

Ligonier Township Supervisors  
Special Meeting  
13 July 2010

The Supervisors of Ligonier Township met in special session at 6:30 pm for the purpose of considering an extension of a natural gas drilling permit for XTO Energy at the Nelson site. Present were Chairman Timothy R Komar, William C Penrod Jr, and Keith A Whipkey. All potential witnesses were sworn by a court reporter.

Ben Kissell, representing XTO Energy, presented that XTO is seeking to add two (2) additional well drilling sites on the Nelson property off State Route 259 near Jinx Trail. The southern corner of the property is also to be filled in to flatten the site using dirt from elsewhere on the property. No other changes are proposed from the original approval.

Township Engineer, Morris Knowles & Associates, withdrew from representing the Township in this case because of a business relationship with XTO. Tim Fyock, of Benchmark Engineering, was brought in to represent the Township in this case. He testified that he reviewed the revision based upon the applicable Township ordinances, and submitted a list of concerns to XTO – all questions were answered adequately. However, the modification has not received final approval from the DEP as yet.

Cindy Turley, Township Zoning Officer, testified that this application went before the Planning Commission and received approval subject to receipt of some unfinished items. Also, XTO applied for two (2) sign permits to identify the new drilling sites.

From the audience, Cheryl Lee expressed concern for the Latrobe Reservoir located five or six miles away and asked if it were possible the Reservoir could be contaminated from this site. XTO was unable to project a worst case scenario but could not envision such a catastrophe occurring. He also noted that DEP requires the driller to have emergency resources readily available.

Neighbor Bruce Haldeman asked about the time frame for constructing all the sites. Kissell responded that the sites would be done one at a time, and each would require two or three weeks. It is anticipated that all work will be completed on the wells, and the property would be completely restored within two years as per the DEP permit. Haldeman commented that the fencing currently on site is in poor condition and should be reviewed. Kissell agreed.

There being no further questions, a motion was made by Penrod and seconded by Whipkey to close the comment period and adjourn the meeting at 7:08. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,  
Keith A Whipkey  
Secretary

