

Media Statement
September 8, 2017

Compliance Obligations on Shelley and
Bashore Islands

York Haven Power Company, LLC (“York Haven”) has granted summer licenses to over 200 families that occupy seasonal residences on York Haven’s land on Shelley and Bashore Islands in the Susquehanna River. Per the licenses and a legally binding Compliance Agreement with Londonderry Township, all future use of the summer residences must end after September 30, 2017. York Haven is legally obligated by the Compliance Agreement to ensure that all summer residences are removed or demolished in accordance with the Township’s floodplain and sewage ordinances. The summer residents are also responsible under their licenses for fully removing or demolishing their residences following the current recreation season.

FEMA administers the flood insurance program that covers many of the summer residences and established the guidelines upon which the Township’s floodplain ordinance is based. In a letter dated August 31, 2017, FEMA stated that it will not support any modification of the Compliance Agreement that permits the use of the existing summer residences after September 30, 2017. York Haven is committed to upholding its obligations under the Compliance Agreement, and by FEMA, Pennsylvania and Township law.

While the Compliance Agreement and the licenses require the summer residents to either remove or demolish their residences by November 14, 2017, York Haven will consider on a case-by-case basis extending that deadline for residents that work with us in good faith to meet their removal and demolition obligations under the licenses. We are currently developing a plan to facilitate the residents’ efforts to meet those legal obligations. We do, however, expect the residents to remove all contents from their summer residences by the end of this recreation season.

York Haven appreciates the concerns of the summer residents and understands that the floodplain and other legal requirements have created a difficult and emotional situation for their community. We support resident efforts to develop a plan for redeveloping the islands in a manner that complies with floodplain and other relevant laws. Further, we welcome efforts to pursue redevelopment that proceed in parallel with resident efforts to remove/demolish their residences.

Unfortunately, we have received reports of threats and vandalism against public officials that may be related to the issues facing the island residents. All such actions are illegal and not condoned by York Haven. Such actions are not conducive to efforts to move forward with a redevelopment plan.