



Department of Environmental Protection  
Southeast Regional Office  
Waterways and Wetlands Program  
2 East Main Street  
Norristown, PA 19401

March 11, 2022

Re: Chapter 102 Permit Amendment

My name is James Harper, Jr., and I am the Business Manager for the Laborers' International Union of North America (LIUNA) Local Union 413. I am writing in support of the proposed permit amendment related to the Mariner East pipeline project in the Marsh Creek Lake area of Chester County. Approval of the amendment yields real economic advantages, particularly in fostering job opportunities for Pennsylvanians and bolstering domestic energy production as a whole.

LIUNA represents more than 500,000 highly skilled workers in the United States and Canada who perform a range of construction work, among other occupations. Our members are trained to the highest industry and safety standards and have traditionally built and maintained much of our nation's infrastructure. At a local level, our members are employed from the surrounding communities and have a great respect and desire to apply their training ensure that work is completed proficiently and with the least impacts to areas in which they work and live.

Our union supports an "all of the above" energy strategy, which means a diverse and practical energy portfolio that makes use of our abundant natural gas resources. Local 413 is committed to advocating for statewide energy infrastructure initiatives, especially when it comes to pipelines. Accordingly, we support the proposed amendment to increase the limit of disturbance for the restoration work at Marsh Creek Lake.

The proposed amendment would expand the pre-determined limit of disturbance in the Marsh Creek habitat to allow the developer, Sunoco, to more thoroughly restore impacted land through dredging. By employing LIUNA construction workers, Sunoco has developed plans to use advanced technology to revitalize the area to a higher standard than its original state. All the work here is temporary, and the work site will be fully restored once the restoration is finished. Beyond the dredging, additional work is planned that will bring added benefits: constructing additional habitats, removing nuisance wildlife, increasing water depth in the area, ensuring long-term water quality monitoring, and improving water quality.

Again, LIUNA supports the expansion of the domestic pipeline infrastructure and the goal of becoming less reliant on international oil imports. Any investment into domestic energy infrastructure is progress toward reinvigorating the economy, strengthening national security, and creating jobs. The Mariner East 2 Pipeline has already created thousands of job opportunities for union workers throughout Pennsylvania --- since its inception, the project has supported 9,500 construction jobs yearly.

Once again, on behalf of LIUNA, I urge DEP to support the proposed amendment. Thank you.

Sincerely,

James Harper, Jr., Business Manager  
Laborers' International Union of North America  
Local 413