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Senate of Pennsylvania
June 13, 2019

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West Chester

Ms. Karyn Yordy
Executive Assistant, Office of Programs
Department of Environmental Protection
Rachel Carson State Office Building
400 Market Street
Harrisburg, PA 17101

Dear Ms. Yordy,

Please accept the following comments in response to the reanalysis of the HDD installation of a 20-inch pipeline under the Exton Bypass submitted by Sunoco Pipeline, L.P. for DEP Permit number E15-862, HDD Reference number PA-CH-0256.0000-RR filed on May 30, 2019.

Following my review of this report, I have a number of significant concerns related to the stated environmental, safety and quality of life impacts for citizens in West Whiteland Township (Chester County). In this report, Sunoco is seeking to modify the approved permit plan that utilizes Horizontal Directional Drilling (HDD) techniques and implements a combination of open cut trench crossing and the use of Direct Pipe Bore. The justification for this change was based on information provided by Groundwater & Environmental Services, Inc. (GES) in their May 29, 2019 HDD Hydrogeological Reevaluation Report. While past activity has demonstrated significant impacts caused by HDD construction due to the karst formation in this region, I struggle to understand how this qualifies as new information that can support a plan change without significant public involvement. Open cut construction techniques will result in significant impacts to personal property, commercial opportunity, and environmental conditions throughout the Exton region and I must once again strongly request that public meetings be held prior to consideration of this modification.

This region of Chester County has experienced significant harm directly due to Sunoco's lack of due diligence. Construction activity that resulted in sinkholes rendered a community unlivable and forced the relocation of individuals who have lived in their family homes for

generations. Sunoco points to the presence of the Marctic Thrust Fault zone as a direct contributor to the formation of these sinkholes. I agree that the existence of this fault, exacerbated by poor planning on behalf of Sunoco, led to the development of significant subsidence and the eviction of Chester County citizens from their homes. With this in mind, I am baffled by Sunoco's claim that alternative routes are impractical and strongly insist that the Department require sincere consideration of abandoning this region from further construction disturbance.

I was extremely concerned at the request to utilize the use of Direct Pipe Bore as a new method of pipeline installation. I must point out that this is the third method of construction attempted by Sunoco; both HDD and FlexBor construction techniques resulted in complete failure. This project has been provided ample opportunity to install their pipe and realized disastrous outcomes during each attempt. The Direct Pipe Bore method of construction raises a number of significant safety concerns in and of itself. The 50-inch borehole required for installation will undoubtedly create disturbance in an already extremely fragile area. Factoring in that two active pipelines, both transporting highly volatile natural gas liquids under extreme pressure, are in direct proximity raises tremendous safety concerns for the larger community. Any geologic disturbance caused by this intrusive construction technique could create a catastrophic release of product, impacting hundreds of Chester County residents, and thousands of motorists utilizing the Route 30 bypass as well as commuters on the SEPTA and Amtrak Keystone Line. Once again, this latest proposal represents Sunoco's ongoing strategy of hoping for the best while refusing to plan for the worst. Our citizens deserve a Department that recognizes these concerns and operates within its capacity to minimize further environmental failures that could directly create catastrophic conditions. Specifically, I must demand that the Department require additional provisions be in place to ensure construction activity does not exacerbate geologic conditions, with primary focus on Karst regions and the Marctic Thrust Fault. In my opinion, allowing Sunoco to simply utilize a new drilling method after failing time and again, is not only inappropriate, it is negligent.

Finally, while Sunoco claims that the proposed change will eliminate any risk of impact to private or public wells, I must take this opportunity to remind the Department that in the original permit application, Sunoco stated they would not impact wells using HDD techniques. While the Department did call attention to this incorrect statement in the Technical Deficiency notice dated September 6, 2016, the data provided by Sunoco related to private wells was ultimately inadequate and resulted in private wells being rendered unusable. In light of the destruction of private Chester County wells during construction, I was shocked to discover that Sunoco continues to rely on the Pennsylvania Groundwater Information System (PaGWIS), a voluntary database that contains incomplete information regarding the location of private wells. While GES indicates in section 2.3.5 of their May 29, 2019 report that an October 2017 survey of landowner parcels was performed, the information from this survey, referenced as Figure 5, was not included. As such, I must insist that Sunoco utilize data publicly available through the Chester County Department of Health to identify any and all private wells along the drill site.

While Sunoco has gone through the motions of reevaluation, it is clear that the information provided is insufficient. It is my strong recommendation that the Department reject this report as incomplete, require Sunoco to perform complete impact evaluations to ensure construction activities do not cause permanent and irreparable harm to the environment and safety of citizens in West Whiteland Township, and conduct a full public comment process.

Sincerely,



Andrew E. Dinniman
State Senator – 19th District