



# pennsylvania

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

BUREAU OF WATERWAYS ENGINEERING AND WETLANDS

April 22, 2013

Brian T. Havir, Manager  
Cheltenham Township  
8230 Old York Road  
Elkins Park, PA 19027-1589

Re: Project No. DGS 181-08; DEP File No. C46:01  
Glenside Area Flood Protection Project  
Cheltenham Township  
Montgomery County, PA

Dear Mr. Havir:

I am writing in an attempt to further explain the change made to the proposed flood protection project from that presented on March 7, 2013 to that presented on April 10, 2013. The change occurred due to the size and configuration of Ponding Area 1 along North Ave. The plan presented on March 7 called for demolishing 4 buildings to create a large ponding area along the creek. The ponding area would be constructed so the creek banks would overflow once the water surface in the creek reached a depth of 3 feet. The ponding area would essentially be an overbank floodplain that would be relatively flat and allow for the water to rise and fall along with the stream flow. The plan presented on April 10<sup>th</sup> called for demolishing 2 buildings to ~~create a smaller basin-type ponding area along the creek. This ponding area would be~~ constructed like Ponding Area 2 in that an embankment would be built along the stream bank and water would overflow the embankment when the water surface in the creek reached a depth of 11 feet. The basin would then fill as the creek continued to rise. The basin would then hold water until the creek level receded. A small pipe (2' diameter) through the embankment of the basin would then allow the water to slowly drain back into the creek. The plan presented on April 10<sup>th</sup> provides the same level of flood reduction with a smaller ponding area due to the smaller area actually taking water out of the creek and storing it in a basin-type ponding area alongside the creek. It actually reduces the peak flood flow immediately downstream of the project area when compared to the existing peak flood flow. Ponding Area 2 functions the same way. The April 10<sup>th</sup> proposal provides the same level of flood protection as the March 7<sup>th</sup> proposal at a smaller cost to the Township.

The intent of the Glenside Area Flood Protection Project (Phase 2) has always been to provide flood protection to the homes and businesses along Tookany Creek from the Keswick Channel outlet to the SEPTA railroad. The current proposed project does this with no increase in flood elevations upstream of Waverly Ave. or downstream of the SEPTA railroad embankment. And this is true for a storm event up to the 0.2% annual or 500-year event. The project is being designed to current FEMA standards so that the project can be accepted into the National Flood Insurance Program. It is also being designed to meet the requirements of a US Army Corps of

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Engineers program that, once the project is accepted, any needed flood related repairs would be funded by the Corps. The project must also meet all requirements necessary to obtain state (DEP) and federal (Corps) permits.

I hope I have adequately explained the latest revisions to the proposed project. We have collaborated well on the development of this project and I welcome your comments. I plan to finalize the April 10<sup>th</sup> alternative and to prepare the Rights-Of-Way Acquisition drawings which will show more details of the proposed improvements. If you have any other questions concerning the proposed project, please contact me at [mmalach@pa.gov](mailto:mmalach@pa.gov) or at 717.772.5321, or contact Doug Hill at [dohill@pa.gov](mailto:dohill@pa.gov) or at 717.772.0445.

Sincerely,



Mark A. Malach, P.E.  
Project Engineer  
Division of Project Development