

**WRIGHTSTOWN TOWNSHIP
SPECIAL INFORMATIONAL MEETING OF
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 1, 2004**

- On Thursday morning, July 29, 2004 at approximately 1:30 a.m., a large landslide occurred at the Better Materials Quarry on Swamp Road. As a result, Swamp Road was immediately closed to all traffic extending from the Better Materials driveway to Second Street Pike.
- Better Materials Quarry operates under several permits issued and regulated by PA Department of Environmental Protection's Bureau of Mines, which regulates the operation of quarries. These permits include air, water and mining. Wrightstown Township does not have statutory rights to regulate the quarry, with the exception of zoning and building permits. The Township has some minor rights as a result of litigation settlement agreements
- A Preliminary Report issued by engineers Skelly and Loy, Inc. and submitted to DEP on behalf of Better Materials Corporation suggests that the combination of the bedrock angles and the heavy rainfall that evening and during the prior month may be the cause of the slide. Two culverts along that section of Swamp Road were clogged, adding to water concentration and further water infiltration into the weaker layers of rock. The rock bed slid into the quarry on a weakened layer, taking with it the berm on top. The length of the slide area along Swamp Road is about 1,100 feet. The slide caused damage to the areas immediately adjacent to the roadbed.
- There are significant cracks in the area between the road surface and where the berm was previously located. Additionally, there are smaller cracks in the road shoulder on the opposite side of Swamp Road (on the Eureka side). These cracks are not in the same alignment as the bedrock. The roadway surface itself was not damaged, although there has been subsequent damage due to the edges of the roadway falling into fissures due to undercutting of the road. The condition of the rock underneath the road surface is under investigation.
- All state highways are regulated and maintained by PA Department of Transportation. Swamp Road, Mill Creek Road, Township Line Road, Worthington Mill Road, Wrightstown Road, Durham Road and Second Street Pike are all state highways.
- To determine the extent of the damage and the level of repair needed, core samples of the surrounding area were taken and are in the process of being analyzed. This includes the quarry itself and the roadway. Monitoring points are in place along Swamp Road to measure any potential movement of the road. To date, no further movement has been detected. Additional testing has been and is continuously underway.
- If the underlying roadbed is structurally sound, Swamp Road can be repaired in place in a relatively short timeframe; if the underlying roadbed has been compromised, Swamp road will have to be relocated and will require designing, Right-of-way acquisition, and a significant amount of time. Although PADOT will be responsible for the installation of either alternative, PADOT will not make a determination on what work will be done or how long it will take until DEP renders its decision on the stability of the roadbed.

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- PADOT and the Township have upgraded regulatory and advisory signage along the detour route of Mill Creek and Township Line Roads. The Township has increased signage on Township-owned roads throughout the Township. An all-way stop intersection at Swamp Road and Mill Creek Road has been installed to increase safety at that intersection.
- The Township is working with PADOT to have a temporary traffic signal installed at Penns Park Road and Second Street Pike to handle additional detour traffic that includes school buses. The Township is also working with PADOT to have the traffic lights retimed in Pineville and at Five Points to accommodate the additional traffic.
- The Township will pass ordinances on September 20 to prohibit standing of vehicles on Mill Creek Road and to prohibit trucks from traveling on local roads that are inadequate to handle truck traffic.
- Both Newtown and Buckingham Police Departments have stepped up enforcement along the detour route and connecting roadways. This includes regional truck enforcement details.
- A report from Better Materials was due to DEP by August 30. Better Materials has requested an extension to October 4, due to difficulties in getting the proper mapping of the area and additional boring tests that need to be analyzed. Better Materials has constructed a ramp inside the quarry to one section of the slide area to allow them to do further testing. Testing should be completed this week. DEP has granted an extension for the Final Report to September 17, although they will continue to evaluate all information as it comes in.
- Council Rock School District has relocated as many buses as possible out of the Swamp Road depot. All buses from the depot will travel through Wrightstown Township on Penns Park Road. The only buses that will travel on Mill Creek Road and Township Line Road are those that will be picking up children along those specific roads.
- The Swamp Road culvert project is still on schedule for a late September completion date. Additional work is underway on Worthington Mill Road to address drainage issues. This work should be completed prior to that section of Swamp Road being opened.