

PAB Hearing notice

Title: Public Hearing: Maiden Creek Warehouse NPDES application

On May 2, 2024, beginning at 6:00 PM at the Maiden Creek Township building (1A Quarry Road, Blandon, PA 19510), the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) will hold a public hearing regarding Maiden Creek Associates, L.P.'s (MCA) application for a DEP Individual National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permit for Stormwater Discharges Associated with Construction Activities (NPDES Construction Stormwater). MCA, 120 W. Germantown Pike, Plymouth Meeting, PA 19462, proposes to construct a 930,000 square foot warehouse building, access roads, associated stormwater facilities, and improvements to Allentown Pike to support the project. The NPDES Construction Stormwater permit application no. is PAD060076 and the application proposes 83.7 acres of earth disturbance activity. Notice of receipt of MCA's complete application was published in the *Pennsylvania Bulletin (Volume 53, number 08)* dated February 25, 2023. Notice of receipt of MCA's complete application and Notice of DEP's tentative determination to issue NPDES permit PAD060076 and draft permit was published in the *Pennsylvania Bulletin (Volume 53, number 51)* dated December 23, 2023.

The purpose of the hearing is to collect additional public comments on the Individual NPDES Construction Stormwater permit application submitted and the Draft NPDES permit for this project. The DEP has already received written public comments and requests for DEP to hold a public hearing. The public comments received to date primarily allege concerns about potentially contaminated stormwater runoff to Peters Creek, inadequacy of the proposed stormwater management best management practices, concerns about stormwater runoff affecting Lake Ontelaunee and the City of Reading's water supply, the potential storage of lithium-ion batteries or hazardous materials at the site, and compliance with Article 1, Section 27 of the *Pennsylvania Constitution*. Concerns about increased traffic, noise, and compliance with local municipal ordinances were also expressed.

The proposed MCA warehouse site is located in Maiden Creek Township, Berks County at Route 222 and Evansville Road, Blandon, PA, 19510. Stormwater discharges from the proposed project would be to Peters Creek. As identified in 25 Pa. Code § 93.9f.- Drainage List F, Peters Creek has a designated use listed as Exceptional Value (EV), and Migratory Fishes. The proposed stormwater discharges will be conveyed from the site's best management practices to the surface waters of the Commonwealth. The best management practices and proposed discharge locations can be viewed through a file review or at the project's DEP webpage below. MCA's NPDES Construction Stormwater permit application, draft Individual NPDES Permit and Fact Sheet is available for public review at the DEP Southcentral Region Office (SCRO) or the DEP's SCRO's webpage under the Community Information Tab, *Maiden Creek Warehouse project*. The DEP SCRO webpage, "Community Information" tab web address is: <https://www.dep.pa.gov/About/Regional/SouthcentralRegion/Community%20Information/Pages/default.aspx>

Individuals who wish to offer testimony at the public hearing should register with John Repetz, Community Relations Coordinator for DEP's Southcentral Region, at 717-705-4904 or by email at jrepetz@pa.gov by 4:00 PM on May 1, 2024. Oral comments are limited to five minutes per person. To ensure that all speakers have a fair and equal opportunity to present their testimony, relinquishing of time to other speakers will be prohibited, and groups are asked to designate one speaker. Registration is not required simply to attend the hearing.

Individuals with questions regarding the hearing or application can also contact the DEP at 717-705-4802. Individuals wishing to schedule a file review at the SCRO should call 717-705-4732.

Written comments on this application or the draft NPDES permit will be accepted until the conclusion of the public hearing on May 2, 2024, and may be submitted to RA-EPWW-SCRO@pa.gov or mailed to the SCRO, Waterways and Wetlands Program, 909 Elmerton Ave., Harrisburg, PA 17110-8200. To assist with mail routing, DEP requests that mailed comments contain the following on the envelope: "Comments on Maiden Creek Warehouse, PAD060076."