

## **Football Light Pole Project**

### ***Frequently Asked Questions***

#### **Why did the football light poles have to be removed?**

An inspection completed by Churches Engineering firm indicated that the light poles had significant structural issues. Due to the potential safety issues, the report indicated that the field should not be used when wind speeds exceeded 10 mph and that no one should occupy the spaces below the lights. Their report also recommended the removal of the lights and that remediation was not recommended because the structural issues were so significant. The light poles are 71 years old. Typical life expectancy of these types of poles is 56 years.

Upon receiving the report, the field was immediately closed for all use.

#### **I heard the district knew about this since last fall? Why didn't they do something then?**

Last fall, we received a secondhand report that there might be some issues with the light poles. The district did not receive any kind of official report either written or verbal. We were also unable to verify the specific concern or degree of concern. At the time, we had recently hired HHSDR to complete a feasibility study so we asked them to look at the lights during their inspection. HHSDR recommended having a structural engineering firm, with expertise in this area, to do a full inspection. Churches Engineering was hired due to their areas of expertise, especially in dealing with these types of poles. Their full report was received in June. The day it was received, the district closed the football field for all use.

#### **Why didn't the district put up new lights for the fall season?**

This option was not considered for this season, because there was not enough time. Public schools have to follow a public bid process for jobs over a certain dollar amount. There was not enough time to go through this process and get the work done prior to the start of the season. We were able to remove the poles quickly, because the PA Department of Education provided an exemption for this work due to it being a hazardous situation.

#### **Why didn't the district get a second opinion from another firm?**

Churches Engineering was selected because of their expertise in this area. Their report was comprehensive and conclusive in their findings, and therefore it is unlikely another firm would have produced different findings. In other words, it is unlikely that after a reputable firm has indicated that the poles are a hazard that another company would deem them safe.

#### **Can't we fix the poles?**

Due to the age and structural deterioration, this was not recommended. There is one company that provides a service where they claim to make poles structurally sound. The base cost of this was \$100,000 and would most likely be significantly more. It is also unknown how many additional years this would make the poles safe, and they do not provide a warranty. Therefore, this was not a feasible option.