724-925-5500
- No specific format is required for comments and objections other than they be written. Please include: Name, phone number, and email or mailing address

# Reporting Complaints

*For active permit (quarry or if underground issued)*

- All complaints can be reported to the New Stanton District Mining Office by calling 724-925-5500 or 1-800-541-2050 after hours.
- Complaints are confidential and will be promptly investigated by the assigned Mine Conservation Inspector or Blasting and Explosives Inspector.



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# QUESTIONS?

Amelia Benson – Regional Coordinator, Office  
of Environmental Justice, PA DEP, SWRO

Email: [acbenson@pa.gov](mailto:acbenson@pa.gov)

Lauren Camarda – Community Relations  
Coordinator, PA DEP, SWRO

Email: [lcamarda@pa.gov](mailto:lcamarda@pa.gov)

# Q & A

To Ask A Question:

1. Wait to be called on to be to ask your question verbally; those online will be unmuted.

OR

2. Type your question in the chat or raise your hand (electronically or in person)

# ▶ Proposed Maggie Lynn UG Mine, Cont'd

- Written comments can be emailed to Tracy Norbert of the DEP's New Stanton office ([RA-EPNEWSTANTON@pa.gov](mailto:RA-EPNEWSTANTON@pa.gov)) or mailed to Pennsylvania DEP, New Stanton District Mining Operations, 131 Broadview Road, New Stanton, PA 15672.
- Please direct questions to Jim Edwards at [edwjam@pa.gov](mailto:edwjam@pa.gov) or 724-925-5423.
- Applications are available for public review at **Washington County Conservation District and NS DMO by appt.**

**For more info and e-copy:**

<https://www.dep.pa.gov/About/Regional/SouthwestRegion/Community%20Information/Pages/Maggie-Lynn-Mine.aspx#>

**\_NS DMO Phone: 724-925-5500**



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**THANK YOU  
FOR ATTENDING**

# Additional Resources

**For additional information:**

**Chad Meyer**

**Environmental Program Manager**

**New Stanton District Mining Office**

**Email: [RA-EPNEWSTANTON@pa.gov](mailto:RA-EPNEWSTANTON@pa.gov)**

**Phone: 724.925.5413**