

Town Council Meeting – February 25, 2014

Report of the Roseland Compressor Station Ad Hoc Committee

This report is intended to update the Town Council and general public on the committee activities since the last report on Nov. 19th. Our mission statement remains as originally reported in July, 2013.

MISSION STATEMENT – Given that the Williams Pipeline Compressor Station and pipeline improvements are proceeding within the Borough of Roseland, this committee is formed to insure that health, safety, economic and environmental factors do not adversely impact Roseland residents during the construction, installation and operation of the Compressor Station and Pipeline facility.

Update from Williams Transco

Our Mayor spoke with representatives from Williams and was informed that the station was officially commissioned on January 15, 2014 although it had been sporadically operating as intended prior to that date. We will schedule dates in March for our first responders and OEM to tour the facility and at that time they will share their safety manual with OEM.

PSE&G Meeting

A meeting between the ad hoc Compressor Station Committee and representatives of the Public Service Electric & Gas Company on January 31st was scheduled at the request of the ad hoc committee. The committee's purpose was to get the viewpoint of the other company involved with the Eagle Rock/Eisenhower Parkway corner facilities as to the safety of the co-located facilities: the PSEG electrical substation and switching station; the PSEG metering facility and the Williams Transco Corporation's Pipeline and Compressor facilities.

As a committee we felt it would be prudent and appropriate to hear from PSEG regarding the committee's concerns with the proximity of the two company's facilities, from the accident prevention and anti-terrorist concern viewpoints.

The three service upgrade projects that impact on the Roseland PSEG Switching Center are: the North Central Reliability Project, Northeast Grid Project, and the Susquehanna-Roseland Electric Reliability Project. These projects designed to deliver more power to consumers in the area of northern New Jersey. The electrical power, in particular, is to be raised to 500 kilovolts for some projects, delivered on the new "monopole" towers whose construction we have observed. The projects are scheduled for completion in 2015. These new systems are all designed and constructed under new guidelines that insure more reliable and safer operation.

Without revealing confidential details of the anti-terrorism measures taken by PSEG, they assured us that these measures had been significantly strengthened in recent years. As has been the case, there has been continual coordination with local police, fire, and county OEM departments.

PSE&G explained that there is 24-7 visual surveillance and operational monitoring of the facility from the dedicated operations headquarters in Newark. In addition, all towers are connected with a fiber-optic based monitoring apparatus within a device known as OPGW (Optical Grounding Wire: the topmost structure on a tower used for both grounding and fiber-optic communication purposes).

One of the committee's primary safety concerns is: Could a fallen high voltage wire (such as could be caused by storm, earthquake, etc.) ignite a gas pipeline even in the event that the gas line is buried in the ground. The PSE&G representatives explained the automatic method whereby a line interruption or break would trigger a shut-down mechanism that would render the line powerless even before it ever hit the ground. This automatic triggering device is part of the overall "smart-grid" engineering concept.

Meeting of the ad hoc Compressor Station Committee on January 29, 2014

As a follow up to the conference call on Nov 7 with Williams, FERC, PHMSA and NJ DEP the committee made the following requests to PHMSA. (this call was reported during the last report of the Committee to the Council on Nov 19th)

We requested from PHMSA the designated "class" category of the Roseland Compressor Station and pipeline. Per PHMSA documents Compressors and pipelines are classified with the number 1, 2, 3 or 4. Sites categorized with the number 4 refer to those located in more densely populated areas. In addition there is an even more stringent category called a "High Consequence Area."

The committee has also requested of PHMSA access to their audit and physical inspection reports on the Williams facilities in Roseland. The committee's objective is to provide Borough officials on-going and continuous access to these records so that we can ensure compliance to government regulations.

PHMSA has not yet responded to our request. The Mayor will follow up through Government contacts to obtain a response to our request.

Mayor Duthie noted that he had not received a response to his last letter to Congressman Frelinghuysen. At this point we were not expecting any specific responses to the letter which was more a recitation of the committee's concerns than a call to action by the congressman. However, we will keep Mr. Frelinghuysen's office apprised of new developments.