

To: Mark Sammarone  
Fr: Bill Scott - 5/7/02

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT  
Report to Borough Council, May 3, 2002

MARSHALL MANOR STORM SEWER

While Trego Excavating continues with a small crew at the site catching up on minor detail work, the project is essentially on hold. There is a utility pole at 701 North Hillside Drive owned by Verizon, which is right in the path of the new pipe. Despite the fact that we have included Verizon in the project since the design phase, met with them on site in January, and have their written schedule indicating the pole would be moved by March 13<sup>th</sup>, the utility pole still stands. Verizon did install a new pole out of the way of the pipeline on Friday, April 26<sup>th</sup>, and then earlier this week relocated several telephone lines. While Verizon facility relocation will be completed today, the current problem lies with PECO's electrical lines and Comcast cable lines, which still occupy the old pole. We have been informed by PECO that the utility relocation agreement between them and Verizon allows for a five week period to perform relocation of all wires. When PECO's Engineering Department was questioned about this, their representative said that once Verizon notifies PECO, it does indeed usually take five weeks to schedule the work, and that this process cannot be changed. I am at a loss to explain why Verizon could not have notified PECO any sooner, and that if they would have notified PECO on or about the original pole installation date of March 13<sup>th</sup>, all work would have been finished at this time.

Meanwhile, the unfinished, inactive pipeline sits now filled full of water, mud and stone, which must be removed at Trego's expense. Some of the manholes, inlets and endwalls have been dislodged by heavy rains and will have to be relocated, and two very large sinkholes had formed in Hillside Drive requiring repairs and backfilling of exposed pipeline components. We are quite certain that Trego Excavating will not accept these delays, continuous repetitive repairs, and replacement of lost materials as a part of their contractual obligation. We are sure to see one substantial change order at the conclusion of this problem. You may recall an almost identical situation involving Verizon during last year's Goose Creek Culvert installation, when delays in fiber-optic cable relocation at Nields Street resulted in a \$24,000.00 claim against the utility. It's as though they'd rather just pay for damages after the fact rather than simply cooperating during the planning phase.

I have attempted to reach PECO's County Affairs Representative to ask him to become involved in this matter. There is no way that this project can risk a delay of five weeks, knowing that major storms have the potential to cause serious private property damage if storm water has no place to go. Hopefully, we can get beyond the bureaucrats who insist on adhering to their current inflexible procedure.