

Statement to Powell Township Planning Commission

My name is Renee Wicklund, I am the property owner of Section 32, Powell Township, adjacent to the proposed site for UP Propane storage/distribution facility.

I first became aware of the proposal approximately a week and a half ago. A friend had received a letter stating there would be a special meeting held September 17th, by the Zoning Board Commission. As the proposed site is adjacent to my property I, among others, attended the meeting yesterday to voice objection to the proposed site.

Subsequently, I became aware of the meeting held August 21st by searching your website where this body denied the initial request. I have read the reasons for the denial and agree with your initial assessment.

Facility would not be harmonious with development plan

Introducing an industrial use in this area would be inconsistent in all material respects

Would be hazardous or disturbing to existing or future uses

Would diminish value of land

Proposed use will introduce noise, potential automotive pollutants, using semi-trucks, delivery trucks, and increasing traffic to pristine area used for hiking, fishing, hunting and other recreational activities

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In addition, the site includes documented wetlands which were restored as part of the realignment of the 550 road.

During yesterday's meeting Mr. Harrington said approximately 40 sites were considered, but this was the only property owner willing to sell rather than lease. I am curious as to whether the owners of the other properties considered were also opposed to the idea. Perhaps they attended the public hearing July 17th. I was unable to find any written minutes or comments made at the hearing on the website. What I did not hear at the meeting yesterday, was how this proposal is beneficial to Powell Township or UP Propane customers. Mr. Harrington only cited the concern of the pipeline potentially going away in the future.

I ask that as you deliberate the appeal, think about what the mission of the Big Bay Stewardship Council states: "Our mission is to facilitate the protection of the unique nature of the greater Big Bay area and promote community improvements in Powell Township through responsible, properly scaled economic development and stewardship of the natural resources and cultural enrichment."

The Big Garlic recreational area is a gem and introducing industrial use is definitely inconsistent with this pristine area.

Thank you.

Renee Wicklund

September 18, 2024

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