19TH DISTRICT
STATE SENATOR
CAROLYN T. COMITTA

457 MAIN CAPITOL BUILDING SENATE BOX 203019 THE STATE CAPITOL HARRISBURG, PA 17120-3019 717-787-5709 FAX: 717-787-4384

17 EAST GAY STREET • SUITE 301 WEST CHESTER, PA 19380 610-692-2112 FAX: 610-436-1721



COMMITTEES

ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES & ENERGY, MINORITY CHAIR AGRICULTURE & RURAL AFFAIRS EDUCATION HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES VETERANS AFFAIRS & EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

CAPITOL PRESERVATION COMMITTEE
FLAG SUBCOMMITTEE

EMAIL: SenatorComitta@pasenate.com
WEBSITE: www.pasenatorcomitta.com
TWITTER: @SenatorComitta
FACEBOOK: @SenatorComitta
INSTAGRAM: @SenatorComitta

June 22, 2021

By e-mail to: <u>RA-EPWW-SERO@pa.gov</u>

Re: Comments on Amendment Applications for Mariner East 2 Pipeline, Chester County

HDD 290/Marsh Creek Lake

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing to express my serious concerns regarding Sunoco Pipeline's request for amendment applications for both its Ch. 102 (Erosion and Sediment Control) and Ch. 105 (Water Obstructions and Encroachments) permits to change the route and installation method of the Mariner East 2 pipeline at the location known as HDD 290 near Marsh Creek State Park.

As you know, this is the same site where nearly one year ago, approximately 8,000 gallons of drilling fluid were spilled into the lake and surrounding wetlands. Given this project's long history of problems impacting numerous residents and communities, it is difficult to compare one set of spills or inadvertent returns to the next. However, it is safe to say that last summer's spill at Marsh Creek Lake likely remains one of Mariner East's most alarming in our region given its potential for contamination of our water supply.

As state Senator representing Pennsylvania's 19th Senatorial District and minority chair of the Senate Environmental Resources and Energy Committee, I am extremely concerned about the potential for this project's substantial and ongoing impacts on environmental safety and public health. Again, at stake here is not only one of the gemstones of outdoor recreation in Chester County and home to abundant plant and natural wildlife, but Marsh Creek Lake is also a vital source of drinking water.

In the wake of last summer's spill, which continues to impact the lake, its wildlife, and recreational opportunities, the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection directed Sunoco to consider several alternative options for new routes. While I appreciate Sunoco's willingness to evaluate multiple routes, I do not believe its proposed reroute, again running close to the lake and through streams and wetlands, is the best alternative when it comes to protecting our water resources, environment, and public health from future impacts.

I am also equally concerned about an apparent lack of comprehensive and detailed analysis of this and other proposed routes. In turn, I respectfully ask DEP to deny this and future

requests until Sunoco does its due diligence to prevent further harm to our natural environment, local infrastructure, community health, and public and private water supplies.

In closing, I certainly understand the desire of Sunoco and various business groups to complete this project as soon as possible. We, too, would like the ongoing impacts of Mariner East construction to end. Please keep in mind that my constituents have been living with this project and through its numerous problems, geological impacts, sinkholes, groundwater discharges, spills, safety concerns, and more for five years. However, we should not put aside public health or environmental safety in favor of options that may be easier or more convenient for Sunoco. Furthermore, the history of this project shows that repeated attempts to expedite construction have apparently led to more impacts and increased delays in the long run.

Thank you for considering my comments. Please deny this request in the interest of protecting public and environmental health and safety.

Respectfully,

Carolyn T. Comitta

State Senator – 19th District

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