



c/o Delaware River Greenway Partnership
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October 26, 2022

Mayor Larry Keller and
Borough Council Members
New Hope Borough
123 New Street
New Hope, PA 18938

Dear Mayor Larry and Borough Council Members,

RE: Request for Devil's Tea Table Township Resolution

We are pleased to have New Hope Borough as a member of the Lower Delaware Wild and Scenic River Management Council. As you know, the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System was created by Congress in 1968 (Public Law 90-542; 16 U.S.C. 1271 et seq.) to preserve certain rivers with outstanding natural, cultural, and recreational values in a free-flowing condition for the enjoyment of present and future generations. The Lower Delaware Wild & Scenic River is part of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System.

Two of the goals of our River Management [Plan](#) are:

Goal 1: Water Quality: *Maintain existing water quality in the Delaware River and its tributaries from measurably degrading and improve it where practical.*

Goal 2: Natural Resources: *Preserve and protect the river's outstanding natural resources, including rare and endangered plant and animal species, river islands, steep slopes, and buffer areas in the river corridor and along the tributaries.*

With these goals in mind, the Lower Delaware Wild and Scenic River Management Council has been tracking proposed NJDOT rockfall mitigation projects in Hunterdon County, New Jersey. These projects will run along Route 29 through Kingwood Township, West Amwell Township, and the City of Lambertville in an area with an historic rock formation known as the Devil's Tea Table. **The proposals will radically change the landscape along the Delaware River, forever modifying the scenic qualities of the Lower Delaware corridor for over three miles, not to mention the potential for adverse impacts to Delaware River water quality.** Vegetation will be stripped, walls of rock will be blasted, leaving an industrial appearance to one of the most beautiful areas along the East Coast.

Eight municipalities in New Jersey and Pennsylvania, plus Hunterdon County, have adopted resolutions challenging the necessity and approach to the projects. Lambertville is one of the most recent to adopt. **Of the municipalities directly impacted by the project, New Hope is the only one that has not yet passed a resolution.**

While this project is in New Jersey, it will have measurable impact to the Pennsylvania side of the River. Water quality does not know geographic boundaries. Scenic viewscapes will be changed for New Hope residents and visitors. **We implore New Hope to join Lambertville and other NJ governmental entities in adopting a resolution expressing strong concern about the NJDOT rockfall mitigation projects in Hunterdon County, NJ.** Further history about the matter can be found on our [website](#).

On a connected note, please let us know who the New Hope designee to the Lower Delaware Wild and Scenic Management Council is and their contact information. We want to make sure that New Hope has a full opportunity to participate in the meetings. The next Zoom meeting is on Thursday, December 22nd at 10 am. The link can be found [here](#). Our 2023 mini-grant program is open and New Hope is eligible to [apply](#). The deadline is December 16th.

We hope you will join us in actively supporting the goals of the Wild and Scenic Management Plan.

Sincerely,

Richard Dodds

Richard Dodds
Chairman

cc: Sarah Bursky, NPS Liaison, sarah_bursky@nps.gov
Steven Freeman, Tinicum Township, stkfreeman@gmail.com