Dear Chief Vendel:

 We are grateful for ODNR (Division of Oil & Gas Resources Management) for scheduling the June 2 public meeting at St. Ambrose Church in Belpre Township (Little Hocking) regarding the application for a permit for a second injection well owned by Arrowhead Road Services LLC. We sincerely hope that the public can engage with the Division in a question-and-answer format. The time allotted to this meeting is two hours, and we also hope that the agency will spend a minimal amount of time discussing the application and the process of review of the application. Most of us know what is in the application and what is not.

 This public meeting is an opportunity for the Division to demonstrate to citizens of Washington County that it has their public interest as its priority rather than the interest of an out-of-state company. It is also an opportunity for the Division to demonstrate that it is transparent in its permit-review process.

 If the Division does not have answers to the questions posed by those at the public meeting, we would expect that it will research the answers from its own resources and from the applicant company. These answers should be provided to the public before any permit for this new injection well is approved.

 Brine waste (from hydraulic fracturing) is coming into Washington County at an alarming rate. According to the Division’s own data, our county is the highest of any county in terms of number of barrels injected (2021). This toxic and radioactive waste is coming by truck and is posing a risk as these trucks traverse state, county, and township roads in our county. Brine disposal companies are now planning to transport this waste by barge which will pose additional risks to the waters of the Ohio River and continuing risks as it is transported by pipeline and truck to the injection wells.

 We are hoping that the Division will exercise its leadership to provide the public with meaningful engagement and answers to the best of its ability so that the residents of Washington County can better understand the risks, the permitting process, and what happens to insure public safety and health after the permit is approved. We would also like to learn about protocols and accountability for deterring, monitoring and responding to leaks, spills, water contamination, and air emissions of the toxic radioactive material to be transported and injected.

 I would respectfully request a reply to this message and timely notice about the Division’s disposition about the format for the June 2 public meeting.

George Banziger