



c/o Delaware River Greenway Partnership
PO Box 15, Stockton, NJ 08559
www.lowerdelawarewildandscenic.org

DATE: June 24, 2019

TO: Bridgeton Township, PA: C. Pursell (Secretary), G. Holby (Chair, Supervisors), M. Wojaczyk (Zoning)
Bucks Co., PA: B. Hessenthaler (Administrator), E. Stone (Planning), R. Loughery (Chair, Commissioner)
Congressman Brian Fitzpatrick, 1st District of Pennsylvania
Congressman Tom Malinowski, 7th District of New Jersey
Frenchtown, NJ: B. Shepherd (Clerk & Planning Board Secretary), B. Myhre (Mayor)
Hunterdon County, NJ: K. Davis, (Administrator), C. Fellows (Planning and Cultural & Heritage)
Hunterdon County, NJ: S. Lagay, (Board of Freeholders, Director)
Kingwood Township, NJ: C. Keller (Clerk), T. Ciacciarelli (Mayor), M. Syrnick (Deputy Mayor)
Kingwood Township, NJ: L. Ruggio (Planning Board, Chair), K. Ratzerenv (Environmental Comm., Chair)
NJ State Legislators District 23: M. Doherty (Senator), J. DiMaio (Assemblyman), E. Peterson (Assemblyman)
NJDOT, Cindy Bloom-Cronin (Scenic Byways Coordinator)
NJ D&R Canal: P. Kalleser (Park Superintendent), S. Fox (Resource Interpretive Specialist, Natural Resources)
NJ D&R Canal Commission: J. Hutchison, (Executive Director)
PA State Legislators: W. Ullman (State Rep, House District 143), B. Mensch (State Senator, Senate District 24)
Plumstead Township, PA: C. McCreary (Administrator), CC Hoff (Planning Board, Chair)
Plumstead Township, PA: B. Trymbiski (Chair, Board of Supervisors)
Tinicum Township, PA: T. Lewis (Manager), R. Rosamilia (Chair, Supervisors), T. Tackett (Zoning)
Tinicum Conservancy: J. Engle (Executive Director), K. German (Resource Protection Manager)

FROM: Martie Kyde, Vice Chair, Lower Delaware Wild & Scenic River Management Council

CC: Sarah Bursky, Community Planner/Rivers Manager, National Park Service (NPS)
Maryann Carroll, Executive Director Delaware River Greenway Partnership (DRGP)
Richard Dodds, Chairman, Lower Delaware Wild & Scenic River Management Council
Jamie Fosburgh, NE Region Rivers Program Manager, National Park Service (NPS)
Bob Kull, Delaware River Scenic Byway Program Administrator & DRGP Trustee

RE: **Visual Changes Expected at *Devil's Tea Table* Rockface, Kingwood Township, NJ**

- RT 29 NJDOT Rockfall Mitigation Project (Milepost Route 27.31 to 30.43)
- Public Meeting: August 1, 2019 in Kingwood Township, NJ (Kingwood Township Committee)

The National Wild and Scenic Rivers System was created by Congress in 1968 (Public Law 90-542; 16 U.S.C. 1271 et seq.) to preserve certain rivers with outstanding natural, cultural, and recreational values in a free-flowing condition for the enjoyment of present and future generations. The Lower Delaware Wild & Scenic River Management Council* (LDW&SRMC), a part of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System, focuses on the area of the Delaware River south of the Delaware Water Gap and north of Trenton.

The LDW&SRMC Management Plan requires the evaluation of projects that may impact the “remarkable scenic views and vistas” along the River (<https://lowerdelawarewildandscenic.org/index.php/resources/documents/lower-delaware-wild-and-scenic-management-plan>). As such, we are writing to advise that the New Jersey Department of Transportation (NJDOT) is planning a mitigation project in the *Devil's Tea Table* area along Route 29 in Kingwood Township, New Jersey. While this project is designed to improve public safety by remediating the rockface and installing rockfall control measures, this area is within the Lower Delaware Wild & Scenic River corridor and provides “remarkable scenic values.” The area also parallels the Delaware River Scenic Byway, a designation by the USDOT, endorsed by the NJDOT, and subject to the Delaware River Corridor Management Plan (<https://www.state.nj.us/transportation/community/scenic/pdf/drsbcmpl.pdf>.)

When complete, the mitigation will radically change the visual nature of the area, directly affecting Tinicum Township views across the river and those traveling along River Road in Bucks County, Pennsylvania and along Route 29 in Hunterdon County, New Jersey. The nature of the mitigation could include the removal of trees/vegetation from *Devil's Tea Table*, rock removal or reinforcement, mesh or "draping" material installation, and the creation of a new barrier or a "catchment ditch." Anyone concerned about the construction and permanent aesthetics, may attend the **Thursday, August 1, 2019 meeting of the Kingwood Township Committee to hear about the project from NJDOT officials, pose questions, or make public comment.** The meeting will be held at 7:00 PM at the Kingwood Township Municipal Building located at 599 Oak Grove Road, Frenchtown, NJ, 08825 in the upstairs meeting room. The presentation is scheduled as the first agenda item.

Public feedback regarding the nature of the mitigation and the design of the improvements/materials are encouraged. For instance, the report mentions color-coded draping material and vegetative cover. Residents living on Bridge Four Lane and Bridge Five Lane in Tinicum Township, PA, or anyone driving, hiking, or biking on either side of the river, will see a different rockface after the mitigation project is complete. Municipalities and/or counties are strongly encouraged to notice property owners who could be impacted by the project.

Further information on the proposal can be found on the following links:

<https://www.nj.gov/transportation/business/procurement/ProfServ/documents/Rt.29RockfallMitigation-RockEngineeringReportPart1of2.pdf> (See pages 36-47 for side elevation sketches and current photos.)

<https://www.nj.gov/transportation/business/procurement/ProfServ/documents/Rt.29RockfallMitigation-RockEngineeringReportPart2of2.pdf>

Attend The June 27th Wild & Scenic Management Council Meeting: Representatives of municipalities, counties, and environmental nonprofits are encouraged to attend the quarterly meetings of the Lower Delaware Wild & Scenic River Management Council. The next meeting is at 6:30 PM on Thursday, June 27th to be held at the Bucks County Audubon Society in Solebury, PA. Faith Zerbe Delaware Riverkeeper's Water Watch Director will be speaking.

Questions about the Lower Delaware Wild & Scenic River Management Council can be addressed to Maryann Carroll, DRGP Executive Director at maryann@delwarerivergp.org.

**The Delaware River Greenway Partnership (www.delawarerivergreenwaypartnership.org) administers the Wild & Scenic program for the Lower Delaware Wild & Scenic River Management Council (LDW&SMC). A federally designated program, the National Park Service provides oversight. Tinicum Township, Pennsylvania and Kingwood Township, New Jersey are municipal program partners.*