

Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission (DVRPC)

Urban Waterfront Action Group (UWAG) Meeting
Tuesday, March 19, 2013

Philadelphia Energy Solutions DeLoach Wharf Structural Repairs

Participants:

Joe Musil, Urban Engineers, Inc., JFMusil@urbanengineers.com
Andy Quinn, Urban Engineers, Inc., AQuinn@urbanengineers.com
Jane Chen, Philadelphia Energy Solutions, Jane.Chen@pes-companies.com
Pat Patterson, Pennsylvania DEP, PatPatters@pa.gov
Chelsea Hall, U.S. Coast Guard, Chelsea.L.Hall@uscg.mil
Stephen Walsh, Delaware River Basin Commission, Steve.Walsh@drbc.state.nj.us
Matt Walderon, Pennsylvania DEP, MWalderon@pa.gov
Randy Brown, Pennsylvania DEP, RABrown@pa.gov
Jim Boyer, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, James.N.Boyer@usace.army.mil
Peter Romano, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Peter.T.Romano@usace.army.mil

Meeting Summary:

The DeLoach Wharf is located on the eastern side of the Schuylkill River at the site of the former Sunoco Philadelphia Refinery, which is now operated by Philadelphia Energy Solutions (PES). The original owner of the site was Atlantic Richfield. The wharf was built in the 1870s or 1880s and is 1,100 feet long. A state permit (GP11) was issued last year after another wharf collapse in the area. Maintenance and repair to this wharf may be covered by that permit.

The wharf is comprised of two sections, both of which are sheet pile bulkheads. Some parts of the fender system are failing, and about 40% of the steel bulkhead is corroded. There is a 12 foot scour area in the river, which is on the verge of toeing out. The tieback system of the bulkhead has deflected outwards. The proposed solution is to construct a new wall that will be tied in to the existing wall, and the timber system will be replaced with a more modern system. This new wall will be installed along a 150 foot long section and the fill will be between 12 and 24 inches wide.

According to the Army Corps of Engineers, the proposed work would likely require an individual permit. There are likely to be Spring fisheries restrictions, and so they should plan to start in the summer. For the public notice to be issued, the Corps will need a statement detailing how the project will minimize impacts, and either how the impacts will be compensated or why compensation is not required.

The Pennsylvania DEP would like to review the GP11 to see what was included, and if this work could be a major amendment to that permit. The Delaware River Basin Commission does not believe a permit would be required from their office for the proposed scope of work. The Coast Guard will need to be updated on the timing of the construction in order to make mariners aware.