Studies for the CSVT Southern Section have identified unexpected conditions in the two fly ash waste basins that CSVT was previously proposed to cross. These conditions raise significant engineering and environmental risks that will require CSVT to be moved off the basins. To overcome this challenge and continue advancing the project, additional public involvement, engineering studies, and environmental studies will be necessary.

FLY ASH WASTE BASINS
- Fly ash is a by-product of burning coal, and ash from the former coal power plant was mixed with water and pumped to waste basins for disposal.
- The basins were created decades ago by constructing dams across existing valleys.
- There is no lining between the ash and the original ground surface below it.
- One basin has an ash depth of about 100 feet, and the other basin has an ash depth of about 75 feet.
- The basins are currently owned by Talen Energy, which recently merged with Riverstone Holdings.

CSVT DESIGN
- While originally avoided, potential CSVT alignments crossing the basins were later developed, with support from environmental agencies and the public, in order to re-use the undeveloped lands.
- Preliminary engineering indicated that construction on the basins was feasible. Further, more detailed studies were planned to be completed during final design, which ultimately began in 2015.
- Geotechnical studies during final design found that the ash from within 10 feet of the surface to the bottom of the basins has the consistency of a milkshake or toothpaste.
- Several approaches to constructing CSVT on the basins were evaluated, but all have significant risks.
- Public input is essential to develop and study alternative alignments that take CSVT around the basins.

REASONS WHY CSVT MUST BE MOVED OFF THE ASH BASINS
- The ash cannot support the weight of a highway.
- There would be a risk of the highway settling and deforming.
- There would be a risk of groundwater in nearby wells and aquifers being contaminated.
- Recent issues with other basins nationwide have led to increased scrutiny from environmental agencies.
  - U.S. EPA recently issued new regulations related to fly ash waste basins.
  - PA DEP strongly recommends that CSVT avoid the basins.
- Construction would cause a perpetual public liability for the basins and their dams.

ANTICIPATED STEPS TO OVERCOME THE ASH BASIN CHALLENGE
- Public Meeting 1 – February 15, 2017, 6:30 – 9:00 P.M. at Selinsgrove Middle School
  - Present challenge, request feedback, and present steps to overcome the challenge and advance the project.
  - No alternative alignments will be shown at this time; they will be developed based on public input.
- Public Meeting 2 – Spring 2017, no date set at this time
  - Present alternatives that avoid the basins and request feedback.
- Detailed Studies and Coordination – Summer 2017
  - Perform engineering and environmental studies.
  - Coordinate with impacted land owners, local officials, agencies, utilities, and other stakeholders.
- Public Meeting 3 – Fall 2017, no date set at this time
  - Present results of detailed studies.
  - Present preferred alternative and collect feedback.