

# not here. not now.

# not good.

South Heidelberg Township, now celebrating its 100th anniversary, has always been a rural community with beautiful views and a picturesque landscape. Now that tradition is threatened. Township officials have granted EmberClear, a foreign company, preliminary approval to construct a gas-to-liquid (GTL) conversion facility on 63 acres of farmland. This plant will be the first of its kind to operate in the US.



**Community concerns have been dismissed and will continue to be unheard unless we stand as one.**

## Join SHCA's fight to preserve our area's safety and integrity.

### Project Details & Concerns

- Onsite chemicals and processes risk a possible catastrophic event.
- The township lacks the infrastructure to support three years of construction, which will bring heavy equipment, noise, dust, dirt, and significant disruption.
- GTL facilities are listed as potential terrorism targets.
- EmberClear's financial status is troubling. As of 12/31/13, its cash position was \$174,848, with NEGATIVE working capital of \$6,062,372.
- Under the new zoning overlay, the plant could expand to the western side of Krick Lane.
- Once EmberClear receives project approval and potentially begins construction, it may move on. The company that will eventually own and operate this facility is UNKNOWN!
- The Greater Reading Economic Partnership had the process fast-tracked via the JEAP program to accelerate plan/permit approvals in collaboration with project stakeholders.

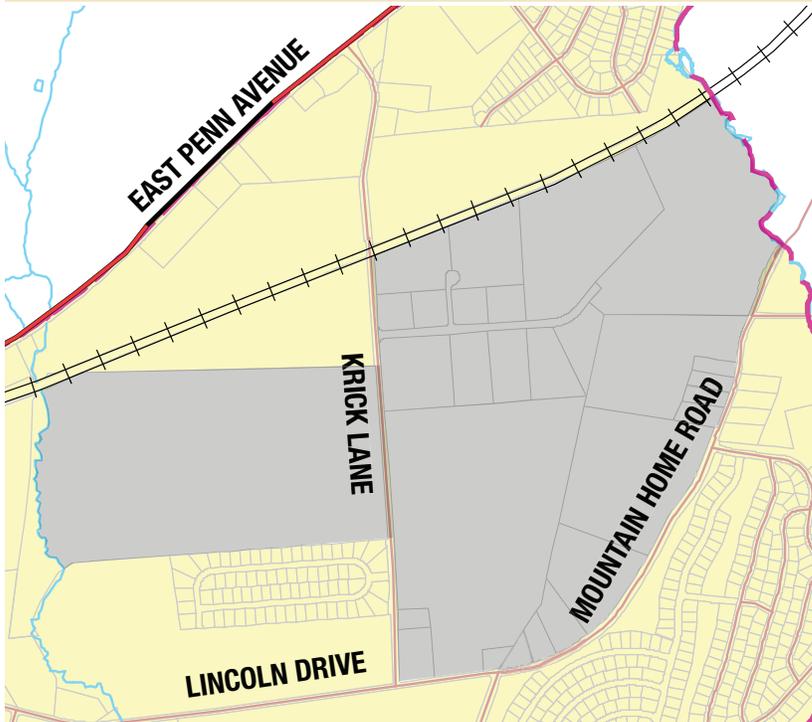
*Please see reverse for additional important information.*

## Zoning Overlay (initially designated “Light Industrial”)

In November 2013, township officials approved Ordinance #241, with an overlay for expanded use and specific use for natural gas-to-liquid manufacturing. All properties zoned I-1 and I-2 in that area are affected. In other words, zoning was changed not just for the 63 acres on which the gas plant is to be built. **All properties in the zone, including land west of Krick Lane adjacent to Greystone, are included.**

The ordinance changed allowable building heights on those properties from the township standard 40' to allow buildings 80' high and other structures—flare towers—up to 160'. Land coverage percentages also increased, requiring less “green space.”

The bottom line: the overlay covers much new ground for specific uses described in the ordinance and changes what can be built there. The November 2013 zoning change affects the map's entire light grey area. The overlay for expanded and specific use permits a natural gas-to-liquid conversion facility on all properties zoned I-1 and I-2 in that area.



**Capacity at this GTL plant located in Bintulu, Malaysia is roughly 14,000 barrels per day. EmberClear proposes the same capacity for the South Heidelberg facility.**

- The GTL plant will produce 4,000 tons of methanol daily. It's capable of converting it into 560,000 gallons of gasoline and liquid petroleum gases (LPG) per day.
- Methanol is made in a catalytic industrial process directly from carbon monoxide, carbon dioxide, and hydrogen.

## Environmental Concerns

- Natural gas contains “rotten-egg” smelling hydrogen sulfide— toxic and flammable.
- Flammable or explosive materials are inherently hazardous, especially at high temperatures and pressures.
- What is the *catalyst* in this process? EmberClear representatives refused to answer this question during township meetings.
- GTL facilities require massive water usage, so the effects on local water supply may be serious.

## Unknown/General Impact on Area

- Local real estate agents project an estimated *20 percent decrease* in local property values.
- 14,000 barrels of gasoline produced daily will be trucked out of storage tanks in Sinking Spring, a MAJOR traffic impact on everyone in our area beyond the township.

## What You Can Do To HELP?

- Promote SHCA's website ([southheidelbergca.org](http://southheidelbergca.org)), sign up for mailings, and Like us on Facebook.
- Sign and share the PETITION with ALL Berks County residents.
- Order your “Stop the Refinery” kit—available soon.
- Join one of the SHCA Action Committees.
- Call and email your elected officials.
- Attend South Heidelberg Township meetings and support the movement.
- Attend Planning Commission meetings the first Tuesday of each month.
- Attend township supervisor meetings the second Thursday of each month.

Visit our website: [www.southheidelbergca.org](http://www.southheidelbergca.org)

Like us on Facebook: [www.facebook.com/shtca](http://www.facebook.com/shtca)

