

I would first like to thank Representative Michelle Brooks for the opportunity to participate in today's hearing, and for asking me to share some facts and information about the Trinity Site, a subject that is very important to the Borough of Greenville and the 17<sup>th</sup> district.

I also would like to share with you some observations about the remediation process proscribed by the Land Recycling and Environmental Remediation Standards Act of 1995 (known as Act 2) and how that process has unfolded in Greenville, based on my personal observations. It is my belief that an enhanced, "early notice" public notice mechanism in the Act could benefit municipal officials, the public and economic development endeavors at other environmentally damaged sites throughout the Commonwealth.

My involvement with the Trinity first began in 2010, when I was appointed as the Borough Manager for Greenville Borough, Mercer County. In this role, I quickly discovered the importance of the Trinity Site to the Borough of Greenville, especially as it related to the community's future development plans and hopes for economic revitalization. I also learned the unique place it held in the community's past and railroad heritage.

The importance of the Trinity Site and the salient events leading up to today predated my employment at Greenville. In 1986, Greenville Steel Car ceased operations at the 35-acre North Plant in Greenville. It is the large, empty site that you cannot miss if you enter Greenville from the south on Route 58. A year after Greenville

The entering of the Consent Order and Agreement at the end of 2006 was well publicized within the community. The then-state's attorney general Thomas Corbett, came to Greenville and distributed settlement funds to the Borough of Greenville and to other community based organizations. The entering of the Consent Order and Agreement gave the community the indication, and also the hope, that the 35-acre site would soon return to productive use. It also left the community with the understanding and indication that an enforceable process was now underway, whereby Trinity would meet the requirements of the Consent Order and Agreement, remediate the site and thereby allow the site to be factored into future economic redevelopment plans in the Borough of Greenville. The public knew that until the site was remediated, economic development at the site was limited and perhaps even impossible.

The Consent Order and Agreement of December 2006 started the clock ticking on the Act's remediation process that is still today unfolding today. Between December 2006 (when the Consent Order and Agreement was entered) and June 2010, a 3 ½ year period ensued whereby the property owner had begun environmental testing at the location, had submitted reports to the DEP and, in some cases, had resubmitted corrected reports to meet with additional DEP requests for sampling and testing.

However, even though the clock started in December 2006 with the Consent Order, almost no official information or public reporting was required under the Act and provided to the community during this 3 ½ year period. In fact, the next "official" information on the matter came in June 2010, when Trinity filed a statutorily required Notice of Intent to Remediate.

An “early notice” mechanism would allow the public and municipal officials to know, up front, what can be expected from the Act and how long the process can potentially take. Under Act 2, “the public is entitled to understand how remediation standards are applied to a site through a plain language description of contamination present on a site, the risk it poses to public health and the environment and any proposed cleanup measure.”<sup>i</sup> What better time than at the beginning of the process is there to achieve that goal? In Greenville’s experience, a Consent Order was reached in late 2006 and it was three (3) years until we were able, as a community, to participate in the remediation process and develop a clear understanding of what was happening under Act 2.

Even though the clock began ticking on the Act 2 process in December 2006, many people in believed it began in 2000, when the productive use ceased at the site. To those individuals unfortunately, they have all but given up hope that they will ever see a remediated site. The more people who believe that a site is permanently damaged, or that believe the site is in a never-ending process – the less likely it will be for a community to develop the site.

Respectfully Submitted,

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<sup>i</sup> §101(9) of Land Recycling and Environmental Remediation Standards Act of 1995