

**CENTRAL SUSQUEHANNA VALLEY TRANSPORTATION PROJECT (CSV T) SOUTHERN SECTION
FLY ASH WASTE BASINS
JANUARY 2017**

Studies for the CSV T Southern Section have identified unexpected conditions in the two fly ash waste basins that CSV T was previously proposed to cross. These conditions raise significant engineering and environmental risks that will require CSV T to be moved off the basins. To overcome this challenge and continue advancing the project, additional public involvement, engineering studies, and environmental studies will be necessary.

FLY ASH WASTE BASINS

- Fly ash is a by-product of burning coal, and ash from the former coal power plant was mixed with water and pumped to waste basins for disposal.
- The basins were created decades ago by constructing dams across existing valleys.
- There is no lining between the ash and the original ground surface below it.
- One basin has an ash depth of about 100 feet, and the other basin has an ash depth of about 75 feet.
- The basins are currently owned by Talen Energy, which recently merged with Riverstone Holdings.

CSV T DESIGN

- While originally avoided, potential CSV T alignments crossing the basins were later developed, with support from environmental agencies and the public, in order to re-use the undeveloped lands.
- Preliminary engineering indicated that construction on the basins was feasible. Further, more detailed studies were planned to be completed during final design, which ultimately began in 2015.
- Geotechnical studies during final design found that the ash from within 10 feet of the surface to the bottom of the basins has the consistency of a milkshake or toothpaste.
- Several approaches to constructing CSV T on the basins were evaluated, but all have significant risks.
- Public input is essential to develop and study alternative alignments that take CSV T around the basins.

REASONS WHY CSV T MUST BE MOVED OFF THE ASH BASINS

- The ash cannot support the weight of a highway.
- There would be a risk of the highway settling and deforming.
- There would be a risk of groundwater in nearby wells and aquifers being contaminated.
- Recent issues with other basins nationwide have led to increased scrutiny from environmental agencies.
 - U.S. EPA recently issued new regulations related to fly ash waste basins.
 - PA DEP strongly recommends that CSV T avoid the basins.
- Construction would cause a perpetual public liability for the basins and their dams.

ANTICIPATED STEPS TO OVERCOME THE ASH BASIN CHALLENGE

- Public Meeting 1 – February 15, 2017, 6:30 – 9:00 P.M. at Selinsgrove Middle School
 - Present challenge, request feedback, and present steps to overcome the challenge and advance the project.
 - No alternative alignments will be shown at this time; they will be developed based on public input.
- Public Meeting 2 – Spring 2017, no date set at this time
 - Present alternatives that avoid the basins and request feedback.
- Detailed Studies and Coordination – Summer 2017
 - Perform engineering and environmental studies.
 - Coordinate with impacted land owners, local officials, agencies, utilities, and other stakeholders.
- Public Meeting 3 – Fall 2017, no date set at this time
 - Present results of detailed studies.
 - Present preferred alternative and collect feedback.