

March 2, 2009

Boyertown Reservoir Dam Spillway Project and Railroad Yard Property

There are two projects which Borough Council has put on hold temporarily. Work on the Boyertown Reservoir Spillway Project has been discontinued due to cold weather conditions, and long-range planning for the railroad yard property has been put on hold pending the outcome of Berks County's legal action to obtain ownership of the Colebrookdale Spur.

This winter has been one of the coldest winters in quite some time. Much of the work remaining to be completed on the Spillway Project involves pouring of concrete, which cannot be done under extremely cold temperatures. At the December meeting of the Public Utilities Committee, the Borough Engineer informed the committee that the construction was falling behind schedule due to weather conditions. At that point in time it was wet weather conditions which were causing the construction difficulties. Although the rain was a plus in terms of recharging the water dams, it slowed construction progress enough for the cold weather conditions to pose a problem. As temperatures moderate, the Borough Engineer will determine when construction may resume. We anticipate this would occur in March.

As many of you are aware, the Borough purchased the railroad yard in November of 2008, with the hope of developing at least a portion of the tract into a municipal parking lot. However; development plans have not proceeded due to Berks County's legal action to obtain ownership of the Colebrookdale Spur. If Berks County succeeds in their endeavor to purchase and operate the rail line, they may need a portion of the rail yard property. Borough Council is in contact with the County Commissioners on the matter.

As we proceed forward in these two areas, Borough Council will try to keep you informed of the progress.

Boyertown Borough Council
Borough of Boyertown, Berks County, Pennsylvania