

**SOUTH FRANKLIN TOWNSHIP**  
CONSOL Conditional Hearing  
Meeting Minutes  
South Franklin Township Municipal Building  
September 1, 2015

**Supervisors:** Vice-Chair Kellie A. Orlosky and William H. Cline. Chairman Mark Knestrick was excused.

**Solicitor:** Jim Jeffries

**Township Manager:** Tyler Linck

**Visitors present:** Blaine Lucas, Joanna Niecgorski, Matt Ruckle, Jodi Borello, Sharon & Jim Maloy

Solicitor Jim Jeffries called the meeting to order at 6:37pm. The meeting was then handed over to acting Chair Kellie Orlosky. Blaine Lucas was given the opportunity to speak on behalf of CONSOL regarding the CONSOL E29 Bleeder Shaft for Enlow Fork Mine project. Mr. Lucas gave a brief overview of the project as well as the location of the bleeder shaft. He stated this project is needed for the advancement of the mine. He then introduced Matt Ruckle and Joanna Niecgorski and presented exhibits 1-7.

1. Exhibit 1: Application
2. Exhibit 2: aerial map of site
3. Exhibit 3: site plan map
4. Exhibit 4: photos with 360° view of site from perimeter of road
5. Exhibit 5: photos with 360° view from center of site
6. Exhibit 6: Current Excess Maintenance Agreement regarding road repairs
7. Exhibit 7: Conditions from South Franklin Planning Commission and Board of Supervisors needed for approval of application

Matt Ruckle then addressed the Board to explain access to site. Access to the site will include the route from Route 18 to Bethel Church Road then a right turn onto Farmer Lane and the access road to the site is approximately 1,600 feet. Mr. Ruckle then explained the location and purpose of the site photos. Next he explained the operation and construction regarding the shaft bleeder fan and other boreholes used for communications, water and other needed operations. He proposed a 12 week schedule for construction of site and facilities. Supervisor Cline asked how sound would be moderated emanating from the site. Mr. Ruckle stated there is a silencer at the end of the fan and shaft and the fan is directed N/NW at the current uphill impoundment off of Old Scales Road and not at any housing. Mr. Ruckle predicts decibel levels ranging from 50-60 at 1,000 feet from the site and 60-65 at 100 feet. Both levels are under the threshold of Township regulation. Nearest residential property is approximately 2,500 feet from the site. Supervisor Cline asked how to monitor sound after construction. Mr. Ruckle stated they do not typically monitor sound unless they receive complaints. He did state that the fan was maintained daily. Supervisor Cline asked to take a reading once the fan is operational and then agreed with Mr. Lucas to monitor again one month after operation has begun. Mr. Ruckle then began explanation of the permit process which is expected to be completed in early October. Copies will be provided to the Township. The rock dust operation is not yet known if it is needed. If needed, there will be a surface tank that is connected to an

September 1, 2015

underground closed loop pipe system and the dust is never exposed to the atmosphere. Mr. Ruckle expects only one tractor trailer per week for this operation.

Resident Jodi Borello of 1362 Deerfield Road questioned the air flow and if the air flow will maintain a constant pressure. Mr. Ruckle stated that the air flow will stay constant due to the constant one speed of the fan. He did state that wind, foliage and terrain can affect the pressure and how the sound travels. Mrs. Borello asked the Board to have an independent sound study performed instead of relying on CONSOL. Supervisor Cline suggests calling the Township or himself if the sounds reaches exorbitant levels. He then asked Mr. Ruckle if it was possible to install a Z-Wall for sound buffering. Mr. Ruckle stated it was possible if needed. Mrs. Borello asked about the substation and it's permitting. The substation already exists and has been in operation for over one year. The fan facilities will just be using the existing power source.

Sharon Maloy of 64 Old Scales Road stated that sound does travel oddly around the Township. She stated that she could hear operations and even conversations from the Old Scales impoundment site. She said a constant sound could be an issue.

Jim Maloy of 64 Old Scales Road stated that he has experience with sound meters with he is needed.

Blaine Lucas then closed the meeting and asked if the Board would approve, with the set conditions and provisions, the application.

Hearing was adjourned at 7:10 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Tyler Linck