

Dear Doerr Rd Area Resident,

The Milford Township Board of Supervisors, along with many of you who attended, heard the request of the Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission (PTC) to close the northern portion of Doerr Road necessitated by extensive adjacent wetlands to the west.

Property Valuation

Concern was expressed that the widening of the turnpike would have a negative effect on property values and the PTC was asked if property owners would be compensated. All property value matters must be handled directly by the PTC using standard procedures that can not be changed by the township.

Sound Barriers

The installation of sound barriers is governed by uniform standards that must be used along the entirety of the turnpike-widening project. It does not appear that sound barriers can be warranted under this procedure. The township is seeking to obtain planting easements to enable the township to plant evergreen trees to help mitigate the existing and future sound.

Water Quality

The effect of the widening on ground water quality was discussed pointing to salt used during winter operations as is used by all road departments in this area. The township is considering finding three cooperative landowners with wells closest to the turnpike to test water quality and establish a baseline to the north, central and southern areas. Testing would be done before and during construction then annually for a period of at least three years at which time results will determine if action is needed or testing by the township should be continued.

Emergency Access

The effect of road closure on emergency access was considered. The first due responder is Trumbauersville Fire Company. The emergency response is from the south and would not be affected by closing the northern access. The subsequent response is Milford Township Fire Company from Station 75 at Kumry Rd and Rt. 663. Their response uses Canary Rd to Doerr Rd from the south and would not be affected by closing the northern access.

The main concern of this Board is that there would be a single means of access that could be blocked during severe weather events such as Hurricane Sandy. The township is exploring the possibility of attaining emergency access directly from the turnpike that would enable emergency vehicles to respond to your neighborhood.