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March 9, 2022

Department of Environmental Protection
Southeast Region
Waterways and Wetlands Program
2 Main St.
Norristown, PA 19401

Re: Comments on ME2 Amendment Application, Chester County

To Whom It May Concern:

The cross-state Mariner East pipeline network has been critical for our continued economic revitalization in southwestern Pennsylvania, which is why the Pittsburgh Airport Area Chamber of Commerce has been so focused on its completion. The recent announcement that the final phase of construction has finished is exciting news.

We appreciate the Department of Environmental Protection's earlier approval of the permit modification for pipeline construction and installation work related to Mariner East in the Marsh Creek area of Chester County. The Pittsburgh Airport Area Chamber of Commerce was among many groups to submit comments in favor of that modification in May 2021.

Our focus now turns to restoration.

The developer has proposed increasing the limit of earth disturbance by 4.06 acres at the Marsh Creek project site to temporarily store dredged material and dewater the sediment for removal. The work relates to cleanup following a previously reported inadvertent return of drilling fluid. The dredging and related habitat improvements go above and beyond what would normally be required for any similar incident with bentonite, a nontoxic, naturally occurring mineral substance that has innumerable applications and uses. Nevertheless, DEP should agree to the proposal so that the developer has the access and tools it needs to get the job done quickly. The project site is temporary, and all work areas will be restored, ensuring full restoration and bringing added environmental benefits through additional agreed-to habitat work.

On behalf of the Pittsburgh Airport Area Chamber of Commerce, I encourage DEP to approve the major permit amendment request for restoration work near Marsh Creek Lake in Upper Uwchlan Township, Chester County. Thank you for your time and attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Chris Heck". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looped initial "C".

Chris Heck, President/CEO
Pittsburgh Airport Area Chamber of Commerce