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To: File

From: Jonathan Lane

Subj: **Public Meeting on Oil Region National Heritage Area Management Plan
Held at Emerging Technology Center of Franklin Industrial and Commercial
Development Authority**

Date: February 16, 2006

Purpose of the presentation was to introduce the Management Action Plan Augmentation for the Oil Region NHA and to receive comments on environmental impacts of concern for the Environmental Assessment and to review scope of the update and solicit comments on that topic.

Attendees (would be omitted in notes to be posted on web)

Marilyn Black, ORA

Gary Hutchison, Venango County Commissioner

Sue Smith, Venango County Commissioner

Betty McElhatten, Franklin Historic Preservation Association

Ronnie Beith, FICDA

Greg Finch, WKQW Radio

Deb Lutz, ORA

Lahr Shawgo, doing research on transportation in PA

Gage Allam, Historic Franklin Preservation Association

Debbie Frawley, Venango County Regional Planning Commission

Barbara Zolli, Drake Well Museum

Neil McElwee, ORA and Oil City

Jonathan Lane, ICON

Rita Walsh, VHB

Notes

1. Jonathan Lane and Rita Walsh presented status report as introduction to the meeting – including a Powerpoint show that highlighted major points of preservation program and explained the alternatives.
2. Gary Hutchison noted that the Pa. Department of Environmental Protection is inventorying orphaned oil wells, and then gradually plugging them.
3. Inventory maps will be posted on the web shortly; attendees were encouraged to comment on them to identify additional resources.
4. Venango Planning Commission plans to do a countywide inventory of historic resources that will emphasize rural resources.
5. Question - Are bio-diesel or ethanol production facilities at site of the former Rouseville refinery feasible? Jon Lane commented that this was beyond the scope or expertise of the consultants for OHR assignment. Most of the refinery structures were demolished – the

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2004 plan had mentioned saving the smokestack – one remaining warehouse is scheduled for reuse.

6. Will NR and NR eligible properties be incorporated into the ORNHA data base? These properties are already listed on the map and will be identified in the report. However, the only eligible properties will be those that are so identified by PHMC. This list does not guarantee that there will not be more eligible properties in the future.
7. Barbara Zolli requested that McCintock Well #1 be added to the maps. ICON is not clear that this is NR eligible.
8. Deb Frawley – Alternative 3 may be contradictory to other projects in the county, as they are in process of doing economic priorities that are countywide.
9. Lahr Shawgo – there is a problem with getting tourists out to a remote site like Pithole. Barbara Zolli noted that Pithole attracts approximately 4,000 visitors per year.
10. Neil McElwee – driving routes and trails connect many areas in Alternative 3.
11. Gary Hutchison – Emlenton and other core communities are close to other areas of the county. Likes opportunity to do higher “impact” projects in these locations.
12. Betty McElhatten – every community could find a building to preserve. Her top concern is the rehabilitation and possible expansion of the Venango County Courthouse. Portions of Franklin Historic District are threatened – demolition is a possibility for the Orpheum Theatre. Owner is no longer listing this property with the realtor. If it ends up being demolished she wants either sympathetic architecture or preservation of façade.
13. Jon Lane noted that draft sections on alternatives and preservation are available for comment and will be placed on the web. Attendees should feel free to send comments on these to Marilyn Black.