

## Rt. 611 UPDATE from information shared by PA State Representative Tarah Probst

By Rep. Tarah Probst

**MONROE COUNTY** - It appears the approval of the Special Use Permit is still two or more months away. PennDOT cannot start until this permit is approved.

(From NPS) - We have been getting inquiries and wanted to provide you all with the same update on the status of the permit process for the Route 611 project. This project remains a top priority for the National Park Service (NPS).

The NPS anticipates finishing our review, compiling our questions and comments on PennDOT's permit application, and sending them back to them within the next 2 weeks. As we have explained previously, this is an iterative process that generally includes questions, comments, requests for clarification or documentation, followed by responses or revisions prior to a permit being issued.

Along with our comments, Superintendent Sapp will also be requesting an in-person meeting with PennDOT officials.

Once all questions, comments, and clarifications have been resolved, the NPS can initiate legally required consultation with the PA State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) and with federally recognized Tribal Historic Preservation Offices (THPOs). We cannot do this until the permit application and other documents are complete and finalized. We cannot issue the Special Use Permit until this step in the compliance process is completed.

Next steps:

NPS will send our comments and questions on the application package back to PennDOT for response and/or revision within the next 2 weeks.

PennDOT will respond to NPS questions/comments; make revisions; provide requested documentation, etc..., and then return the documents to NPS.

NPS will review the new information and may have additional questions that require response or clarification. This iterative part of the process can take several cycles.

Once the NPS is satisfied that the application package is complete and accurate, NPS will send the package to the SHPO and THPOs for their review and concurrence as required by law. There is a 30-day review period for this step.

We cannot provide a concrete timeline or date by which this will be all be done due to numerous variables. To expedite the process, responses to our questions and comments should be complete, accurate, and include all requested documentation. If information is missing, unclear, inaccurate, or does not include documentation, another cycle of review and response may be needed, adding to the timeline.

Kathleen Sandt, Public Affairs Specialist, National Park Service, Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area, Middle Delaware National Scenic and Recreational River

### REMINDER OF PENNDOT TIMELINE FROM LAST PENNDOT UPDATE:

Phase 1 - 1 month mobilization time upon CE approval from NPS; then between 3 to 6 months for the scaling work – once work has started, we will provide refined updates.

Phase 2 – design duration pending environmental and Right-of-Way clearances; construction phase estimated 6 to 9 months

Note that we will begin to assess the possibility of a single lane condition once Phase 1 scaling begins - this will be an iterative process as the scaling is ongoing and the hazardous material is brought down.



Photo by Tony Marton

# HELP WANTED

**Ed's Auto is looking  
for FULL TIME  
experienced mechanic, paying  
top dollar. Diagnostics  
knowledge a plus, Will TRAIN  
Call 610-881-4440**